

ORIGIN CJTF2 INFO DCM POL SA DAO PW/MIA EXA DALO INEB (9)
VZCZC
RR RUEHQH RUMTFS RUEHPF RUEKJCS RUEKJCS RUEHQHQB
RUEKJCS RUEAJCS RUEAIIA RUHVAAA RUEADWW RUEHC
DE RUEHBC #3712/01 295 **
ZNR UUUUU
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FM CJTF-FA DET ONE BANGKOK TH
TO RUEHQH / CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI
INFO RUMTFS / AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE//CJTF-FA DET THREE//
RUEHPF / USMISSION PHNOM PENH//CJTFFA DET FOUR//
RUEKJCS / JOINT STAFF WASHDC//OCJCS-PW-MIA/J5//
RUEHQHQB / SECDEF WASHDC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//
RUEKJCS / USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J5//
RUEKJCS / USCINCPAC LO WASHDC//
RUEAJCS / DIA WASHDC//POW-MIA//
RUEAIIA / CIA WASHDC//DEA/STAIR/DDO/ICOG//
RUHVAAA / CDUSACILHI HICIAM AFB HI//
RUEADWW / NSC WASHDC
RUEHC / SECSTATE WASHDC//CA/OCG/CCS/EAP//
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 BANGKOK TH 13712

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DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE

SUBJ: SRV ORAL HISTORY, MAJOR GENERAL VO VAN THOI

REF: DET 1, JTF-FA MSG 230355Z MAR 93

1. REF WAS THE SUMMARY REPORT OF ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN VIETNAM BY JTF-FA SPECIAL ASSISTANT, MR G.E. BELL, DURING THE PERIOD 3 TO 19 MARCH 1993. PARA 2C OF REF REFERS TO PAVN MG VO VAN THOI. THE FOLLOWING REPORT PROVIDES THE DETAILS OF THE INTERVIEW CONDUCTED WITH MG THOI. THE INTERVIEW WAS MONITORED BY ASSIGNED COUNTERPART AND MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (MND) REP, LTC PHAM TEO, AND MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR (MOI) REP, MR NGUYEN THE CONG. REPRESENTING THE HO CHI MINH CITY PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE WERE THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF CONSULAR ARRAYS FOR SOUTHERN VIETNAM, MR BUI DAC TAM (TAAM), THE CITY MILITARY COMMAND REP, LTC TRAN VAN TAN (TAAN), AND THE CITY PUBLIC SECURITY REP, MAJ NGUYEN VAN HA (HAS).
2. MG VO VAN THOI, A 71 YEAR OLD NATIVE OF SAIGON, WAS INTERVIEWED IN HO CHI MINH CITY ON 9 MARCH 1993. SOURCE SAID HE JOINED THE REVOLUTION DURING WORLD WAR II TO FIGHT AGAINST THE JAPANESE. SUBSEQUENT TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF JAPANESE FORCES, SOURCE CONTINUED TO FIGHT AGAINST THE FRENCH. SOURCE REGROUPED TO NORTHERN VIETNAM IN 1954 AND JOINED THE ENEMY PROSELYTING DEPARTMENT (EPD), GENERAL POLITICAL DIRECTORATE (GPD) IN 1957. SOMETIME DURING 1960, SOURCE REPLACED THE CHIEF OF THE EPD, WHO WAS A MOROCCAN AND FORMER FRENCH DESERTER CALLED "MA" (MAR). DURING 1964, SOURCE DEPARTED NORTH VIETNAM FOR DANANG. FROM DANANG SOURCE TRAVELED TO THE DUONG MINH CHAU AREA OF TAY NINH PROVINCE. WHILE IN TAY NINH, SOURCE WORKED AS AN ADVISOR

FOR ENEMY PROSELYTING ACTIVITIES OF THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, HQ SOUTH VIETNAM LIBERATION ARMED FORCES (SVMLAF), BUT CONTINUED TO HOLD HIS POSITION AS CHIEF OF THE EPD, GPD IN HANOI. DURING SOURCE'S ABSENCE FROM HANOI, SR COL VAN DUY WAS THE ACTING CHIEF OF THE EPD.

