

REPORTS OF AN AMERICAN IN THE KIEN GIANG PROVINCE PRISON SYSTEM

(Other than accounted-for persons)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>PRISON</u>	<u>DISCUSSION</u>
1/79-4/79	BO-LECH	RACH GIA	SOURCE: DUONG KET (15-17 YOA). ACCORDING TO 10 MAR 80 LETTER SIGNED BY LE VAN TUNG, DUONG KET, AND TWO OTHERS (SEE BELOW), "BO-LET" WAS APPROX 34 YOA, TALL, THIN, GREYISH BLOND HAIR. BO-LET SPOKE VIETNAMESE WITH EX-RVNAF OFFICER INMATES, ONE OF WHOM TOLD TUNG THAT BO-LET HAD BEEN IN VN SINCE 1973, WAS A 2LT, A PILOT, AND WAS CAPTURED AFTER LANDING HIS AIRCRAFT AT RACH SOI AIRFIELD IN 1975. IN APR 80 KET TOLD JCRC INTERVIEWERS THE GUARDS CALLED THE CAUCASIAN "BO-LECH;" AND KET DESCRIBED HIM AS OVER 30 YOA, TALL, SHORT BLOND HAIR, FACE AND BODY SWOLLEN, POSSIBLY FROM BERIBERI. ALWAYS IN LEG IRONS, HANDS NOT BOUND. HELD IN BLDG F-7 WITH ABOUT 90 OTHER INMATES. BO-LECH SPOKE FLUENT (REF 10 MAR 80 LETTER CITED BELOW) VIETNAMESE. KET SAID HE SPOKE WITH THE CAUCASIAN BRIEFLY IN VIETNAMESE AND THE CAUCASIAN SAID HE WAS AN AMERICAN FROM "WASHINGTON" AND HAD BEEN IN JAIL SINCE THE LIBERATION (29 APRIL 1975). (REF JCRC REPT T80-17A; DAO BKK 021103Z MAY 80.) (COMMENTS: STORY INITIALLY REPORTED TO JCRC INTERVIEWER ON 7 MAR 80, BY LE VAN TUNG, BELOW, AND IN A LETTER DATED 10 MAR 80 SIGNED JOINTLY BY DUONG KET, LE VAN TUNG, AND TWO OTHERS: NGUYEN VAN CHIEU, 21 YOA, AND NGUYEN QUOC SON, 18-19 YOA. THEY SENT THE LETTER TO PW/MIA ACTIVIST MRS. LE THI ANH. CHIEU AND SON, WHEN QUESTIONED, RECANTED AND SAID THEY HAD NOT SEEN ANY AMERICAN AT RACH GIA AND SAID THEY SIGNED THE LETTER ONLY BECAUSE THEY WERE FRIENDS OF DUONG KET. ON REINTERVIEW, KET ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ONLY HE HAD SEEN THE CAUCASIAN AND THAT THE OTHER THREE PERSONS WHO SIGNED THE LETTER--TUNG, CHIEU, AND SON--HAD NOT SEEN THE CAUCASIAN. TUNG RESETTLED IN CANADA AND COULD NOT BE LOCATED TO CONFIRM. KET'S AND TUNG'S ACCOUNTS WERE REplete WITH INCONSISTENCIES FROM ONE INTERVIEW TO THE NEXT, AS IF THEY WERE MAKING UP MANY DETAILS ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT. ALSO SOME DETAILS, SUCH AS THE LAYOUT OF THE PRISON, CONDITIONS IN THE PRISON, AND THE PRESENCE OR NON-PRESENCE OF FOREIGN INMATES ARE INCONSISTENT WITH INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY OTHER SOURCES WHO APPEAR TO BE WELL INFORMED AND RELIABLE. KET AND TUNG EITHER FABRICATED THEIR STORY OR HAVE MISCONSTRUED SOME HEARSAY INFORMATION ABOUT ONE OF THE VIETNAMESE INMATES AND DEVELOPED THE MISTAKEN BELIEF THAT AN AMERICAN WAS HELD AT RACH GIA PRISON IN EARLY-TO-MID 1978. THERE IS ONE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION THAT CANNOT BE EVALUATED WITH PRECISION. WE HAVE RECEIVED A SMALL NUMBER OF APPARENTLY ACCURATE REPORTS THAT AN AMERICAN PRIVATE SAILBOAT AND ITS TWO-MAN CREW WERE ARRESTED NEAR PHU QUOC ISLAND SOMETIME IN 1979. PHU QUOC ISLAND IS ADMINISTRATIVELY SUBORDINATE TO KIEN GIANG PROVINCE. THE RACH GIA PRISON, IN 1979, WAS THE MAIN PROVINCE PRISON FOR KIEN GIANG; THUS, IT IS POSSIBLE THE CREW WAS HELD AT THIS PRISON FOR SOME PERIOD OF TIME--PROBABLY A FEW DAYS TO A FEW WEEKS--BEFORE BEING MOVED TO HCMC OR RELEASED. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO IDENTIFY THE VESSEL OR THE TWO CREWMEMBERS AND HANOI HAS REFUSED TO RESPOND TO INQUIRIES

ABOUT THIS INCIDENT.)

