

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

VZCZC

RR RUHQHQE RUMTFS RUEHPF RUEKJCS RUEKJCS RUHQHQE

RUEKJCS RUEKJCS RUEAIIA RUHVAAA RUEADWW RUEHC

DE RUEBK #3124/01 091-\*\*

ZNR UUUUU

R 010807Z APR 93

FM CJTF-FA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

TO RUHQHQE / CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI

INFO RUMTFS / AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE//CJTF-FA DET THREE// : NONE

RUEHPF / USMISSION PHNOM PENH//CJTFFA DET FOUR//

RUEKJCS / JOINT STAFF WASHDC//OCJCS-PW-MIA/J5//

RUEKJCS / SECDEF WASHDC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//

RUHQHQE / USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3//

RUEKJCS / USCINCPAC LO WASHDC//

RUEKJCS / DIA WASHDC//POW-MIA//

RUEAIIA / CIA WASHDC//DEA/SEA/IB/DDO/ICOG//

RUHVAAA / CDRUSACILHI HICKAM AFB HI//

RUEADWW / NSC WASHDC

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

BT

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BANGKOK TH 13124

UNCLASSIFIED 0132 APRIL 93

DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE

SUBJ: SRV ORAL HISTORY, -SR COL BUI THANH NGON

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 2B OF REF REFERS TO SR COL BUI THANH NGON. THE FOLLOWING REPORT PROVIDES THE DETAILED RESULTS OF THE INTERVIEW CONDUCTED WITH SR COL NGON. 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 CAN TWO PROVINCE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE WERE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CHIEF, MR DAO TRONG VAN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SECURITY, MR NGUYEN NGOC NHU AND MIA SPECIALISTS MSSRS HUYNH TRI, NGUYEN THANH SON, HUYNH CHIEN, AND MR LE HAI.

2. SR COL BUI THANH NGON, A 65 YEAR OLD NATIVE OF CAN THO, WAS INTERVIEWED IN CAN THO CITY ON 6 MAR 93. SOURCE SAID HE REGROUPED FROM SOUTH VIETNAM TO THE NORTH IN 1954 WHEN THE COUNTRY WAS DIVIDED AS A RESULT OF THE GENEVA AGREEMENTS. AFTER ARRIVING IN HANOI, SOURCE WAS SELECTED FOR ASSIGNMENT IN THE ENEMY PROSELYTING DEPARTMENT, GENERAL POLITICAL DIRECTORATE. SHORTLY AFTER THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT WAS ESTABLISHED, SOURCE RETURNED TO THE SOUTH WHERE HE WAS ASSIGNED AS CHIEF OF THE ENEMY PROSELYTING OFFICE, HQ, SOUTH VIETNAM LIBERATION ARMED FORCES (SVNLAF), AKA B-2. SOURCE HELD THAT POSITION UNTIL JUST PRIOR TO THE "TET" GENERAL OFFENSIVE WHEN HE RETURNED

TO NORTHERN VIETNAM. SOURCE REMAINED IN HANOI UNTIL AFTER THE COMMUNIST TAKEOVER OF THE SOUTH IN 1975. SOURCE IS CURRENTLY ASSIGNED AS THE INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR MILITARY REGION NINE, WHICH IS HEADQUARTERED IN CAN THO.

3. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, HE DID NOT HAVE DIRECT CONTACT WITH U.S. POW'S DURING HIS WARTIME ASSIGNMENT IN THE SOUTH, DUE TO HIS HIGH POSITION AND THE FACT THAT HE SERVED IN THE FORWARD HQ OF THE SVNLAF. SOURCE SAID ONLY THOSE SERVING AT THE REAR HQ WOULD HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH U.S. PERSONNEL. SOURCE SERVED IN AN ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY SUBSEQUENT TO HIS RETURN TO THE NORTH, WHERE HE ASSISTED THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT IN ESTABLISHING THE PROCEDURES FOR THE RELEASE OF U.S. POW'S DURING THE FEBRUARY-MARCH 1973 RELEASE.

