

Dũng Thuận Hoà interview (16th Iteration)

This guy needs to be reinterviewed by Mr. Bell.

[REDACTED]
CJTFFA 03/24/92
CJTFFA:HWF
CJTFFA:MDJ
NONE
CJTFFA

CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH
CDR JTFFA HONOLULU HI
INFO JCS WASH DC//OCJCS-PW-MIA/J5// IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASH DC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA// IMMEDIATE
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3// IMMEDIATE
USCINCPAC LO WASHDC// IMMEDIATE
DIA WASHDC//POW-MIA// IMMEDIATE
CDRUSACILHI HICKAM AFB HI// IMMEDIATE
NSC WASH DC// IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASH DC//EAP-VLC// IMMEDIATE

[REDACTED]
DIA WASHDC//POW-MIA/ PASS TO POW-MIA CENTRAL
DOCUMENTATION OFFICE

DELIVER DURING FIRST DUTY HOUR

SUBJ: 16TH ITERATION ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REPORT:
INTERVIEW OF FORMER PW CAMP INTERPRETERS

REF: A. JTF-FA DET ONE 201337Z MAR 92
- B. JTF-FA DET ONE (DESERTER.16)

1. REF A IS THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE 16TH SERIES OF JOINT ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN VIETNAM FROM 20 FEB-20 MAR 92. PARAGRAPH 3E(5) OF REF A DESCRIBED THE INITIAL INTERVIEW OF A FORMER INTERPRETER IN U.S. PW CAMPS IN THE TAY NINH AREA. THE DETAILS OF THIS INITIAL INTERVIEW AND A SUBSEQUENT INTERVIEW OF ANOTHER FORMER INTERPRETER ARE REPORTED HEREIN. REF B IS THE REPORT OF INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THIS WITNESS CONCERNING AN ALLEGED AMERICAN DESERTER.

2. SUMMARY: ON 26 FEB 92, TEAM TWO INTERVIEWED A FORMER ENGLISH INTERPRETER FOR THE COMMUNIST CAMP GROUP "A" PW CAMP SYSTEM FROM 1963-75. HE PROVIDED BACKGROUND

INFORMATION CONCERNING THE CAMP SYSTEM, PW POLICY, AND CURSORY DETAILS CONCERNING THE SPECIFIC PRISONERS HE RECALLED. ALTHOUGH FIELD ANALYSIS DETERMINED THAT SOME OF THIS INFORMATION PERTAINED TO UNRESOLVED INCIDENTS, THE BREADTH OF THIS WITNESS' KNOWLEDGE, HIS DEMONSTRATED EVASIVENESS, AND HIS WEAKENED PHYSICAL CONDITION AT THE TIME OF THE INTERVIEW PROMPTED THE TEAM CHIEF TO RECOMMEND HE BE THOROUGHLY INTERVIEWED BY A SENIOR JTF-FA LINGUIST AT A LATER DATE.

3. INFORMATION: ON 26 FEB 92, TEAM TWO INTERVIEWED TWO WITNESSES AT THE EMBASSY HOTEL IN HCMC. THE U.S. CONTINGENT CONSISTED OF MICHAEL D. JANICH (TEAM CHIEF), MSGT WILLIAM R. DEETER (ASSISTANT TEAM CHIEF), SFC GILLIS M. TAYLOR AND CTT2 GREGORY B. WATERS (TEAM ANALYSTS), SSG TOM J. MURPHY AND SGT JAMES D. LEE (SEARCH AND RECOVERY SPECIALISTS), AND HM1 BRUCE A. TRADER (TEAM MEDIC). VNOSMP MEMBERS INCLUDED DUONG VAN NGOC (ZWONG VAWN NGOCJ) (TEAM CHIEF), PHAM CONG KHOI (PHAMJ COONG KHOOI) (MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (MND) SPECIALIST), AND HOANG VAN TICH (HOANGF VAWN TICH) (MINISTRY OF INTERIOR (MOI) SPECIALISTS). THE HCMC TASK TEAM INCLUDED QUACH THANH LONG (QUACHS THANHF LONG) (HCMC EXTERNAL AFFAIRS REPRESENTATIVE), PAVN MAJ NGUYEN HONG DIEP (NGUYEENX HOONGF DIEEPJ) (HCMC MUNICIPAL MILITARY COMMAND REPRESENTATIVE), AND TONG VAN DAP (TOONGS VAWN DAPS) (HCMC PUBLIC SECURITY (PSS) OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE).

