

ORIGIN CJTF2 INFO DCM POL SA DAO PW/MIA EXA DALO INHB (9)

VZCZC
RR RUHQHQE RUMTIS RUEHPF RUEKJCS RUEKJCS RUHQHQE
RUEKJCS RUEKJCS RUEAIIA RUHVAAA RUEALWW RUEHC
LE RUEHEK #3602/01 026 **

2RR UUUUU
R 261215Z JAN 93
FM CJTF-FA DET ONE BANGKOK TH
TO RUHQHQE / CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI
INFO RUMTIS / AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE//CJTF-FA DET THREE//
RUEHPF / USMISSION PHNOM PENH//CJTFFA DET FOUR//
RUEKJCS / JCINT STAFF WASHDC//OCJCS-PW-MIA/J5//
RUEKJCS / SECDEF WASHDC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//
RUHQHQE / USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3//
RUEKJCS / USCINCPAC LO WASHDC//
RUEKJCS / LIA WASHDC//POW-MIA//
RUEAIIA / CIA WASHDC//DEA/SEA/IB/DDO/ICOG//
RUHVAAA / CERUSACILHI HICAM AFB HI//
RUEALWW / NSC WASHDC

RUEHC / SECSTATE WASHDC//CA/OCS/CCS/EAP//
BT

UNCLASS SECTION 01 OF 06 BANGKOK TH 03602

UNCLASSIFIED 0035 JAN 93

LIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE

SUBJ: SRV ORAL HISTORY, INTERVIEW WITH FORMER ENEMY PROSELYTING CADRE, PAVN SR COL PHAM VAN BAN

REF: DET 1, JTFFA BKK MSG, DTG 200341Z JAN 93

1. REF WAS THE SUMMARY REPORT OF ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN VIETNAM BY JTF-FA SPECIAL ASSISTANT, MR G.E. BELL, DURING THE PERIOD 6 TO 18 JANUARY 1993. PARA 1 SUPPARA A OF REF REFERRED TO SR COL PHAM VAN BAN. THE FOLLOWING IS THE DETAILED REPORT OF THE INTERVIEW.

2. PEOPLE'S ARMY OF VIETNAM (PAVN) SR COL PHAM VAN BAN AKA PHAM BAN AKA BA (3) BAN WAS INTERVIEWED AT THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (MND) GUEST HOUSE IN HANOI ON 7 JAN 93. THE INTERVIEW WAS MONITORED BY MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR (MOI) REF AND DEPUTY VNSMFP HEAD, MAJ PHAM DUNG, MND REF, LTC PHAM TEO, ANI MOI REF HA MINH THAN. SOURCE, A 67 YOA NATIVE OF NAM THANH DISTRICT, HAI HUNG (FORMERLY HAI DUCNG) PROVINCE, JOINED THE PAVN DURING THE EARLY 1950'S TO FIGHT AGAINST THE FRENCH. SOURCE WAS REASSIGNED TO THE ENEMY PROSELYTING DEPARTMENT (EPD) DURING 1963 WHEN HE ATTENDED AN EPD CONFERENCE HELD IN BACH THONG (FORMERLY BAC KAN) DISTRICT, BAC THAI PROVINCE, WHERE THE EPD HAD BEEN LOCATED DURING THE WAR AGAINST THE FRENCH. SOURCE RECALLED THAT THE CADRE IN CHARGE OF THE CONFERENCE WAS SR COL TRAN VAN QUANG, THE CHIEF OF THE EPD, GENERAL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (GPD), PAVN. SOURCE ADDED THAT SR COL QUANG LATER BECAME THE MILITARY REGION 4 CDR DURING THE WAR AGAINST THE US/RVN. (NOTE: PREVIOUS REPORTING INDICATES THAT PAVN LTG TRAN VAN QUANG WAS CDR OF MR4

UNTIL THE WAR ENDED. LTG QUANG USED THE COVER NAME " BAY (7) TIEN " (TIEENS) DURING THE WAR. AFTER THE WAR ENDED, LTG QUANG WAS ASSIGNED AS THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE IN HANOI. LTG QUANG MET WITH BOTH GEN VESSEY AND AS SCLCPON IN HANOI DURING EARLY 1992. LTG QUANG RETIRED IN NOVEMBER 1992, AND WAS RECENTLY APPOINTED AS THE HEAD OF VIETNAM'S NEWLY CREATED NATIONAL VETERAN'S ORGANIZATION, HEADQUARTERED IN HANOI).

