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FM CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI//J2//

TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHINGTON DC//PW-MIA//

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UNCLAS //N03460//

MSGID/SYS.RRM/CDR JTF-FA/J2//

AMPN/SUBJ: INTERVIEW OF REQUESTED SOURCE, NGUYEN TRONG DAN//

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

AMPN/SUBJ: LIST OF PERSONS FOR INTERVIEW-SENATOR KERRY, ENTRY NUMBER 11 OF 83//

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RMKS/1. BACKGROUND. ON 25 MAY 1993, A JOINT US/SRV VIETNAM INTERVIEW TEAM INTERVIEWED MR. NGUYEN TRONG DAN, A RETIRED SENIOR COLONEL, FORMERLY A PAVN DIVISION COMMANDER IN THE TRI THIEN HUE MILITARY REGION. THE TEAM MET AT THE HUONG GIANG HOTEL IN HUE CITY, 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; AND PETTY OFFICER JOHN L. HARVEY. THE VIETNAMESE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CONTINGENT CONSISTED OF LTC LE KY, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE; AND MR. NGUYEN THANG LOI, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. ON 25 MAY 1993, LTC KY ESCORTED MR. DAN TO THE HOTEL. MR. DAN SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN INTERVIEWED BY JOINT TEAMS PREVIOUSLY.

2. SUMMARY. THE SOURCE PROVIDED NO INFORMATION CONCERNING U.S. SERVICEMEN WHO BECAME UNACCOUNTED FOR IN VIETNAM. THE SOURCE PROVIDED PLAUSIBLE DETAILS OF HIS MILITARY ASSIGNMENTS AND EXPERIENCE TO SUPPORT THE CONCLUSION THAT HE HAD NO SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION TO CONTRIBUTE.

3. DETAILS.

A. RETIRED SENIOR COLONEL NGUYEN TRONG DAN (NGUYEENX TRONG

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ZANF) SAID THAT HE SERVED IN THE MILITARY REGION TRI THIEN HUE AREA FROM 1965 UNTIL 1975, THAT HE WAS A DIVISION COMMANDER, AND THAT HE HAD NEVER, EVER, DIRECTLY PARTICIPATED IN ANY ENEMY PROSELYTING. MR. DAN SAID THAT HE HAD PAID A GREAT DEAL OF ATTENTION TO THE HUMANITARIAN POLICY OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE WAR, DIRECTING HUNDREDS OR THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS TO FOLLOW THE POLICY. MR. DAN SAID THAT ON THE BATTLEFIELD, THE NORMAL PRACTICE FOR HIS UNITS WAS TO CONFISCATE ENEMY WEAPONS AND COUNT BODIES. MR. DAN SAID THAT IN HIS WARTIME EXPERIENCES HE NEVER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT ANY CAPTURED U.S. SERVICEMEN. MR. DAN SAID THAT HE HAD NO PERSONAL MEMORIES OR RECOLLECTIONS ABOUT ANY U.S. CAPTIVES. MR. DAN SAID THAT THROUGHOUT HIS BATTLE CAMPAIGNS, HIS FORCES HAD BEEN PITTED AGAINST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ARMED FORCES, NOT U.S. FORCES. MR. DAN SAID THAT HIS FORCES MAY HAVE KILLED OR CAPTURED U.S. PERSONNEL BUT THAT HE HAD NO RECOLLECTION OF SUCH EVENTS. MR. DAN SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN TOO LONG SINCE THE WAR AND THAT HE RECALLED NEITHER ANY ENEMY PROSELYTING CADRE OR OFFICERS NOR ANY POLITICAL OFFICERS WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO ASSIST THE TEAM IN ITS MISSION.

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. DAN RESPONDED THAT HE KNEW ABSOLUTELY NOTHING ABOUT U.S. POWS AFTER 1973.

C. MR. FLANAGAN ASKED THE QUESTION: "SINCE THE RELEASE OF U.S. PRISONERS IN 1973, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ANY 'STAY-BEHINDS'?" MR. DAN RESPONDED THAT HE KNEW ABSOLUTELY NOTHING ABOUT ANY STAY-BEHINDS AFTER 1973.

D. CONCERNING WARTIME REPORTING ON U.S. PRISONERS, MR. DAN SAID THAT HE HAD NO MEMORIES OR RECOLLECTIONS OF ANY INDIVIDUALS OR INCIDENTS WHICH COULD ASSIST THE TEAM.

E. BEFORE DEPARTING THE INTERVIEW, MR. DAN ASKED THE TEAM TO REMIND THE U.S. CONGRESS OF THE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF VIETNAMESE SERVICEMEN AND CITIZENS WHO REMAINED MIA.

F. ON 25 MAY 93, WITH NO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AT HAND FOR MR. DAN, THE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT TEAM AGREED TO DISCONTINUE THIS INTERVIEW. BOTH THE U.S. AND SRV MEMBERS CONFERRED ON ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS WHICH SHOULD BE CONSIDERED BEFORE CONCLUDING THIS INTERVIEW.

4. POTENTIAL LEADS OBTAINED DURING THE INTERVIEW: NONE.

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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 SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ARE DEEMED NECESSARY.

7. PERTINENT LOCATION OR DATA CHANGES: NONE.

8. COMMENTS. AFTER THIS INTERVIEW, THE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT TEAM ASSESSED THE LACK OF POTENTIAL 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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