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TO RUHQHQE / CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI

INFO RUEKJCS / SECDEF WASHDC//OCJCS-PW-MIA/J5//

RUEKJCS / SECDEF WASHDC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//

RUHQHQE / USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3//

RUEKJCS / USCINCPAC LO WASHDC//

RUEKJCS / DIA WASHDC//POW-MIA//

RUHQHQE / CDRUSACILHI HICKAM AFB HI//

RUEADWW / NSC WASHDC

RUEHC / SECSTATE WASHDC//CA/OCS/OCS/EAP//

RUEAIIA / CIA WASHDC//OEA/SEA/IB/DDO/EA/ICOG//

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 05 BANGKOK TH 53640

UNCLASSIFIED 0400 DEC 92

IIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE

SUBJ: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REPORT CONCERNING AN
ALLEGED AMERICAN LIVING IN DAK LAK PROVINCEREF: A. CJTF-FA DET ONE 200528Z NOV 92
B. CJTF-FA DET ONE 230110Z NOV 92
C. CJTF-FA DET ONE 231132Z NOV 92

1. REF A IS THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE 20TH SERIES OF JOINT FIELD ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM FROM 22 OCTOBER TO 17 NOVEMBER 1992. PARA 31(1) PERTAINS TO ONE ALLEGED AMERICAN LIVING IN DAK LAK PROVINCE WHICH IS HEREIN REPORTED IN DETAIL. REFS B AND C ARE THE FIELD INVESTIGATION REPORTS CONCERNING CASES 1723 AND 0011, RESPECTIVELY, WHICH WERE ALSO INVESTIGATED BY INVESTIGATION ELEMENT TWO DURING THE 20TH JOINT FIELD ACTIVITY. THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT IS BASED ON FIELD ANALYSIS AND IS NOT INTENDED TO PROVIDE FINAL ANALYTICAL CONCLUSIONS.

2. SUMMARY: ON 10 NOVEMBER 1992, INVESTIGATION ELEMENT TWO (IE2), BASED ON HEARSAY PROVIDED BY A JOINT TEAM WITNESS, CONDUCTED AN INVESTIGATION CONCERNING ONE REPORTED AMERICAN CURRENTLY LIVING AMONG PROTESTANTS NEAR A LEPROSARIUM AT BUON PA ANA VILLAGE, KRONG PAK DISTRICT, DAK LAK PROVINCE. DURING THEIR INVESTIGATION IE2 QUESTIONED THREE ADDITIONAL WITNESSES AND SURVEYED LOCAL RESIDENTS CONCERNING THE REPORTED AMERICAN. THE TEAM DETERMINED THE "AMERICAN" IS LIKELY A MAN OF ETHNIC M'NONG DESCENT WHO HAS LIVED IN DAK LAK PROVINCE FOR HIS ENTIRE LIFE. EACH WITNESS STATED THAT ALTHOUGH THE LOCAL MAN'S FACIAL FEATURES AND PHYSICAL STATURE ARE SIMILAR TO THAT OF AN AMERICAN, THE MAN IS

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
CHRG: CJTF 12/01/92
APPRV: CJTF:DAG
DRFTD: CJTF:JLR
CLEAR: NONE
DISTR: CJTF
ORIGIN: OER

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UNQUESTIONABLY AN ETHNIC M'NONG. IE2 WAS UNABLE TO PERSONALLY INTERVIEW THE SUBJECT OF THE REPORT AS HE HAD REPORTEDLY DEPARTED DAK LAK PROVINCE FOR CAMBODIA APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE JOINT TEAM'S INVESTIGATION IN ORDER TO SELL WATER BUFFALO. ALTHOUGH IE2 CONCLUDED THEIR INVESTIGATION BASED ON THE TESTIMONY OF THE WITNESSES, THE TEAM EMPHASIZED TO THE VIETNAMESE CONTINGENT THAT THIS CASE WOULD REMAIN UNRESOLVED UNTIL A U.S. INVESTIGATOR INTERVIEWED THE REPORTED M'NONG MAN. IE2 REQUESTED THE DAK LAK PROVINCE TASK TEAM CONTACT THE MAN IMMEDIATELY UPON HIS RETURN FROM CAMBODIA IN ORDER TO SCHEDULE A FUTURE INTERVIEW.