3. AT THE TIME SOURCE WAS ASSIGNED TO THE EPD IN 1963, THE EPD WAS SUBORDINATE TO THE GENERAL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT IN HANOI. WHEN THE SOUTH VIETNAM LIBERATION ARMED FORCES (SVNLAF) WERE ESTABLISHED IN THE SOUTH DURING 1961, THE PAVN HIGH COMMAND DECIDED TO SEND SELECTED CADRE FROM THE EPD IN THE NORTH TO ACT AS ADVISORS TO THE HQ OF THE SOUTHERN FORCES. SOURCE DEPARTED HANOI SOMETIME DURING LATE 1963 OR EARLY 1964, AND TRAVELLED ALONG THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL TO THE DUONG MINH CHAU SECRET ZONE IN TAY NINH PROVINCE WHERE THE HQ, SVNLAF WAS LOCATED AT THAT TIME. SOURCE VAGUELY RECALLED THAT THERE WERE APPROX TWO OR THREE US POW'S BEING HELD WHEN HE ARRIVED IN THE DUONG MINH CHAU ZONE.

4. SOURCE SAID THAT WHEN HE ARRIVED IN TAY NINH, HE WAS ASSIGNED AS THE DEPUTY OF THE POLICY SECTION (BAN CHINH SACH) OF THE ENEMY PROSELYTING OFFICE (EPO), WHICH WAS SUBORDINATE TO THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (CUC CHINH TRI) OF THE HQ, SVNLAF AKA "MIEN" (MIENF) (I.E. REGION). SOURCE RECALLED THAT THE EPO WAS COMPRISED OF A POLICY SECTION, A COMBAT ENEMY PROSELYTING SECTION (BAN DICH VAN CHIEN DAU), A RESEARCH/INTELLIGENCE SECTION (BAN DICH TINH), AND A PROPAGANDA SECTION (BAN TUYEN TRUYEN). THE EPO OF THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, HQ SVNLAF WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR US POW'S IN MR'S 7,8, AND 9. SOURCE VAGUELY RECALLED MR6 HAVING HAD A SEPARATE CAMP FOR US POW'S HELD IN THAT AREA, BUT SOURCE CLAIMED TO BE UNABLE TO RECALL ANY DETAILS CONCERNING THE CAMP. SOURCE ALSO CLAIMED TO HAVE NO RECALL OF MR10. SOURCE SAID THAT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MR'S 7,8,AND 9, US POW'S HELD IN ALL OTHER MR'S WERE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE EPD, GPD, PAVN HIGH COMMAND.

5. THE SOUTHERN EPO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR POLICY MATTERS AND INSURING THAT US POW'S WERE WELL FED AND TREATED PROPERLY. THE EPO COORDINATED WITH DR NHAN (NHAAN) THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL OFFICE FOR SOUTH VIETNAM (COSVN) AKA "R" FOR

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MEDICAL SUPPORT. MEDICAL PERSONNEL WERE SENT FROM THE HOSPITAL TO TREAT US POW'S AS REQUIRED, AND SOURCE COULD NOT RECALL ANY US POW EVER HAVING BEEN EVACUATED FROM CAMPS TO HOSPITALS FOR TREATMENT. WHEN SOURCE FIRST ARRIVED IN TAY NINH DURING EARLY 1964 THE CAMP HELD EITHER TWO OR THREE (NOTE: SOURCE IS FAIRLY CERTAIN THERE WERE THREE MALE CAUCASIANS HELD AT THAT TIME, BUT CLAIMED TO BE CONFINED DUE TO POOR HEALTH AND THE TIME LAPSE) US POW'S HELD IN A RUSTIC JUNGLE CAMP CALLED ONLY "AMERICAN CAMP" (IRAI MY). A FEW MONTHS AFTER SOURCE ARRIVED IN THE AREA, THE CAMP WAS MOVED NORTH OF THE DUONG MINH CHAU SECRET ZONE. APPROX ONE YEAR AFTER THE CAMP WAS MOVED, MORE US POW'S BEGAN ARRIVING PERIODICALLY IN SMALL GROUPS OF FROM ONE TO THREE MEN. THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS CONTINUED TO RISE UNTIL EARLY 1973 WHEN THE CAMP HELD APPROX 28 TO 29 US PERSONNEL. SOURCE COULD ONLY RECALL THAT ONE OF THE PRISONERS WAS CALLED "HAMSEY" (I.E. REFNO 0234). DURING THE PERIOD 1964 TO 1973 THE CAMP WAS FREQUENTLY MOVED TO SEVERAL DIFFERENT LOCATIONS. SOURCE CLAIMED THAT HE COULD NOT RECALL THE CAMP EVER HAVING BEEN MOVED INSIDE CAMBODIA, AND THAT TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE THE CAMP WAS ROTATED BETWEEN LOCATIONS IN TAY NINH, PHUOC LONG AND BINH LONG PROVINCES. SOURCE CLAIMED TO BE UNABLE TO RECALL ANY SPECIFIC CAMP LOCATIONS. SOURCE ALSO DID NOT HAVE ANY RECALL CONCERNING ANY US POW'S WHO DIED WHILE IN CAPTIVITY.

