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FM CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI//J2//  
 TO RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USDP:RSA/DPHO-RA/DPHO-RD//  
 INFO RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASH DC  
 RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//CA/EAP/VLC/CCS/OCS//  
 RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//OCJCS/J5/PW-MIA/J3-JOD//  
 RUHQHQB/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3/J30-M//  
 RUEKJCS/USCINCPAC LO WASHINGTON DC  
 RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC//DEA/SEA/IB/DDO/EA/ICOG//  
 RUHVAAA/CDRUSACILHI HICKAM AFB HI//TAPC-PED-H//  
 RUEHBT/USDAO BANGKOK TH//PW-MIA//  
 RUEHBT/CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

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UNCLAS //N03460//

FINAL SECTION OF 02

DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE//

MSGID/GENADMIN/CDR JTF-FA/J223//

SUBJ/ INTERVIEW OF REQUESTED SOURCE, NGUYEN VAN THU//

RMKS/

DISTRICT, DURING OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER OF 1969. THE AMERICAN

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CONGRESS, HE SAID, PAID MUCH ATTENTION TO THIS BATTLE BECAUSE PART OF THE 324TH DIVISION AND THE 6TH REGIMENT, 101ST AIRBORNE WAS SEVERELY DEFEATED. HE SAID THAT U.S. BOMBING CAUSED MANY DEATHS IN THE AREA.

(6) ON 21 JULY 1971; MR. THU SAID, THERE WAS A BATTLE AT TAY LUAT HIGH POINT (EXACT LOCATION UNKNOWN) IN A LUOI DISTRICT. THE PAVN 6TH REGIMENT ATTACKED AN ELEMENT OF THE 101ST AIRBORNE ON THE SOUTHWEST SIDE OF HIGHWAY 12. HE RECALLED THAT HIS TROOPS CAPTURED ONE BLACK AMERICAN DURING THE BATTLE. THREE ESCORTS WERE ASSIGNED TO TAKE HIM TO GROUP 559. HE SAID THAT WAS THE LAST TIME HE HEARD ABOUT THIS PW.

F. MR. THU SAID THAT IN GENERAL MANY AMERICAN PRISONERS AS WELL AS VIETNAMESE WERE KILLED WHILE BEING EVACUATED TO HANOI. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE FEELING OF LOSS IS GREAT, THE VIETNAMESE ACCEPT IT AS A FACT OF WAR AND UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR LOST COMPATRIOTS WILL NEVER BE FOUND.

G. WITH NO FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR MR. THU, THE JOINT TEAM AGREED TO CONCLUDE THE INTERVIEW.

4. CORRELATIONS TO EXISTING POW/MIA CASES. NONE.

5. POTENTIAL LEADS. NONE.

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6. MATERIAL EVIDENCE: NONE. THIS SOURCE BROUGHT NO RECORDS, NOTEBOOKS, DIARIES, OR ANY MATERIAL ASSOCIATED WITH UNACCOUNTED FOR U.S. PERSONNEL.

7. COMMENTS.

A. THROUGHOUT THIS INTERVIEW MR. THU'S STATEMENTS WERE LENGTHY AND OFTEN AMBIGUOUS. SEVERAL TIMES HE RESTATED OR ADDED NEW INFORMATION TO A PREVIOUSLY ADDRESSED SUBJECT WHILE ADDRESSING A DIFFERENT SUBJECT. THE INTERVIEWERS HAD TO ASK FOR CLARIFICATION AT SEVERAL POINTS DURING THE INTERVIEW, BUT THE SUBJECT'S REPLIES WERE NOT ALWAYS CLEAR. ALTHOUGH MR. THU SAID THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO HELP THE JOINT TEAM IN ANY WAY HE COULD, HE APPEARED TO MAKE HIS RESPONSES AS LENGTHY AS POSSIBLE AND APPEARED IRRITATED WITH REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION.

B. THE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT TEAM CONFERRED ON THE QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED DURING THIS INTERVIEW. TEAM MEMBERS AGREED THAT THE NEED TO RE-INTERVIEW THIS SUBJECT WOULD DEPEND ON WHETHER FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR MR. THU ARISE DURING THE COURSE OF THE ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW TEAM'S FUTURE WORK.

C. REQUEST THE VNOSMP MAKE NGUYEN VAN THU AVAILABLE FOR RE-INTERVIEW IF NECESSARY.//

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TREATED ACCORDING TO POLICY. HE DID NOT DIRECTLY STATE WHAT THIS POLICY ENTAILED, BUT SAID THAT IN SOME CASES HIS MEN HAD TO ENTER AND EXIT A BATTLE AREA THROUGH BARBED WIRE AND UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THERE WAS NO WAY TO GET A PW OUT.

