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SECTION 01 OF 02
DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE//
MSGID/GENADMIN/CDR JTF-FA/J2//
SUBJ/INTERVIEW OF REQUESTED SOURCE, MR. PHAN TU//
REF/A/FAX/DET 2/16MAY93//

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AMPN/LIST OF PERSONS FOR INTERVIEW-SENATOR KERRY, ENTRY NUMBER 16
OF 83//
RMKS/1. BACKGROUND. ON 27 MAY 1993, A JOINT U.S./VIETNAM
SPECIAL INTERVIEW TEAM (SPINT) INTERVIEWED MR. PHAN TU, ALSO KNOWN
AS (AKA) PHAN TU KHUONG, AKA LE CAM, A 64 YEAR OLD WRITER AND
FORMER MEMBER OF THE ENEMY PROSELYTING FUNCTION IN NORTHERN
VIETNAM DURING THE ANTI-FRENCH PERIOD. MR. TU WAS LATER ATTACHED
TO A NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT UNIT TASKED WITH DETAINING AN
AMERICAN CIVILIAN IN CENTRAL VIETNAM IN 1963. MR. TU IS THE
AUTHOR OF A BOOK ENTITLED CAMP ST-18. THE TEAM MET ON THE SECOND
FLOOR ROOM OF THE BACH DANG HOTEL, DA NANG CITY, TO INTERVIEW MR.
TU, LISTED IN REFERENCE, BELIEVED TO BE A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF
INFORMATION CONCERNING U.S. PERSONNEL MISSING IN ACTION IN
VIETNAM. THE U.S. CONTINGENT CONSISTED OF MR. ~~WESTIN GARY~~
FLANAGAN, DET 2, JOINT TASK FORCE-FULL ACCOUNTING (JTF-FA)
CASUALTY RESOLUTION SPECIALIST; AND PETTY OFFICER JOHN L. HARVEY,
JTF-FA ANALYST/LINGUIST. THE VIETNAMESE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
CONTINGENT CONSISTED OF LTC LE KY, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE; AND MR.
NGUYEN THANG LOI, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. LTC KY ESCORTED MR. PHAN
TU TO THE BACH DANG HOTEL. MR. PHAN TU SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN

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INTERVIEWED BY JOINT TEAMS PREVIOUSLY.
2. SUMMARY. THE SOURCE PROVIDED INFORMATION CONCERNING ONE
AMERICAN CIVILIAN DETAINED IN THE B-3 FRONT AREA OF VIETNAM'S
CENTRAL HIGHLANDS FOR A FEW MONTHS IN 1963. THIS INFORMATION
CORRELATES TO 0016-1-01, A RESOLVED CASE. HE CLAIMED NO
KNOWLEDGE OF OTHER U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR (PW'S) OR AMERICANS
LIVING FREELY OR AS CAPTIVES IN VIETNAM SINCE 1973.
3. DETAILS.
A. AFTER FORMAL INTRODUCTIONS AND WHEN THE JOINT TEAM HAD
EXPLAINED ITS MISSION AND OBJECTIVES, MR. TU SAID HE FOUND IT
AMUSING THAT THE TEAM HAD COME TO INTERVIEW HIM CONCERNING
AMERICANS MISSING IN ACTION BECAUSE OF HIS BOOK CAMP ST-18. HE
SAID THAT HE HAD CLEARLY STATED IN THE PREFACE TO THE BOOK THAT HE
HAD CONSTRUCTED THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THE BOOK BASED PRIMARILY
ON HIS EXPERIENCES WITH THE FRENCH, AND ON RESEARCH CONSISTING OF
NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE ARTICLES. MR. TU SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE
WAS WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERVIEW AND WOULD GIVE HIS
BEST EFFORT TO ANSWER OUR QUESTIONS. HE ADDED THAT DURING THE
WAR HE HAD CONTACT WITH ONLY ONE PRISONER, AN AMERICAN CIVILIAN
CONTRACTOR WHO WAS CAPTURED AND RELEASED IN 1963.