3. SOMETIME DURING THE LATE 1960'S, SOURCE TRAVELED TO QUI NHON, BINH DINH, AND THEN TO A SENIOR LEVEL COMMUNIST PARTY TRAINING COURSE IN THE AREA OF KONTUM. AFTER COMPLETION OF TRAINING, SOURCE WAS ASSIGNED AS THE CHIEF OF THE MILITARY PROSELYTING SECTION OF THE NATIONAL REUNIFICATION COMMITTEE (TRUONG BAN BINH VAN, UY BAN THONG NHAT QUOC GIA). (NOTE: AKA CPT2, I.E. CHINH PHU BAY MUOI HAI). DURING THE TIME SOURCE WAS ASSIGNED TO THE NATIONAL REUNIFICATION COMMITTEE, THE GENERAL SECRETARY WAS VO DONG GIANG. (NOTE: REAL NAME PHAM BA). SOURCE SAID HE WAS SELECTED BY THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE FOR ASSIGNMENT AS THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT (PRG) AMBASSADOR TO CUBA, BUT THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE INTERVENED, AND SOURCE WAS REPLACED IN THE POSTING BY VO DONG GIANG. DUE TO HIS ASSIGNMENT AS MILITARY PROSELYTING CHIEF FOR THE REUNIFICATION COMMITTEE, SOURCE OCCASIONALLY TRAVELED TO HANOI TO ASSESS THE SITUATION REGARDING THE VALUE OF US POW'S FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES. SOURCE VISITED HOA LO, SON TAY, AND CAU GIAY (NOTE: AKA NGA TU SO) PRISONS. SOURCE OBTAINED SAMPLES OF PROPAGANDA LEAFLETS FOR REPRINTING IN THE SOUTH. SOURCE SAID SVMLAF IN THE SOUTH OFTEN USED MORTAR CANNISTER ROUNDS TO DELIVER THE LEAFLETS IN THE AREAS OF US UNITS. SOURCE ALSO OBTAINED COPIES OF TAPE RECORDED STATEMENTS MADE BY US POW'S IN HANOI FOR USE BY THE LIBERATION RADIO STATION LOCATED IN NORTHWESTERN TAY NINH PROVINCE.

4. SOURCE SAID THAT DUE TO HIS HIGH POSITION, HE DID NOT HAVE ANY DIRECT CONTACT WITH US POW'S. SOURCE OPINED THAT THE BEST SOURCE OF SPECIFIC INFORMATION REGARDING US PERSONNEL, INCLUDING THOSE WHO DIED IN CAPTIVITY, WERE FORMER COMMANDERS AND DEPUTY COMMANDERS OF CAMPS, WHERE AMERICANS WERE HELD. SOURCE OFFERED TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH THESE FORMER CADRE. SOURCE SUGGESTED THAT ONE MEETING BE HELD FOR THE AREA FROM HUE TO CA MAU, AND ANOTHER SEPARATE MEETING BE HELD FOR NORTHERN VIETNAM. WHEN ASKED ABOUT HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH MILITARY OR ENEMY PROSELYTING ELEMENTS IN LAOS OR CAMBODIA, SOURCE SAID HE DID TRAVEL TO KHANG KHAY (NOTE: FORMER MEETING PLACE FOR THE RELEASES OF

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US POW'S CAPTURED IN LAOS DURING THE EARLY 1960'S AND CONTROLLED BY THE VIET MINH/PAVN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ELEMENT LOCATED IN THE AREA OF CENTRAL PRISON 6, WEST OF VINH IN NGHE AN PROVINCE (VIETNAM) DURING THE LATE 1960'S. SOURCE ALSO TRAVELLED TO VIENG XAY, SAM NEUA FROM SON LA IN VIETNAM. SOURCE SAID THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISITS WAS TO ASSIST LAO FORCES. SOURCE DECLINED TO BE MORE SPECIFIC REGARDING HIS VISITS.

5. CONCERNING OTHER CADRE WHO MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION CONCERNING US PERSONNEL STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR, SOURCE PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING:

A. MR SON (SONN): A FORMER ENEMY PROSELYTING CADRE IN QUANG NGAI, BELIEVED TO BE RETIRED AND CURRENTLY RESIDING IN QUANG NGAI.

B. TAM (B) HIEN (HIENP): THE FORMER COMMANDER OF MILITARY REGION SIX, NOW RETIRED AND RESIDING IN HO CHI MINH CITY.

C. NGUYEN VAN THUONG (THUONJ): SOURCE'S FORMER DEPUTY. CURRENT STATUS AND WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN TO SOURCE. (NOTE: SOURCE DID NOT VOLUNTEER THIS NAME BUT WAS ASKED IF HE RECALLED A CADRE CALLED THUONJ. PREVIOUS REPORTING INDICATES THAT VO VAN THUONG AKA NAM (5) THANG WAS ASSIGNED TO A POW ESCORT UNIT DURING THE WAR. A CADRE CALLED THUONG, POSSIBLY THE SAME INDIVIDUAL, HAS BEEN MENTIONED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE INVESTIGATION OF CASES IN MILITARY REGION 6. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION OBTAINED DURING THE INVESTIGATION, THE CADRE CALLED THUONJ WAS KNOWN FOR HIS ABILITY TO WALK GREAT DISTANCES WITH LITTLE OR NO DRINKING WATER. IN LIGHT OF THE REPORTED DUTIES PERFORMED BY THUONG, HE MAY BE THE SAME INDIVIDUAL WHO WAS KILLED IN AN AMRUSH AND DOCUMENTS RELATING TO US POW'S FOUND ON HIS PERSON).

