

(4) PW-MIA-2 CJTF-2

VZCZCBTO122

RR RUEHBT

DE RUHQSGG #8503 1971730

ZNR UUUUU

R 140232Z JUL 93 ZYB

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

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

INFO RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASH DC

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//CA/EAP/VLC/CCS/OCS//

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

RUHQHQB/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3/J30-M//

RUEKJCS/USCINCPAC LO WASHINGTON DC

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

RUHVAAA/CDRUSACILHI HICKAM AFB HI//TAPC-PED-H//

RUEHBT/USDAO BANGKOK TH//PW-MIA//

RUEHBT/CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

BT

UNCLAS //NO3460//

SECTION 01 OF 02

DIA PASS TO DOD POW/MIA DOCUMENTATION OFFICE//

MSGID/GENADMIN/CDR JTF-FA/J2//

SUBJ/INTERVIEW OF REQUESTED SOURCE, LUU NGOC CHIEN//

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

PAGE 02 RUHQSGG8503 UNCLAS

AMPN/SUBJ: LIST OF PERSONS FOR INTERVIEW--SENATOR KERRY, ENTRY NUMBER 31 OF 83//

RMKS/1. BACKGROUND. ON 28 JUNE 1993, A JOINT U.S./VIETNAM ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM INTERVIEW TEAM INTERVIEWED LUU NGOC CHIEN, AN APPROXIMATELY 55 YEAR OLD HANOI RESIDENT. MR. CHIEN IS CURRENTLY THE DIRECTOR OF THE AIR DEFENSE MUSEUM IN HANOI, FORMER AIR DEFENSE FORCE (ADF) OFFICER AND CONTRIBUTING AUTHOR TO THE AIR AND AIR DEFENSE MEMOIRS. THE TEAM MET AT THE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL NEWS AGENCY COOPERATION, VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY, NUMBER 8 TRAN HUNG DAO STREET, HANOI, TO INTERVIEW MR. CHIEN, LISTED IN REFERENCE AS A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF INFORMATION CONCERNING U.S. PERSONNEL MISSING IN ACTION (MIA) IN VIETNAM. THE U.S. CONTINGENT CONSISTED OF TSGT RONALD D. WARD, JTF-FA ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM COORDINATOR; AND PO2 JOHN HARVEY, JTF-FA ANALYST/LINGUIST. THE VIETNAMESE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CONSISTED OF LTC LE KY, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE; AND MR. TRINH QUOC KHANH, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. THOUGH MR. CHIEN HAD NOT BEEN INTERVIEWED BY A JOINT TEAM BEFORE, HE HAD WORKED WITH JCRC AND JTF-FA PERSONNEL IN THE AIR DEFENSE MUSEUM ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS.

2. SUMMARY. THE SOURCE, LUU NGOC CHIEN, PROVIDED NO INFORMATION

PAGE 03 RUHQSGG8503 UNCLAS

CONCERNING U.S. PERSONNEL MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. HE SUMMARIZED HIS MILITARY CAREER AS AN ADF OFFICER AND HIS WORK ON

UNCLASSIFIED

THE AIR AND AIR DEFENSE FORCE MEMOIRS. THE MAIN SOURCES HE USED FOR THE MEMOIRS WERE REPORTEDLY BOOKS AND INTERVIEWS WITH BATTLE PARTICIPANTS. MR. CHIEN SHARED HIS VIEWS ON FUTURE STRATEGIES FOR U.S. PW/MIA SEARCH OPERATIONS. THE SOURCE CLAIMED NO KNOWLEDGE OF U.S. PERSONNEL LIVING FREELY OR AGAINST THEIR WILL IN VIETNAM SINCE 1973.

3. DETAILS.

A. AFTER FORMAL INTRODUCTIONS, LTC LE KY EXPLAINED THE JOINT TEAM'S MISSION AND TSGT WARD BEGAN THE INTERVIEW WITH THE FOLLOWING TWO KEY QUESTIONS:

(1) SINCE 1973, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN OR HAD KNOWLEDGE OF U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR (PW) CAPTIVE IN VIETNAM? MR. CHIEN REPLIED HE HAD NOT.

(2) SINCE 1973, HAVE YOU SEEN OR HAD KNOWLEDGE OF AMERICAN "STAY-BEHINDS" IN VIETNAM? MR. CHIEN REPLIED HE HAD NOT. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT RECENTLY MR. ALVEREZ (SEE PARA. 7.B., BELOW) HAD VISITED HIS AIR DEFENSE MUSEUM, BUT HE REALIZED THIS PERSON COULD NOT BE CLASSIFIED "STAY-BEHIND".

