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RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//OCJCS/J5/PW-MIA/J3-JOD//

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RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC//DEA/SEA/IB/DDO/EA/ICOG//

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SECTION 01 OF 02

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

AMPN/SUBJ: INTERVIEW OF REQUESTED SOURCE, MR. TO DIEU//

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

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

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RMKS/1. BACKGROUND. ON 12 MAY 1993, A JOINT US/VIETNAM INTERVIEW TEAM INTERVIEWED MR. TO DIEU, A FORMER CADRE OF THE ENEMY PROSELYTING SECTION OF THE POLITICAL SECTION OF THE AREA THAT IS NOW MILITARY REGION FIVE (MR5). THE TEAM MET AT THE ANTE-BUILDING MEETING ROOM OF THE GOVERNMENT GUEST HOUSE, 2 LE THACH STREET, HOAN KIEM 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 CENTRAL 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. TO DIEU TO THE GOVERNMENT GUEST HOUSE. MR. DIEU SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN INTERVIEWED BY JOINT TEAMS PREVIOUSLY.

2. SUMMARY. THE SOURCE PROVIDED EXTREMELY LIMITED INFORMATION CONCERNING U.S. SERVICEMEN WHO BECAME UNACCOUNTED FOR IN VIETNAM. THE SOURCE PROVIDED SIGNIFICANT PLAUSIBLE DETAILS OF HIS MILITARY ASSIGNMENTS AND EXPERIENCE TO SUPPORT THE CONCLUSION THAT HE HAD

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NO SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION TO CONTRIBUTE.

3. DETAILS.

A. MR. TO DIEU (TOOR ZIEEUJ), A RETIRED SENIOR COLONEL, CURRENTLY RESIDING IN THE NAM DONG COMMUNITY, DONG DA URBAN DISTRICT, HANOI, CLAIMED TO HAVE PRACTICALLY NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE U.S. MIA ISSUE. HE SAID HIS EXPERIENCES IN ENEMY PROSELYTING WERE DEVOTED FIRST AGAINST THE FRENCH, THEN AGAINST THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (RVN), AND FINALLY, WHEN CALLED BACK TO ACTIVE DUTY, AGAINST THE CHINESE. HE SAID THAT HE WAS 17 YEARS OF AGE IN 1946 WHEN HE WAS FIRST RECRUITED AT A COMBATANT AGAINST THE FRENCH. HE WAS ASSIGNED TO REGIMENT 48, BATTALION 66. MR. DIEU SAID THAT IN 1951 HE BECAME AN ENEMY PROSELYTING CADRE AT THE WORKING LEVEL TARGETED AGAINST THE FRENCH COLONIAL FORCES. HE SAID THAT HE SERVED IN THAT CAPACITY FROM 1951 UNTIL 1954, AT WHICH TIME HE HAD BECOME A BATTALION-LEVEL CADRE. AFTER THE DEFEAT OF THE FRENCH IN 1954, MR. DIEU SAID HE RETURNED TO A COMBAT UNIT. MR. DIEU SAID THAT IN 1964 HE WAS SENT TO THE SOUTHERN BATTLEFIELD REGION OF WHAT IS NOW MILITARY REGION FIVE. HE SAID HE WORKED AS A SECRET DEEP COVER CADRE FOR ENEMY PROSELYTING IN THE ENEMY REAR, TARGETED AGAINST THE ARMED FORCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF

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VIETNAM, ACTUALLY LIVING AND WORKING IN DA NANG CITY. MR. DIEU SAID HE SERVED IN THAT CAPACITY, WITH HIS ACTIVITIES TARGETED AGAINST THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, UNTIL HE RETURNED TO A COMBAT UNIT IN 1968. MR. DIEU SAID THAT IN 1979 HE WAS RECALLED TO DUTY AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE ENEMY PROSELYTING SECTION FOR THE ANTI-CHINA EFFORT. MR. DIEU SAID HE RETIRED IN 1991 WITH THE RANK OF SENIOR COLONEL.

B. MR. FLANAGAN ASKED THE QUESTION: "SINCE THE RELEASE OF U.S. PRISONERS IN 1973, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ANY LIVE AMERICANS?" MR. DIEU RESPONDED THAT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE, ONLY ROBERT GARWOOD STAYED IN VIETNAM AFTER 1973, AND GARWOOD WAS NOT A PRISONER.

C. MR. FLANAGAN ASKED THE QUESTION: "SINCE THE RELEASE OF U.S. PRISONERS IN 1973, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ANY 'STAY-BEHINDS'?" MR. DIEU RESPONDED THAT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE, NO ONE OTHER THAN GARWOOD REMAINED IN VIETNAM WHO MIGHT BE CONSIDERED A STAY-BEHIND.

D. CONCERNING WARTIME REPORTING ON U.S. PRISONERS, MR. DIEU SAID THAT HE WAS WELL REMOVED FROM THE REPORTING PROCESS DUE TO THE NATURE OF HIS DUTIES DURING THE ANTI-U.S. PERIOD AND COULD NOT ASSIST THE JOINT TEAM WITH ANY DETAILS.

