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PP RUBQBPA RUBQBQA RUEKJCS RUEKJCS RUEKJCS RUEKJCS
PP RUBQBPA 013245/01 084 **ZNR [REDACTED]
P 250222Z MAR 87
FM JCRC LIAISON BANGKOK TH
TO RUBQBPA / CDR JCRC BARBERS PT HI PRIORITY
INFO RUBQBQA / USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J2/J3/J36//
RUEKJCS / DIA WASHINGTON DC//VO-PW//
RUEKJCS / SECDEF WASHDC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//
RUEKJCS / JCS WASHDC//J5/PW-MIA//
RUEKJCS / WHITEHOUSE WASHDC//NSC/MR CHILDRESS//
BT

SECTION 01 OF 02 LIAISON BANGKOK 13245

CITE: [REDACTED] 3189 MAR 87

JCRC RPT MB7-003, HEARSAY OF AN AMERICAN
PRISONER ALLEGEDLY SEEN IN HA TAY

1. SOURCE/ADMINISTRATIVE DATA:
 - A. NAME: PHAM TRUNG KHIEM (M)
 - B. DPOB: 20 DEC 45; DONG TA (V), VINH PAO (D), HAI DUONG
 - C. PROFESSION:
 - PRE-1975: ARMY OFFICER
 - POST-1975: RE-EDUCATION CAMP INMATE 1975-83; WOODSELLER 1984-86
 - D. PRESENT LOCATION: BUILDING 8/3, ZONE F, PULAU BIDONG REFUGEE CAMP, MALAYSIA
 - E. IDENTIFICATION DATA: MB 663018, ID # [REDACTED] 197
 - F. EDUCATIONAL LEVEL: 8.5/12
 - G. LANGUAGES SPOKEN: VIETNAMESE (NATIVE), ENGLISH (CAMP STUDY)
 - H. RELIGION: BUDDHIST
 - I. STATUS: REFUGEE
 - J. DATE OF INFORMATION: 1983
 - K. INTERVIEW DATA: SOURCE WAS INTERVIEWED AT PULAU BIDONG ON 27 FEB 87 BY JAMES M. COYLE, GS-13, DOD.
 - L. OTHER: SOURCE ARRIVED IN CAMP ON 15 NOV 86. HIS FINAL ADDRESS IN VIETNAM WAS AN DUC (V), ICNG HO (D), CUU ICNG (P). SOURCE HAS AN OLDER SISTER, PHAM THI HUONG, LIVING AT 4139 37TH ST, SAN DIEGO, CA 92105.

2. SUMMARY: IN 1983 SOURCE WAS TOLD BY A FELLOW-INMATE OF CP #3, NGHE TINH, THAT ONE NIGHT IN 1976 OR 1977 HE HAD SEEN AN AMERICAN PRISONER BEING MARCHED BY HIS GUARDS PAST HIS CELL IN A CAVE IN HA TAY (P). SOURCE HAS RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE ACCURACY OF THE MAN'S IDENTIFICATION OF THE PRISONER AS AN AMERICAN. END SUMMARY.

3. INFORMATION: BETWEEN AUGUST 82 AND [REDACTED]

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MARCH 83 SOURCE WAS AN INMATE OF CENTRAL PRISON #3 IN TAN KY (D), NGHE TINH. DURING TET OF 83 SOURCE AND SOME OF HIS FELLOW PRISONERS WERE SITTING TOGETHER AND TELLING STORIES ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES OF CAPTIVITY. ONE OF THE PRISONERS, KNOWN TO SOURCE ONLY AS "MINH DEN" (MINH DEN, I.E. "BLACKIE"), A FORMER COMPANION WHO HAD BEEN IN THE COMMUNIST PRISON SYSTEM SINCE 1962, SAID THAT SIX OR SEVEN YEARS BEFORE HE HAD BEEN HELD IN A CELL IN A CAVE IN HA TAY. ONE NIGHT, ABOUT 2100 OR 2200, HE SAW THREE BO DCI ESCORTING A PRISONER PAST THE DOOR OF HIS CELL. ONE OF THE BO DCI MARCHED IN FRONT OF THE PRISONER AND THE OTHER TWO, BEARING WEAPONS, MARCHED BEHIND HIM. THE PRISONER HIMSELF WAS SHACLED AND HAD HIS HANDS BOUND IN FRONT OF HIM. "MINH DEN'S" CELL WAS CUT INTO THE SIDE OF A MOUNTAIN, AND ITS DOOR FACED THE OUTSIDE. AS THE NIGHT WAS BRIGHTLY MOONLIT, HE WAS ABLE TO SEE THE MAN CLEARLY. AT ONCE HE GUESSED (DUCANS) THAT THE MAN WAS AMERICAN. HE DID NOT DESCRIBE THE MAN TO SOURCE. (NEVERTHELESS, A REPORT BY SOURCE TO RECORDS BRANCH, SEEN BY JCRC REP, SAYS THAT MINH DEN SAID THAT THE MAN HAD BLUE EYES AND BROWN HAIR, AND THAT MINH DEN HAD SEEN HIM FROM A DISTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY 30 M.) MINH DEN SAW THE MAN ONLY ONCE.

4. SOURCE EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM TO INTERVIEWER THAT THE PRISONER ALLEGEDLY SEEN BY MINH DEN WAS IN FACT AN AMERICAN. ALTHOUGH SOURCE DOES NOT BELIEVE MINH DEN TO BE A PREVARICATOR, HE DOUBTS THAT MINH DEN SAW THE PRISONER LONG ENOUGH, CLEARLY ENOUGH, OR OFTEN ENOUGH TO DETERMINE THAT HE WAS AN AMERICAN. FURTHERMORE, SOURCE HIMSELF HAD SEEN ONLY ONE AMERICAN IN THE SRV PRISON SYSTEM (SEE RPT MB7-004), AND THAT MAN HAD NOT BEEN UNDER ANY RESTRAINT.