PAGE 04 RUHQSGG8503 UNCLAS

B. MR. CHIEN BEGAN BY SUMMARIZING HIS MILITARY CAREER. HE JOINED THE MILITARY IN 1965, SERVING THE ADF IN NORTH VIETNAM WITH A SURFACE TO AIR MISSILE UNIT. AFTER HIS TIME IN THE NORTH, AROUND 1970, HE SERVED IN VIETNAM'S WESTERN HIGHLANDS WITH THE 591ST REGIMENT, STRATEGIC TRANSPORTATION GROUP 559. HIS REGIMENT'S MISSION DURING THIS PERIOD WAS ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY (AAA) DEFENSE OF THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL. THE SOURCE CLAIMED THAT IN ALL HIS TRAVELS HE HAD NEVER COME IN CONTACT WITH A U.S. PW.

C. PRIOR TO 1973, MR. CHIEN SAID, WHEN HE BEGAN WORK ON THE AIR AND AIR DEFENSE FORCE MEMOIRS, HE WAS IN THE POLITICAL SECTION OF UNITS HE SERVED WITH. HIS DUTIES CONSISTED OF GATHERING INFORMATION ON UNIT VICTORIES FROM NEWSPAPERS OR PERSONAL INTERVIEWS, THEN WRITING MORALE BUILDING ARTICLES IN HIS UNIT'S NEWSPAPER. FOR EXAMPLE, AFTER A CONFIRMED SHOOTDOWN, HE GATHERED INFORMATION ON THE AAA GUNNER INVOLVED AND PRODUCED A PROPAGANDA ARTICLE AIMED AT RAISING TROOP ESPRIT DE CORPS. THOUGH HE DID SOMETIMES INTERVIEW CAPTURED REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (RVM) TROOPS FOR PROPAGANDA REASONS, HE DENIED EVER HAVING WORKED AS A MILITARY OR ENEMY PROSELYTING OFFICER. HE NEVER MET OR HEARD OF ANY U.S. PW'S WHILE CONDUCTING THIS ACTIVITY.

PAGE 05 RUHQSGG8503 UNCLAS

D. AIR DEFENSE PERSONNEL DURING THE WAR DID NOT HAVE CONTACT WITH U.S. PW'S, ACCORDING TO MR. CHIEN. WHEN AN AIR DEFENSE UNIT SHOT DOWN A U.S. AIRCRAFT IT OFTEN CRASHED UP TO 20 KILOMETERS AWAY FROM THE AIR DEFENSE EMPLACEMENT MAKING IT NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR ADF PERSONNEL TO CONTACT DOWNED AMERICAN PILOTS. HE SAID HE WAS NEVER DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN SHOOTING DOWN A U.S. AIRCRAFT. AFTER 1970, CLAIMED CHIEN, AIR DEFENSE UNITS, ESPECIALLY IN THE WESTERN HIGHLANDS, ENCOUNTERED REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AIRCRAFT MORE OFTEN THAN AMERICAN AIRCRAFT DUE TO THE "VIETNAMIZATION" PROGRAM.

E. BEFORE 1970, WHEN HE WAS STATIONED IN HANOI, MR. CHIEN RELATED, HE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS OBSERVED U.S. PRISONERS BEING

UNCLASSIFIED

PARADED THROUGH THE STREETS OF HANOI FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES. HE COULD PROVIDE NO DETAILS CONCERNING THESE EVENTS OTHER THAN SAYING IT WAS A COMMON OCCURRENCE DURING THE WAR (SEE PARA. 7.C., BELOW).

F. CONCERNING THE BOOK, MR. CHIEN SAID HE WAS ONLY ONE OF SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS IN A KIND OF "WRITING WORKSHOP" (XWONGR VIEETS) THAT PRODUCED THE BOOK. HE SAID NGUYEN HONG NIEM (NGUYEENX HOONGF NIEEMJ), TRAN KY (TRAANF KYF), AND NGUYEN VUONG (NGUYEENX VWONGJ), AMONG OTHERS, PARTICIPATED IN THE PROJECT WITH

PAGE 06 RUHQSGG8503 UNCLAS

HIM (SEE PARA. 7.D., BELOW). THEIR PURPOSE WAS TO COMPILE THE BOOK FROM NEWSPAPERS, INTERVIEWS, AND OTHER BOOKS IN ORDER TO BOOST NATIONAL MORALE AND FOR PROPAGANDA VALUE. HE ALSO READ MEMOIRS BY PERSONAGES SUCH AS U.S. PRESIDENTS JOHNSON AND NIXON AND FORMER U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER TO GAIN INSIGHT TO AMERICA'S PERCEPTIONS OF VIETNAM, NOT NECESSARILY FOR INCLUSION IN THE BOOK, BUT AS BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE. CHIEN CLAIMED BELIEF THAT THEIR AIR/AIR DEFENSE BOOK WAS NOT VERY ACCURATE HISTORICALLY OR TECHNICALLY BECAUSE THEY COMPILED IT FROM SECOND PARTY SOURCES. MR. CHIEN PARTICIPATED IN COMPILING THE BOOK FROM 1973 UNTIL 1983.