6. THE COMBAT ENEMY PROSELYTING SECTION HAD THE MISSION OF APPROACHING US UNITS ON THE BATTLEFIELD AND MAKING LOUD SPEAKER ANNOUNCEMENTS ASKING THE US TROOPS TO SURRENDER. THE SECTION ALSO DROPPED PROPAGANDA LEAFLETS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE INDICATING THAT US PERSONNEL WHO CROSSED OVER WOULD BE WELL TREATED SUBSEQUENT TO THEIR SURRENDER. THE PROPAGANDA SECTION PREPARED THE LEAFLETS FOR THE COMBAT ENEMY PROSELYTING SECTION. THE RESEARCH/INTELLIGENCE SECTION WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR CONDUCTING INTERROGATIONS OF US PERSONNEL TO OBTAIN INFORMATION OF BOTH INTELLIGENCE AND PROPAGANDA VALUE. THE PROPAGANDA SECTION OFTEN ASSISTED IN THE EXPLOITATION OF US POW'S.

7. SOURCE SAID THE MILITARY PROSELYTING SECTION (MPS) (BAN BINH VAN) WAS SEPARATE FROM THE EPC AND HAD NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR US POW'S. THE MPS WAS UNDER THE DIRECT CONTROL OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND MANAGED BY COSVN. THE MPS WAS ORIENTED TOWARD THE MILITARY FORCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (RVN) AND THEIR DEPENDENTS. THE CIVILIAN PROSELYTING SECTION (CFS) WAS ALSO UNDER THE DIRECT CONTROL OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND MANAGED BY COSVN. THE CFS WAS ORIENTED TOWARD GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND CIVIL SERVANTS OF THE RVN, AND THEIR DEPENDENTS.

8. SOURCE WAS ABLE TO RECALL THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL OF THE EPO OF THE HQ SVNLAF: HUE (HUEEJ), A NATIVE OF AN GIANG AND CAMP COMMANDER OF THE "AMERICAN CAMP". HUE WAS KIA DURING A B-52 STRIKE SOMETIME DURING THE EARLY 1970'S. NGUYEN HUNG TRI (TRIS), A NATIVE OF HANOI AND CAMP INTERPRETER. TRI WAS THE BEST ENGLISH LANGUAGE SPEAKER AND

ALSO SHOWED CONSIDERABLE SKILL WITH WRITTEN ENGLISH BY PREPARING PROPAGANDA LEAFLETS FOR THE PROPAGANDA SECTION OF THE EPO. TRI DEPARTED HANOI FOR THE SOUTH "A FEW YEARS AFTER SOURCE". (NOTE: ALTHOUGH CLAIMED TO HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF EPD CADRE NGUYEN HUU TRI, MENTIONED DURING CASE INVESTIGATIONS IN DAC LAC, HE IS OF THE OPINION THAT HUU TRI AND HUNG TRI ARE TWO SEPARATE INDIVIDUALS). SOURCE BELIEVES THAT NGUYEN HUNG TRI IS CURRENTLY RESIDING IN HANOI. (NOTE: DURING NOVEMBER 1991, SA AND DIA HISTORIAN/RESEARCHER SYDOW VISITED A NEWLY CONSTRUCTED OFFICE BUILDING LOCATED NEXT DOOR TO THE ADDRESS (212 BA TRIEU STREET) PROVIDED BY REFUGEES DURING 1979 AS BEING THE CURRENT RESIDENCE OF TRI. THE HOUSE WAS A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING TYPICAL OF FRENCH ERA UPPER CLASS URBAN VIETNAMESE AND APPEARED TO BE OCCUPIED BY AN ELDERLY VIETNAMESE COUPLE. ALTHOUGH THE VNOSMP INDICATED DURING LATE 1991 THAT THEY INTENDED TO OPEN A NEW OFFICE IN THE SAME AREA AS THE RESIDENCE OF TRI, THIS HAS NOT YET MATERIALIZED). NAM (S) LUC (LUNCJ), (NOTE: SOURCE CLAIMED TO BE UNABLE TO RECALL THE SURNAME OF NAM LUC BUT PREVIOUS REPORTING INDICATES "TRAN VAN