4. THE FIRST WITNESS INTERVIEWED WAS DANG THUAN HOA (DAWNGJ THUAANJ HOAF). HOA WAS BORN ON 22 JUN 46 IN BEN TRE. HE NOW RESIDES AT 150 TRAN QUY LIEU, PHU NHUAN WARD, HCMC. AFTER STUDYING MEDICINE FOR ONE YEAR AT THE SAIGON MEDICAL UNIVERSITY IN 1963, HE BECAME AN INTERPRETER FOR THE COMMUNIST FORCES IN THE SAIGON AREA. HOA DENIED BEING AFFILIATED WITH ANY PARTICULAR UNIT, BUT STATED THAT HE WORKED FOR PHAM THUAN TRUONG (PHAMJ THUAANJ TRWONG), AKA TU MAO (TW MAOX), THE COMMANDER OF THE CAMP GROUP "A" (LIEEN TRAIJ A) PW CAMP SYSTEM. HOA WORKED AS TU MAO'S INTERPRETER FROM 1963 UNTIL THE END OF THE WAR. HOA WAS QUESTIONED CONCERNING THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CAMP SYSTEM FOR WHICH HE WORKED, THEIR POLICIES AND PRACTICES, AND HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE DETENTION OF SPECIFIC AMERICAN PRISONERS. HIS RESPONSES ARE REPORTED HEREIN.

5. HOA EXPLAINED THAT CAMP GROUP "A" HAD TWO CAMPS THAT WERE USED TO HOLD U.S. PRISONERS. THEY WERE DESIGNATED CAMP A AND CAMP B. THE CAMP GROUP WAS ALSO KNOWN BY THE DESIGNATION B20-1927, AND WAS SUBORDINATE TO THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (CUCJ CHINHS TRIJ), ALSO KNOWN BY THE COVER DESIGNATOR 1885. THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT WAS DIRECTLY SUBORDINATE TO THE HEADQUARTERS FOR THE SOUTH VIETNAM LIBERATION ARMY (SVNLA) ("R" OR MIEENF), LOCATED NEAR LOC NINH (XU7409). THE INDIVIDUAL CAMPS HAD NO COVER DESIGNATORS. CAMP A HAD A CONSTANT PRISONER POPULATION, BUT CAMP B WAS ESTABLISHED ONLY INTERMITTENTLY TO RECEIVE NEW PRISONERS. PRIOR TO A MAJOR OPERATION OR CAMPAIGN, CAMP B WOULD BE SET UP AND ANY CAPTURED PRISONERS DELIVERED THERE FOR THEIR INITIAL PROCESSING. THEY WOULD LATER BE INTEGRATED INTO THE MAIN POPULATION IN CAMP A AND CAMP B DISBANDED UNTIL IT WAS NEEDED AGAIN. ACCORDING TO HOA, THE LAST TIME CAMP B WAS ESTABLISHED WAS JUST PRIOR TO THE 1968 TET OFFENSIVE. AFTER THAT TIME, IT WAS NEVER USED AGAIN.

6. NEITHER CAMP A OR B HAD A FIXED LOCATION. THEY WERE MOVED PERIODICALLY TO ENSURE SECURITY AND TO CONFORM THE TACTICAL SITUATION IN THE REGION. CAMP A WAS USUALLY ESTABLISHED IN THE SOC KY (SOCS KY) REGION (XT1878) OF TAN BIEN DISTRICT, TAY NINH PROVINCE. ACCORDING TO HOA, CAMP B WAS SET UP IN THE "DELTA REGION" (DOONG BAWNGF), WHICH HE IMPLIED ENCOMPASSED THE FORWARD AREAS AROUND SAIGON RATHER THAN THE ACTUAL MEKONG DELTA REGION. THE AREA IN WHICH THE CAMP GROUP WAS AUTHORIZED TO OPERATE, HOWEVER, WAS NOT LIMITED TO THE SAIGON-GIA DINH MILITARY REGION.

7. WHEN A PRISONER WAS FIRST ASSIGNED TO THE CAMP GROUP "A" SYSTEM, HOA SUPPOSEDLY CONDUCTED ONLY A BRIEF INTERVIEW TO OBTAIN HIS BIOGRAPHICAL DATA AND ANY INFORMATION THAT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO THE ENEMY PROSELYTING OFFICE (PHONGF DICHJ VAANJ). HE WOULD PREPARE A FILE FROM THIS INFORMATION AND FORWARD IT TO THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT WHERE IT WAS MAINTAINED BY THE ENEMY PROSELYTING OFFICE.

8. HOA STATED THAT THE AVERAGE POPULATION OF CAMP A WAS BETWEEN 10-20 PRISONERS. WHEN ASKED TO IDENTIFY THE PRISONERS HE SPECIFICALLY RECALLED, HE PROVIDED THE FULL

OR PARTIAL NAMES OF EIGHT PRISONERS AND VARYING AMOUNTS OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR EACH. THE NAMES ARE PRESENTED HERE EXACTLY AS HOA WROTE THEM, FOLLOWED BY THE AMPLIFYING INFORMATION HE PROVIDED.

