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 FM CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI//J2//
 TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHINGTON DC//PW-MIA//
 INFO RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASH DC
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 RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//CA/EAP/VLC/CCS/OCS//
 RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//OCJCS/J5/PW-MIA/J3-JOD//
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 RUEKJCS/USCINCPAC LO WASHINGTON DC
 RUEAIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC//DEA/SEA/IB/DDO/EA/ICOG//
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 SECTION 01 OF 02
 MSGID/GENADMIN/CDR JTF-FA/J2//
 SUBJ/INTERVIEW OF REQUESTED SOURCE, MR. CAO NAN//
 REF/A/FAX/DET 2/16MAY93//
 AMPN/LIST OF PERSONS FOR INTERVIEW-SENATOR KERRY, ENTRY NUMBER 10

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RHKS/1. BACKGROUND. ON 25 MAY 1993 IN HUE CITY, A JOINT US/VIETNAM INTERVIEW TEAM INTERVIEWED MR. CAO NAN, A 64 YEAR OLD RESIDENT OF NUMBER 72/A BA TRIEU ROAD, HUE CITY. MR. NAN ADDED THAT HE WAS HAVING A HOUSE BUILT IN DA NANG CITY AND WOULD BE MOVING THERE IN JULY. MR. NAN SAID THAT HE COULD NOT RECALL HIS NEW ADDRESS BUT THAT HE WOULD INFORM LOCAL OFFICIALS OF HIS ADDRESS CHANGE. THE TEAM MET AT THE HUONG GIANG HOTEL, HUE CITY, TO INTERVIEW NAN WHO IS LISTED IN REFERENCE AS A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF INFORMATION CONCERNING U.S. PERSONNEL MISSING IN ACTION IN VIETNAM. THE U.S. CONTINGENT CONSISTED OF MR. KEITH GARY FLANAGAN, JOINT TASK FORCE-FULL ACCOUNTING (JTF-FA) DET 2 CASUALTY RESOLUTION SPECIALIST; AND PETTY OFFICER JOHN HARVEY, JTF-FA ANALYST/LINGUIST. THE VIETNAMESE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CONTINGENT CONSISTED OF LTC LE KY, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE; AND MR. NGUYEN THANG LOI, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. MR. NAN HAD NOT BEEN INTERVIEWED BY JOINT TEAMS PREVIOUSLY.

2. SUMMARY. THE SOURCE PROVIDED INFORMATION ON THREE INCIDENTS IN WHICH U.S. PERSONNEL HAD BEEN CAPTURED. HE RECALLED THAT A TOTAL OF TEN INDIVIDUALS WERE INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENTS. HE

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BELIEVED ALL BUT ONE OF THE TEN U.S. PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN THE THREE INCIDENTS SURVIVED AND RETURNED TO U.S. CONTROL.

3. DETAILS.

A. ON 25 MAY 1993, THE JOINT TEAM INTERVIEWED MR. CAO NAN, A 64 YEAR OLD FORMER ENEMY PROSELYTING CADRE ASSIGNED IN 1968 AS A CAPTAIN TO MILITARY REGION TRI-THIEN-HUE (MRTTH). AFTER BEING INTRODUCED TO THE JOINT TEAM AND ITS MISSION, MR. NAN SAID THAT HE HAD CONTACT WITH U.S. CAPTIVES IN TWO SEPARATE INCIDENTS DURING THE WAR, AND THAT HE HAD HEARD OF A THIRD INCIDENT INVOLVING U.S. PRISONERS IN MRTTH.

B. MR. FLANAGAN ASKED THE QUESTION: "SINCE THE RELEASE OF U.S. PRISONERS IN 1973, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ANY LIVE AMERICANS?" MR. NAN RESPONDED THAT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE, THERE HAVE BEEN NO U.S. PRISONERS IN VIETNAM SINCE ALL U.S. PRISONERS WERE RETURNED TO THE U.S. IN 1973.