LUC") A PAVN MAJ AND NATIVE OF BIEN HOA. NAM LUC WAS THE CHIEF OF THE POLICY SECTION AND SOURCE WAS HIS DEPUTY. SOURCE REPLACED NAM LUC AS THE SECTION CHIEF AFTER NAM LUC AND SOME MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY WERE KILLED DURING A B-52 STRIKE. ALTHOUGH NAM LUC WAS A NATIVE OF BIEN HOA, HE WAS A REGROUPEE WHO WENT NORTH PRIOR TO 1954 AND HE WAS OFFICIALLY ASSIGNED TO THE EPD, GPD, PAVN PRIOR TO RETURNING TO SOUTH SOMETIME DURING THE EARLY 1960'S. HOA (HOAF) (LNU), A NATIVE OF BEN TRE AND CAMP INTERPRETER WAS ALSO A REGROUPEE WHO WENT NORTH PRIOR TO 1954. HOA'S BROTHER, NGUYEN XUAN OANH, WAS RESIDING IN THE NORTH BUT RETURNED TO THE SOUTH PRIOR TO 1954 TO WORK FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM (GVN). SOURCE HEARD THAT HOA DIED DUE TO ILLNESS IN HANOI SOMETIME AFTER THE WAR ENDED. HOA WAS ABLE TO SPEAK ENGLISH AND FRENCH WELL BECAUSE HE WAS EDUCATED UNDER THE FRENCH SYSTEM. SR COL HUY, A NATIVE OF BEN TRE, WAS IN CHARGE OF THE EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENT (QUAN GIAO) OF US POW'S. HE WAS A REGROUPEE WHO WENT NORTH IN 1954 AND WAS ASSIGNED TO THE EPD, GPD, PAVN IN HANOI. HUY RECEIVED ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING IN THE NORTH BEFORE BEING REASSIGNED TO THE SOUTH SOMETIME DURING THE EARLY 1960'S. HUY IS CURRENTLY THE HEAD OF THE INDOCTRINATION SECTION (BAN TUYEN HUAN) OF THE BEN TRE PROVINCE PARTY COMMITTEE. (NOTE: HUY AKA TAM (8) HUY WAS INTERVIEWED AT LEAST TWICE DURING PREVIOUS JOINT FIELD ACTIVITIES CONCERNING HIS ASSOCIATION WITH REFNO 9950 AND OTHER SUBJECTS). SR COL TRUNG, A NATIVE OF MY THO, WAS THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE RESEARCH/INTELLIGENCE SECTION OF THE SOUTHERN EPO. HE NOW RESIDES ON DON DAT STREET (POSS #19), NEAR THE FRENCH LIBRARY (THU VIEN PHAP) AND THE REX HOTEL IN HO CHI MINH CITY. SR COL LE CA, A NATIVE OF BEN TRE, WAS THE CHIEF OF THE RESEARCH/INTELLIGENCE SECTION OF THE EPO. HE IS CURRENTLY ASSIGNED AS THE CHIEF OF THE CULTURAL OFFICE (SO VAN HOA) IN BEN TRE PROVINCE. 2LT TUOI (TUOOI), A NATIVE OF DUC HUE, LONG AN PROVINCE, WAS A CADRE IN THE EPO. SOURCE SAID TUOI "HAS GONE SOMEWHERE AND IS NO LONGER WORKING". (NOTE: PREVIOUS REPORTING INDICATES THAT PAVN MAJ TUOI PARTICIPATED IN THE RELEASE OF US POW'S AT LOC NINH DURING "OPERATION HOMECOMING" IN 1973. AFTER THE WAR HE WAS REASSIGNED TO THE HO CHI MINH CITY PUBLIC SECURITY OFFICE UNTIL HE ENTERED REFUGEE CHANNELS BY BOAT IN MALAYSIA DURING 1979. MAJ TUOI WAS DEBRIEFED BY JCRC PERSONNEL PRIOR TO BEING RESETTLED IN BELGIUM, SPONSORED BY HIS SISTER AND BROTHER-IN-LAW, A US ARMY MAJ ASSIGNED TO SHAPE HQ. MAJ TUOI WAS SUBSEQUENTLY DEBRIEFED BY DIA PERSONNEL, AND PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY DIA IN COMPARISON WITH PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN AT LOC NINH DURING OPERATION HOMECOMING ARE OF THE SAME INDIVIDUAL). SR COL HOA, A NATIVE OF THAI BINH PROVINCE, WAS AT ONE TIME THE CHIEF OF THE POLICY SECTION, EPO. SR COL HOA WAS INITIALLY ASSIGNED TO THE EPD IN HANOI. HE IS BELIEVED TO BE RETIRED NOW AND RESIDING IN THAI BINH. COL NGO DUC TAI (TAIF), A NATIVE OF HANOI, WAS THE CHIEF OF THE EPO UNTIL 1972 WHEN HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE EPD IN HANOI. AT THAT TIME SOURCE, WHO WAS TAI'S DEPUTY, REPLACED TAI AS THE CHIEF OF THE EPO IN THE SOUTH. COL TAI HAD INITIALLY BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE MPS OF COSVN WHEN HE ARRIVED FROM THE NORTH IN THE EARLY 1960'S, BUT HE WAS REASSIGNED TO THE EPO AFTER THE NUMBER OF US POW'S