G. BASED ON HIS FORMER INTERACTION WITH THE U.S. PW/MIA ISSUE, MR. CHIEN CLAIMED TO HAVE FAIRLY GOOD INSIGHT INTO THE PROBLEM AND OFFERED HIS THOUGHTS. TO HAVE GREATER SUCCESS HE SAID THAT, NUMBER ONE, THE U.S. SHOULD ABANDON ITS SEARCH FOR LIVE AMERICANS. THE EMPHASIS AND TIME PLACED ON THIS ISSUE, HE OPINED, DETRACTS ASSETS FROM MORE REALISTIC ACCOUNTING EFFORTS, NAMELY REMAINS RECOVERY. HE BELIEVES THERE ARE NO LIVE DETAINEE OR "STAY BEHIND" AMERICANS IN VIETNAM AND, IF THERE WERE, THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT HIDE THEIR PRESENCE. SECONDLY,

//

BT

#8503

NNNN

(4) PW-MIA-2 CJTF-2

VZCZCBTO188
 RR RUEHBT
 DE RUHQSGG #8504 1971730
 ZNR UUUUU
 R 140232Z JUL 93 ZYB
 FM CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI//J2//
 TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHINGTON DC//PW-MIA//
 INFO RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASH DC
 RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//
 RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//CA/EAP/VLC/CCS/OCS//
 RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//OCJCS/J5/PW-MIA/J3-JOD//
 RUHQHQB/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3/J30-M//
 RUEKJCS/USCINCPAC LO WASHINGTON DC
 RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC//DEA/SEA/IB/DDO/EA/ICOG//
 RUHVAAA/CDRUSACILHI HICKAM AFB HI//TAPC-PED-H//
 RUEHBT/USDAO BANGKOK TH//PW-MIA//
 RUEHBT/CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH
 BT
 UNCLAS //N03460//
 FINAL SECTION OF 02
 DIA PASS TO DOD POW/MIA DOCUMENTATION OFFICE//
 MSGID/GENADMIN/CDR JTF-FA/J2//
 SUBJ/INTERVIEW OF REQUESTED SOURCE, LUU NGOC CHIEN//
 RMKS/

PAGE 02 RUHQSGG8504 UNCLAS

HE SUGGESTED THAT A JOINT SEARCH FOR BOTH U.S. AND VIETNAMESE MIA'S WOULD ENGENDER A GREATER LEVEL OF GOOD WILL FROM THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE, MAKING THEM MORE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE U.S. PW/MIA ISSUE. HE STRESSED THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT, AS FAR AS HE KNEW, IS DOING WHAT IT CAN TO COOPERATE ON THIS ISSUE. HOWEVER, A CONCURRENT SEARCH FOR VIETNAMESE AND U.S. MIA'S, HE SAID, WOULD ENHANCE SUCCESS BY MORE FULLY GAINING THE TRUST AND EFFORTS OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE.

H. WITH NO FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR MR. CHIEN, THE INTERVIEWER THANKED HIM FOR HIS STATEMENTS AND OPINIONS AND THE JOINT TEAM AGREED TO CONCLUDE THE INTERVIEW.

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

5. POTENTIAL LEADS. NONE.

6. MATERIAL EVIDENCE: NONE. THIS SOURCE BROUGHT NO RECORDS, NOTEBOOKS, DIARIES, OR ANY MATERIAL EVIDENCE ASSOCIATED WITH UNACCOUNTED FOR U.S. PERSONNEL.

7. COMMENTS.

A. MR. EVERETT ALVEREZ, THE DOWNED PILOT IN CASE 0035, RETURNED TO VIETNAM WITH A U.S. VETERANS GROUP AND VISITED THE AIR DEFENSE MUSEUM IN APRIL 1993.

PAGE 03 RUHQSGG8504 UNCLAS

B. SEE REPORT OF INTERVIEW FOR NGUYEN VUONG, 26 JUNE 93, FOR A SIMILAR ACCOUNT.

UNCLASSIFIED

C. THE JOINT ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM TEAM INTERVIEWED NGUYEN HONG NIEM, TRAN KY, AND NGUYEN VUONG ON 19 AND 21 JUNE 1993.

D. THE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT TEAM CONFERRED ON THE QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED DURING THIS INTERVIEW. TEAM MEMBERS AGREED THAT THE NEED TO RE-INTERVIEW THIS SUBJECT WOULD DEPEND ON WHETHER FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR MR. CHIEN ARISE DURING THE COURSE OF THE SPECIAL INTERVIEW TEAM'S FUTURE WORK.//

BT
 #8504

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED