

30 APRIL 1993

FROM: JTF-FA, MR G.E. BELL

TO: CJTF-FA, MG THOMAS H. NEEDHAM

SUBJECT: SA'S ASSESSMENT OF THE INTERVIEW OF PAVN COL DOAN HANH  
(CORRECTED COPY)

REF: DET 2, JTF-FA FAX 28 APRIL 1993

THE INTERVIEW WITH FORMER PAVN COL DOAN HANH CONDUCTED BY MR DESTATTE WAS PRODUCTIVE IN THAT IT PROVIDES SOME INFORMATION CONCERNING THE WARTIME AND POSTWAR ORGANIZATION OF THE ENEMY PROSELYTING DEPARTMENT POLICY OFFICE. JUDGING FROM THE INTERVIEW RESULTS, HOWEVER, SA BELIEVE'S THAT EITHER COL HANH'S DUTIES WERE COMPARTMENTED, OR HE IS WITHHOLDING INFORMATION. SOME STATEMENTS MADE BY COL HANH INDICATE THAT ON AT LEAST SOME POINTS, HE MAY HAVE BEEN UNTRUTHFUL DURING THE INTERVIEW. SA BELIEVE'S COL HANH FALLS INTO THE SAME CATEGORY WITH COL Y AND LTC TEO. THIS CATEGORY INCLUDES THOSE PAVN PERSONNEL WHO ACTUALLY PARTICIPATED IN THE MANAGEMENT OF U.S. POWS AND REMAINS, BUT WERE PRIMARILY INVOLVED IN THOSE CASES WITH WHICH THE USG ALREADY HAS KNOWLEDGE. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT SA RECOMMENDED THAT WE NOT SEND A SPECIAL JTF-FA/DIA TEAM TO INTERVIEW COL Y, AND HIS NAME WAS PLACED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SA PUBLISHED LIST OF INTERVIEW CANDIDATES SUBMITTED IN NOVEMBER 1991 AND MAY 1992. SUCH PERSONNEL PROBABLY SHOULD BE INTERVIEWED, BUT SA BELIEVES WE SHOULD NOT ALLOW THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONDITIONS WHICH GIVE THE IMPRESSION THE VIETNAMESE ARE MAKING MAJOR CONCESSIONS TO THE U.S. WHEN THIS IS ACTUALLY NOT THE CASE. THE COMPARTMENTING OF INFORMATION REGARDING BOTH POWS AND REMAINS PROBABLY BEGAN EARLY ON IN THE WAR AGAINST THE U.S.. CONSIDERING COMMUNIST VIETNAMESE EXPERIENCE WITH THE FRENCH AND THE ENEMY PROSELYTING CONFERENCES/SEMINARS HELD BY THEM DURING THE EARLY 1960'S, SUCH PREPARATION MAY HAVE ACTUALLY PRECEDED THE WAR. IN SA'S VIEW, THE FACT THAT CADRE SUCH AS COL HANH, COL Y, AND LTC TEO WORKED OVERTLY, AND ARE WELL KNOWN BY BOTH SIDES, FURTHER NEGATES THE POSSIBILITY THAT ANY OF THESE CADRE WERE PRIVY TO SENSITIVE ACTIVITIES ORIENTED TOWARD LONG RANGE POW/MIA STRATEGY AGAINST THE U.S..

THE OFFICES MENTIONED BY COL HANH AS BEING PART OF GROUP 875 HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN PREVIOUS REPORTING BY SA. ACCORDING TO FORMER GROUP 875 CADRE, MAJ PHAM VAN KHOI, THIS GROUP RECEIVED IT'S NUMERICAL DESIGNATION BASED ON THE NUMBER OF THE DIRECTIVE ORDERING IT'S ESTABLISHMENT (I.E. DIRECTIVE 875). IT WOULD APPEAR THAT MAJ KHOI IS CORRECT CONCERNING THE ORIGIN OF THE DESIGNATION, BECAUSE IF THE GROUP WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1972 AS COL HANH REPORTED, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED "872". HOWEVER, ANALYSTS SHOULD NOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THERE WAS A GROUP WITH THE "72" NUMERICAL DESIGNATOR FORMED DURING 1972, AND THE GROUP WAS LATER DESIGNATED "875" IN 1975. ACCORDING TO THE VNOSMP, AFTER THE WAR GROUP 875 WAS DISBANDED AND GROUP 776 WAS FORMED TO MANAGE THE PRISON CAMP SYSTEM FOR POWS OF THE FORMER GVN. GROUP 776 WAS REPORTEDLY DISBANDED IN THE LATE 1970'S OR EARLY 1980'S. PFC ROBERT GARWOOD WAS ASSIGNED TO THIS GROUP. GROUP 776 RECEIVED IT'S NUMERICAL DESIGNATION BASED ON

