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SECTION 01 OF 02
MSGID/SYS.RRM/CDR JTF-FA/J2//
AMPN/SUBJ: INTERVIEW OF REQUESTED SOURCE, MR. LE DO NGOC//
REF/A/FAX/DET 2/16MAY93//

PAGE 02 RUHQSGG5395 UNCLAS
AMPN/SUBJ: LIST OF PERSONS FOR INTERVIEW-SENATOR KERRY, ENTRY
NUMBER 4, OF 83//
RMKS/1. BACKGROUND. ON 12 MAY 1993, A JOINT US/VIETNAM
INTERVIEW TEAM INTERVIEWED MR. LE DO NGOC (LEE DOOR NCOC),
CURRENTLY 46 YEARS OF AGE AND RESIDENT OF HANOI. ACCORDING TO
HIS BUSINESS CARD, MR. NGOC IS THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE PRIVATE
AID FROM CHARITIES COMMITTEE (PACCOM), A COMMITTEE HEADQUARTERED
IN THE VIETNAMESE CAPITAL WITH THE MISSION OF COORDINATING AID
FROM NON-GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. THE TEAM MET AT THE ANTE-BUILDING
MEETING ROOM OF THE GOVERNMENT GUEST HOUSE, 2 LE THACH STREET,
HOAN KIEH DISTRICT, HANOI, TO INTERVIEW SELECTED PERSONNEL
LISTED IN REFERENCE, WHO ARE BELIEVED TO BE POTENTIAL SOURCES OF
INFORMATION CONCERNING U.S. PERSONNEL MISSING IN ACTION IN
VIETNAM. THE U.S. CONTINGENT CONSISTED OF MR. KEITH GARY
FLANAGAN, DET 2 CASUALTY RESOLUTION SPECIALIST. THE VIETNAMESE
GOVERNMENT CONTINGENT CONSISTED OF LTC LE KY, MINISTRY OF
DEFENSE, AND MR. NGUYEN THANG LOI, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. ON 12
MAY 1993, LTC KY ESCORTED MR. LE DO NGOC TO THE GOVERNMENT GUEST
HOUSE. MR. NGOC SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN INTERVIEWED BY JOINT TEAMS
PREVIOUSLY.

PAGE 03 RUHQSGG5395 UNCLAS
2. SUMMARY. THE SOURCE PROVIDED EXTREMELY LIMITED INFORMATION
CONCERNING THE SUBJECT OF U.S. SERVICEMEN WHO BECAME UNACCOUNTED
FOR IN VIETNAM. THE SOURCE SAID THAT HE HAD PRACTICALLY NO
KNOWLEDGE OF SPECIFIC AMERICAN SERVICEMEN OR THEIR FATES. THE
SOURCE PROVIDED PLAUSIBLE DETAILS OF HIS MILITARY DUTIES TO
SUPPORT THE CONCLUSION THAT HE HAD NO SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION TO
CONTRIBUTE.
3. DETAILS.
A. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE INTRODUCTION OF THE JOINT TEAM AND
ITS MISSION, MR. NGOC TOLD MR. FLANAGAN, SPEAKING IN FLUENT,
CLEAR ENGLISH, THAT HE HAD SPENT THE BETTER PART OF 20 YEARS
ATTEMPTING TO FORGET EVERY DETAIL OF THE WAR. MR. NGOC SAID THAT
HE BELIEVED HE HAD ACHIEVED SOME SUCCESS IN THIS ENDEAVOR. MR.
NGOC SAID HE DID NOT RELISH THE THOUGHT OF TRYING TO DREDGE UP
PAINFUL MEMORIES OF THE WAR. MR. NGOC SAID THAT HE WAS WILLING
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERVIEW AND WOULD GIVE HIS BEST EFFORT TO
ANSWER OUR QUESTIONS. MR. NGOC ADDED THAT HE NEVER HAD ANY
CONTACT WITH ANY U.S. POWS. AT THIS POINT, EVERYONE PRESENT
AGREED THAT THE INTERVIEW WOULD BE CONDUCTED IN THE VIETNAMESE
LANGUAGE.

Tom Bell

PAGE 04 RUHQSGG5395 UNCLAS

B. MR. NGOC SAID THAT NEAR THE END OF 1970 HE WAS SENT SOUTH TO WORK IN THE PROPAGANDA OFFICE OF THE ENEMY PROSELYTING SECTION, LOCATED GENERALLY IN THE REGION OF TAY NINH. MR. NGOC SAID THAT BY THE TIME HE ARRIVED AT HIS POST, THE U.S. PRESENCE WAS ALREADY DIMINISHING IN THE REGION. MR. NGOC SAID THAT HIS JOB WAS TO PRODUCE PROPAGANDA PAMPHLETS AND HE NEVER HAD ANY DIRECT CONTACT WITH U.S. POWS. MR. NGOC SAID THAT HIS PROPAGANDA WAS AIMED PRIMARILY AGAINST THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ARMED FORCES (RVNAF) AND THAT HIS SPECIFIC DUTIES WERE THOSE OF A TRANSLATOR RATHER THAN AN INTERPRETER FOR THE ENTIRE PERIOD FROM 1970 UNTIL 1975. FOR THIS REASON, MR. NGOC SAID THAT HE HAD NO DIRECT KNOWLEDGE OF U.S. POWS.

C. MR. NGOC SAID THAT HE SPENT ONE CAMPAIGN IN CAMBODIA FROM 1973 UNTIL 1974. AT THAT TIME, HE SAID, HIS OFFICE'S OPERATIONS CENTERED AROUND THE REGION OF BA DEN MOUNTAIN. HE SAID THAT HIS ORGANIZATION PUSHED ON FROM THERE TO PHUOC LONG AND THEN HO CHI MINH CITY FOR THE LIBERATION IN 1975. MR. NGOC SAID THAT THROUGHOUT THE CAMPAIGNS HE WAS INVOLVED IN, HE WORKED ON THE ANTI-RVNAF PROPAGANDA PROGRAM, HAVING NO DIRECT CONTACT WITH U.S. POWS. MR. NGOC SAID THAT HE HAD DESIRED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT U.S.

PAGE 05 RUHQSGG5395 UNCLAS

POWS BUT THAT HE HAD NEITHER THE MEANS NOR THE OFFICIAL PURPOSE TO DO SO.

D. MR. NGOC SAID THAT THE ENEMY PROSELYTING SECTION WAS SPLIT INTO THREE BRANCHES: POLICY, PROPAGANDA, AND CAMP ADMINISTRATION. MR. NGOC SAID THAT HE WAS ASSIGNED TO THE PROPAGANDA BRANCH AND THEIR OFFICE WAS LOCATED IN THE BA DEN MOUNTAIN REGION. MR. NGOC SAID THAT HE WAS AWARE OF DETENTION CAMPS, WHICH WERE VERY MOBILE, LOCATED IN DENSE JUNGLE, CHANGING LOCATIONS EVERY TWO OR THREE MONTHS FOR SECURITY REASONS. MR. NGOC SAID THAT HE WOULD BE UNABLE TO ASSIST ANYONE IN LOCATING ANY OF THE CAMPS' FORMER LOCATIONS. OTHER THAN THE GENERAL OBSERVATION THAT HIS SECTION'S OPERATIONS WERE LOCATED IN THE BA DEN MOUNTAIN REGION, MR. NGOC SAID THAT HE COULD PROVIDE NO FURTHER DETAILS ON THE PHYSICAL LOCATION OF THE CAMPS.

E. MR. FLANAGAN ASKED THE QUESTION: "SINCE THE RELEASE OF U.S. PRISONERS IN 1973, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ANY LIVE AMERICANS?" MR. NGOC RESPONDED THAT HE NEVER SAW OR HEARD OF ANY U.S. POWS ALIVE IN VIETNAM AFTER 1973.

F. MR. FLANAGAN ASKED THE QUESTION: "SINCE THE RELEASE OF U.S. PRISONERS IN 1973, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ANY 'STAY-BEHINDS'?"

