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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/OCS/CCS/EAP/VLC//
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//OCJCS/J5/PW-MIA/J3-JOD//
RUHQHQB/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3/J30-M//
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BT
UNCLAS //N03460//
MSGID/SYS.RRM/CDR JTF-FA/J2//
AMPN/SUBJ/INTERVIEW OF REQUESTED SOURCE, NGHIEM DINH TICH//
REF/A/FAX/DET 2/16MAY93//
AMPN/SUBJ: LIST OF PERSONS FOR INTERVIEW-SENATOR KERRY, ENTRY
NUMBER 31 OF 83//

PW-MIA
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RMKS/1. BACKGROUND. ON 28 JUNE 1993, A JOINT U.S./VIETNAM ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM INTERVIEW TEAM INTERVIEWED LTC NGHIEM DINH TICH, A 48 YEAR OLD HANOI RESIDENT. LTC TICH IS CURRENTLY A SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHER, FORMERLY A CONTRIBUTOR TO THE BOOK, "THE AIR AND AIR DEFENSE FORCE MEMOIRS, VOLUME III." THE TEAM MET AT THE VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY BUILDING, NUMBER 8 TRAN HUNG DAO STREET, HANOI, TO INTERVIEW LTC TICH, 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 CONTINGENT CONSISTED OF LTC LE KY, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE; AND MR. TRINH QUOC KHANH, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. LTC TICH HAD NOT BEEN INTERVIEWED BY A JOINT TEAM BEFORE.

2. SUMMARY. THE SOURCE, LTC NGHIEM DINH TICH, PROVIDED NO INFORMATION CONCERNING U.S. PERSONNEL MISSING IN ACTION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. HE SUMMARIZED HIS MILITARY CAREER AS WELL AS METHODS AND PURPOSES FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE AIR AND AIR DEFENSE MEMOIRS. LTC TICH CLAIMED NO KNOWLEDGE OF U.S. PERSONNEL, LIVING FREELY OR AGAINST THEIR WILL, IN VIETNAM SINCE 1973.

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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? LTC TICH SAID HE HAD NOT.

(2) SINCE 1973, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN OR HAD KNOWLEDGE OF AMERICAN "STAY-BEHINDS" IN VIETNAM? LTC TICH SAID HE HAD NOT.

B. FOLLOWING HIS RESPONSE TO THE FIRST TWO QUESTIONS, LTC NGHIEM DINH TICH (NGHIEEM DINHF TICH) EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD

JOINED THE MILITARY IN 1964 AS AN AIR DEFENSE SPECIALIST AND SPENT THE NEXT 10 YEARS AS A RADAR OPERATOR IN THE NORTH. HE SAID THAT HE, LIKE ALL RADAR OPERATORS, HAD TO MAINTAIN A HIGH TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND NEVER HAD TIME FOR CONCERN ABOUT THE DISPOSITION OF AMERICAN PW'S. LTC TICH COULD NOT RECALL EVER HEARING OF ANY CIRCUMSTANCE CONCERNING AN AMERICAN PW AND WAS NEVER DIRECTLY INVOLVED WITH ANY AMERICAN DURING THE WAR.

C. LTC TICH SAID THAT HE WAS AMONG THE SECOND GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WRITING OF THE AIR AND

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AIR DEFENSE FORCE MEMOIRS. HE STATED, NIEM, VUONG, AND KY (SEE PARA. 5, BELOW) WERE ALSO AMONG THIS GROUP. LTC TICH WORKED AS A RESEARCHER ON THE BOOK FROM 1974 UNTIL 1978, WHEN HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO A MILITARY TRAINING SCHOOL. LTC TICH EXPLAINED THAT THE BOOK WAS TO BE USED AS PROPAGANDA FOR VIETNAMESE TROOPS. HE SAID THAT HE GATHERED INFORMATION ABOUT BATTLES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO TOOK PART IN THE BATTLES. THE BOOK, HE SAID, IS NOT ABOUT THE AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN THE WAR. LTC TICH COULD RECALL NOTHING FURTHER RELATING TO THE BOOK.

D. WITH NO FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR NGHIEM DINH TICH, THE JOINT TEAM AGREED TO CONCLUDE THE INTERVIEW.

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

4. POTENTIAL LEADS. NGHIEM DINH TICH PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING NAMES AS OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN WRITING THE AIR AND AIR DEFENSE FORCE MEMOIRS.

A. NGUYEN HONG NIEM (NGUYEENX HONGF NIEEMJ), ALSO ENTRY NUMBER 31 FROM REFERENCE, WAS INTERVIEWED ON 19 JUNE 93 BY THE JOINT ORAL HISTORY TEAM.

B. NGUYEN VUONG (NGUYEENX VWONGJ), ALSO ENTRY NUMBER 31 FROM REFERENCE, WAS INTERVIEWED ON 21 JUNE 93 BY THE JOINT ORAL

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HISTORY TEAM.

C. TRAN KY (TRANF KYF), ALSO ENTRY NUMBER 31 FROM REFERENCE, WAS INTERVIEWED ON 21 JUNE 93 BY THE JOINT ORAL HISTORY TEAM.

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

6. COMMENTS.

A. LTC TICH APPEARED EAGER TO TALK ABOUT HIS PART IN WRITING THE AIR AND AIR DEFENSE FORCE MEMOIRS, HOWEVER IT WAS APPARENT THAT HE HAD NO INFORMATION TO CONTRIBUTE CONCERNING AMERICAN PW'S OR MIA'S IN VIETNAM.

B. WHILE EXPRESSING HIS PLEASURE IN KNOWING THAT VIETNAM AND THE UNITED STATES ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO RESOLVE THE PW/MIA PROBLEM, LTC TICH STATED THAT HE WISHED THE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD INCLUDE VIETNAMESE MIA'S IN THE NUMBER OF THOSE STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR AND EXPAND THE SEARCH FOR THOSE LOST IN THE WAR.

C. 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

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QUESTIONS FOR LTC TICH ARISE DURING THE COURSE OF THE ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW TEAM'S FUTURE WORK.

D. REQUEST THE VNOSMP MAKE LTC TICH AVAILABLE FOR RE-INTERVIEW IF NECESSARY.//

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