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ADMINISTRATIVE MESSAGE

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AMPN/SUBJ/INTERVIEW OF REQUESTED SOURCE, VU QUAN//

REF/A/FAX/DET 2/16MAY93//

AMPN/SUBJ: LIST OF PERSONS FOR INTERVIEW-SENATOR KERRY, ENTRY NUMBER 12 OF 83//

RMKS/1. BACKGROUND. ON 18 MAY 1993, A JOINT U.S./VIETNAM INTERVIEW TEAM INTERVIEWED MR. VU QUAN, APPROXIMATELY 70 YOA, A RESIDENT OF TOAN THANG VILLAGE, TU LOC DISTRICT, HAI HUNG PROVINCE AND FORMER BO GIUONG PRISONER OF WAR (PW) CAMP COMMANDER. THE TEAM MET AT THE TU LOC PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING TO INTERVIEW MR. QUAN (AKA PHAM VAN DONG (PHAMJ VAWN DOONG)), CONSIDERED A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF INFORMATION CONCERNING U.S. PERSONNEL MISSING IN ACTION IN VIETNAM. THE U.S. CONTINGENT CONSISTED OF MR. KEITH GARY FLANAGAN, 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 VAN THANG LOI, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. QUAN HAD NOT BEEN PREVIOUSLY INTERVIEWED BY JOINT INVESTIGATION OR SEARCH TEAMS.

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2. SUMMARY. THE SOURCE, VU QUAN, DESCRIBED HIS TIME AS COMMANDER OF THE BO GIUONG PW CAMP, A PRISONER DISPERSAL FACILITY IN CAO BANG PROVINCE, VIETNAM, IN 1972 OR 1973. HE PROVIDED THE GENERAL NUMBERS OF PRISONERS HELD AT THE CAMP, CAMP FUNCTIONS AND FACILITIES, AND PROCEDURES FOR TURNING PRISONERS OVER TO HIGHER HEADQUARTERS IN HANOI. QUAN IDENTIFIED HIS SUPERIORS IN THE GENERAL POLITICAL DIRECTORATE (GPD) (THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE ALREADY KNOWN TO POW/MIA INVESTIGATORS/RESEARCHERS). HE DID NOT KNOW THE DISPOSITION OF RECORDS THAT MAY HAVE BEEN GENERATED BASED ON PRISONERS THAT WERE HELD IN HIS CAMP. SINCE 1973, THE SOURCE HAD NEVER SEEN AMERICANS LIVING FREELY OR AGAINST THEIR WILL IN VIETNAM. THOUGH HE PROVIDED BELIEVABLE INFORMATION POSSIBLY USEFUL TO POW/MIA RESEARCHERS, THE SOURCE REVEALED NOTHING THAT WILL LEAD TO THE IMMEDIATE RESOLUTION OF ANY EXISTING POW/MIA CASE.

3. DETAILS.

A. AFTER INTRODUCTIONS AND AN EXCHANGE OF AMENITIES WITH THE DISTRICT PARTY CHIEF, THE JOINT TEAM BEGAN THE INTERVIEW. MR. FLANAGAN AND LTC KY EXPLAINED THE TEAM'S MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

TO MR. VU QUAN (VUX QUAAN). QUAN BEGAN BY EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR THE MOTHERS AND WIVES OF THE MISSING U.S. SERVICEMEN AND PLEDGED TO PROVIDE ANY ASSISTANCE HE COULD. HE ADVISED THE TEAM, HOWEVER, THAT SINCE HE WAS NEARLY 70 YOA, HE HAD PROBABLY FORGOTTEN MUCH SINCE THE WAR. QUAN SUGGESTED THAT THE JOINT TEAM POSE ALL THEIR QUESTIONS FIRST, AFTER WHICH HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO ANSWER. AT THAT POINT, MR. FLANAGAN ASKED THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

(1) IN WHAT YEAR WAS THE BO GIUONG (BOS GIWONGF) CAMP ESTABLISHED?

(2) HOW MANY AMERICANS DID THE CAMP DETAIN?

(3) DURING THE EXISTENCE OF THE CAMP, HOW MANY AMERICANS DIED IN THE CAMP? WHERE AND HOW WERE THEY BURIED?

