

ORIGIN CJTF2 INFO DCM POL SA DAO PW/MIA EKA DALO INHB (S)

VZCZC
RR RUHQHQE RUMTFS RUFHPF RUEKJCS RUFKJCS RUHQHQB
RUEKJCS RUEKJCS RUEAIIA RUHVAAA RUEADWW RUEHC
DF RUFHBK #4122/01 099 **

ZNR UUUUU
R 090840Z APR 93
FM CJTF-FA DET ONE BANGKOK TH
TO RUHQHQE / CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI
INFO RUMTFS / AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE//CJTF-FA DFT THREE//
RUEHPF / USMISSION PAVCM PENH//CJTFFA DFT 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//DTA/SEA/IB/DDO/ICOG//
RUHVAAA / CDRUSACILHI HICKAM AFB HI//
RUEADWW / NSC WASHDC
RUEHC / SECSTATE WASHDC//CA/OCS/CCS/FAP//

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
CHRGY: CJTF:04/09/93
APPRV: CJTF:JEB
DRETD: CJTF:GEB
DISTR: CJTF
ORGIN: OCR

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DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE

SUBJ: SRV ORAL HISTORY MR TRUONG HUYNH MAO

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 2F OF REF REFERS TO TRUONG HUYNH MAO. THE FOLLOWING REPORT PROVIDES THE DETAILS OF THE INTERVIEW CONDUCTED WITH MR MAO. 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 HO CHI MINH CITY PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE WERE THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS FOR SOUTHERN VIETNAM, MR BUI DAC TAM (TAAM), THE CITY MILITARY COMMAND REP, LTC TRAN VAN TAN (TAAN), AND THE CITY PUBLIC SECURITY REP, MAJ NGUYEN VAN HA (HAS).

2. MR TRUONG HUYNH MAO, AKA HUYNH KIM TRUONG, AKA TU (4) TRUONG, AKA TU (4) MAO (MAOX), A 71 YEAR OLD NATIVE OF SAIGON, WAS INTERVIEWED IN HO CHI MINH CITY (HCMC) ON 12 MARCH 1993. SOURCE BEGAN THE INTERVIEW BY SAYING HE WAS A FORMER MEMBER OF THE ENEMY PROSELYTING OFFICE (EPO), POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (CUC CHINH TRI), HQ, SOUTH VIETNAM LIBERATION ARMED FORCES (SVNLAF). MR MAO SAID HE WAS ASSIGNED AS THE DIRECTOR OF INTER-CAMP "A" OF THE EPO FROM THE TIME IT WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1969. SOURCE SAID HE HAD DIRECT CONTACT WITH U.S. POWS HELD IN INTER-CAMP "A", AND ON ONE OCCASION HE PERSONALITY PHOTOGRAPHED THE BODY OF A U.S. POW WHO DIED WHILE BEING HELD IN THE CAMP. SOURCE

SAID DETAILS CONCERNING THE US POWS HELD IN INTER-CAMP "A" WERE PROVIDED TO A US INVESTIGATION ELEMENT LFD BY MR JAMES COYLE DURING NOVEMBER 1992. SOURCE SAID THAT HE HAD ALREADY PROVIDED ALL THE INFORMATION HE COULD RECALL AND HAD NOTHING FURTHER TO ADD.

3. DURING THE TIME SOURCE WAS ASSIGNED AS DIRECTOR OF INTER-CAMP "A" FROM 1968 UNTIL 1969, THE CAMP WAS LOCATED IN TAY NINH PROVINCE. SOURCE WAS NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE A SPECIFIC LOCATION, BUT DID RECALL THAT THE CAMP WAS LOCATED SOUTH OF KATUM, ABOUT ONE KILOMETER FROM THE BO TUC BRIDGE (XT 377059). (SEE COMMENT CONCERNING THIS LOCATION). SOURCE RECALLED THAT WHEN HE BEGAN HIS ASSIGNMENT AS DIRECTOR OF INTER-CAMP "A" IN 1968 THE COMMANDER OF THE GUARD FORCE WAS MR BAO BINH, WHO IS CURRENTLY RESIDING IN TAY NINH. (NOTE: PREVIOUSLY INTERVIEWED). MR BAO BINH WAS REPLACED DURING 1969 BY A CADRE CALLED "MIEN" (MIEN). A MEDIC ASSIGNED TO THE CAMP WAS MR TRUONG, BUT HE DIED DURING THE WAR. SOURCE RECALLED THAT AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE INTERPRETER WAS MR UT HUE (HUEPJ), BUT HE WAS KILLED IN ACTION DURING 1967. ANOTHER CADRE OF THE CAMP WAS MR BA (3) MANH, AND HE IS CURRENTLY RESIDING IN BA RIA-VUNG TAU. (NOTE: PREVIOUSLY INTERVIEWED). A NEARBY CAMP FOR POWS OF THE FORMER REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (RVN) WAS DESIGNATED INTER-CAMP "B". THE DIRECTOR OF INTER-CAMP "B" WAS A CADRE CALLED "BIEN" (BIEN). SOURCE CLAIMED NO KNOWLEDGE OF CAMPS DESIGNATED B-17, B-22, B-23, OR C-53.

4. SOURCE CLAIMED NO KNOWLEDGE OF CRASH SITES OR GRAVE SITES. SOURCE SAID HE WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THE RELEASE OF U.S. POWS AFTER THE PARIS AGREEMENTS IN 1973. SOURCE SAID HE DID VAGUELY RECALL ONE OCCASION WHERE U.S. POWS WERE EXCHANGED FOR COMMUNIST POWS PRIOR TO 1973. SOURCE COULD ONLY RECALL HAVING HEARD THAT THE EXCHANGE OCCURRED AT A PLACE CALLED "TRA CAO" IN TAY NINH PROVINCE.

5. COMMENTS:

A. SOURCE WAS GENERALLY COOPERATIVE BUT WAS RELUCTANT TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC DETAILS DUE TO THE FACT HE WAS INTERVIEWED PREVIOUSLY. SOURCE APPARENTLY FELT THAT HIS VERACITY WAS BEING QUESTIONED, BUT AT THE SAME TIME APPEARED TO ENJOY PLAYING THE ROLE OF THE OFFENDED PARTY. ON ONE OCCASION SOURCE MENTIONED THAT HIS SERVICE WITH THE

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EPO ACTUALLY BEGAN IN 1962, BUT HE LATER DECLINED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER IN FURTHER DETAIL. SOURCE WAS OBVIOUSLY EVASIVE CONCERNING HIS DUTIES AFTER THE WAR ENDED IN 1975. SOURCE SAID HE WAS ASSIGNED TO MILITARY PROSELYTING DUTIES FOR A BRIEF PERIOD BUT DID NOT PROVIDE ANY SPECIFICS.

B. THE CAMP SITE LOCATION FOR INTER-CAMP "A" PROVIDED BY SOURCE WAS NOT OBTAINED FROM OTHER FORMER CADRE DURING RECENT INTERVIEWS. ONE CADRE, SR COL PHAM VAN BAN, AKA BA (3) BANH, SAID HE RECALLED THE SHOOT DOWN OF A SMALL U.S. HELICOPTER NEAR THE CAMP SOMETIME DURING THE EARLY 1970'S. ACCORDING TO SR COL BAN, AFTER THE AIRCRAFT WAS DOWNED BY ELEMENTS OF THE EPO, THE REMAINS OF ONE US PILOT WERE BURIED NEAR THE CRASH SITE. HE ALSO MENTIONED HAVING OBSERVED BODIES IN THE WRECKAGE, WHICH HE BELIEVED WERE THOSE OF VIETNAMESE CREW MEMBERS. BASED ON THE LOCATION PROVIDED BY THE SOURCE OF THIS REPORT, SR COL BAN MAY HAVE BEEN REFERRING TO CASE 1631, ELLIOTT.

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