Mr Bell

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B. MR. FLANAGAN ASKED THE QUESTION: "SINCE THE RELEASE OF U.S. PRISONERS IN 1973, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ANY LIVE AMERICANS?" MR. TU RESPONDED THAT HE HAD ABSOLUTELY NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY PRISONERS WHO REMAINED IN CAPTIVITY AFTER 1973. HE SAID THAT IN HIS PROFESSION AS A JOURNALIST, HE HAD TRAVELLED TO ALL THE MINORITY REGIONS AND MANY OTHER LOCALITIES, AND IN HIS MANY TRAVELS HE HAD HEARD SOME STORIES ABOUT U.S. CAPTIVES WHICH WERE, IN HIS OPINION, VERY CLEARLY FICTION. MR. TU SAID HE ATTRIBUTED MANY OF THE STORIES TO EUROPEANS OR OTHER NATIONALITIES, BUT NOT TO AMERICANS. HE BELIEVED ALL OF THE FICTITIOUS STORIES COULD BE BASED ON SOME EASILY EXPLAINED EVENT SUCH AS A TRAVELER STOPPING AND ASKING FOR DIRECTIONS. LATER THE STORIES WOULD BE EMBELLISHED INTO TALES OF AMERICANS.

C. MR. FLANAGAN ASKED THE QUESTION: "SINCE THE RELEASE OF U.S. PRISONERS IN 1973, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ANY 'STAY-BEHINDS'?" MR. TU RESPONDED THAT THERE WERE ABSOLUTELY NO STAY-BEHINDS TO HIS KNOWLEDGE. HE SAID THAT HE HAD MANY GOOD FRIENDS WITH CONTACTS THROUGHOUT ALL THE REGIONS OF VIETNAM. THEREFORE, HE WAS SURE HE WOULD HAVE HEARD OF ANY AMERICAN STAY-BEHINDS OR ANY AMERICANS LIVING FREELY IN VIETNAM SINCE 1973.

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D. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE RESOURCES HE USED TO WRITE HIS BOOK CAMP ST-1B, MR. TU SAID THAT HE WROTE THE BOOK BASED ON HIS EXPERIENCES AND INFORMATION HE OBTAINED FROM A FRENCH-ERA CAMP IN LAOS NEAR THE VIETNAM BORDER. MR. TU SAID THAT, AS HE CLEARLY STATED IN THE PREFACE TO THE BOOK CAMP ST-1B, HE BASED THE STORY ON HIS KNOWLEDGE OF ONE SENEGALESE SOLDIER AND ONE ARAB SOLDIER. MR. TU WENT ON TO SAY THAT WHILE THE BOOK IS BASED UPON REAL LIFE, IT IS NOT AN HISTORICAL ACCOUNT. HE SAID THAT IN ORDER TO ~~LEND MORE TRUTH TO THE BOOK HE WOULD HAVE NEEDED TO MEET MORE AMERICANS OR PERSONS OF OTHER NATIONALITIES TO GET THEIR~~ OBSERVATIONS ON VIETNAM.

E. MR. TU SAID THAT IN 1963 HE MET A GROUP OF 30 OR 40 AMERICANS, INCLUDING ONE FORMER MAJOR, WHO WORKED FOR AN AMERICAN CORPORATION CONTRACTED BY THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AND WERE ENGAGED IN SURVEYING VAST REGIONS OF THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS FOR COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION. THE GROUP CONSISTED MOSTLY OF GEOLOGISTS WHO CEASED THEIR SURVEY OPERATIONS WHEN THE WAR BEGAN ESCALATING. BEFORE THE GROUP STOPPED THEIR WORK, ON 4 JULY 1963, A NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (NLF) ELEMENT CAPTURED ONE OF THE CONTRACTORS, AN APPROXIMATELY 28 YEAR OLD CAUCASIAN MAN NAMED

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ARTHUR ALLEN KRAUSE, AS HE TRAVELED IN A U.S. MADE, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ARMED FORCES (RVNAF) JEEP FROM DANANG TO BONG MIEU (BOONGF MIEEU) (BT2205) IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS. KRAUSE HAD A GUN (NFI) AND NINE AMMUNITION ROUNDS. MR. TU SAID HE HEARD THE MAN WAS CAPTURED BECAUSE THE NLF BELIEVED HIM TO BE A U.S. MILITARY ADVISOR WITH THE RANK OF CAPTAIN OR MAJOR. ACCORDING TO TU, THIS WAS "REGION FIVE'S" FIRST PRISONER OF WAR.