BEGAN TO INCREASE. COL TAI NOW RESIDES NEAR THE HOME OF VIETNAMESE OFFICE FOR SEEKING MISSING PERSONNEL (VNGSMP) FORENSICS CHIEF. SR COL/PROFESSOR VU NGOC THU, IN A MILITARY HOUSING COMPOUND ON ICH KHIEM STREET IN HANOI. MAJ BUI THIEN NGON (NGOON), A NATIVE OF CAN THO, WAS THE CHIEF OF THE EIC DURING THE EARLY 1960'S. HE WAS A REGROUPEE WHO WENT NORTH IN 1954 AND RETURNED SOUTH BY SHIP SHORTLY AFTER THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (NLF) WAS ESTABLISHED. MAJ NGON RETURNED TO THE NORTH SOMETIME DURING 1966 OR 1967 AND DID NOT REENTER THE SOUTH UNTIL AFTER THE WAR ENDED IN 1975. MAJ NGON IS CURRENTLY ASSIGNED AS CHIEF OF THE MILITARY INSPECTORATE (VIEM KIEM SAT QUAN SU) FOR MILITARY REGION 9. (NOTE: MAJ PHAM DUNG, MCI REP WHO WAS MONITORING THE INTERVIEW, INDICATED THAT DURING THE 1960'S A ROUTE FOR INTELLIGENCE PERSONNEL WAS ESTABLISHED BY AIR FROM HANOI TO PHNOM PENH, AND FROM PHNOM PENH TO CAN THO BY BOAT. ACCORDING TO MAJ DUNG, SOME FFL CADRE USED THAT ROUTE).

S. SOURCE WAS ASKED FOR HIS OPINION CONCERNING STILL AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW WHO WOULD MOST LIKELY BE ABLE TO

PROVIDE INFORMATION CONCERNING US PERSONNEL NOT YET ACCOUNTED FOR. SOURCE PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING NAMES OF POTENTIAL INTERVIEW CANDIDATES: MG VO VAN THOI (THOWI), A FORMER EPD CHIEF IN HANOI DURING 1963 AND 1964. MG THOI WAS REASSIGNED TO MRS SOMETIME DURING LATE 1964 OR EARLY 1965. BUT HE STILL RETAINED HIS POSITION AS CHIEF OF THE EPD IN HANOI. HE CONTINUED TO HOLD THIS POSITION EVEN AFTER THE WAR ENDED IN 1975. AND MG THOI REMAINED IN THE SOUTH TO EVENTUALLY RETIRE IN HO CHI MINH CITY (HCMC) SOMETIME DURING THE LATE 1970'S. AFTER MG THOI DEPARTED HANOI FOR MRS, HE WAS REPLACED IN THE EPD BY ACTING CHIEF SR COL VAN DUY. SOURCE RECALLED THAT SR COL DUY WAS TRANSFERRED FROM THE PAVN AIR FORCE TO THE EPD. HE IS NOW RETIRED AND IS BELIEVED TO BE RESIDING IN THE HANOI AREA. SR CO THUONG (THWONGF), A NATIVE OF CHI LONG, NAM HA, HAS A DEPUTY OF THE EPD IN HANOI AND ALSO WORKED IN THE EPO IN THE SOUTH. HE RETIRED SOMETIME AROUND 1978 AND IS BELIEVED TO BE RESIDING IN HANOI OR CHI LONG. LTC QUAN AKA DONG (IDOONG), A NATIVE OF HAI HUNG, WAS FORMERLY ASSIGNED AS A SENIOR CADRE IN THE EPD. BUT SOURCE COULD NOT RECALL HIS SPECIFIC POSITION. HE IS BELIEVED TO BE CURRENTLY RESIDING IN GIPT LOC, HAI HUNG. SR COL RICH (BICHS), A FORMER DEPUTY OF THE EPD IN HANOI, IS NOW RETIRED AND RESIDES IN THE NAM DONG MILITARY COMPOUND IN HANOI. SR COL DIEU (ZIEBUF), A FORMER DEPUTY OF THE EPD ALSO WORKED IN THE SOUTHERN EPO. HE IS ALSO NOW RESIDING IN THE NAM DONG COMPOUND. SOURCE SAID HE WOULD NORMALLY RECOMMEND SR COL LE DIEN (ZILENJ), BUT SR COL DIEN DIED ABOUT ONE YEAR AGO DUE TO ILLNESS. SOURCE RECALLED THAT LE DIEN WAS A FORMER EPD CHIEF WHO WAS TRANSFERRED TO WORK FOR MRS DURING THE WAR. WHEN ASKED CONCERNING FORMER EPD CHIEF NGUYEN VAN RAM, SOURCE SAID HE HEARD TAM WAS VERY ILL. (NOTE: ASSIGNED COUNTERPART LTC PHAM TEC ADVISED THAT RAM'S ACTUAL SURNAME WAS PHAM AND THAT HE HAS CURRENTLY 76 YEARS OLD. LTC TEO SAID HE ATTEMPTED TO ARRANGE AN INTERVIEW WITH RAM BUT HAS NOT ABLE TO DO SO BECAUSE HE HAS ON HIS DEATHBED. MOI REF MR TEAN SUGGESTED THAT SA ATTEMPT TO LOCATE SR COL PHAM TUONG (TUWONGS) WHO WROTE A BOOK ABOUT A POW CAMP TITLED "ST 18". SOURCE SAID HE COULD NOT RECALL SR COL TUONG.