THE DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GROUP (I.E. JULY 1976). THE FORERUNNER TO GROUP 776 DURING THE FRENCH ERA WAS GROUP 656 ESTABLISHED IN JUNE 1956 TWO YEARS AFTER THE WITHDRAWL OF FRENCH FORCES. THIS GROUP MANAGED BOTH FRENCH POW'S AND DESERTERS. WHEN THE FRENCH STAY-BEHINDS WERE TRANSFERRED TO AGRICULTURAL FARMS IN BA VI, IN THE WESTERN OUTSKIRTS OF HANOI, AND CHI NE IN NAM HA PROVINCE, THE GROUP WAS REDESIGNATED AS 658. CONCERNING GROUP 875, I BELIEVE THAT THIS GROUP WAS FORMED AS A TASK FORCE TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE, LOGISTICAL, PERSONNEL (GUARD) SUPPORT TO THE ALREADY EXISTING ENEMY PROSELYTING ELEMENT OF THE GENERAL POLITICAL DIRECTORATE (GPD). GROUP 875 REPORTED TO THE "INTER-MINISTRY", I.E. MFA, MND, AND MOI) RESPONSIBLE FOR EXPLOITATION AND COUNTERINTELLIGENCE FOR BOTH U.S. AND ALLIED POWS OF THE VIETNAM WAR. THE TERM "INTER-MINISTRY" MAY BE A COVER DESIGNATION FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE. PREVIOUS REPORTING INDICATES THAT OFFICES DESIGNATED IN THE 20 SERIES ARE INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY RELATED (I.E. THE SUBOFFICES OF THEIR EQUIVALENT TO THE JGS/J2 LEVEL). THIS ORGANIZATION OPERATES SIMILAR TO A DIRECTORATE FOR CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE, WITH ADDED EMPHASIS ON AGITATION-PROPAGANDA (PSYOPS). THE INTER-MINISTRY WAS GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR GVN POWS AFTER THE WAR, DUE TO THEIR PERCEPTION OF THE "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WHICH EXISTED BETWEEN THE U.S. AND VIETNAMESE PREVIOUSLY OR CURRENTLY AFFILIATED WITH THE U.S. (I.E. ANY VIETNAMESE NATIONAL WHO PREVIOUSLY WORKED FOR THE U.S. AND FORMER MILITARY AND CIVILIAN OFFICIALS OF THE GVN). SOMETIME AFTER THE WAR ENDED, SUBOFFICE 22 WAS REDESIGNATED "A-22". THIS SUBOFFICE NOW MONITORS THE ACTIVITIES OF U.S. PERSONNEL IN VIETNAM. A-22 PERSONNEL ARE ASSIGNED TO THE CUSTOMS/IMMIGRATION OFFICES AT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS (I.E. NOI BAI, DANANG, HO CHI MINH CITY) TO INSPECT PASSENGER MANIFESTS AND MONITOR LUGGAGE INSPECTIONS FOR ARRIVING U.S. PERSONNEL. THE A-22 REP AT NOI BAI AIRPORT WHO NORMALLY MONITORS U.S. PERSONEL INVOLVED IN THE POW/MIA ISSUE IS SR LT NGUYEN THANH DONG, THE NEPHEW OF PROFESSOR/BG LE CAO DAI, AN ASSOCIATE OF VNOSMP FORENSICS CHIEF, SR COL VU NGOC THU. BOTH PPROFESSOR DAI AND SR THU ARE ASSIGNED TO MILITARY HOSPITAL 108 IN HANOI. SUBSEQUENT TO ARRIVAL IN COUNTRY, A-22 ISSUED TRAVEL PERMITS FOR ALL U.S. PERSONNEL TRAVELING OUTSIDE ANY CITY HAVING AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT OR SEAPORT. ALTHOUGH THE REQUIREMENT FOR TRAVEL PERMITS WAS RECENTLY LIFTED, A-22 PERSONNEL INITIALLY ASSIGNED TO THE VIETNAMESE OFFICE FOR SEEKING MISSING PERSONNEL (VNOSMP), WHO WERE LATER REASSIGNED FOR UNSPECIFIED TWO TO THREE YEAR TRAINING COURSES AFTER A BRIEF EXPOSURE TO U.S. POW/MIA PERSONNEL, HAVE NOW BEGUN TO REAPPEAR AS COUNTERPART TEAM MEMBERS. THESE PERSONNEL CURRENTLY ACCOMPANY U.S. TEAM MEMBERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. A-22 PERSONNEL ARE ALSO CURRENTLY ASSIGNED AS COUNTERPARTS TO THE U.S. ARCHIVE RESEARCH TEAMS DEPLOYED IN HANOI, DANANG, AND HO CHI MINH CITY. A-22 IS SUBORDINATE TO DEPARTMENT K-36 (ENTRY/EXIT FOR FOREIGN PERSONNEL CONSIDERED AS HIGH RISK) OF THE INTER-MINISTRY HEADED BY SR COL NGUYEN VAN THANH, AKA NGUYEN SANG, A FORMER SENIOR MEMBER OF THE (VNOSMP) RESPONSIBLE FOR SECURITY MATTERS. HIS DEPUTY IS MRS LE THI QUYEN. BOTH SR COL THANH AND MRS QUYEN WORK IN HANOI. SR COL THANH WAS REPLACED IN THE VNOSMP BY A CURRENT DEPUTY DIRECTOR (MOI/COUNTERINTELLIGENCE) MAJ PHAM DUNG. MAJ DUNG FIRST APPEARED DURING THE EXCAVATION OF THE B-

