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CITE: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 317D MAR 85.  
SUBJ: JCRC REPORT T45-103, U.S. REMAINS IN BAT BAT PRISON (U) REFNO 2001-01 U  
REF: JCRC REPORT T85-104 BY SAME SOURCE, JCRC BKK MSG,  
DTG 290916Z MAR 85. RE-EVALUATE

1. (C) SOURCE: NAME: NGO VAN SAM; DPOB: 13 MAR 1943, NINH HIEP (V), GIA LAM (D), HANOI; FORMER NVA PFC AND RALLIER; PRESENT LOCATION: 85, R50, SIKHUI REFUGEE CAMP, THAILAND; ID NR: SI 4580; DOI: LATE 1977; INTERVIEWED ON 27 MAR 85 BY THOMAS R. MCKAY; OTHER: SOURCE DEPARTED VIETNAM ON 19 OCT 84 VIA VEHICLE TO THE CONG BONG SOM PORT (CB), AND THEN BY BOAT TO THAILAND.

2. (C) SUMMARY: SOURCE PROVIDES HEARSAY INFORMATION FROM A FELLOW INMATE OF THE BAT BAT PRISON IN NORTHERN VIETNAM OF A WAREHOUSE ON THE PRISON GROUNDS WHICH CONTAINS A STOCKPILE OF METAL BOXES USED TO STORE HUMAN REMAINS, BODY BAGS, AND TWO U.S. FLIGHT SUITS. END OF SUMMARY.

3. (C) INFORMATION: THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS RELATED BY SOURCE TO INTERVIEWER AS FACT. SOURCE, ORIGINALLY AN NVA PFC WHO BECAME A HOI CHANH DURING THE LAM SON 719 OPERATION, WAS FORCED INTO RE-EDUCATION ALONG WITH OTHER HOI CHANHS AFTER 1975 AND WAS IMPRISONED IN THE BAT BAT PRISON IN NORTHERN VIETNAM. DURING SOURCE'S INCARCERATION THERE, HE WORKED MAINLY AS A METAL WORKER FABRICATING BOXES FROM CORRUGATED METAL TO BE USED TO STORE HUMAN REMAINS. SOURCE WAS IMPRISONED IN

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BAT BAT FROM JUNE 1976 UNTIL HIS RELEASE ON 5 JAN 1980.

4. (S) THE BOXES SOURCE MANUFACTURED WERE 80 CM LONG, 40 CM WIDE, AND 35 CM TALL AND HAD A SEPARATE REMOVABLE NON-HINGED LID. SOURCE PERFORMED THIS WORK FROM 1977 UNTIL HIS RELEASE IN 1980. HE ESTIMATED HE MADE APPROX 50 OF THIS TYPE OF BOX. LATER, PERHAPS IN 1978, HE WAS JOINED BY THREE OTHER INMATE LABORERS (NAMED PHUC, QUYNH, AND XUONG) WHO BETWEEN THEM MADE APPROX 50 OF THESE BOXES, MAKING THE TOTAL APPROXIMATELY 100. SINCE SOURCE'S RELEASE IN 1980, HE MET PHUC ONCE, WHO NOW LIVES SOMEWHERE IN BIEN HOA MAKING NAILS. PHUC TOLD SOURCE THAT XUONG AND QUYNH HAD BOTH BEEN RELEASED BUT DUE TO CONTINUED SRV SURVEILLANCE, NEITHER SOURCE NOR PHUC ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT THEM.

5. (S) AFTER MAKING A BOX, SOURCE WOULD TURN IT OVER TO THE CADRE WHO WOULD TAKE IT AND PLACE IT IN AN OFF-LIMITS WAREHOUSE LOCATED BEHIND A WALL ON THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE PRISON GROUND. THE WAREHOUSE DOOR WAS NORMALLY LOCKED AND A SIGNED PAPER WAS NORMALLY GLUED ON THE DOOR SEAM TO ACT AS A SEAL. AT THE END OF 1977, POSSIBLY NOVEMBER, A FELLOW INMATE NAMED NGUYEN VIET NHAN, DUE TO EXCESSIVE HUNGER, SECRETLY SCALED THE WALL IN SEARCH OF FOOD. UPON HIS RETURN, NHAN TOLD SOURCE HE DID NOT ENTER THE WAREHOUSE AS IT LOOKED AS IF IT DID NOT CONTAIN ANY FOODSTUFFS. BY LOOKING THROUGH A WINDOW, NHAN SAID, HE SAW MANY WHITE NYLON BAGS WHICH WERE USED TO CONTAIN HUMAN REMAINS. NHAN ALSO CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN TWO U.S. FLIGHT SUITS HANGING UP IN THE WAREHOUSE. NHAN DID NOT ATTEMPT TO ENTER THE WAREHOUSE AND QUICKLY RETURNED TO HIS QUARTERS TO AVOID DETECTION AND PUNISHMENT. WHEN SOURCE WAS RELEASED FROM BAT BAT, NHAN WAS STILL THERE. NHAN, LIKE ALL INMATES AT BAT BAT, WAS ALSO A HOI CHANH.

6. (S) SOURCE STATED HE WAS WILLING TO UNDERGO POLYGRAPH TESTING. SOURCE'S MEMORY SKETCH OF BAT BAT PRISON WILL BE FORWARDED BY SEPARATE CORRESPONDENCE.

DECL: OADR.  
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