10. CONCERNING RECORDS, SOURCE SAID COPIES OF ALL RECORDS PERTAINING TO US POW'S WERE FORWARDED TO THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE HQ, SVNLA. HE SAID THE ORIGINAL RECORDS WERE AT ONE TIME MAINTAINED BY THE EPO IN PHUOC LONG PROVINCE, NEAR THE HQ OF THE SVNLA. HE BELIEVES THESE RECORDS WERE EITHER BURNED, TURNED OVER TO THE CUSTODY OF MR 7 AFTER THE WAR, OR MOVED TO THE EPD IN HANOI. HE ADDED THAT THE DISPOSITION OF THESE RECORDS MIGHT WELL INCLUDE A COMBINATION OF ALL THE ABOVE SCENARIOS. SOURCE SAID HE HAD A NAME LIST OF US POW'S AT ONE POINT AND THIS LIST INCLUDED THE POW'S WHO WERE RELEASED AT LOC NINH DURING 1973. SOURCE SAID HE BURNED THIS LIST PRIOR TO RETURNING TO HANOI AND HE WAS NOT ABLE TO RECALL ANY NAMES CONTAINED IN THE LIST. SOURCE WAS ALSO NOT ABLE TO RECALL ANY NAMES OF US PERSONNEL WHO DIED IN CAPTIVITY. THE LAST TIME SOURCE OBSERVED ANY US PERSONNEL WAS DURING OPERATION HOMECOMING AT LOC NINH IN 1973. SOURCE CLAIMED TO HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE

OF ANY US PERSONNEL WHO WERE MOVED TO A THIRD COUNTRY. SOURCE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY JOINT EXPLOITATION PROJECTS. SOURCE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY US PERSONNEL REMAINING IN INDOCHINA AFTER THE WAR.

11. SOURCE SAID HE HAD ONLY HEARD ABOUT GROUP 776 AND THEREFORE, WAS NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE ANY DETAILS CONCERNING THE ORGANIZATION. SOURCE RECALLED THAT GROUP 875 WAS FORMED IN THE NORTH SOMETIME AFTER HE DEPARTED FOR THE SOUTHERN EPO, BUT HE ALSO DID NOT HAVE ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS ORGANIZATION. SOURCE DID RECALL THAT GROUP 776 WAS GIVEN IT'S DESIGNATION BASED ON THE DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT (I.E. JULY 1976), BUT GROUP 875 RECEIVED IT'S DESIGNATION BASED ON THE NUMBER OF THE DIRECTIVE OF THE MND THAT ORDERED THE CREATION OF THE UNIT (I.E. MND DIRECTIVE # 875). SOURCE WAS NOT ABLE TO RECALL ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING "OFFICE 22", POSSIBLY DUE TO THE PRESENCE OF FORMER OFFICE 22 MEMBER, LTC PHAM TEO DURING THE INTERVIEW.

12. SOURCE CLAIMED TO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN TWO POW SWAPS DURING THE WAR. HE SAID THE FIRST SWAP OCCURRED WHEN THREE

3. POW'S WERE RELEASED BY THE EPO TO US OFFICIALS IN WESTERN TAY NINH PROVINCE. SOURCE SAID HE COULD NOT RECALL MUCH DETAIL CONCERNING THE SWAP DUE TO THE TIME LAPSE. HE VAGUELY RECALLED THAT TWO CAUCASIAN AND ONE BLACK POW WERE RELEASED SOMETIME DURING 1969 OR 1970. SOURCE SAID THE ACTUAL RELEASE WAS COORDINATED BY THE EPO CHIEF AT THE TIME, SR COL NAM LUC (SEE PARA 8 ABOVE). SOURCE SAID HE REMAINED IN THE BACKGROUND DURING THE RELEASE AND ONLY TOOK "HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS" FROM A DISTANCE. SOURCE RECALLED THAT AT THE TIME THE THREE AMERICANS WERE RELEASED, THERE WERE ABOUT SIX OR SEVEN OTHER US POW'S STILL BEING HELD IN TAY NINH. SOURCE RECALLED THAT ABOUT ONE YEAR AFTER THE THREE US POW'S WERE RELEASED THE US SIDE COORDINATED WITH THE MILITARY PROSELYTING OFFICE OF CSVN TO ARRANGE ANOTHER SWAP, WHICH BOTH SIDES AGREED TO KEEP SECRET. SOURCE SAID THE SECOND SWAP ALSO OCCURRED IN WESTERN TAY NINH PROVINCE. SOURCE VAGUELY RECALLED THE AREA WAS THIEN NGON. SOURCE SAID HE HAS NEVER HEARD ANY NEWS REPORTS CONCERNING THE SECOND EXCHANGE WHEN ONE CAUCASIAN AMERICAN WAS RELEASED. SOURCE SAID THE SECOND RELEASE WAS ARRANGED BY THE MILITARY PROSELYTING OFFICE OF CSVN AND AFTER THE ONE US POW WAS RELEASED THERE WERE ABOUT NINE OR 10 OTHER US POW'S REMAINING IN THE CAMP.

3. SOMETIME DURING THE EARLY 1970'S, (POSSIBLY 1971 OR 1972), THE EPO WAS SUBJECTED TO A B-52 STRIKE. AT THAT TIME THE EPO WAS LOCATED NEAR THE HQ OF THE SVNLAIF WITH A CAMP HOLDING US POW'S LOCATED ABOUT NINE OR 10 KILOMETERS FROM THE EPO. SHORTLY AFTER THE BOMBING HALTED, SOURCE SAW A SMALL HELICOPTER ARRIVE ON THE SCENE AND FLY OVER THE AREA WHERE THE BOMBS IMPACTED. MEMBERS OF THE EPO SHOT THE AIRCRAFT DOWN WITH SMALL ARMS FIRE. SOURCE VAGUELY RECALLED THAT THE BODIES OF TWO AMERICANS AND TWO VIETNAMESE WERE FOUND IN THE WRECKAGE. THE BODIES WERE BURIED NEXT TO A BOMB CRATER NEAR THE WRECKAGE. SOURCE DID NOT RECALL ANY PERSONAL EFFECTS OR IDENTIFICATION MEDIA BEING RECOVERED AND WAS NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE A PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE BODIES. SOURCE COULD NOT RECALL IF THE BODIES WERE BURIED SEPARATELY OR IN ONE COMMON GRAVE. SOURCE COULD NOT RECALL IF THE GRAVE WAS MARKED. SOURCE DID RECALL THAT THE CADRE WHO ACTUALLY SHOT DOWN THE AIRCRAFT WAS A NATIVE OF NORTHERN VIETNAM AND HE RETURNED TO THE NAM HA AREA AFTER THE WAR WHERE HE MARRIED A WOMAN FROM PHU LY. SOURCE BELIEVES THE MAN STILL RESIDES IN NAM HA BUT SOURCE COULD NOT RECALL THE MAN'S NAME OR A SPECIFIC ADDRESS. SOURCE WAS NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING THE INCIDENT INVOLVING A HELICOPTER BUT INDICATED HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO LOCATE HIS PERSONAL DIARY FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS.

4. SOURCE ALSO HEARD FROM A CADRE ASSIGNED TO AN EPD IN NAM HA DURING THE WAR THAT HE PERSONALLY SHOT DOWN A US HELICOPTER IN NAM HA DURING THE WAR. SOURCE HEARD SOME US PERSONNEL REMAINED INSIDE THE HELICOPTER AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH, BUT SOURCE WAS NOT ABLE TO RECALL ANY FURTHER DETAILS. AGAIN, SOURCE PLEDGED TO ATTEMPT TO LOCATE HIS PERSONAL DIARY FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONCERNING THE HELICOPTER INCIDENT. (NOTE: ALTHOUGH SOURCE'S INFORMATION

IS LACKING IN DETAIL, HE MAY BE REFERRING TO REFNO 0768, WHICH INVOLVES A SH3A HELO. FORMER RE-EDUCATION INMATES HELD IN NAM HA PRISON AKA BA SAO HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED HAVING SCAVENGED HELICOPTER WRECKAGE IN THE CHI NE AREA AND THAT THEY ALSO OBSERVED GRAVES SAID TO CONTAIN US REMAINS. OF THREE CREW MEMBERS IN THE 0768 INCIDENT, THE REMAINS OF THREE INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN RETURNED AND IDENTIFIED. ONLY THE REMAINS OF REFNO 0768-1-01 (PETERSON, DENNIS W.) WERE NOT RETURNED).

15. CONCERNING FOREIGN ADVISORS TO THE EPDOR EPO, SOURCE SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY OFFICIAL ADVISORS, BUT HE DID RECALL THAT SOME FORMER FRENCH MILITARY POW'S DECIDED TO FOLLOW THE REVOLUTION AND WORK WITH THE EPD IN THE NORTH. SOURCE SAID ONE BLACK FRENCH WALLIER (HANG BINH) CALLED "CUC" (CUCS) WAS AN ADVISOR TO THE EPD DURING THE TIME SR COL TRAN VAN QUANG WAS THE HEAD OF THE EPD. CUC WAS SO HIGHLY REGARDED THAT HE WAS GIVEN THE TITLE "HONORARY CHIEF" OF THE EPD. SOURCE VAGUELY RECALLED THREE CAUCASIANS WHO WORKED FOR THE EPD AGAINST THE FRENCH. THEY WERE CALLED "VAI" (GERMAN), "COC"

