

(4) PW-MIA-2 CJTF-2

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 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//  
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 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  
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 UNCLAS //N03460//  
 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//

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 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

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

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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".

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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.

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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

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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

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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,

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