52 AIRCRAFT IN YEN THUONG DURING 1985, AND THEN WAS REASSIGNED FOR TRAINING. SR COL THANH WAS LAST OBSERVED BY SA AT NOI BAI AIRPORT DURING 1989. AT THAT TIME, SR COL THANH WAS SUPERVISING THE ACTIVITIES OF A-23 PERSONNEL WHO WERE INTERVIEWING ARRIVING VIETNAMESE REFUGEES BEING REPATRIATED BY AIR FROM CAMPS IN HONG KONG. SUBOFFICE A-23 MONITORS THE ACTIVITIES OF OVERSEAS VIETNAMESE, AND AS SUCH, IS CLOSELY CONNECTED TO THE "COMMITTEE FOR OVERSEAS VIETNAMESE" (ACTUALLY A SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE) WITH REPRESENTATIVES POSTED IN THE SRV EMBASSIES/MISSIONS IN COUNTRIES SUCH AS THE U.S. AND CANADA, WHERE LARGE NUMBERS OF VIETNAMESE HAVE BEEN RESETTLED. THE COMMITTEE FOR OVERSEAS VIETNAMESE WAS CHAIRED BY THE FORMER PARTY CHAPTER SECRETARY OF THE TWO PARTY/FOUR PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAMS, PHAM BA (BAS), AKA VO DONG GIANG. MR BA HAS BEEN REPLACED AS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BY MR HO LIEN (LIEEN), AKA HOANG BICH SON, THE FORMER SECURITY COMMITTEE REP TO THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS MISSION (CP-72) OF THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT/PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONAY GOVERNMENT IN CUBA, AND YOUNGER BROTHER OF THE 1975-76 ERA CHAIRMAN OF THE DANANG MILITARY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, HO NGHINH, AKA HO HUU PHUOC. MR HO NGHINH, WHO WAS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY REGION 5 SECURITY COMMITTEE DURING THE WAR, BECAME THE PROVINCE PARTY SECRETARY OF QUANG NAM-DANANG AFTER THE DANANG MILITARY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WAS DISBANDED IN 1976. THEIR COUNTERPART IN POW/MIA AFFAIRS IS VNOSMP PARTY CHAPTER SECRETARY MR HO XUAN DUC, AKA HO XUAN DICH, ALSO A FORMER MEMBER OF CP-72 IN CUBA, LATER ASSIGNED TO THE COMMITTEE FOR OVERSEAS VIETNAMESE ELEMENT IN CANADA. THROUGH SUBOFFICE A-23, THE COMMITTEE FOR OVERSEAS VIETNAMESE IS ABLE TO CONTROL TRAVEL OF OVERSEAS VIETNAMESE RESIDING IN THE U.S. AND CANADA, TO AND FROM VIETNAM. SUBOFFICE A-23 ELEMENTS IN VIETNAM CONDUCT BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS ON OVERSEAS VIETNAMESE WHO APPLY FOR VISAS FOR TRAVEL TO VIETNAM, AND THIS SUBOFFICE ALSO MONITORS THE ACTIVITIES OF QUESTIONABLE (I.E. POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS) GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS. SUBOFFICE A-23 HAS ALSO BEEN REPORTED TO BE INVOLVED IN MONITORING THE ACTIVITIES OF UNITED NATIONS PERSONNEL, BUT SA BELIEVES THIS IS A REFERENCE TO PERSONNEL OF THE U.S. ORDERLY DEPARTURE PROGRAM (ODP) TRAVELING ON U.N. PASSPORTS. A-23, RATHER THAN A-22, IS PROBABLY RESPONSIBLE FOR U.S. ODP PERSONNEL DUE TO THEIR CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH OVERSEAS VIETNAMESE. I DO NOT RECALL ANY PREVIOUS REPORTING ON SUBOFFICE 24, BUT LOGIC DICTATES THAT THE SRV WOULD HAVE SUCH AN ELEMENT TO SUPPORT THE OTHER TWO OPERATIONAL SUBOFFICES. THIS PRESENCE OF THIS ELEMENT CAN ALSO BE A RESULT OF THE SRV TRIANGLE CONCEPT WHERE A MONITORS B AND C, B MONITORS AND C, AND C MONITORS A AND B.