6/79->9/79 BO-LET RACH GIA SOURCE: LE VAN TUNG (15 YOA). CAUCASIAN THE GUARDS CALLED BO-LET. ACCORDING TO 10 MAR 80 LETTER SIGNED BY LE VAN TUNG, DUONG KET, AND TWO OTHERS (SEE BELOW), BO-LET WAS APPROX 34 YOA, TALL, THIN, GREYISH BLOND HAIR. BO-LET SPOKE VIETNAMESE WITH EX-RVNAF OFFICER INMATES, ONE OF WHOM TOLD TUNG THAT BO-LET HAD BEEN IN VN SINCE 1973, WAS A 2LT, A PILOT, AND WAS CAPTURED AFTER LANDING HIS AIRCRAFT AT RACH SOI AIRFIELD IN 1975. REF JCRC REPTS T80-17 & 17A; DAO BKK 021103Z MAY 80. (COMMENTS: THE STORY WAS REPORTED INITIALLY TO A JCRC INTERVIEWER ON 7 MAR 80, BY LE VAN TUNG, AND IN A LETTER DATED 10 MAR 80 TO PW/MIA ACTIVIST MRS. LE THI ANH. THE LETTER WAS SIGNED JOINTLY BY DUONG KET, ABOVE, LE VAN TUNG, AND TWO OTHERS: NGUYEN VAN CHIEU, 21 YOA, AND NGUYEN QUOC SON, 18-19 YOA. CHIEU AND SON, WHEN QUESTIONED, RECANTED AND SAID THEY HAD NOT SEEN ANY AMERICAN AT RACH GIA AND SAID THEY SIGNED THE LETTER ONLY BECAUSE THEY WERE FRIENDS OF DUONG KET. ON REINTERVIEW, KET ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ONLY HE HAD SEEN THE CAUCASIAN AND THAT THE OTHER THREE PERSONS WHO SIGNED THE LETTER--TUNG, CHIEU, AND SON--HAD NOT SEEN THE CAUCASIAN. TUNG RESETTLED IN CANADA AND COULD NOT BE LOCATED TO CONFIRM.)

LATE 77- QUANG RACH GIA; EURASIAN; APPROX 26 YOA; 1.75 M; 60 KG; BROWN HAIR; SPOKE
MID 80 AREA B, NATIVE VN WITH A NORTHERN ACCENT; QUANG SAID HE WAS A NATIVE
CANAL #7 OF BIEN HOA/HO NAI. QUANG'S MOTHER VISITED. NO TATTOOS.
SOURCE SPOKE WITH QUANG IN VN LANG, DIDN'T KNOW IF QUANG
COULD SPEAK ENGLISH OR FRENCH. QUANG MOVED FROM RACH GIA
PRISON TO CANAL 7 IN SPRING 1978. (REF IIR 6-014-0089-86;
SOURCE 1604--PHAM TUAN LOI.)

5/75- NO RACH GIA SOURCE: DANH RIENG (CASE 3969). REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ARMY
11/79 AMERICANS (ARVN) OFFICER CONFINED IN RACH GIA PRISON FROM 10 MAY 1975
TO 21 OCT 1979. HE HAD EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE PRISON AND
ITS INMATES. HE WAS CERTAIN HE WOULD HAVE KNOWN ABOUT ANY
AMERICANS IF ANY WERE HELD AT THE PRISON WHILE HE WAS THERE.
HE WAS CERTAIN THAT NO AMERICANS WERE CONFINED THERE BETWEEN
MAY 1975 AND 21 OCTOBER 1979. HE NOTED THERE WERE SEVERAL
FOREIGN INMATES AT RACH GIA, MOSTLY THAI FISHERMEN AND
CAMBODIANS. HE SUPPLIED INFORMATION ABOUT A PART-JAPANESE
INMATE NAMED "ANNAMO" WHO WAS STILL AT RACH GIA WHEN THIS
SOURCE WAS MOVED IN OCT 79. "ANNAMO" HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF
SEVERAL REPORTED SIGHTINGS OF A JAPANESE OR JAPANESE-AMERICAN
INMATE AT RACH GIA. THIS SOURCE'S INFORMATION HELPED RESOLVE
QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NATIONALITY OF THAT PERSON--WHO IS NOT AN
AMERICAN. THIS SOURCE HAD SPOKEN WITH "ANNAMO," AND LEARNED
THAT "ANNAMO" HAD BEEN ARRESTED BECAUSE HE FALSELY CLAIMED TO
BE A JAPANESE CITIZEN, BUT ACTUALLY WAS A VIETNAMESE. HE
ALSO DESCRIBED A REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ARMED FORCES (RVNAF)
OFFICER NAMED NGUYEN ANH HUNG, WHO COULD BE THE SUBJECT OF
DUONG KET'S AND LE VAN TUNG'S MISTAKEN REPORTS OF AN AMERICAN
INMATE AT RACH GIA (SEE ABOVE). THIS SOURCE DESCRIBED HUNG
AS A 1LT IN THE AIRBORNE, ABOUT 30 YOA, TALL, BIG BUILD,