- A. DOUGLAS RAMSEY - IDENTIFIED BY HOA AS A SENIOR CIA OFFICIAL AND FLUENT SPEAKER OF VIETNAMESE. RAMSEY WAS CAPTURED IN LATE 1967. AT ONE POINT HE CONTRACTED MALARIA AND NEARLY DIED, BUT EVENTUALLY REGAINED HIS HEALTH AND WAS RELEASED IN 1973.

- B. SCHRUMP RAYMOND - IDENTIFIED BY HOA AS A LIEUTENANT. HE WAS WOUNDED IN THE SHOULDER, BUT CAMP OFFICIALS WERE UNABLE TO PROVIDE HIM WITH PROPER MEDICAL TREATMENT BECAUSE THEY LACKED PENICILLIN.

- C. WILLIAM HARDY - IDENTIFIED BY HOA AS A BLACK CAPTAIN ASSIGNED TO MACV.

- D. SHUMAN - IDENTIFIED AS A CAPTAIN OF GERMAN DESCENT WHO WAS CAPTURED IN MY THO. HE ALLEGEDLY DIED OF FEVER WHILE IN CAPTIVITY AND IS BURIED IN THE SOC KY AREA OF TAY NINH.

- E. DAVID COOK - IDENTIFIED AS A CAPTAIN WHO WAS CAPTURED IN BINH GIA, BA RIA PROVINCE IN 1967. HE DIED DURING A CAMP TRANSFER NEAR THE X3 COMMO LIAISON STATION (U/L) IN AREA (KHU) 6 OF PHUOC LONG PROVINCE. HOA NAMED NGUYEN VAN THIEN AS ONE OF COOK'S ESCORTS AND AS HAVING KNOWLEDGE OF HIS BURIAL SITE. THIEN IS PRESENTLY EMPLOYED AT MARINE PRODUCTS COMPANY 3 OF THE SRV MINISTRY OF MARINE PRODUCTS.

- F. SCARF - IDENTIFIED AS A CORPORAL AND CPT COOK'S RADIO OPERATOR. HE WAS CAPTURED ALONG WITH COOK AND RELEASED IN 1967.

- G. KENET ROBOBACK - IDENTIFIED AS A CAPTAIN IN THE SPECIAL FORCES, CAPTURED IN 1963 NEAR A GUERRILLA TRAINING CAMP IN HIEP HOA DISTRICT, LONG AN PROVINCE. HE WAS LATER EXECUTED IN RETALIATION FOR THE KILLING OF A HIGH-RANKING VIET CONG OFFICER IN SAIGON BY U.S. FORCES.

- H. GUSTOV ROBERT - IDENTIFIED AS A CAPTAIN AND A

PILOT. HE WAS 29 YOA WHEN HE WAS CAPTURED NEAR SNUOL, CAMBODIA IN 1972. HE DIED IN CAPTIVITY AND WAS BURIED IN THE VICINITY OF SOC KY WITH A GLASS BOTTLE CONTAINING HIS PERSONAL DATA.

9. HOA WAS ASKED TO DESCRIBE THE BURIAL PROCEDURES FOR PWS WHO DIED IN CAPTIVITY AND TO IDENTIFY ANY SPECIFIC BURIAL LOCATIONS OF WHICH HE HAD KNOWLEDGE. HE FIRST CLAIMED THAT HE NEVER WITNESSED THE BURIAL OF ANY U.S. PW AND COULD NOT IDENTIFY ANY GRAVE SITES. HE THEN EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS STANDARD PROCEDURE FOR THE CAMP OFFICIALS TO BURY THE BODIES OF DEAD PWS NEAR THE CAMP'S LOCATION. WHEN POSSIBLE, GRAVES WOULD BE CONCENTRATED IN THE SAME AREA TO MAKE THEM EASIER TO LOCATE AT A LATER TIME. THE BODIES WOULD BE WRAPPED IN PLASTIC SHEET AND A SMALL BOTTLE CONTAINING A PAPER WITH THE PW'S NAME AND PERSONAL DATA BURIED WITH THE REMAINS. THE GRAVE WOULD BE MARKED, BUT HOA CONFESSED THAT THESE MARKERS WERE USUALLY ONLY TEMPORARY (SUCH AS A STICK PLACED VERTICALLY IN THE GROUND) AND WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE NOTICEABLE AFTER A FEW YEARS. A SKETCH WOULD THEN BE PREPARED, RELATING THE BURIAL SITE TO THE SURROUNDING AREA SO IT COULD BE LOCATED AND EXHUMED AT A LATER TIME. THE SKETCH WOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE SVNLA ("R" OR MIEENF) WHERE IT WAS FILED FOR FUTURE REFERENCE. DESPITE THIS STANDING POLICY, HOA CONFIRMED THAT MANY TIMES BURIALS WERE NOT CONDUCTED CAREFULLY. MOREOVER, AFTER OPERATION HOMECOMING, MANY OF THE BURIAL SKETCHES AND OTHER RECORDS WERE LOST OR DESTROYED. HE DID NOT KNOW OF ANY INCIDENCE IN WHICH THE REMAINS OF A U.S. PW WHO HAD DIED IN CAPTIVITY HAD BEEN RECOVERED.