4. SOURCE RECALLED THAT SOME CADRE WHO WOULD ORDINARILY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC INFORMATION CONCERNING U.S. PERSONNEL ARE DECEASED. MR LE HOA, AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE INTERPRETER WHO WAS IN FREQUENT CONTACT WITH U.S. POW'S, DIED OF ILLNESS AFTER RETURNING TO HANOI. SOURCE SAID HE HEARD THAT LE HOA HAS A NIECE WHO IS CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO THE SRV REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN NEW YORK. SOURCE RECALLED THAT ANOTHER ENGLISH LANGUAGE INTERPRETER ASSIGNED TO THE WARTIME ENEMY PROSELYTING WHO DIED DURING THE WAR WAS MR HUE (HUEJ). SOURCE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW IF THE FORMER ENEMY PROSELYTING CHIEF, SR COL PHAM LUC, AKA NAM (5) LUC, HAD CONTACT WITH AMERICAN POW'S DURING THE WAR, BUT HE WAS KILLED BY A B-52 STRIKE.

5. SOURCE WAS ABLE TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING NAMES OF CADRE HE BELIEVES MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION OF POW/MIA INTEREST:

A. LE CA, AYA BAY (7) CA, THE CHIEF OF THE BEN TRE PEOPLE'S INSPECTORATE. (NOTE: LE CA WAS LOCATED AND INTERVIEWED. THE RESULTS WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY).

B. VO DAU (ZAAUR), AKA BAY (7) DAU, CURRENTLY RETIRED IN HO CHI MINH CITY. (NOTE: VO DAU WAS LOCATED AND INTERVIEWED. THE RESULTS WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY).

C. PHI LONG, AKA SAU (6) PHI LONG, CURRENTLY THE CHIEF OF TAN BINH DISTRICT, HO CHI MINH CITY. (NOTE: PHI LONG

WAS LOCATED AND INTERVIEWED. THE RESULTS WILL BE FORWARDED SEPARATELY).

D. NGUYEN VAN KIIP (KIEBPJ), FORMERLY ASSIGNED TO THE INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY REGION SEVEN, CURRENTLY A MAJOR GENERAL ASSIGNED AS THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE CENTRAL INSPECTORATE FOR SOUTHERN VIETNAM (PHO VIEM TRUONG, VIEM KIEM SAT TRUNG UONG PHU TRACH VE PHIA NAM).

6. COMMENTS:

A. SOURCE PROVIDED HIS LIMITED INFORMATION IN A STRAIGHT FORWARD MANNER, BUT WAS EVASIVE CONCERNING THE WARTIME ORGANIZATION OF THE ENEMY PROSELYTING OFFICE, POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, HQ SVNLAIF AND IT'S SUBORDINATE CAMP SYSTEM. THIS MAY BE PARTIALLY DUE TO SOURCE'S RESERVED NATURE, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THE VERY LIMITED TIME SA WAS ABLE TO SPEND WITH HIM.

B. UPON ENTERING THE INTERVIEW SITE, SA IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZED SOURCE AS SR COL "BUI VAN THANH", THE DEPUTY HEAD OF THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT (PRG) DELEGATION WHO WORKED WITH SA DURING OPERATION HOMECOMING IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH 1973. SA INQUIRED CONCERNING THE CURRENT WHEREABOUTS OF MR "LE VAN", WHO SERVED AS THE INTERPRETER FOR THE PRG DELEGATION AND LATER APPEARED IN CAMP DAVIS AS A LIAISON OFFICER FOR THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (DRV) DELEGATION TO THE FOUR PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM (FPJMT), AS SR LT LE VAN LONG. SOURCE WAS NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION IN THIS REGARD. (NOTE: FORMER US POW'S HAVE DESCRIBED A WARTIME CADRE CONDUCTING STRENDOUS INTERROGATIONS WHOSE PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION BEARS CONSIDERABLE SIMILARITIES WITH MR LE VAN, AKA SR LT LE VAN LONG).

C. COOPERATION OF THE LOCAL OFFICIALS IN CAN THO WAS EXCELLENT. THEY EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO ASSIST THE USG IN INVESTIGATING ANY REMAINING CASES IN THEIR AREA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THEY INDICATED THEY ARE KEENLY INTERESTED IN DOING BUSINESS WITH US COMPANIES AND BELIEVE CAN THO WILL BE THE ECONOMIC CENTER OF THE MEKHONG DELTA AREA OF VIETNAM. THEY SAID SEVERAL PROVINCES IN THE SOUTH ARE ALREADY DOING BUSINESS WITH OVERSEAS VIETNAMESE IN THE U.S., BUT UNFORTUNATELY SUCH BUSINESS IS CUMBERSOME BECAUSE IT REQUIRES TRAVELING A CIRCUITOUS ROUTE DUE TO THE ECONOMIC EMBARGO.

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