2. INFORMATION:

- A. ON THE AFTERNOON OF 10 NOVEMBER, JOINT INVESTIGATION ELEMENT TWO ANTICIPATED A SECOND INTERVIEW OF MR. Y TIN HWING (Y TIN HOW VINH), AKA MA MAI, AKA DAVID PIEDRO, CONCERNING A PRIORITY FOCUS CASE REPORTED IN REF B. MR. HWING IS A 49 YOA ETHNIC EDE (EE DEE) WHO CURRENTLY RESIDES IN EA ENUOL VILLAGE (KAX EA ENUOL), BAN ME THUOT TOWN. MR. HWING FORMERLY SERVED AS AN ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (ARVN) OFFICER AND AN INTERPRETER FOR U.S. SPECIAL FORCES STATIONED IN VIETNAM. MR. HWING SPEAKS NATIVE EDE, FLUENT VIETNAMESE AND EXCELLENT ENGLISH. MR. HWING OPENED HIS COMMENTS TO THE JOINT TEAM BY SAYING HE HAD RECENTLY OBTAINED CREDIBLE INFORMATION CONCERNING ONE REPORTED AMERICAN LIVING FREELY IN DAK LAK PROVINCE. DURING HIS INTERVIEW, MR. HWING PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING DETAILS:

(1) ON 6 NOVEMBER 1992, MR. HWING WAS ALLEGEDLY APPROACHED BY AN ASSOCIATE, MR. Y T'LAM BUON YA (Y TOW LAAM BUON GIA), A RESIDENT OF YA KHIT HAMLET (BUON GIA KHITS), CONCERNING AN ALLEGED AMERICAN REPORTEDLY LIVING WITH LOCAL PROTESTANTS NEAR THE LEPROSARIUM AT EA ANA HAMLET. MR. YA SAID THE SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION HAS A THIRD PARTY, MRS. THAN THI THANH TAM (TRANH THI THANH TRAM). MR. HWING REQUESTED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE AMERICAN, BUT MR. Y T'LAM WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANY FURTHER DETAILS. MR. Y T'LAM AGREED TO BRING MRS. TAM TO MR. HWING HOME ON 7 NOVEMBER SO THAT HWING COULD QUESTION HER CONCERNING THE ALLEGED AMERICAN.

(2) ON 7 NOVEMBER MR. Y T'LAM ARRIVED AT MR. HWING'S HOME WITH MRS. TAM. TAM INFORMED MR. HWING THAT SHE HAD PERSONALLY OBSERVED THE AMERICAN WHO SHE DESCRIBED AS TALL, THIN, LIGHT-SKINNED, WITH REDDISH HAIR, BROWN EYES AND A LONG WHITE BEARD. TAM SAID THE AMERICAN ESCAPED FROM A PRISON CAMP IN LAOS AND ENTERED VIETNAM EITHER SIX OR TWENTY YEARS AGO (HWING SAID TAM WAS INCONSISTENT CONCERNING THE TIME OF THE AMERICAN'S ARRIVAL IN VIETNAM). SHE REPORTED THE AMERICAN WAS CURRENTLY PROTECTED BY PROTESTANT ETHNIC MINORITY MEMBERS OF EA ANA HAMLET. MR. HWING INFORMED MRS. TAM OF HIS DOUBTS CONCERNING THE AUTHENTICITY OF THIS REPORT, BUT MRS. TAM ALLEGEDLY INSISTED THE MAN WAS AN AMERICAN. SHE ADDED THAT THE MAN WROTE WITH HIS LEFT HAND AND SHUNNED CONTACT WITH OUTSIDERS LEST HE BE DISCOVERED.