10. HOA WAS ASKED SPECIFICALLY IF HE HAD ANY KNOWLEDGE OF PRISONERS NAMED PRIDEMORE (CASE 1274) OR HERTZ (CASE 0052), THE TWO PRIMARY CASES ASSIGNED FOR INVESTIGATION BY THE TEAM DURING THE 16TH ITERATION. HE RESPONDED NEGATIVELY TO BOTH, BUT SHOWED A DISTINCT FACIAL REACTION TO THE MENTION OF THE NAME HERTZ. THIS NAME ALSO PROMPTED THE UNSOLICITED MENTION OF ANOTHER PRISONER. HOA DID NOT RECALL THIS PERSON'S NAME, BUT DESCRIBED HIM AS A LONG-HAIRED VAGABOND CIVILIAN WITH NO INFORMATION OF VALUE. HE WAS CAPTURED NEAR THE CAMBODIAN BORDER AND RELEASED SHORTLY THEREAFTER.

11. ON 24 AND 25 FEB, TEAM TWO INTERVIEWED SEVERAL WITNESSES WHO PROVIDED INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ALLEGED CAPTURE OF A RAYMOND, MORRISON, AND KNUDSON (RMK) CORPORATION EMPLOYEE DURING 1967. CASE 0056 (WALLIS) ALSO INVOLVED THE CAPTURE OF AN RMK EMPLOYEE. HOA WAS THEREFORE QUESTIONED REGARDING ANY INFORMATION HE POSSESSED CONCERNING RMK EMPLOYEES CAPTURED DURING THE WAR. HE STATED THAT THERE WERE FOUR RMK EMPLOYEES CAPTURED IN 1968 IN ONE INCIDENT. HE RECALLED THE NAMES OF TWO OF THEM AS "MIKE JONIE" AND "UTECH". THE NAME OF THE THIRD PERSON, A TALL MAN, SOUNDED SOMETHING LIKE "COLLEEN." HOA DID NOT RECALL THE NAME OF THE FOURTH PERSON. HOA CATEGORIZED ALL FOUR OF THESE PRISONERS AS BEING OF NO INTELLIGENCE OR INFORMATION VALUE AND CLAIMED THEY WERE ALL RELEASED SHORTLY AFTER CAPTURE.

12. HOA EXPLAINED THAT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS DURING THE WAR, FOREIGN "DELEGATIONS" FROM VIETNAM'S ALLIES, SPECIFICALLY CUBA AND CHINA, VISITED CAMP A. HE INSISTED, HOWEVER, THAT THEY DID NOT INTERROGATE PRISONERS, BUT VISITED ONLY TO CHECK ON THEIR WELFARE. HE CLAIMED HE COULD NOT PROVIDE THE NAMES OF ANY OF THE MEMBERS OF THESE DELEGATIONS OR THE DATES OF ANY OF THEIR VISITS.

13. WHEN QUESTIONED SPECIFICALLY CONCERNING AMERICAN DESERTERS OR COLLABORATORS, HOA PROVIDED SUBSTANTIAL INFORMATION CONCERNING A BLACK AMERICAN NAMED "MAC NOLAN." NOLAN WAS AN AMERICAN DESERTER WHO REMAINED IN VIETNAM AFTER OPERATION HOMECOMING, EVENTUALLY MOVING TO CAMBODIA WITH HIS ETHNIC KHMER WIFE. THE DETAILS OF HOA'S TESTIMONY CONCERNING NOLAN ARE REPORTED IN REF B.

14. ON 17 MAR 92, TEAM TWO INTERVIEWED A SECOND INDIVIDUAL WHO HAD ALLEGEDLY WORKED AS AN INTERPRETER IN THE SAME PW CAMP SYSTEM DESCRIBED BY HOA. THE U.S. CONTINGENT PRESENT AT THIS INTERVIEW INCLUDED ONLY MICHAEL D. JANICH (TEAM CHIEF), MSGT WILLIAM R. DEETER (ASSISTANT TEAM CHIEF), AND CTT2 GREGORY B. WATERS (TEAM ANALYST). VIETNAMESE REPRESENTATION INCLUDED DUONG VAN NGOC (ZWONG VAWN NGOCJ) (VNOSMP TEAM CHIEF), PHAM CONG KHOI (PHAMJ COONG KHOOI) (MND SPECIALIST), PAVN MAJ NGUYEN HONG DIEP (NGUYEENX HOONGF DIEEPJ) (HCMC MUNICIPAL MILITARY COMMAND REPRESENTATIVE), AND TONG VAN DAP