F. THE NLF CONSCRIPTED MR. TU, WHO WAS DOING NEWSPAPER WORK IN THE AREA AT THE TIME, TO SERVE AS A TRANSLATOR FOR THE CAPTURED AMERICAN. THE FRONT ALSO CHOSE HIM BECAUSE HE HAD WORKED WITH FRENCH POW'S IN THE 1950'S. DURING THE TIME THE AMERICAN WAS DETAINED, ACCORDING TO MR. TU, THE CAPTORS EXPERIENCED MANY PROBLEMS. THE FRONT HAD TO KEEP MOVING THE AMERICAN FROM PLACE O PLACE IN ORDER TO AVOID DISCOVERY, BOMBING ATTACKS, AND RVNAF SWEEPS. DURING THE DETENTION PERIOD THE CAPTIVE HAD AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE HOW WELL LOCAL PEOPLE INTERACTED WITH THE NLF FORCES. TU SAID THAT THE FRONT FELT WHEN THE CAPTIVE WAS RELEASED HE WOULD PASS ON WHAT HE HAD LEARNED. ACCORDING TO TU, WHEN THE CAPTIVE WAS RELEASED THERE WAS A

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 CORRESPONDENT FROM PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES ON HAND TO INTERVIEW
 THE MAN.

G. MR. TU SAID THAT THE AMERICAN CAPTIVE WAS RELEASED AT
 TIEN NGOC POST, TIEN PHUOC DISTRICT, QUANG BINH PROVINCE, ON 23
 NOVEMBER 1963 FOR TWO REASONS. FIRST, THE FRONT HAD DETERMINED
 THAT THE AMERICAN WAS A CIVILIAN CONTRACT EMPLOYEE OF A UNITED
 STATES COMPANY AND NOT A MILITARY ADVISOR. THE SECOND REASON WAS
 SO THAT THE AMERICAN COULD RETURN TO UNITED STATES CONTROL AND
 INFORM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF B-52 BOMBING
 RAIDS, THE RESULTS OF DISPERSING AGENT ORANGE, AND THE REPUBLIC
 OF VIETNAM REGIME'S DISINFORMATION ACTIVITIES.

H. CONCERNING WARTIME REPORTING ON U.S. PRISONERS AND
 ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTATION OR FILES, MR. TU SAID THAT HE HAD
 PERSONAL CONTACT WITH ONLY THE ONE AMERICAN PRISONER DURING THE
 WAR AND THE INCIDENT OCCURRED 30 YEARS AGO, IN 1963. AS PROOF OF
 HIS ASSOCIATION WITH THE AMERICAN, MR. TU SHOWED THE JOINT TEAMS
 THREE ITEMS.

(1) THE FIRST ITEM WAS A NEATLY TRIMMED CENTER-THIRD
 PORTION OF A UNITED STATES ONE-DOLLAR BILL. MR. TU SAID THAT HE
 HAD RECEIVED THE PARTIAL BILL AS A GESTURE OF FRIENDSHIP FROM THE

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 AMERICAN.

(2) THE SECOND ITEM WAS A VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE
 TRANSLATION OF A LETTER THE AMERICAN DETAINEE WROTE TO HIS WIFE.
 TU HAD REQUESTED THE LETTER BE TRANSLATED INTO VIETNAMESE SO THAT
 HE COULD READ IT AT VIETNAMESE GATHERINGS.

(3) THE THIRD ITEM WAS AN ADDRESS SLIP WITH THE
 AMERICAN'S UNITED STATES ADDRESS. MR. TU SAID THAT THE AMERICAN
 DETAINEE HAD GIVEN MR. TU HIS ADDRESS PRIOR TO HIS RELEASE SO THE
 TWO COULD CORRESPOND. THE ADDRESS SLIP CONTAINED A POSTAL ZONE
 FOR HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA, AND PREDATES THE USE OF U.S. POSTAL
 ZIP CODES.

I. AFTER THE AMERICAN'S RELEASE MR. TU OCCASIONALLY HEARD
 STORIES OF AMERICANS IN CAPTIVITY, BUT HE AVOIDED GOING ANYWHERE
 NEAR LOCATIONS WHERE AN AMERICAN MIGHT BE HELD BECAUSE HE FEARED
 BEING CONSCRIPTED AS A TRANSLATOR, AS HAD HAPPENED IN 1963. TU
 SAID THAT HE SUFFERED FROM DIABETES AND WAS NOT FIT FOR JUNGLE
 DUTY, SO HE HAD ANOTHER REASON FOR AVOIDING THE AREAS WHERE
 AMERICANS MIGHT BE DETAINED.