I BELIEVE THAT PERSONNEL FOR GROUP 875 WERE DRAWN FROM THE INTER-MINISTRY CREATED BY COMBINING PERSONNEL FROM THE THREE PRIMARY MINISTRIES MENTIONED ABOVE. MOST OF THE PERSONNEL IDENTIFIED BY THE SRV AS BEING FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS OF THE MFA ASSIGNED TO POW/MIA DUTIES ARE ACTUALLY POLITICAL CADRE OF THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE WHO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AS MEMBERS OF THE INTER-MINISTRY. THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE TASKED WITH GUIDING THE POW/MIA ISSUE IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE NATIONAL (PARTY) POLITICAL OBJECTIVES. PERSONNEL OF THE MND ARE TASKED WITH THE SECURITY ASPECT (PHYSICAL/DOCUMENT), AND THE PERSONNEL FROM THE MOI

(I.E. NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT (NID) (CUC TINH BAO QUOC GIA)) ARE TASKED WITH PERSONNEL AND FINANCIAL SECURITY, AS WELL AS POSITIVE INTELLIGENCE (I.E. COUNTERINTELLIGENCE/CASH MONEY/HUMINT-EXPLOITATION). DURING THE WAR YEARS THE COMPOSITION WAS BASICALLY THE SAME AS THE CURRENT ONE. (I.E. MFA/EXTERNAL AFFAIRS FUNCTIONED AS THE MILITARY PROSELYTING ELEMENT FOR AGITATION-PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO INFLUENCE PUBLIC OPINION AND THE NEGOTIATION STRATEGY OF BOTH THE U.S. AND GVN, AS WELL AS EXTORTION/TERRORISM REGARDING FAMILY MEMBERS HELD BY COMMUNIST FORCES, AND EARLY RELEASES/EXCHANGES OF PRISONERS. THE MND MANAGED THE CAMP SYSTEM, MAINTAINED ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS, AND PERFORMED GUARD/GENERAL HOUSEKEEPING DUTIES, EVEN THOUGH FACILITIES OF THE MOI WERE OFTEN NECESSARILY UTILIZED; THE MOI CONDUCTED INTERROGATIONS AND FORWARDED THE RESULTS THROUGH THE NID TO THE GENERAL POLITICAL DIRECTORATE (GPD) FOR EXPLOITATION OF TECHNOLOGY, TACTICS, AND PROPAGANDA (PSYOPS), AND FOR INFORMATION-SHARING AS A RESULT OF BILATERAL PROJECTS WITH THE SOVIET GRU AND THE MINISTRY OF SECURITY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. THE BILATERAL SOVIET PROJECT WAS CONTROLLED FROM THE GRU COMPOUND ACROSS FROM THE HO CHI MINH MAUSOLEUM AND THE A-22 OFFICE LOCATED AT 3 DUONG THANH STREET IN HANOI. AS WAS THE CASE WITH GROUP 875, THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY SECURITY PROVIDED SECURITY FOR THE GRU COMPOUND, THE 3 DUONG THANH STREET OFFICE, AND THE HO CHI MINH MAUSOLEUM/MUSEUM. THE BILATERAL PRC PROJECT WAS CONTROLLED FROM DONG KHE, IN CAO BANG PROVINCE.

THE REPORTED DESTRUCTION OF RECORDS BY BURNING, WHICH OCCURRED AT THE 3 DUONG THANH STREET OFFICE HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED. SA CONSIDERS IT PROBABLE THAT SOME ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS WERE DESTROYED DUE TO THEIR POOR CONDITION, AND POSSIBLY TO COVER-UP CORRUPTION ASSOCIATED WITH MANAGEMENT OF THE LARGE PRISON SYSTEM MAINTAINED DURING THE WAR YEARS. HOWEVER, DOCUMENTS CAPTURED AND EXPLOITED DURING THE WAR PROVE THAT THE PAVN WERE OBSESSED WITH RECORDING AND REPORTING EVENTS IN MINUTE DETAIL. I BELIEVE THAT RECORDS OF THE GPD ARE CURRENTLY STORED AT THE CENTER FOR MILITARY RESEARCH IN HANOI, THE SOUTHERN BRANCH OF THE SAME INSTITUTE IN HO CHI MINH CITY, AND THE FORMER NATIONAL MILITARY ACADEMY OF THE RVN IN DALAT. ALTHOUGH THE VNOSMP HAS CLAIMED THAT DOCUMENTS WERE DESTROYED DUE TO THE CHINESE INVASION IN EARLY 1979, PREVIOUS REPORTING INDICATES THAT DUE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF PRC GROUND FORCES REACHING THE CAPITAL CITY OF HANOI, AND AIR-NAVAL FORCES FROM HAI NAN ISLAND REACHING CENTRAL VIETNAM, THE MILITARY COMMAND HQ WAS RELOCATED IN DALAT AT THAT TIME. DUE TO THE STRATEGIC LOCATION, AS WELL AS THE RELATIVELY MODERN FACILITIES LEFT BY THE ARVN AT DALAT IN 1975, I BELIEVE IT IS HIGHLY LIKELY THAT IMPORTANT RECORDS WERE MOVED THERE.