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E. MR. DIEU SAID THAT HE HAD CONTACT WITH ONLY ONE U.S. SERVICEMAN DURING THE WAR, ROBERT GARWOOD. MR. DIEU SAID THAT GARWOOD WAS NOT CAPTURED, BUT CROSSED OVER. MR. DIEU SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN VERY DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO MEET GARWOOD, BUT THAT BECAUSE HE WAS WORKING THE ANTI-RVN CAMPAIGN AND NOT THE ANTI-U.S. CAMPAIGN, HE WANTED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GARWOOD AND WHY HE CROSSED OVER. MR. DIEU SAID THAT HE HAD TO REQUEST PERMISSION FROM HIS HIGHER AUTHORITIES IN ORDER TO MEET WITH GARWOOD AND FINALLY RECEIVED IT. MR. DIEU SAID THAT THE INTENT OF THIS MEETING WAS TO GET INFORMATION ON HOW TO GET U.S. PERSONNEL TO CROSS OVER. IN RETROSPECT, MR. DIEU SAID THAT AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE EXPERIENCE WITH GARWOOD, THE ISSUE CHANGED TO A TWO-PRONGED MISSION: (1) HOW TO GET U.S. SERVICEMEN TO LAY DOWN THEIR WEAPONS AND RETURN TO THE U.S. AND (2) HOW TO GET MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM TO CROSS OVER. FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, MR. DIEU SAID THAT THEY LEARNED FROM GARWOOD THAT HAVING U.S. SERVICEMEN CROSS OVER TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM WAS INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE ENEMY PROSELYTING MISSION IN TERMS OF RESULTS.

F. MR. DIEU DESCRIBED GARWOOD AS ROUGHLY THE SAME SIZE AND

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BUILD AS MR. FLANAGAN (5 FEET 8 INCHES, 160 POUNDS) AND SAID THAT THE VIETNAMESE GENERALLY CONSIDERED GARWOOD TO BE HANDSOME. MR. DIEU DID NOT ACTUALLY RECALL THE AMERICAN AS ROBERT GARWOOD, BUT REFERRED TO HIM AS "BUPPY," MR. DIEU'S PRONUNCIATION OF BOBBY, OR "NAM," WHICH MR. DIEU REFERRED TO AS GARWOOD'S VIETNAMESE NAME. MR. DIEU RECALLED ONE QUOTE FROM GARWOOD WHICH HE REMEMBERED VERBATIM: "I THANK PRESIDENT JOHNSON FOR SENDING ME OVER HERE SO THAT I COULD MEET SUCH A BRAVE PEOPLE." MR. DIEU SAID THAT HE REMEMBERED CLEARLY THAT GARWOOD SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO RETURN TO THE U.S. MR. DIEU SAID THAT THE ONE THING THAT STOOD OUT IN HIS MIND ABOUT GARWOOD WAS THE HUGE QUANTITIES OF FOOD THAT GARWOOD WOULD CONSUME AT EACH MEAL. WHEN A VIETNAMESE WOULD EAT ONLY ONE SMALL SERVING BOWL OF A DISH, GARWOOD WOULD EAT THREE FULL SERVING DISHES. HE DESCRIBED GARWOOD AS VERY HEALTHY.

G. ON 12 MAY 1993, WITH NO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AT HAND FOR MR. DIEU, 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.

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4. POTENTIAL LEADS OBTAINED DURING THE INTERVIEW.
 A. MR. DIEU SAID THAT THERE WERE MANY OTHERS WHO SHOULD KNOW

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 MUCH MORE ABOUT THE FATES OF U.S. SERVICEMEN THAN HE HIMSELF. IN PARTICULAR, HE RECALLED THAT A MR. NINH, WHO WAS A DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE QUANG NGAI PROVINCE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE DURING THE WAR SHOULD HAVE INFORMATION. MR. DIEU SAID THAT NINH ALSO USED THE ALIAS OF "HAI NIH" AND THAT MR. NINH MAY BE LIVING IN THE QUANG NGAI AREA.

B. MR. DIEU SAID THAT THE TIME HE MET GARWOOD, HIS IMMEDIATE SUPERIOR WAS NGUYEN THAI (NGUYEENX THAIS), WHO LATER BECAME THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE ENEMY PROSELYTING SECTION. THAI RETIRED AS A SENIOR COLONEL AND CURRENTLY RESIDES IN HANOI. MR. DIEU DOES NOT KNOW HOW OLD THAI IS, ONLY THAT HE IS OLDER THAN DIEU. THAI WAS DIEU'S IMMEDIATE SUPERIOR WHEN DIEU WAS ONLY A CADRE.

5. MATERIAL EVIDENCE. 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.

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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.

B. COMMENTS.

A. AFTER THIS INTERVIEW, THE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT TEAM ASSESSES ALL POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL LEADS PROVIDED BY THE SOURCE. THE CONSENSUS OF TEAM MEMBERS WAS THAT CONTINUATION OF THIS INTERVIEW OR AN ATTEMPT TO REINTERVIEW 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.

B. THIS SOURCE CONTINUALLY REFERRED TO THE FEROCITY AND VIOLENCE OF THE WAR. PARAPHRASING SOURCE, HIS FREQUENT AND NUMEROUS COMMENTS TO THE U.S. CONTINGENT OF THE JOINT INTERVIEW TEAM TENDED TO BE VARIATIONS OF "...SINCE YOU WERE NOT THERE ON THE BATTLEFIELD, YOU COULD NOT POSSIBLY COMPREHEND THE FEROCITY OF THE WARFARE, THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE BOMBING..."//

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