J. MR. TU SAID THAT IN 1972, WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THE
 OPPOSING SIDES WERE NEARING A TIME OF PRISONER EXCHANGES, HE

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ASSUMED THE DUTY TO PORTRAY THE HARDSHIPS AND DIFFICULTIES OF KEEPING U.S. POW'S ALIVE. HE SAID HIS SEVENTH BOOK, CAMP ST-18, WAS A RESULT OF THOSE EFFORTS. HE USED NEWSPAPERS, BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, AND FRENCH-ERA EXPERIENCES TO WRITE THE BOOK. MR. TU SAID THAT HE RECEIVED NO MATERIAL FROM THE PEOPLE'S ARMY OF VIETNAM BECAUSE HE HAD SEVERED ALL TIES WITH THE ENEMY PROSELYTING ORGANIZATION LONG BEFORE THE ANTI-U.S. PERIOD. MR. TU SAID THAT HE HAD ABSOLUTELY NO CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY PROSELYTING OFFICES PRIOR TO WRITING THE BOOK CAMP ST-18, BUT HAD SENT A COPY OF THE MANUSCRIPT TO THE PROSELYTING DIRECTORATE IN HANOI FOR REVIEW. THE DIRECTORATE ASSISTED HIM BY CORRECTING TRANSLATION OF RANKS SUCH AS "WARRANT OFFICER" BECAUSE, ACCORDING TO THE DIRECTORATE, WARRANT OFFICERS ONLY WORKED IN REAR AREAS AND DID NOT PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY IN BATTLES AS TU HAD ORIGINALLY DRAFTED IN HIS MANUSCRIPT.

K. WITH NO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AT HAND FOR MR. TU, THE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT TEAM AGREED TO CONCLUDE THE INTERVIEW. BOTH THE U.S. AND VIETNAMESE MEMBERS CONFERRED ON POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS BEFORE CONCLUDING. MR. TU VOLUNTEERED TO APPEAR FOR ANOTHER INTERVIEW IF THE U.S. SIDE REQUESTED IT.

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4. CORRELATIONS TO EXISTING POW/MIA CASES: THE JOINT TEAM COMPARED THE IDENTIFICATION DATA WITH INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT THE INTERVIEW AND DETERMINED THAT THE ADDRESS SLIP PERTAINED TO THE INDIVIDUAL WHO WAS CAPTURED IN THE REFNO 0016-1-01 INCIDENT. THIS IS A RESOLVED CASE.

5. POTENTIAL LEADS. THE SOURCE COULD ONLY RECALL ONE INDIVIDUAL WHO MIGHT BE OF ASSISTANCE TO THE JOINT TEAM. HE SAID THAT A MAN THAI (THAIS), WHO WAS A MAJOR WHILE MR. TU WAS IN THE B-3 FRONT AREA (CENTRAL HIGHLANDS), WAS THE ENEMY PROSELYTING CHIEF AT THE TIME OF THE AMERICAN'S DETENTION IN 1963. MR. TU RECALLED ONLY THE PROSELYTING CHIEF'S GIVEN NAME. HE COULD NOT RECALL ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL'S WHO MIGHT BE OF ASSISTANCE TO THE JOINT TEAM.

6. MATERIAL EVIDENCE:

A. THIS SOURCE BROUGHT NO RECORDS, NOTEBOOKS, OR DIARIES WHICH COULD BE ASSOCIATED WITH UNACCOUNTED FOR U.S. PERSONNEL.

7. MR. TU DID BRING THREE ITEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE AMERICAN DETAINEE IN HIS STORY: A TORN U.S. ONE-DOLLAR BILL, A VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE TRANSLATION OF A LETTER WRITTEN BY THE AMERICAN TO HIS WIFE, AND AN ADDRESS SLIP WITH THE U.S. ADDRESS OF THE U.S. PRISONER, WHO WAS SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED.

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8. COMMENTS. THE SOURCE WAS EAGER TO MEET AMERICANS AND SPOKE READILY (AND AT LENGTH) ON A WIDE VARIETY OF SUBJECTS. AFTER THE INITIAL INTRODUCTIONS, THE SOURCE TOLD HIS STORY IN GREAT DETAIL, LEAVING VERY FEW QUESTIONS FOR THE JOINT TEAM TO ASK. BEFORE THE CONCLUSION OF THE INTERVIEW, THE SOURCE SAID THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO MEET WITH U.S. PERSONNEL OR JOINT TEAMS AT ANY TIME.//

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