PAGE 06 RUHQSGG5395 UNCLAS

MR. NGOC RESPONDED THAT HE NEVER SAW OR HEARD OF ANY U.S. STAY-BEHINDS AFTER 1973.

G. CONCERNING WARTIME REPORTING ON U.S. PRISONERS, MR. NGOC SAID THAT HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE.

H. ON 12 MAY 93, WITH NO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AT HAND FOR MR. NGOC, THE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT TEAM AGREED TO DISCONTINUE THIS INTERVIEW. BOTH THE US AND SRV MEMBERS CONFERRED ON ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS WHICH SHOULD BE CONSIDERED BEFORE CONCLUDING THIS INTERVIEW.

4. POTENTIAL LEADS OBTAINED DURING THE INTERVIEW. WHEN ASKED ABOUT SPECIFIC PERSONS MR. NGOC SAID THAT HE HAD SOME LIMITED PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE AND SOME HEARSAY KNOWLEDGE OF PERSONNEL WHO WORKED IN THE DETENTION CAMPS. MR. NGOC IDENTIFIED THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL:

A. MR. TAM HUY, H WORKED IN A POW-HOLDING UNIT, BUT MR. NGOC SAID HUY WAS KILLED IN 1973. MR. NGOC SAID HE BELIEVED THAT HUY WOULD HAVE BEEN THE BEST PERSON TO SEEK FOR MIA INFORMATION.

B. MR. NGUYEN VAN BAN (NGUYEENX VAWN BAN) ALSO KNOWN AS BA BAN, MR. NGOC'S FIRST SUPERIOR.

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C. MR. NGO DAT TAI (NGOO DATJ TAIF), MR. NGOC'S SECOND

PAGE 02 RUHQSGG5396 UNCLAS
 SUPERIOR.

D. MR. LUU QUANG TUYEN (LWU QUANGR TUYEENS), MR. NGOC'S LAST SUPERIOR IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE RELEASE OF THE PRISONERS IN 1973.

E. MR. NGOC SAID THAT OTHERS WHO MIGHT KNOW ABOUT THE FATE OF MIAS ARE NGUYEN HUU TRI (NGUYEENX HWUX TRIS), WHO NOW IS THE DIRECTOR OF PETROLIMEX, NGUYEN VAN HA (NGUYEENX VAWN HAF), WHO WORKED AS AN INTERPRETER IN THE CAMPS, AND TU TRUNG AKA NGUYEN CONG TRUNG, THE CHIEF OF THE POLITICAL OFFICE FOR MR7. MR. NGOC SAID THAT THERE WERE MANY OTHERS WHO SHOULD KNOW MORE THAN HE ABOUT THE FATES OF U.S. SERVICEMEN.

5. 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.

6. RECOMMENDED FUTURE ACTIONS.

A. RECOMMEND NO FURTHER JOINT INTERVIEW OF THIS SOURCE UNLESS THE VIETNAMESE OR U.S. SIDES CAN PRODUCE SPECIFIC INFORMATION OR FURNISH MORE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS OR LEADS.

B. REQUEST THE VNOSMP ALLOW THE U.S. ACCESS TO THIS SOURCE FOR POTENTIAL FUTURE INTERVIEW IN THE EVENT THAT SIGNIFICANT

PAGE 03 RUHQSGG5396 UNCLAS
 QUESTIONS ARE DEEMED NECESSARY.

7. PERTINENT LOCATION OR DATA CHANGES: NONE.

8. COMMENTS. AFTER THIS INTERVIEW, THE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT TEAM ASSESSED ALL POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL LEADS PROVIDED BY THE SOURCE. THE CONSENSUS OF TEAM MEMBERS WAS THAT CONTINUATION OF THIS INTERVIEW OR AN ATTEMPT TO RE-INTERVIEW THIS SOURCE WOULD DEPEND ON SIGNIFICANT QUESTIONS WHICH SHOULD BE ASKED PERTAINING TO SPECIFIC INCIDENTS OR SPECIFIC QUESTIONS WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO FINDING NEW WITNESSES OR DISCOVERING CONTEMPORARY DOCUMENTATION WITH DETAILS ON SPECIFIC CASES.//

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