GROUP 875 PROBABLY DID PLAY ONLY A SMALL ROLE IN THE RECOVERY OF U.S. REMAINS DURING THE WAR, IF FOR NO OTHER REASON, DUE TO A SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER. MY BELIEF IS THAT GROUP 875 DID SERVE AS A TASK FORCE WHICH PROVIDED THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT REQUIRED TO ACCOMPLISH THE RECOVERY OF REMAINS IN THE HANOI AND SURROUNDING AREAS, AND MOST LIKELY IN ANTICIPATION OF U.S. DEMANDS FOR RETURN OF THOSE REMAINS DURING THE FINAL STAGES OF THE PARIS PEACE TALKS. RECOVERIES IN OTHER AREAS OF THE COUNTRY WERE PROBABLY

THAT WHILE WORKING IN THE THAC BA AREA SEVERAL YEARS AGO, HAVING HEARD THAT THAC BA LAKE WAS (AND PERHAPS STILL IS) A SIGHT-SEEING SPOT FOR SOVIET TECHNICIANS WORKING ON A HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT. SA ALSO RECALLS THAT A REFUGEE INTERVIEWED IN HONG KONG DURING 1982 CLAIMED TO HAVE OBSERVED U.S. POWS HELD IN A REMOTE CAMP NORTH OF THAC BA DURING 1976. OTHER SOURCES HAVE REPORTED U.S. CONTROLLED GVN COMMANDOS ALSO HELD NORTH OF THAC BA.

COL HANH PROVIDED THE NAMES OF THREE INDIVIDUALS HE BELIEVES MAY HAVE INFORMATION OF POW/MIA INTEREST. ALL THREE OF THESE FORMER CADRE WERE INCLUDED ON SA'S LIST OF CADRE TO BE INTERVIEWED PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM SENATOR MCCAIN DURING THE HEARINGS OF THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE IN NOVEMBER 1991 AND SA'S DISCREPANCY CASE LEAD DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL OF 26 MAY 1992. ONE INDIVIDUAL (COL Y) HAS ALREADY BEEN INTERVIEWED BY A SPECIAL TEAM DURING 1992. ONE INDIVIDUAL (COL THUONG) IS LISTED IN SA'S TENTATIVE INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT INTERVIEW TRIP WITH INTERVIEW DATE OF 14 MAY 1993. THIS IS PROBABLY WHY LTC TEO OF THE VNOSMP INDICATED DURING THE INTERVIEW WITH COL HANH THAT HE HAS RECENTLY BEEN IN CONTACT WITH COL THUONG. COL THUONG HAS CONSIDERABLE POTENTIAL AND SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE VALUABLE LEADS CONCERNING THE PRIORITY DISCREPANCY CASES. THE THIRD INDIVIDUAL (DUNG) HAS NOT YET BEEN LOCATED, BUT A REMOTE POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT HE WAS INTERVIEWED BY SA IN THE PHILIPPINES DURING THE EARLY 1980'S. SA VAGUELY RECALLS THAT MR DUNG SPECULATED THAT ANY U.S. REMAINS WAREHOUSED BY THE SRV WERE STORED IN A RESTRICTED AREA OF HOA LO PRISON IN HANOI.