(TOONGS VAWN DAPS) (HCMC PUBLIC SECURITY (PSS) OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE). THE WITNESS INTERVIEWED WAS DAO THAI CAT (DAOF THAIS CATS), WHO WAS BORN IN 1944 IN BAC LIEU PROVINCE. HE PRESENTLY RESIDES AT NUMBER 6 DAM HO STREET, SUBWARD 4, WARD 8, HCMC AND MAKES HIS LIVING AS AN AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTOR. IN 1955, CAT MOVED TO NORTH VIETNAM. FROM 1961-66, HE STUDIED ENGLISH AT THE HANOI LANGUAGE UNIVERSITY. IN EARLY 1966, HE RETURNED TO SOUTH VIETNAM AS AN ASPIRANT (CHUAANR UYS) ASSIGNED AS AN INTERPRETER AND ASSISTANT TO THE ENEMY PROSELYTING OFFICE (PHONGF DICHJ VAANJ) OF THE SVNLA HEADQUARTERS. HE HELD THIS POSITION UNTIL 1968 WHEN HE WAS PROMOTED TO FIRST LIEUTENANT AND TRANSFERRED TO SUBREGION 4 (PHAAN KHU 4) IN LONG THANH AS AN ENEMY INTELLIGENCE (DICHJ TINHF) SPECIALIST. IN 1972, HE TRANSFERRED TO SUBREGION 5 AND WORKED IN THIS SAME CAPACITY UNTIL 1975. HIS FINAL RANK AT THE END OF THE WAR WAS FIRST LIEUTENANT.

15. CAT CLAIMED THAT DURING THE PERIOD HE WORKED FOR THE ENEMY PROSELYTING OFFICE, HE WAS ASSIGNED TO A PW CAMP THAT OPERATED IN THE GENERAL AREA OF THE PROVINCES OF TAY NINH, BINH LONG, AND PHUOC LONG. HE CLAIMED HE COULD NOT RECALL THE NAME OF THIS CAMP, BUT BELIEVED IT HAD A COVER DESIGNATOR THAT BEGAN WITH THE LETTER "B". THE CAMP WAS ADMINISTERED BY THE ENEMY PROSELYTING OFFICE OF THE SVNLA COMMAND AND WAS COMMANDED BY A FIRST LIEUTENANT NAMED UT HUE (UTS HUEEF) (NOW DECEASED). THIS CAMP WAS USED TO DETAIN BOTH ARVN AND AMERICAN PWS. ACCORDING TO CAT, THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF PWS IN THIS CAMP AT ANY TIME INCLUDED 3-4 AMERICANS AND A LIKE NUMBER OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE. THESE NUMBERS REMAINED FAIRLY CONSTANT DESPITE AN OCCASIONAL PRISONER TRANSFER OR NEW ARRIVAL.

16. CAT EXPLAINED THAT HE WORKED WITH ONE OTHER TRANSLATOR, (LNU) HOA (HOAF). WHEN ASKED IF THIS PERSON'S FULL NAME WAS DANG THUAN HOA, CAT CONFIRMED THAT IT WAS. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT HOA HAD MUCH MORE DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE AMERICAN PWS THAN HE DID AND WOULD PROBABLY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE MORE INFORMATION. CAT STATED THAT HIS DUTIES CONSISTED PRIMARILY OF GATHERING BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON NEWLY ARRIVED PRISONERS, AS WELL AS ASSESSING THEIR ATTITUDES TOWARD THE WAR FOR USE IN ENEMY PROSELYTING EFFORTS. ACCORDING TO CAT, A BIOGRAPHIC FILE OF EACH PRISONER WAS PREPARED AND FORWARDED TO THE ENEMY

PROSELYTING OFFICE. HE, HOWEVER, COULD NOT RECALL THE EXACT CONTENTS OF THESE FILES. ALL COMMUNICATION WITH THE ENEMY PROSELYTING OFFICE WAS DONE BY LETTER AND WAS ADDRESSED TO THE CHIEF OF THE OFFICE, LTC MUOI LUONG (MWOIF LWONGJ) (REAL NAME UNKNOWN). THE CAMP HAD NO RADIO OR MORSE COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. CAT INSISTED THAT NO WRITTEN RECORDS WERE MAINTAINED AT THE CAMP BECAUSE THEY WERE TOO CUMBERSOME TO CARRY DURING THEIR FREQUENT MOVES. HE ALSO DOUBTED THAT ANY OF THE RECORDS CONCERNING U.S. PWS THAT WERE FORWARDED TO THE ENEMY PROSELYTING OFFICE STILL EXISTED.