(COCS) (GERMAN), AND "LUI" (HUNGARIAN). (NOTE: THE FORMER FRENCH SOLDIER CALLED "LUI" MAY BE "BUI VAN LUI", A FRENCH RALLIER WHO REPORTEDLY PARTICIPATED IN THE "VIET DUNG ASSINATION SQUAD MISSIONS AGAINST FRENCH COLONIAL FORCES. A FEMALE FORMER EMPLOYEE OF THE "BOSS HOTEL" WHERE THE US OFFICE FOR POW/MIA AFFAIRS WAS INITIALLY LOCATED, INDICATED HER FATHER-IN-LAW WAS A FORMER FRENCH POW NAMED "LOUIS" (SURNAME TOUBANOV OR SOMETHING SIMILAR) STILL RESIDING IN HANOI AS OF 1991. ACCORDING TO THE EMPLOYEE, THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN HANOI HAD ACCEPTED NUMEROUS FORMER FRENCH MILITARY PERSONNEL FOR RESETTLEMENT BACK TO FRANCE, BUT "LOUIS" WAS REJECTED. SA LAST OBSERVED THE FEMALE EMPLOYEE IN THE MND GUEST HOUSE SERVICE AREA SHORTLY AFTER THE INTERVIEW WITH SOURCE ABOVE WAS COMPLETED). CALLED SOURCE SAID HE BELIEVED ALL THREE CAUCASIANS RETURNED TO THEIR NATIVE HOMES SOMETIME DURING THE WAR WITH THE AMERICANS. SOURCE RECALLED THAT DURING THE EPD CONFERENCE HE ATTENDED DURING 1963 IN BAC KAN, BAC THAI, HE MET A CAUCASIAN FRENCHMAN WHO WAS MARRIED TO A VIETNAMESE WOMAN ASSIGNED TO THE CULTURAL TROUPE OF THE EPD. HE RECALLED THE LADY WAS A SINGER BUT WAS NOT ABLE TO RECALL HER NAME, OR THE NAME OF HER FRENCH SPOUSE. SOURCE DID NOT KNOW WHAT BECAME OF THIS COUPLE AFTER 1963. (NOTE: SOURCE SAID HE WAS ACQUAINTED WITH A MR TUAN (TUAANS) WHO WAS A MEMBER OF THE PROVINCE COMMITTEE IN BAC THAI, BUT SOURCE SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE THAT TUAN WAS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROVINCE TASK TEAM FOR POW/MIA).

16. SOURCE SAID HE HAS NEVER BEEN APROAD FOR TRAINING PURPOSES, BUT HE HAS VISITED THE FORMER USSR, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND POLAND. JUST PRIOR TO DEPARTING THE INTERVIEW SITE, SOURCE INDICATED HE HAD ALREADY HEARD ABOUT SA FROM SOURCE'S SON "HOAN", WHO WAS THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS REP ON THE HAI HUNG PROVINCE TASK TEAM DURING THE INVESTIGATION OF CASE 0459 DURING MARCH 1990.

17. COMMENT:

A. SOURCE WAS VERY FEELBLE AND APPEARED TO HAVE POOR RECALL. SOURCE WAS ALSO APPREHENSIVE AND NERVOUS WHEN DISCUSSING US POW'S AND CAMP LOCATIONS. ALTHOUGH SOURCE'S LACK OF DETAILED KNOWLEDGE CONCERNING UNIT DESIGNATIONS, POLICY MATTERS, AND REPORTING PROCEDURES MAY PARTIALLY ATTRIBUTED TO THE TIME LAPSE AND RESULTANT MEMORY LOSS, SA BELIEVES SOURCE WAS INSTRUCTED TO AVOID SIGNIFICANT DETAIL IN THESE KEY AREAS.

B. COUNTERPART, LTC PHAM TEO, WAS HELPFUL IN ARRANGING THE INTERVIEW BUT INTERCEDED WHEN THE SUBJECT TURNED TO FRENCH RALLIERS WORKING FOR THE EPD. LTC TEO ALSO EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THE SUBJECT OF PRISONER SWAPS DID NOT NEED TO BE COVERED IN DETAIL SINCE THESE SWAPS WERE INITIATED BY THE US SIDE, AND THE US SIDE SHOULD THEREFORE, HAVE ADEQUATE INFORMATION ON HAND REGARDING THIS SUBJECT.

C. PRIOR TO TERMINATION OF THE INTERVIEW SA REQUESTED SOURCE ATTEMPT TO RECALL ANY FURTHER DETAILS POSSIBLE AND

TO ALSO ATTEMPT TO LOCATE ANY PERSONAL DIARIES WITH INFORMATION REGARDING THE LOCATIONS OF GRAVE SITES. SA RECOMMENDS THAT AFTER A REASONABLE TIME LAPSE, THE VNOSMP BE ASKED TO RECONTACT SOURCE AND REMIND HIM OF THIS REQUEST. THE PLANNED 4 FEB 93 TECHNICAL MEETING IN HANOI MIGHT PROVIDE THE PROPER FORUM FOR SUCH A REQUEST.

D. SOURCE SAID HE WAS INVOLVED IN A MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT DURING 1977 AND HE SUSTAINED A BRAIN INJURY AS A RESULT. SOURCE ADDED THAT AT THE TIME OF THE INTERVIEW HIS WIFE WAS HOSPITALIZED WITH TWO BROKEN LEGS SUFFERED IN AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT. (NOTE: THIS INFORMATION IS UN-RELATED BUT MAY ASSIST A SUBSEQUENT INTERVIEWER IN ESTABLISHING GOOD RAPPCRT WITH THIS POTENTIALLY VALUABLE SOURCE).

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