C. MR. FLANAGAN ASKED THE QUESTION: "SINCE THE RELEASE OF U.S. PRISONERS IN 1973, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ANY 'STAY-BEHINDS'?" MR. NAN RESPONDED THAT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE, THERE WERE NO STAY-BEHINDS IN VIETNAM AFTER ALL U.S. PRISONERS WERE RETURNED TO THE U.S. IN 1973.

Mr Bell

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D. MR. NAN SAID THE FIRST INCIDENT IN WHICH HE WAS INVOLVED WITH A U.S. PRISONER DURING THE WAR OCCURRED AT APPROXIMATELY THE END OF JANUARY 1969. THE INCIDENT INVOLVED A U.S. MARINE PRIVATE WHO WAS APPROXIMATELY 19 YEARS OF AGE AT THE TIME. THE MARINE HAD BEEN IN VIETNAM FOR ONLY FIVE DAYS WHEN HE LANDED IN DA NANG CITY WITH HIS UNIT. AFTER PROCESSING IN THROUGH DANANG, ON HIS FOURTH DAY IN COUNTRY, THE MARINE WENT WITH HIS UNIT INTO THE JUNGLE IN QUANG TRI PROVINCE. ON THE FIFTH DAY, THE SOLDIER WAS CAPTURED AFTER BECOMING SEPARATED FROM HIS UNIT AND LOST. THE MARINE WAS CAUCASIAN WITH REDDISH BROWN HAIR, APPROXIMATELY FIVE FEET SEVEN INCHES TALL, WEIGHED AROUND 160 POUNDS AND HAD NO WEAPON. MR. NAN SAID HE PERSONALLY LED THE MARINE OUT OF THE AREA, TRAVELLING FROM BOMB SHELTER TO BOMB SHELTER. THE MARINE WAS EVENTUALLY TAKEN TO "THE REAR AREA" AND NAN LATER HEARD THE MARINE'S NAME, WHICH SOUNDED SOMETHING LIKE "SEE-LEE", AS ONE OF A NUMBER OF RELEASEES ANNOUNCED IN A RADIO BROADCAST. HE DID NOT REMEMBER THE DATE OF THE BROADCAST BECAUSE HE WAS STILL OUT ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

E. MR. NAN WAS A CAPTAIN AND AN ASSISTANT TO THE ENEMY PROSELYTING SECTION AT THE TIME OF THE AMERICAN MARINE'S CAPTURE.

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HE RECALLED THAT AT THE TIME OF THE CAPTURE HE REPORTED TO A MAJOR NAMED TIEN (TIEENS), WHO WAS APPROXIMATELY 43 YEARS OLD AND A NATIVE OF HAI DUONG PROVINCE. NAN DID NOT KNOW WHO MAJOR TIEN REPORTED TO AT HIGHER LEVEL, BUT RECALLED THAT TIEN'S OFFICE WAS DIRECTLY SUBORDINATE TO HQ MRTH.

F. MR. NAN SAID THE SECOND INCIDENT IN WHICH HE WAS INVOLVED WITH U.S. PRISONERS DURING THE WAR WAS A CASE INVOLVING TWO FEMALES BELIEVED TO BE NURSES WHEN THEY WERE CAPTURED DURING THE BATTLE FOR HUE IN 1968. WHEN NAN ARRIVED WHERE THE TWO CAPTIVES WERE BEING HELD, BOTH FEMALES HAD ALREADY BEEN INTERROGATED. NAN HEARD THAT ONE FEMALE SAID SHE WAS A TEACHER AND THE OTHER FEMALE SAID SHE WAS A DOCTOR. HE LATER HEARD A SAIGON RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE TWO FEMALES HAD BEEN RELEASED. MR. NAN SAID THAT HE COULD NOT RECALL ANY FURTHER DETAILS SINCE HIS CONTACT WITH THE TWO PRISONERS HAD BEEN SO BRIEF.