(4) WHO HAS KNOWLEDGE OF RECORDS CONCERNING THE AMERICAN PRISONERS IN THE CAMP?

(5) SINCE 1973, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN AN AMERICAN PRISONER LIVING IN VIETNAM?

(6) WAS THERE A LARGE TURNOVER OF U.S. PRISONERS IN THE CAMP?

(7) DO YOU KNOW OF ANY U.S. PRISONERS WHO DIED WHILE TRAVELING TO HANOI FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT?

(8) DO YOU REMEMBER NAMES OF ANY AMERICAN PRISONERS?

(9) DID ANY OF THE PRISONERS ACT AS SPOKESMAN FOR THE GROUP?

(10) DID THE CAMP HAVE A DOCTOR?

(11) DID THE CAMP HAVE AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE?

(12) BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 1972 AND JANUARY 1973, DID A FOREIGN DELEGATION VISIT THE CAMP?

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(13) DID GENERAL POLITICAL DIRECTORATE PERSONNEL ROUTINELY VISIT THE CAMP?
(NOTE: SOME OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS WERE ACTUALLY POSED AFTER MR. QUAN BEGAN HIS REPLIES. QUAN'S ANSWERS ARE COMPILED BELOW IN UNINTERRUPTED NARRATIVE FORMAT FOR CLARITY.)

B. ACCORDING TO MR. QUAN, THE BO GIUONG (XK45168581) CAMP WAS ESTABLISHED IN LATE AUGUST/EARLY SEPTEMBER 1972, AT WHICH TIME HE RECEIVED ORDERS TO COMMAND THE CAMP, WHICH WAS IN CAO BANG PROVINCE. HE SERVED IN HIS CAPACITY AS COMMANDER UNTIL JANUARY 1973. THE CAMP WAS A DISPERSAL TYPE FACILITY; IN OTHER WORDS, A FACILITY CREATED TO HOLD U.S. PRISONERS AT LOCATIONS AWAY FROM HANOI AREA PRISONS, SINCE IN 1972 U.S. BOMBING IN HANOI WAS ESPECIALLY HEAVY. QUAN EXPOUNDED ON THE DIFFICULTIES OF LIFE IN THE CAMP, INCLUDING LACK OF MEDICAL FACILITIES, FOOD, AND PROPER SHELTER, COMPLICATED BY THE CAMP'S RELATIVELY ISOLATED POSITION. DUE TO THE CAMP'S DISPERSAL STATUS, THE FACILITY HELD NO RECORDS OR DOCUMENTS; THESE WERE ALL HELD IN HANOI.

C. IN RESPONSE TO WHETHER THE CAMP HAD AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, QUAN REITERATED THAT ALL RECORDS WERE KEPT IN HANOI. AS CAMP COMMANDER, QUAN OUTLINED HIS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES AS FOLLOWS: (1) CAMP SAFETY AND ORDER, (2) TEACHING THE PRISONERS CAMP RULES AND REGULATIONS, AND (3) KEEPING THE PRISONERS ALIVE AND HEALTHY. THOUGH REGULATION BREACHES OCCURRED, PRISONERS WERE NEVER PUNISHED DUE TO THE CAMP'S HUMANITARIAN POLICY.

D. THE GREATEST NUMBER OF U.S. PRISONERS EVER HELD IN THE CAMP AT ONE TIME, ACCORDING TO QUAN, WAS 103. THE NUMBER OF DETAINEES NEVER FELL BELOW 90 PRISONERS. THE PRISONER COUNT FLUCTUATED SLIGHTLY DURING THE CAMP'S EXISTENCE DUE TO PRISONERS BEING SENT TO HANOI FOR MORE ADEQUATE MEDICAL CARE. THOUGH THE CAMP STAFF INCLUDED A NUMBER OF MEDICAL PERSONNEL, INCLUDING MEDICAL OFFICERS AND NURSES, THE CAMP HAD INADEQUATE FACILITIES

TO PROPERLY TREAT THOSE REQUIRING MORE THAN BASIC MEDICAL CARE. ACCORDING TO MR. QUAN, THOUGH THERE WERE, AT TIMES, SERIOUSLY ILL OR WOUNDED PRISONERS AT THE CAMP , NONE DIED AT THE CAMP. HE KNEW OF NO U.S. PRISONERS WHO DIED WHILE TRAVELING TO HANOI FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT.
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E. QUAN REMEMBERED NO NAMES OF PRISONERS DETAINED AT THE CAMP, CITING THE FACT THAT HE KNEW NO FOREIGN LANGUAGES, NOR DID HE KNOW ANY OF THE PRISONERS' RANKS. HE DID NOT RECALL A CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL EVER ACTING AS A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PRISONERS.