17. CAT CLAIMED HE COULD NOT CLEARLY RECALL MANY DETAILS OF THE AMERICANS HELD IN THE CAMP. HE PROVIDED THE NAMES AND LIMITED BACKGROUND INFORMATION CONCERNING ONLY TWO: "HARRY RAMSEY" AND "COOK". HE INDICATED THAT RAMSEY WAS CAUCASIAN, APPROXIMATELY 36 YOA AT THAT TIME, UNMARRIED, AND GENERALLY IN GOOD SPIRITS. COOK HELD THE RANK OF CAPTAIN AND DIED OF MALARIA IN AN AREA CALLED SUOI DA (SUOOIS DAS) (POSSIBLY XT4750, XT3857, OR XT1953) DURING A TRANSFER OF THE CAMP. CAT CLAIMED THAT COOK'S BODY WAS NOT BURIED, SIMPLY COVERED WITH ROCKS. HE INSISTED HE COULD NOT DESCRIBE THE LOCATION WHERE COOK'S REMAINS WERE ABANDONED OR IDENTIFY IT ON A MAP. (NOTE: SEVERAL ENTRIES FOR SUOI DA APPEAR IN THE GAZETTEER, BUT WITHOUT A MORE SPECIFIC AREA LOCATION, NONE COULD BE DIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE INCIDENT CAT DESCRIBED.)

18. CAT INDICATED THAT SEVERAL OTHER AMERICAN PWS DIED OF ILLNESS IN THE CAMP OR DURING MOVEMENT OF THE CAMP FROM ONE LOCATION TO ANOTHER. HE INSISTED, HOWEVER, THAT HE COULD NOT RECALL THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS WHO DIED, THEIR IDENTITIES, THEIR DESCRIPTIONS, ANY DETAILS OF THEIR PERSONAL HISTORIES, THE TIMES OR CIRCUMSTANCES OF THEIR DEATHS, OR THE DETAILS OF THE DISPOSITION OF THEIR REMAINS. CAT WAS QUESTIONED CONCERNING HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF THE CAMP TO WHICH HE BELONGED. HE INITIALLY CLAIMED NO KNOWLEDGE CONCERNING THESE TOPICS. HE THEN STATED THAT THERE WERE NO ESTABLISHED BURIAL PROCEDURES.

19. CAT CLAIMED THAT, AFTER HIS TRANSFER TO SUBREGION 4 IN 1968, HE WAS ATTACHED TO ANOTHER PW CAMP ADMINISTERED BY THE SUBREGION NEAR CAM DUONG STREAM (SUOOIS CAM

DWONGF) (U/L), LONG THANH (D), BA RIA (P). HE INSISTED HE COULD NOT GIVE A MORE PRECISE LOCATION FOR THIS CAMP OR IDENTIFY IT ON A MAP. HE ALSO COULD NOT RECALL ANYTHING CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OR STAFF OF THIS CAMP. THERE WERE REPORTEDLY THREE FOREIGN PRISONERS AT THIS CAMP WHEN CAT ARRIVED THERE: ONE AMERICAN AND TWO SOUTH KOREANS. AN UN-RECALLED TIME LATER, A SECOND AMERICAN ARRIVED. CAT COULD NOT RECALL ANY SUBSTANTIAL DETAILS CONCERNING THESE PRISONERS OR THEIR IDENTITIES. HE REMEMBERED ONLY THAT THE AMERICAN WHO ENTERED THE CAMP LAST WAS A CAPTAIN (SERVICE UNKNOWN) AND WAS OF LARGE STATURE. HE ALLEGEDLY ESCAPED FROM THE CAMP ONCE AND WAS RECAPTURED. LATER IN THE INTERVIEW, CAT WAS ASKED IF HE HAD EVER SEEN OR HEARD OF A BLACK AMERICAN PW. AFTER A VERY LONG PAUSE, HE STATED THAT ONE OF THE PWS HELD IN THE SUBREGION 4 CAMP WAS BLACK. HE COULD NOT RECALL IF THIS PW WAS THE SAME ONE WHO HAD ESCAPED AND BEEN RECAPTURED. CAT INSISTED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW THE FATES OF THE PRISONERS KEPT IN THE SUBREGION 4 CAMPS.

20. AFTER 1972, WHEN CAT WAS REASSIGNED TO SUBREGION 5 IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE, HE REPORTEDLY HAD NO FURTHER CONTACT WITH U.S. PWS.