G. MR. NAN SAID THAT THE THIRD INCIDENT INVOLVING U.S. PRISONERS OF WHICH HE WAS AWARE CONSISTED OF HEARSAY INFORMATION IN WHICH SEVEN U.S. PRISONERS WERE CAPTURED DURING THE BATTLE FOR HUE IN 1968 AT THE SAME TIME THE TWO FEMALES WERE CAPTURED. HE HEARD THAT SEVEN PRISONERS WERE CAPTURED AND EVACUATED OUT OF THE

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CITY. ONE OF THE INDIVIDUALS SUBSEQUENTLY DIED DURING A B-52 BOMBING RAID WHILE THE GROUP WAS ENROUTE TO THE NORTH. MR. NAN SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHERE THE BOMBING RAID AND DEATH OF THE PRISONER OCCURRED, BUT HEARD THE LOCATION WAS ON THE DOC CHE SLOPE (SOOGS CHEF) ADJACENT TO LAOS. HE SAID THAT THE LOCATION WAS IN WESTERN THUA THIEN-HUE PROVINCE, A LUOI DISTRICT, POSSIBLY NEAR HONG TIEN (HOONGF TIEENS) VILLAGE. TO GET THERE, ONE WOULD TRAVEL ALONG ROUTE 12 TO VUNG TRON (VUNGX TRONF), WHICH IS EAST OF CHE SLOPE, THEN WALK FOR APPROXIMATELY SIX HOURS TO DOC CHE. WHEN PRESENTED WITH A MAP SHEET (NE-4B-16) OF THE AREA, HE IDENTIFIED THE MOUNTAIN PEAK AS PROBABLY HIGH POINT 1774 (YD3B5B). WITH THIS AS A REFERENCE POINT, MR. NAN SAID THAT THE DEATH COULD HAVE OCCURRED ANYWHERE WITHIN A TEN KILOMETER SQUARE DRAWN WITH A NORTH-SOUTH ORIENTATION IN WHICH THE SOUTHEAST QUADRANT WOULD BE IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES YD4005. AT THIS POINT IN THE INTERVIEW, MR. NAN REITERATED THAT THIS INCIDENT WAS ONLY HEARSAY. HE RECALLED HEARING ONE U.S. PRISONER AND TWO PAVN SOLDIERS DIED IN THE BOMBING. MR. NAN BELIEVED THAT THIS WAS LOGICAL BECAUSE ON THE EVACUATION ROUTE AT THE TIME

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 RMKS/
 EVACUEES WOULD HAVE BEEN TRAVELING IN CELLS OF THREE PEOPLE

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 (I.E., ONE U.S. AND TWO PAVN PER CELL). WHEN ASKED WHO WOULD
 HAVE MADE THE EVACUATION ARRANGEMENTS AND ORDERS, HE SAID THAT HE
 DID NOT KNOW BUT ASSUMED THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MRTH OR THE
 TRI THIEN HUE FRONT. NAN BELIEVED THAT THE REMAINING SIX
 PRISONERS HAD SINCE BEEN RETURNED TO U.S. CONTROL.

H. CONCERNING WARTIME REPORTING ON U.S. PRISONERS, MR. NAN
 SAID HE HAD NO INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT HELP LOCATE ANY RECORDS OR
 ARCHIVES.

I. WITH NO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AT HAND FOR MR. NAN, THE
 MEMBERS OF THE JOINT TEAM AGREED TO DISCONTINUE THIS INTERVIEW.
 BOTH THE U.S. AND SRV MEMBERS CONFERRED ON ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS
 WHICH SHOULD BE CONSIDERED BEFORE CONCLUDING THE INTERVIEW.

4. CORRELATIONS TO EXISTING POW/MIA CASES.

A. THE SOURCE'S TESTIMONY POSSIBLY CORRELATES TO CASE 1563, A
 RESOLVED CASE. THE CORRELATION IS BASED ON THE NUMBER OF
 PERSONNEL INVOLVED, GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION, BRANCH OF SERVICE, AND
 GENERAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS. THE MARINE'S NAME IN THE
 TESTIMONY, "SEE-LEE", IS PHONETICALLY SIMILAR TO THE MISSING
 INDIVIDUAL'S NAME IN CASE 1563. THE MAJOR DISCREPANCY BETWEEN
 THE TESTIMONY AND CASE 1563 IS DIFFERENCES IN THE TIME FRAME; MR.