THE INFORMATION CONCERNING WARTIME POW CAMPS PROVIDED BY COL HANH IS ALSO GENERALLY CORRECT. THE CAMP HE REFERRED TO IN NAM HA IS THE CAMP CALLED THE "ROCKPILE" BY U.S. POWS. THE FORMER CAMP COMMANDER, LTC TRAN MONG XUYEN, ALSO A FORMER EPD CADRE, SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION CONCERNING INCIDENTS WHICH WERE CONTAINED IN SA'S PROPOSED TALKING POINTS SUBMITTED AS INPUT TO THE MOST RECENT TECHNICAL MEETING HELD IN HANOI. COL DO HOANG TRU, THE FORMER DEPUTY CHIEF OF SRV COUNTERINTELLIGENCE ASSIGNED AS A POW/MIA SPECIALIST TO THE DRV DELEGATION, FOUR PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM, IS CURRENTLY AN INMATE IN THE CAMP DUE TO CORRUPTION. SA ALSO PLANS TO INTERVIEW HIM IN CONJUNCTION WITH COL THUONG AND LTC XUYEN. COL HANH MENTIONED THE BO DUONG CAMP IN DONG KHE BUT HE FAILED TO MENTION THE ASPECT OF JOINT SRV/PRC EXPLOITATION OF U.S. POWS THERE DURING THE WAR. THE CAU BIEU CAMP MENTIONED BY COL HANH AS BEING AN MOI CAMP ABOUT WHICH HE HAD NO SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE IS PROBABLY CORRECT SINCE THE CAMP WAS MANAGED BY PERMANENT OFFICE FOR SOUTH VIETNAM "B", AND DURING THE WAR HELD U.S. POWS CAPTURED IN THE HUE AREA. SA BELIEVES THAT FOREIGNERS ARRESTED IN THE SOUTH AFTER THE WAR (I.E. YOSHIDA, COTTON, INGRAM,) WOULD ALSO HAVE BEEN HELD, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, IN THIS CAMP PRIOR TO ENTERING THE NORTHERN PRISON SYSTEM ( I.E. OFFICE "A").

COL HANH'S INFORMATION CONCERNING VAN DIEN CEMETERY IS ALSO GENERALLY CORRECT. THE PHOTOGRAPHS MENTIONED IN THE INTERVIEW REPORT AS BEING CONTAINED IN DIA FILES WERE ACTUALLY TAKEN BY SA DURING 1973. COL HANH MENTIONED 23 DIC PERSONNEL, HOWEVER, IT IS

CONDUCTED BY THE ENEMY PROSELYTING SECTIONS OF THE VARIOUS MILITARY REGIONS AND MANAGED BY THE POLICY OFFICE OF THE ENEMY PROSELYTING DEPARTMENT IN HANOI, WITH TECHNICAL EXPERTISE PROVIDED BY THE MILITARY POLICE AND CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT (FORMERLY MILITARY JUSTICE DEPARTMENT) OF THE GENERAL POLITICAL DIRECTORATE.

THERE IS NO QUESTION IN MY MIND AS TO WHETHER THE PAVN WAREHOUSED REMAINS. THERE HAS BEEN AMPLE REPORTING, AS WELL AS SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE TO PROVE THIS CONTENTION. THE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER COL HANH KNEW ABOUT SUCH WAREHOUSING IS NOT YET CLEAR. I BELIEVE THAT THE REMAINS PROCESSED BY THE DEFECTING MORTICIAN WERE RECOVERED IN HANOI AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS FOR REPATRIATION TO THE U.S. IN CONJUNCTION WITH OPERATION HOMECOMING IN EARLY 1973, AND THIS IS ONE REASON THAT GROUP 875 WAS FORMED IN 1972. CREDIBLE REPORTING IN THE PAST INDICATES THAT REMAINS WERE STORED IN THE CITADEL IN HANOI AND IN BAT BAT PRISON IN HA TAY. A NUMBER OF REMAINS APPROXIMATING THE NUMBER OF REMAINS PROCESSED BY THE MORTICIAN HAVE BEEN RETURNED BY THE SRV, HOWEVER, ONLY 69% HAVE INDICATED SIGNS OF STORAGE AND CURATION. THIS MAY MEAN THAT A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF READILY AVAILABLE REMAINS ARE STILL HELD IN HANOI. ANOTHER CREDIBLE REPORT PLACED SOME 60 REMAINS IN BAT BAT PRISON, WHICH IS A FACILITY OF THE MILITARY POLICE AND CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT OF THE GPD. THE REMAINS WERE DESCRIBED AS BEING STORED IN PLASTIC BAGS. WE SUBSEQUENTLY REPATRIATED REMAINS WITH PLASTIC ADHERED TO THEM, POSSIBLY AS A RESULT OF A FIRE. REMAINS WERE ALSO REPORTEDLY STORED IN A FORMER RADIO STATION OF THE GVN IN HO CHI MINH CITY, BUT THIS REPORTING IS DIFFICULT TO EVALUATE. IN ANY CASE, I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT SUCH A LARGE NUMBER OF REMAINS WERE PROCESSED AND STORED AND COL HANH, THE COMMANDER OF GROUP 875 AT THE TIME THE REMAINS WERE PROCESSED, HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF THIS.