5. SOURCE SAYS THAT MINH DEN, A NORTHERNER, WAS ABOUT 39 YEARS OLD. HE TOLD THIS STORY. HE WAS STILL IMPRISONED AT CP #3 AT THE TIME OF SOURCE'S RELEASE.

6. OTHER THAN THE MAN NOTED ABOVE, SOURCE

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Ha Tay
Also rec'd
Nghe Tinh &
Hoang Lien Son

HAS NO INFORMATION ABOUT [REDACTED] HELD IN VIETNAM. HE HAS SEEN NO AMERICANS IN THE PRISON CAMPS, NOR ANYONE WHO MIGHT POSSIBLY BE MISTAKEN FOR AN AMERICAN THERE WERE, HOWEVER, IN CP #3 A NUMBER OF FOREIGNER AND VIETNAMESE ETHNIC MINORITIES:

A. ABOUT NINE TAIWANESE, THE REMAINDER OF A GROUP OF 14 OR 15 WHICH HAD INFILTRATED INTO NORTHERN VIETNAM IN AN ATTEMPT TO PENETRATE GUANGDONG AND GUANGXI PROVINCES OF THE PRC. THE GROUP HAD BEEN CAPTURED IN HOANG LIEN SON (DATE UNKNOWN BY SOURCE). THE COMMANDER, AN LTC, AND TWO OTHERS HAD ESCAPED FROM DIFFERENT CAMP, AND ONE OR TWO OTHERS HAD DIED. THE REMAINING NINE WERE STILL IMPRISONED AT THE TIME OF SOURCE'S RELEASE. HE OBTAINED THIS INFORMATION FROM A TAIWANESE ARMY CPT, WHOSE NAME HE NEVER LEARNED, WHO HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF THIS GROUP.

B. AN AGED BOAT CAPTAIN FROM HONG KONG, WHO HAD BEEN CAPTURED AT HUE IN 1968 AND BROUGHT NORTH. THE VIETNAMESE WERE HOLDING HIM, HE TOLD SOURCE, BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED HIM TO BE A SPY.

C. AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF VANG PAO'S "BIET KICH MEO", SOME FULRO, AND SOME "LOCAL BANDITS" (THOOR PHIR).

7. SOURCE'S BACKGROUND: SOURCE'S FATHER WAS KILLED BY THE VIET MINH IN 1947. HE AND HIS FAMILY MOVED TO SAIGON IN 1954, WHERE SOURCE ATTENDED CLASSES AT THE ORPHANAGE AT 147 LE VAN DUyet ST. (SOURCE NOTED THAT WHILE HE WAS NOT STRICTLY AN ORPHAN, THE SCHOOL WAS ALSO OPEN TO THE POOR.) IN 1958 HE ENTERED THE TIEU SINH QUAN AT VUNG TAU, WHICH HE DESCRIBES AS A SCHOOL FOR THE CHILDREN OF DECEASED MILITARY PERSONNEL. HE ATTENDED THIS SCHOOL FOR SEVERAL YEARS, THEN JOINED THE ARVN AS AN ENLISTED MAN. AFTER RISING TO THE RANK OF SERGEANT (IN THE 20th INFANTRY DIVISION) HE WAS SELECTED FOR OFFICER TRAINING, AND PASSED OUT OF THU DUC CENTER IN 1965. HE SUBSEQUENTLY SERVED IN A NUMBER OF INFANTRY POSITIONS WITH THE 9TH DIVISION. WAS TWICE WOUNDED IN LATE 1971, PROMOTED TO CPT, CHANGING TO MILITARY SECURITY (AN NINH QUAN DOI) WHERE HE SERVED AS A COUNTERINTELLIGENCE SPECIALIST UNTIL 1975.

8. HE SURRENDERED TO THE COMMUNISTS IN SAIGON ON 5 MAY 75, AND WAS PLACED IMMEDIATELY IN THE Q. 8 CIVIL PRISON. HE WAS MOVED TO SUOI MAU ON 24 JUN 75, AND EXACTLY ONE YEAR LATER TO LT 1 (YEN BAI), WHERE HE WAS HELD AT TRAI 14 (TRAN YEN). HE REMAINED THERE UNTIL MARCH 77 WHEN HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO TRAI 14B (VAN BAN DISTRICT). SUBSEQUENT TRANSFERS WITHIN THE LT 1 SYSTEM TOOK PLACE IN JULY 77 (TO TRAI 3, VAN BAN), IN SEP 77 (TO TRAI 6, TRAN YEN), AND IN NOV 77 (BACK TO TRAI 14).

9. IN JULY 76, SOURCE WAS TAKEN TO CENTRAL PRISON #6, IN THANH CHUONG DISTRICT OF NGHE TINH PROVINCE, FROM WHICH HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO CP #3 AS NOTED IN PARA 3 ABOVE. HE WAS RELEASED FROM "RE-EDUCATION" ON 15 MAR 83, AND LIVED AS A WOOD-GATHERER UNTIL HIS DEPARTURE FROM VIETNAM IN NOV 86, EXCEPT FOR THE PERIOD MARCH-OCT 85, DURING WHICH HE WAS IMPRISONED FOR AN UNSUCCESSFUL ILLEGAL DEPARTURE.

10. (U) COMMENT: SOURCE PRESENTED HIS INFORMATION IN A CALM AND STRAIGHTFORWARD MANNER, ANSWERED ALL QUESTIONS WITH APPARENT [REDACTED] AND MADE NO REQUESTS OF JCRC INTERVIEWER. DECLASSIFIED.

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