F. MEMBERS OF THE CAMP'S HIGHER HEADQUARTERS, LTC DOAN HANH (DOANF HANHJ) AND DEPUTY SECTION DIRECTOR SRCOL NGUYEN VAN THUONG

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(NGUYEENX VAWN THWONGF), SUBORDINATE TO THE GPD, ROUTINELY VISITED THE CAMP. WHEN ORDERED TO RELINQUISH RESPONSIBILITY OF PRISONERS TO HANOI, QUAN IN EVERY CASE TURNED THE PRISONERS OVER

TO HANH, UNDER THUONG'S COGNIZANCE. QUAN INTIMATED THAT THESE TWO INDIVIDUALS WOULD BE THE MOST LIKELY TO KNOW THE DISPOSITION OF THE CAMP'S RECORDS.

G. ACCORDING TO QUAN, NO FOREIGN DELEGATION EVER VISITED THE CAMP. QUAN STATED THAT SINCE 1973 HE HAD NEVER SEEN ANY AMERICANS, PRISONERS OR OTHERWISE, LIVING IN VIETNAM. THE FIRST TIME HE EVER DEALT WITH AMERICANS WAS IN THE CAMP; THE SECOND TIME WAS TODAY (THE DAY OF THE INTERVIEW).

H. AT THIS POINT, AFTER DECIDING THAT NO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS WERE REQUIRED, THE JOINT TEAM CONCLUDED THE INTERVIEW.

4. CORRELATIONS TO EXISTING POW/MIA CASES. NONE.

5. POTENTIAL LEADS. MR. VU QUAN IDENTIFIED THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AS POTENTIAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON POW/MIA MATTERS:

A. DOAN HANH, GENERAL POLITICAL DIRECTORATE REPRESENTATIVE (GPD) WHO ACCEPTED RESPONSIBILITY OF PRISONERS FROM QUAN. (PREVIOUSLY INTERVIEWED BY DET 2, JTF-FA RESEARCHER/HISTORIAN, 23 APRIL 93, 11 MAY 93)

B. NGUYEN VAN THUONG, GPD REPRESENTATIVE WHO WORKED WITH HANH IN ACCEPTING PRISONER TRANSFERS FROM QUAN. (PREVIOUSLY INTERVIEWED BY DET 2, JTF-FA RESEARCHER/HISTORIAN, 12 MAY 93)

C. LTC NGO DAT TAI (NGOO DATJ TAIF). (PREVIOUSLY INTERVIEWED BY A JOINT INVESTIGATION TEAM IN HANOI, 12 MAY 93)

D. PHAN HUAN (PHAN HUAANS). (SEE COMMENT IN PARA. 7A., BELOW)

6. MATERIAL EVIDENCE: NONE. THIS SOURCE BROUGHT NO RECORDS, NOTEBOOKS, DIARIES, OR ANY MATERIAL EVIDENCE CONTEMPORARY TO THE WARTIME ERA WHICH COULD BE ASSOCIATED WITH ANY UNACCOUNTED FOR U.S. PERSONNEL.

7. COMMENTS.

A. CONCERNING THE NAME PROVIDED IN PARA. 5.A., ABOVE, THE SOURCE WAS POSSIBLY REFERRING TO PHAM VAN HUAN (PHAMJ VAWN HUAANS), DOAN HANH'S DEPUTY IN OFFICE 22, GROUP 875. PHAM VAN HUAN WAS PREVIOUSLY INTERVIEWED BY DET 2, JTF-FA RESEARCHER/HISTORIAN IN JUNE 92.

B. 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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