COL HANH MAY WELL BE TELLING THE TRUTH CONCERNING HIS LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF THE BLACK MAN WHO DIED IN 1975. COL HANH WAS IN THE NORTH, THE BLACK MAN REPORTEDLY DIED IN HO CHI MINH CITY, AND THERE IS NO REPORTING I AM AWARE OF INDICATING HIS REMAINS WERE EVER MOVED FROM THE SOUTH UNTIL REPATRIATION. I BELIEVE THE BEST ACTION WE CAN TAKE IN THIS CASE IS TO INVESTIGATE THE REPORT OF AN AMERICAN BODY ON THE GROUND BENEATH THE BALCONY OF AN APARTMENT BUILDING ON CONG LY STREET IN HO CHI MINH CITY ON 1 MAY 1975, AND THE REPORT OF A BLACK MAN MURDERED IN THE KIEN THIET HOUSING AREA IN THU DUC, HCMC BEFORE THE WAR ENDED. SA VAGUELY RECALLS HEARING AT THE TIME OF THE FALL OF SAIGON THAT MEDICAL RECORDS OF THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST HOSPITAL (FORMERLY 3RD FIELD), WERE TRANSFERRED TO SINGAPORE IN APRIL 1975. SINCE THE BLACK MAN'S REMAINS REPORTEDLY WERE PRESENT AT THIS HOSPITAL PRIOR TO BURIAL IN THE CHI HOA PRISON CEMETERY, AND DUE THE FACT THE REMAINS WERE EXHUMED IN A METAL U.S. ISSUE TRANSFER CASE, THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE HOSPITAL RECORDS WILL CONTAIN SOME INFORMATION. SA RECALLS THAT WHEN THE 3RD FIELD HOSPITAL CLOSED AND THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST HOSPITAL ASSUMED MANAGEMENT THERE, AN AGREEMENT WAS REACHED WITH THE USG FOR U.S. MILITARY AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES TO BE TREATED THERE AS REFERRALS FROM THE U.S. EMBASSY/DAO SAIGON. SA WAS TREATED THERE ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASSION PRIOR TO THE FALL OF THE GVN AND SA'S MEDICAL RECORDS WERE LEFT

EITHER AT THE HOSPITAL, OR THE DAO MEDICAL UNIT. SA ASSUMES THAT OTHER USG EMPLOYEES HAD SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES.

THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY COL HANH CONCERNING ROBERT GARWOOD APPERAS TO BE GENERALLY ACCURATE. HIS ACCOUNT TO THE EFFECT THAT PFC GARWOOD ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO DEFECT WHEN HE ENCOUNTERED ARMED GUERILLAS MAY OR MAY NOT BE CORRECT. SA BELIEVES THAT PFC GARWOOD WAS PROBABLY ALREADY IN CONTACT WITH HIS CAPTORS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF HIS LOSS. THERE IS PREVIOUS REPORTING CONTAINED IN U.S. FILES INDICATING THAT U.S. PERSONNEL IN SEVERAL MILITARY REGIONS WERE LURED BY ENGLISH SPEAKING VIETNAMESE. MILITARY REGION 5 WHERE PFC GARWOOD WAS CAPTURED IS NO EXCEPTION, AND IN FACT HAS THE HIGHEST RATE OF SUCH INCIDENTS. PREVIOUS REPORTING INDICATES THAT THE FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE MR-5 SECURITY COMMITTEE, MR HO NGHINH, AKA HO HUU PHUOC (MENTIONED ABOVE) MANAGED A PROGRAM WHERE U.S. POWS WERE USED TO TEACH ENGLISH TO VIETNAMESE FEMALES FOR THE PURPOSE OF LURING AMERICAN SERVICEMEN FROM THEIR UNITS. ADDITIONALLY, MR NGUYEN VAN HUNG, THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE INTERPRETER ASSIGNED TO THE MR-5 CAMP WHERE PFC GARWOOD AND 31 OTHER U.S. AND GERMAN POWS WERE HELD, STUDIED ENGLISH IN HOI AN. PFC GARWOOD WAS CAPTURED NEAR HOI AN. DURING AN ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW WITH SA, MR HUNG SAID HE STUDIED ENGLISH AT THE VIETNAMESE-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION IN HOI AN. HE SAID HIS ENGLISH TEACHERS WERE A MR BAKER AND A MR MALIA WHO NOW WORK FOR THE ODP. MR HUNG RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A THREE YEAR STUDY TOUR IN THE SOVIET UNION WHERE HE STUDIED PHILOSOPHY. HE CURRENTLY TEACHES ENGLISH AT THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE UNIVERSITY IN DANANG. MR HUNG WORKED FOR PARTY REGION COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ENGLISH SPEAKER, PROFESSOR HO AN, WHO MET PFC GARWOOD ON NUMEROUS OCCASSIONS. PROFESSOR HO AN IS STILL ASSOCIATED WITH THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE UNIVERSITY IN DANANG. HIS FORMER ASSOCIATE FROM THE CAMP SYSTEM WHO ALSO IS AN ENGLISH SPEAKER, MR VO KIM HO, IS CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO THE TOURISM DEPARTMENT IN DANANG AND GUIDES U.S. VETERANS ON TOURS TO THE CITADEL IN HUE CITY. U.S. CASE FILES INDICATE THAT U.S. PERSONNEL WERE LURED UNDER SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREAS OF PHU BAI, DANANG, CHU LAI, PLEIKU, QUI NHON AND TUY HOA. APPARENTLY THERE WAS AN AGGRESIVE PROGRAM TO LURE U.S. PERSONNEL IN CENTRAL VIETNAM DURING THE WAR, AND PERHAPS PFC GARWOOD IS ONE OF THE FEW INDIVIDUALS WHO IS FORTUNATE TO HAVE BEEN RETURNED. SIMILAR INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN AND AROUND THE SAIGON AREA, BUT SA DOES NOT RECALL ANY U.S. PERSONNEL WHO WERE RETURNED.

THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY COL HANH CONCERNING A THAI NATIONAL CALLED "SOT SAY BURI" IS APPARENTLY CORRECT. WE HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS IN THE PAST INCORRECTLY DESCRIBING THIS INDIVIDUAL AS AN AMERICAN. PREVIOUS REPORTING INDICATES THAT THIS THAI, WHO THE OTHER INMATES CALLED "SON", FLED FROM THAILAND IN A STOLEN AIRCRAFT AND LANDED IN NORTH VIETNAM. HE REPORTEDLY WAS HEAVILY INDEBTED TO THAI BUSINESS ASSOCIATES AND FLED TO VIETNAM TO AVOID THEIR SETTLING OF ACCOUNTS WITH HIM.

THE NEGATIVE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY COL HANH TO THE EFFECT THAT NO U.S. PERSONNEL WERE HELD IN THE AREA OF THAC BA (NOTE: NOT THACH BA AS MENTIONED BY COL HANH) IS DIFFICULT TO EVALUATE, SA NOT HAVING BEEN INVOLVED IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THIS REPORT. SA DOES RECALL

STILL NOT CLEAR CONCERNING A POSSIBLE 24TH GRAVE OF CASE 1976-0-02 (FRYER). THE ACCOMPANYING VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS AT THE TIME SAID THERE WERE 24 DIC'S, BUT LATER CHANGED THE NUMBER TO 23, AS REPORTED BY COL HANH. THE MORTICIAN WHO DEFECTED TESTIFIED THAT 1LT FRYER WAS DEAD AT THE CRASH SITE BUT STILL STRAPPED IN HIS SEAT. REFUGEE SOURCES IN HONG KONG INTERVIEWED BY SA HAVE PROVIDED ACCOUNTS AGREEING WITH THAT OF THE MORTICIAN. THE GRAVE OBSERVED BY SA IN VAN DIEN CEMETERY IN 1973, WHICH HAD A HEADSTONE WITH THE THAI NAME "THONG DI" WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN CONFUSED WITH THE GRAVE OF AN AMERICAN, BUT THIS ISSUE WAS NEVER EXPLAINED. THE REMAINS OF A MONGOLOID MALE WERE REPATRIATED TO THE U.S. (POSSIBLY DURING 1974 ALONG WITH THE DIC'S FROM THE NORTH), AND SA VAGUELY RECALLS THAT THESE REMAINS WERE LATER RETURNED TO THE SRV. SA IS NOT AWARE THAT THE MONGOLOID REMAINS WERE DETERMINED TO BE THOSE OF A THAI NATIONAL, OR A CITIZEN OF SOME OTHER THIRD COUNTRY.

COL HANH'S OPINION THAT THE TWO CAUCASIANS OBSERVED AT 3 DUONG THANH WERE PROBABLY EAST EUROPEANS OR OTHER WESTERNERS IS CONVENIENT BUT NOT VERY CONVINCING. ANY FOREIGN ADVISORS WHO HAD ACCESS TO SENSITIVE PAVN AREAS WOULD HAVE BEEN WELL KNOWN TO MEMBERS OF THE EPD. ADDITIONALLY, A VISITORS LOG WOULD HAVE BEEN MAINTAINED FOR ALL PERSONNEL VISITING THE OFFICE. THIS IS THE NORMAL PROCEDURE AND COL HANH IS AWARE OF THIS FACT.