21. WHEN QUESTIONED ON THE SUBJECT OF U.S. DESERTERS OR COLLABORATORS, CAT CLAIMED THAT HE HAD HEARD RUMORS OF SUCH PERSONS, BUT HAD NO DETAILED FIRSTHAND OR HEARSAY KNOWLEDGE OF ANY SPECIFIC CASE. HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT ALL AMERICAN PWS WERE RETURNED IN 1973 AND NEVER HEARD OF ANY AMERICAN WHO REMAINED BEHIND IN INDOCHINA AFTER THAT TIME. HE SPECIFICALLY DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF ANYONE BY THE NAME OF "MAC NOLAN" OR "MCKINLEY NOLAN."

22. CAT ALSO DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF ANY PERSONS NAMED HERTZ (CASE 0052) OR PRIDEMORE (CASE 1274). HE COMMENTED THAT HE WOULD HAVE RECALLED THE LATTER NAME BECAUSE IT SOUNDED SIMILAR TO "CLAYMORE", A TERM WITH WHICH ALL VIETNAMESE WERE VERY FAMILIAR.

23. DURING THE INTERVIEW, CAT ADMITTED THAT HE HAD MAINTAINED A COLLECTION (TAAPJ) OF PRIVATE NOTES CONCERNING THE AMERICAN PWS WITH WHOM HE HAD CONTACT. HE INITIALLY ESTIMATED THIS NUMBER OF PWS AT APPROXIMATELY 40. WHEN ASKED HOW THIS COULD BE WHEN HE CLAIMED CONTACT

WITH A TOTAL OF ONLY 5-6 PRISONERS (3-4 IN THE FIRST CAMP AND TWO IN THE SECOND), HE CLAIMED THAT THE INFORMATION HE OBTAINED ON THE REMAINING NUMBER OF PWS WAS BASED ON HEARSAY. CAT CLAIMED THAT, AFTER HE WAS CONTACTED BY THE VNOSMP FOR INTERVIEW, HE TRIED TO LOCATE THESE RECORDS, BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS. HE EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD JUST MOVED INTO A NEW RESIDENCE AND HAD EITHER MISPLACED OR LOST THEM.

24. COMMENTS:

- A. THROUGHOUT THE INTERVIEW PROCESS, HOA MADE A DELIBERATE EFFORT TO SPEAK QUICKLY AND INDISTINCTLY AND CHANGED SUBJECTS OFTEN. HIS RESPONSE TECHNIQUES WERE OBVIOUSLY INSPIRED BY HIS MANY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AS AN INTERROGATOR. WHEN ASKED SPECIFIC QUESTIONS, HE WOULD PROVIDE A CURSORY ANSWER AND IMMEDIATELY OFFER INFORMATION ON A DIFFERENT, BUT EQUALLY IMPORTANT, SUBJECT. THIS SERIOUSLY HAMPERED THE METHODOICAL QUESTIONING PROCEDURE NORMALLY EMPLOYED BY THE TEAM. THE TEAM CHIEF MADE NUMEROUS REQUESTS FOR HIM TO SPEAK SLOWLY AND RESTRICT HIS COMMENTS TO THE SUBJECT AT HAND; HOWEVER, HE CONTINUED THESE TACTICS THROUGHOUT THE INTERVIEW. IT WAS CLEAR THAT HOA POSSESSES LARGE AMOUNTS OF INFORMATION PERTINENT TO THE MIA ISSUE, BUT BECAUSE OF HIS CONSUMMATE ABILITY TO FRUSTRATE THE INTERVIEW PROCESS, A SERIES OF PROLONGED INTERVIEWS WILL BE NECESSARY TO FULLY EXPLOIT THIS KNOWLEDGE. ACCORDING TO THE VNOSMP, HOA WAS PRESENTED FOR INTERVIEW IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS RELEASE FROM THE HOSPITAL, WHERE HE WAS ALLEGEDLY UNDERGOING TREATMENT FOR AN UNSPECIFIED RESPIRATORY AILMENT. DUE TO HOA'S ALLEGED WEAKENED PHYSICAL CONDITION, MR. NGOC ENCOURAGED THE TEAM NOT TO INTERVIEW HIM AT LENGTH AND TO CONCLUDE THE SESSION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. THIS FURTHER COMPLICATED THE INTERVIEW PROCESS. IN VIEW OF HOA'S IMPORTANCE AS A WITNESS, THE TEAM CHIEF BELIEVED HE SHOULD BE INTERVIEWED BY THE MOST EXPERIENCED JTF-FA LINGUIST AND THE ONE WITH THE GREATEST AMOUNT OF INSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE, MR. GARNETT BELL. THIS BELIEF, ALONG WITH THE TIME CONSTRAINTS IMPOSED BY HOA'S ALLEGED WEAKENED CONDITION, PROMPTED THE TEAM CHIEF TO RECOMMEND THAT A COMPLETE INTERVIEW OF MR. HOA BE POSTPONED UNTIL A LATER DATE. BOTH MR. HOA AND MR. NGOC OF THE VNOSMP AGREED TO THIS

SUGGESTION, AND TO ALLOW MR. BELL TO CONDUCT THAT INTERVIEW. COMPLETE DETAILS CONCERNING THE UNRESOLVED CASES CITED IN PARAGRAPH 25 WILL BE ELICITED AT THAT TIME.