C. IN CASES WHERE HIS TROOPS DID TAKE PRISONERS, HE SAID, STANDARD PROCEDURE WAS TO TAKE THE CAPTIVE DIRECTLY TO COMMO-LIAISON ELEMENTS OF GROUP 559 FOR TRANSPORT TO THE NORTH. HE SAID THAT THERE WERE NO PW HOLDING CAMPS OR FIELD HOSPITALS IN MR-TTH, THEREFORE THE PW'S COULD NOT RECEIVE MEDICAL TREATMENT PRIOR TO BEING TRANSPORTED OUT OF THE REGION. NORMALLY A THREE MAN GROUP OF MAIN FORCE PERSONNEL WOULD ESCORT PRISONERS TO GROUP 559. AS GROUP 559 ACCEPTED THE PRISONERS, THU SAID, THE ESCORT PERSONNEL RETURNED TO THEIR UNITS. THIS ESCORT DUTY INVOLVED MANY OF HIS MEN, SOMETIMES FOR A FEW HOURS, SOMETIMES A FEW DAYS. MR. THU EXPLAINED THAT AMERICAN PW'S WERE GUARDED VERY CAREFULLY WHILE BEING TRANSPORTED TO GROUP 559, EVEN DURING U.S. BOMBING ATTACKS.

D. REPORTS TO HIGHER HEADQUARTERS CONCERNING PRISONERS WERE COURIERED BY PRISONER ESCORT GROUPS TO GROUP 559 FOR DELIVERY TO HEADQUARTERS, MR. THU SAID. THESE REPORTS WOULD HAVE CONTAINED ONLY THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS BEING ESCORTED. UNITS KNOWING OF

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THE DEATH OF AN AMERICAN PW WOULD ALSO HAVE REPORTED THE MATTER UP THE CHAIN OF COMMAND. HE CLAIMED TO BE UNAWARE OF ANY CIRCUMSTANCE IN WHICH A U.S. PW DIED WHILE EN ROUTE GROUP 559 AND SAID, THEREFORE, THERE ARE NO SKETCHES OR MAPS TO SHOW BURIAL LOCATIONS. HE SAID THAT BECAUSE HIS UNITS DID NOT HAVE TRANSLATORS, THEY COULD NOT GET ANY INFORMATION FROM PW'S. HE COULD NOT RECALL IF ANY OF THE UNITS IN HIS REGION TOOK PRISONERS TO THE NORTH DURING 1972.

E. MR. THU RECALLED PARTICIPATING IN THE FOLLOWING BATTLES:

(1) A BATTLE IN MAY OF 1966 AGAINST MORE THAN 150 AMERICAN MARINES AT MY PHU (PROBABLY AT8655), SONG CHUONG VILLAGE, CHINH AN DISTRICT. HE SAID THAT DURING THE BATTLE, AMERICAN ARTILLERY AND BOMBS NOT ONLY KILLED MANY OF HIS MEN BUT ALSO AMERICANS.

(2) ON 29 JUNE 69, MR. THU SAID, HE PERSONALLY COMMANDED AN AMBUSH ON THE 2ND MARINE BATTALION AT PHO TRACH (YD5234). THE JOINT RVN - AMERICAN HEADQUARTERS WAS DESTROYED, HE SAID, AND HIS TROOPS TOOK 20 PRISONERS, 17 ARVN AND THREE AMERICANS. FIVE OF HIS MEN WERE TO ESCORT THE PW'S WHEN AN AMERICAN HELICOPTER CAME AND KILLED ALL OF THE PRISONERS AND THE ESCORTS. DURING THIS

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BATTLE, HE SAID, HE LOST 12 OF HIS MEN.

(3) HE SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY COMMANDED A 26 DAY LONG ATTACK ON HUE IN OCTOBER OF 1968. THE AMERICAN 7TH ARMORED REGIMENT, HE SAID, WAS ATTACKED NEAR DONG TOA AT THIS TIME. HE SAID THAT THE AMERICANS LOST 129 MEN IN THE BATTLE, WHILE HE ONLY LOST ONE. HE SAID THAT HIS TROOPS WERE UNABLE TO RECOVER THE BODY OF THEIR LOST COMRADE. HE ALSO SAID THAT IN 1972, HIS TROOPS ATTACKED A BRIDGE IN HUE, KILLING A NUMBER OF AMERICANS. LTC KY ASKED MR. THU IF HE HAD ANY KNOWLEDGE OF FEMALES CAPTURED OR A GROUP OF SIX OR SEVEN AMERICAN SOLDIERS CAPTURED IN THE AREA. MR. THU SAID THAT HE WAS THE AREA COMMANDER AND HE HAD NEVER HEARD OF EITHER CIRCUMSTANCE.

(4) ON 18 MAY 1969, HE SAID A BATTALION COMMANDED BY NGUYEN ANH TUNG (NGUYEENX ANH TUNGF) DESTROYED 15 AMERICAN TANKS AND ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS AT HILL 156 IN CO NHI (UNLOCATED), PHUONG DIEN DISTRICT. HE SAID THAT THIS BATTLE WAS FOUGHT ENTIRELY WITH MISSILES AND HIS TROOPS COULD NOT HOLD THE BATTLEFIELD.

(5) HE RECALLED A BATTLE AT AP BIA (YD328981), IN A LUOI

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