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NAN SAID HE ESCORTED THE MARINE AT THE END OF JANUARY 1969, THE 1563
 INCIDENT OCCURRED IN FEBRUARY 1970.

B. THE TESTIMONY CONCERNING THE TWO FEMALES CAPTURED DURING
 THE BATTLE FOR HUE CITY CORRELATES TO CASE 1031, A RESOLVED CASE.
 THE CORRELATION IS BASED ON THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED,
 THEIR GENDER, CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS, OCCUPATION (DOCTOR AND
 TEACHER), AND THE FACT THAT BOTH INDIVIDUALS WERE RELEASED FROM
 CAPTIVITY.

C. MR. NAN'S TESTIMONY CONCERNING THE PRISONER KILLED BY B-
 52 RAIDS WHILE BEING EVACUATED NORTH CORRELATES TO NO CASE IN
 JTF-FA RECORDS. THOUGH ACCORDING TO JTF-FA RECORDS IT IS
 POSSIBLE THAT A GROUP OF SEVEN PRISONERS TRAVELED NORTHWARD FOR
 IMPRISONMENT AFTER THE BATTLE FOR HUE, THERE IS NO RECORD OF AN
 INDIVIDUAL BEING LOST OR KILLED ALONG THE WAY.

5. POTENTIAL LEADS. MR. NAN IDENTIFIED MAJOR TIEN, CURRENT
 RESIDENT OF HAI DUONG (HAIR ZWONG) PROVINCE, POSSIBLY NINH GIANG
 DISTRICT. THIS INDIVIDUAL MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE MORE
 INFORMATION CONCERNING MISSING U.S. PERSONNEL IN VIETNAM.

6. MATERIAL EVIDENCE: NONE. THIS SOURCE BROUGHT NO RECORDS,
 NOTEBOOKS, DIARIES, OR ANY MATERIAL EVIDENCE CONTEMPORARY TO THE

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WARTIME ERA WHICH COULD BE ASSOCIATED WITH ANY UNACCOUNTED FOR
U.S. PERSONNEL.

7. COMMENTS.

A. AFTER THIS INTERVIEW, THE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT TEAM ASSESSED ALL POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL LEADS PROVIDED BY THE SOURCE. THE CONSENSUS OF TEAM MEMBERS WAS THAT CONTINUATION OF THIS INTERVIEW OR AN ATTEMPT TO RE-INTERVIEW THIS SOURCE WOULD DEPEND ON SIGNIFICANT QUESTIONS WHICH SHOULD BE ASKED PERTAINING TO SPECIFIC INCIDENTS OR SPECIFIC QUESTIONS WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO FINDING NEW WITNESSES OR DISCOVERING CONTEMPORARY DOCUMENTATION WITH DETAILS ON SPECIFIC CASES.

B. THIS SOURCE WAS VERY COOPERATIVE AND RESPONDED QUICKLY AND FRANKLY TO ALL QUESTIONS. HE APPEARED TO HAVE GOOD RECALL OF SOME EVENTS AND VERY POOR RECALL OF OTHERS. HE ALSO APPEARED TO BE EAGER TO MEET WITH AMERICANS FOR ANY REASON. HE VOLUNTEERED TO NOTIFY LOCAL AUTHORITIES OF HIS NEW ADDRESS SO THAT HE COULD BE REACHED FOR ANY FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS.

C. THE FACT THAT THE TESTIMONY CONCERNING THE TWO FEMALE PRISONERS SO CLEARLY CORRELATES TO CASE 1031 LENDS CREDIBILITY TO THE REST OF MR. NAN'S TESTIMONY. THOUGH THE OTHER TWO INCIDENTS HE

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RELATED DO NOT NECESSARILY CORRELATE TO JTF-FA CASES, BELIEVE HIS TESTIMONY IS VALID AND MAY BE OF USE IN THE FUTURE.

D. REQUEST THE VNOSMP ALLOW THE U.S. ACCESS TO THIS SOURCE FOR FUTURE INTERVIEW IN THE EVENT THAT SIGNIFICANT SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ARE DEEMED NECESSARY.//

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