- B. LONG AFTER THE TEAM HAD COMPLETED THEIR INTERVIEW OF HOA, WHILE WORKING IN CUU LONG PROVINCE, THE SUBJECT OF HIS INTERVIEW CAME UP. BOTH MR. NGOC AND MR. TICH OF THE VNOSMP, IN A CONTEXT OF CASUAL CONVERSATION, EXPRESSED THEIR FRUSTRATION AT WORKING WITH HOA. THEY STATED THAT HE WAS EQUALLY EVASIVE, NONCOMMITTAL, AND UNCOOPERATIVE WHEN APPROACHED BY THEM. MR. NGOC ALSO MENTIONED THAT HOA HAD SHOWED HIM AND OTHER VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS A COLLECTION OF PERSONAL FILES ON THE U.S. PWS WITH WHOM HE WORKED WHICH HE STILL RETAINED IN HIS HOME. MR. NGOC INDICATED THAT THIS COLLECTION OF FILES WAS APPROXIMATELY ONE-HALF INCH THICK AND APPEARED VERY DETAILED. MR. NGOC COULD NOT PROVIDE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING THESE FILES AND THEIR CONTENTS BECAUSE HOA ALLEGEDLY REFUSED TO ALLOW SRV GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES TO EXAMINE THEM. HOA HAD DENIED PREPARING OR MAINTAINING ANY TYPE OF PERSONAL FILES OR DIARY CONCERNING U.S. PRISONERS DURING HIS INTERVIEW. IF MR. NGOC'S CLAIM CONCERNING THESE FILES IS TRUE, IT FURTHER CONFIRMS HOA'S DECEPTIVE NATURE AND WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE ERRONEOUS INFORMATION DURING AN INTERVIEW.

- C. DAO THAI CAT WAS AS EVASIVE AND NONCOMMITTAL AS HOA, BUT APPLIED DIFFERENT TACTICS TO FRUSTRATE THE INTERVIEW PROCESS. HE CLAIMED HE WAS UNABLE TO RECALL PRACTICALLY EVERYTHING ABOUT HIS ACTIVITIES DURING THE WAR AND WOULD PAUSE, OFTEN FOR NEARLY A FULL MINUTE, BEFORE ISSUING A RESPONSE TO A QUESTION. ALTHOUGH IT IS NATURAL TO FORGET A CERTAIN DEGREE OF DETAIL ABOUT ONE'S PAST ACTIVITIES, IT SEEMS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT CAT LIVED IN A CAMP FOR TWO YEARS AND COULD NOT RECALL ITS NAME. SUCH TACTICS CAST CONSIDERABLE DOUBT ON HIS CREDIBILITY AS A WITNESS.

- D. ALTHOUGH CAT CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE SAME CAMP AS HOA, THEY PROVIDED DIFFERENT INFORMATION CONCERNING THE CAMP ORGANIZATION, STAFF, AND PRISONER POPULATION. SINCE BOTH INDIVIDUALS WERE OBVIOUSLY DECEPTIVE IN THEIR RESPONSES, IT IS DIFFICULT TO DO A

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE INFORMATION THEY PROVIDED. IN GENERAL, HOWEVER, THE MINIMAL AMOUNT OF SPECIFIC INFORMATION PROVIDED BY HOA SEEMED MORE AUTHORITATIVE THAN THAT PROVIDED BY CAT.

25. ANALYST COMMENTS: THE FOLLOWING LINE ITEMS PROVIDE THE NAME, CASE NUMBER, AND STATUS OF THE INDIVIDUALS NAMED BY HOA IN PARAGRAPH 8:

- A. DOUGLAS RAMSEY; CASE 0234; RELEASED 12 FEB 73
 - B. RAYMOND SCHRUMP; CASE 1189; RELEASED 12 FEB 73
 - C. CPT WILLIAM HARDY; CASE 0742; RELEASED 12 FEB 73
 - D. MAJ ARTHUR SHUMAN III; CASE 1090; DEAD, REMAINS NOT RECOVERED
 - E. CPT DONALD COOK; CASE 0050; DEAD, REMAINS NOT RECOVERED
 - F. NO RECORD IN JTF-FA FILES
 - G. SFC KENNETH RORABACK; CASE 0024; DEAD, REMAINS NOT RECOVERED
 - H. NO RECORD IN JTF-FA FILES
- 