AGGRESSIVE PERSONALITY, A NATIVE OF SAIGON, AND HAD WORKED WITH U.S. FORCES [PRIOR TO THE U.S. WITHDRAWAL IN 1973]. 1LT HUNG SAID HE HAD A FRENCH WIFE. SOURCE SAID THAT 1LT HUNG'S MOTHER BROUGHT HIM MONEY RECEIVED FROM HIS WIFE IN FRANCE. THIS SOURCE NOTED THAT HE WITNESSED THE EXECUTION OF 1LT HUNG BY A FIRING SQUAD AT RACH GIA SOMETIME DURING 1979. A VIETNAMESE BUDDHIST MONK WHO ALSO WAS CONFINED WITH 1LT HUNG (ALTHOUGH OUR INTERVIEWER DID NOT ASK THE MONK TO CONFIRM THE NAME OR SUPPLY EXTENSIVE BIOGRAPHIC DETAILS) DESCRIBED HIM AS A PILOT. WHILE DUONG KET AND LE VAN TUNG MAY WELL HAVE FABRICATED THEIR STORY, WE CANNOT CONFIDENTLY RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THESE TWO TEENAGERS MISCONTRUED HEARSAY INFORMATION ABOUT 1LT HUNG AND DEVELOPED THE MISTAKEN BELIEF THAT AN AMERICAN WAS CONFINED AT RACH GIA DURING EARLY-TO-MID 1979. THEIR DESCRIPTION OF THE ALLEGED AMERICAN INMATE RECORDED IN THEIR 10 MAR 80 LETTER TO MRS. LE THI ANH IS SIMILAR TO THE INFORMATION OTHER INMATES HAVE SUPPLIED CONCERNING 1LT HUNG.

5/75-82 NO KIEN GIANG,
AMERICANS RACH GIA

SOURCE: CONG SAPHAN (CASE 6998). BUDDHIST MONK AND LEADER OF ETHNIC CAMBODIAN COMMUNITY IN KIEN GIANG PROVINCE. PRIOR TO 1975 HE WAS CIA SOURCE PROVIDING INFORMATION ON COMMUNIST INFRASTRUCTURE ALONG THE CAMBODIAN BORDER. SOURCE WAS AN INMATE IN KIENG GIANG PROVINCE PRISON SYSTEM FROM MAY 1975 UNTIL 1982, INCLUDING THE PRISON IN RACH GIA CITY FROM MAY 1975 THROUGH 1978. SOURCE WAS IN THE SAME INMATE UNIT AS A EURASIAN TRADER NAMED "ANAMO" (PHONETIC). SOURCE HAD SPOKEN WITH "ANAMO," AND WAS ABLE TO HELP RESOLVE QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS NATIONALITY. "ANAMO'S" FATHER WAS JAPANESE AND HIS MOTHER FRENCH. (NOTE: "ANAMO," AKA "ANNAMO," "ALAMO" AND "ADAMO"--ALL THESE SPELLINGS ARE PHONETICALLY SIMILAR IN VIETNAMESE--HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF SEVERAL REPORTS OF A JAPANESE OR JAPANESE-AMERICAN INMATE AT RACH GIA.) THIS SOURCE ALSO DESCRIBED A TAIWANESE FISHERMAN NAMED "SHI NIU" (PHONETIC) WHO WAS CONFINED AT RACH GIA AND FOR SOME REASON ALWAYS WAS IN LEG IRONS. BOTH "ANAMO" AND "SHI NIU" WERE STILL AT RACH GIA WHEN SOURCE WAS MOVED ROUTINELY TO ANOTHER FACILITY WITHIN THE KIEN GIANG PROVINCE PRISON SYSTEM. THIS SOURCE, WHO HAD WIDE ACCESS TO INFORMATION ABOUT THE INMATE POPULATION OF THE KIEN GIANG PRISON SYSTEM, HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF AMERICANS IN THIS SYSTEM. HE DID MENTION THAT AN REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ARMED FORCES (RVNAF) PILOT NOTED FOR HIS COMBAT EXPLOITS WAS EXECUTED AT RACH GIA. ANOTHER SOURCE, DANH RIENG (CASE 3969) IDENTIFIED THE RVNAF OFFICER BY NAME, SUPPLIED ADDITIONAL BIOGRAPHIC DATA, AND SAID HE WITNESSED THE EXECUTION SOMETIME IN 1979. WHILE DUONG KET AND LE VAN TUNG (SEE ABOVE) MAY WELL HAVE FABRICATED THEIR STORY, WE CANNOT CONFIDENTLY RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THESE TWO TEENAGERS MISCONTRUED HEARSAY INFORMATION ABOUT 1LT HUNG AND DEVELOPED THE MISTAKEN BELIEF THAT AN AMERICAN WAS CONFINED AT RACH GIA DURING EARLY-TO-MID 1979. THEIR DESCRIPTION OF THE ALLEGED AMERICAN INMATE RECORDED IN THEIR 10 MAR 80 LETTER TO MRS. LE THI ANH IS SIMILAR TO THE INFORMATION OTHER INMATES HAVE SUPPLIED CONCERNING 1LT HUNG.