D. LE DIEN (ZIENJ): A FORMER DEPUTY OF THE EPD, GPD, IN HANOI DURING THE TIME THE MOROCCAN FORMER FRENCH DESERTER WAS THE CHIEF. (NOTE: SOURCE DID NOT VOLUNTEER THIS NAME. LE DIEN REPORTEDLY WAS ASSIGNED TO THE MRS ENEMY PROSELYTING OFFICE DURING THE WAR. AT LEAST ONE SOURCE INTERVIEWED PREVIOUSLY INDICATED HE IS DECEASED).

E. NGO THUC DAI (DDAI): A FORMER CADRE OF THE ENEMY PROSELYTING DEPARTMENT, GPD, POSSIBLY DECEASED DUE TO CANCER. (NOTE: SOURCE DID NOT OFFER THIS NAME. SR COL DAI REPORTEDLY WORKED AS A STAFF MEMBER OF THE EPD POLICY OFFICE FROM 1947 TO 1970.

F. LE HOA (HOAP): A FORMER ENGLISH LANGUAGE INTERPRETER AND YOUNGER BROTHER OF NGUYEN XUAN OANH. SOURCE HEARD THAT LE HOA DIED AFTER THE WAR DUE TO PNEUMONIA, BUT IS NOT SURE CONCERNING HIS CURRENT STATUS.

6. WHEN ASKED CONCERNING HIS KNOWLEDGE OF INCIDENTS INVOLVING US PERSONNEL NOT YET ACCOUNTED FOR, SOURCE SAID THAT SOMETIME DURING THE 1975 OFFENSIVE HE HEARD THAT IN

MARCH 1975, TWO AMERICANS WERE CAPTURED OFF THE COAST OF VIETNAM BY ELEMENTS OF MILITARY REGION SIX. SOURCE WAS NOT ABLE TO RECALL ANY FURTHER DETAILS CONCERNING THIS INCIDENT. SOURCE ALSO OBSERVED SOME GRAVES IN THE AREA OF THE IPO CAMP IN TAY NINH DURING THE LATE 1960'S. SOURCE ASKED LOCALS IN THE AREA ABOUT THE GRAVES AND THEY SAID THEY WERE NOT SURE WHO WAS BURIED IN THE GRAVES BECAUSE THERE WERE NO NAME MARKERS. SOURCE COULD NOT RECALL THE CAMP LOCATION BECAUSE THE CAMP WAS FREQUENTLY MOVED, BUT SOURCE INDICATED HE INTENDS TO CHECK WITH HIS COLLEAGUES TO ASCERTAIN THE LOCATION OF THE GRAVES.

7. COMMENTS:

A. SOURCE WAS COOPERATIVE BUT NOT FORTHCOMING IN SOME AREAS OF INFORMATION WHERE HE CAN REASONABLY BE EXPECTED TO HAVE KNOWLEDGEABILITY. SOURCE GAVE THE IMPRESSION HE CONSIDERED THIS INITIAL MEETING AS BASICALLY A "GET ACQUAINTED" SESSION, AND HE INTENDS TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH HIS OFFER TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH WARTIME CAMP COMMANDERS, IF THE US SIDE EXPRESSES ANY INTEREST. SA INFORMED SOURCE THAT SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HE BELIEVES

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 BANGKOK TH 13712

SOURCE'S IDEA CONCERNING A MEETING HAS MERIT, AND SA WILL PASS ON THE SUGGESTION TO HIS SUPERIORS FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION. SA INFORMED SOURCE HE CAN EXPECT TO BE NOTIFIED BY THE VIETNAMESE OFFICE FOR SEEKING MISSING PERSONNEL (VNOSRP) AFTER A DECISION HAS BEEN MADE.

B. ALTHOUGH SOURCE PROVIDED ONLY LIMITED DETAILS, HIS WARTIME TRAVEL ITINERARY SUGGESTS ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION ASSETS NOT USUALLY RESERVED FOR PERSONNEL OF THE INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY SERVICES, OR FOR THE DELIVERY OF ARMS AND MUNITIONS. THE FACT THAT SOURCE WAS IN HANG KHAY AND VIENG XAY DURING THE WAR MAY BE AN INDICATION OF HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH PAVN ADVISORY GROUP SIX, OR INTERNATIONAL LIAISON GROUP 101 OF THE COMINTERN. SOURCE'S PRESENCE IN SON LA (I.E. THE NORTHWEST MILITARY REGION UNDER PAVN HQ VU LAP) DURING THE LATE 1960'S MAY SUGGEST AT LEAST SOME INVOLVEMENT IN THE PAVN SAPPER ATTACKS ON LIMA SITE 85 AT PHOU PHA THI AND UDORN AIRBASE IN THAILAND. THESE SUBJECTS WILL BE PURSUED IN A FUTURE SESSION. IF SA IS GRANTED ADDITIONAL ACCESS TO THIS SOURCE.

C. SA HAS EXPERIENCED DIFFICULTY IN LOCATING CADRE PREVIOUSLY ASSIGNED TO WARTIME MILITARY REGION SIX. THE FORMER CADRE TAN (B) HIEN, MENTIONED IN PARA 5B ABOVE, MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN THIS CRITICAL AREA.

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