

13 August 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Telecon of 10 August 1981 between Mr. Arlo Gay and Mrs. Moore.

1. Mr. Gay was telephoned on 10 August 1981 to determine, if photos were provided to him, whether he could identify the Frenchman detained with him at Can Tho prison camp. Mr. Gay stated that during his incarceration at Can Tho he did not at anytime see the Frenchman, but heard that the Frenchman was under heavy guard when brought into the camp. The Frenchman was placed in solitary confinement and when Mr. Gay was eventually released from his cell to walk freely about the camp, he attempted to walk near the location of the Frenchman's detention room, but was unsuccessful in catching a glimpse of him. The only descriptive information Mr. Gay could provide was that he had heard the Frenchman was young.
2. When asked about any weight loss during his incarceration, Mr. Gay stated that during his detention at the ARVN Officer PW camp (first camp he was taken to) he had a severe case of dysentery and was unable to eat. He stated that after a month there he weighed about 135-140 lbs and was "skin and bones." Mr. Gay's normal weight is 175-180.
3. Following his imprisonment at Can Tho, Mr. Gay was taken north to Hanoi by helicopter. The helicopter trip to Hanoi took approximately one day and a half and the helicopter stopped twice for refueling - once at Danang, where Mr. Gay was only allowed out of the helicopter to "stretch his legs" and once at a location just north of the DMZ, where Mr. Gay spent the night in a small hut before continuing on by helicopter to Hanoi, arriving there at noon. Upon arriving in Hanoi he was taken by jeep to a command headquarters in Hanoi where he remained for a few hours and then was taken (again by jeep) to a prison camp located about 50 miles west of Hanoi at the foot of Ba Vi mountain. He arrived at this camp in September 1975 and remained there until his release in September 1976. In July 1976, approximately 10 months after his arrival at this camp he attempted an escape. For six months prior to his escape, Mr. Gay had been stockpiling items in preparation for his escape. He had a map of the general area and decided to head towards Laos by going around the Ba Vi mountain. Mr. Gay stated he had only traveled about 10 kilometers from the prison camp when he realized he would not be able to make it to Laos through the difficult terrain and jungle and consequently decided to return to the prison camp. He returned to the prison camp on the 30th day following his escape. During his evasion, Mr. Gay stated he was dressed in dark jeans, a light colored shirt with a back-pack and tongs. He had a pair of scissors and thus was able to keep his hair closely-cropped and had a full beard. During this 30-day period, Mr. Gay stated he was seen by Vietnamese nationals on three separate occasions: by an old man, a child and later, by two children. Within 30 days after his return to the camp he was released and flown to Bangkok.

*Sylvie C. Moore*

SYLVIE C. MOORE  
DI-7C Analyst