(3) WHEN MR. HWING FURTHER QUESTIONED MRS. TAM CONCERNING HER PERSONAL CONTACT WITH THE AMERICAN, MRS. TAM SAID THE AMERICAN HAD RECENTLY BECOME ILL WITH MALARIA. TAM REPORTED THAT SHE PERSONALLY ADMINISTERED TWO INJECTIONS OF MEDICINE TO THE MAN WHO HAS RESIDING AT THE HOME OF MRS. AMI H'RE (AMI HOW RES) IN TOUR HAMLET (BUON TOUR), BEHIND THE EA ANA HAMLET LEPROSARIUM. TAM SAID THE AMERICAN'S NAME WAS "M. RIN ILL," AND THAT LOCAL RESIDENTS AT THE LEPROSARIUM WERE CONCEALING THE AMERICAN'S EXISTENCE FROM LOCAL OFFICIALS. SHE ALSO INFORMED MR. HWING THAT THE AMERICAN HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN FORCED TO FLEE AND LIVE IN THE JUNGLE FOR TWO MONTHS WHEN AN AMERICAN WOMAN VISITED THE LEPROSARIUM ON BEHALF OF INTERNATIONAL RELIEF AGENCIES. MR. HWING SAID HE OBTAINED MRS. TAM'S ADDRESS AND ENCOURAGED THE JOINT TEAM TO INTERVIEW HER IMMEDIATELY IN ORDER TO ACQUIRE FURTHER DETAILS CONCERNING THE AMERICAN.

P. FOLLOWING THE INTERVIEW WITH MR. HWING THE JOINT TEAM ATTEMPTED TO LOCATE MRS. TAM AND INTERVIEW HER CONCERNING THE REPORT. THE TEAM DISPATCHED SSG MITCHELL, MR. DUNG OF THE PROVINCE TASK TEAM AND MR. HWING TO LOCATE MRS. TAM. THE SUB-ELEMENT DROVE TO THE ADDRESS IN BUON MA THUOT TOWNSHIP, AS PROVIDED BY MR. HWING, AND ALTHOUGH THEY LOCATED A WOMAN NAMED MRS. TAM, SHE WAS NOT THE SAME MRS. TAM SOUGHT BY THE JOINT TEAM. THE JOINT TEAM MEMBERS SEARCHED THE AREA AND QUESTIONED LOCAL RESIDENTS, BUT THEY WERE UNABLE TO LOCATE THE CORRECT MRS. THAN THI THANH TAM AT THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY MR. Y HWING.

C. WHILE THE REMAINDER OF IE2 AWAITED THE RETURN OF THE SUB-ELEMENT, TEAM MEMBERS ATTEMPTED TO IDENTIFY THE POSSIBLE VIETNAMESE RENDITION OF AN AMERICAN NAME, "M. RIN ILL," WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. IE2 REPORTED THE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ALLEGED AMERICAN TO THE JTF-A DETACHMENT ONE OFFICE IN HANOI WHILE THEIR VIETNAMESE COUNTERPARTS ALSO CONTACTED THEIR SUPERIORS IN HANOI.

THE U.S. TEAM LEADER ASSIGNED MEMBERS OF IE2 AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE THANG LOI HOTEL TO OBSERVE THE ACTIVITIES OF THEIR VIETNAMESE COUNTERPARTS AND TO ENSURE THEY MADE NO UNILATERAL ATTEMPTS TO DEPART THE HOTEL. THE U.S. TEAM MAINTAINED THESE PROCEDURES UNTIL THE INVESTIGATION WAS COMPLETE. TEAM MEMBERS NOTED NO UNUSUAL OR SUSPICIOUS ACTIONS ON THE PART OF THE VIETNAMESE JOINT TEAM MEMBERS THROUGHOUT THE INVESTIGATION.

- D. AS THE TEAM AWAITED THE RETURN OF THE SUB-ELEMENT, AN ADDITIONAL JOINT TEAM WITNESS, MR. NGUYEN HUU TRI, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE DAK LAK PROVINCE ENEMY PROSELYTIZING DEPARTMENT, WAS MADE AVAILABLE FOR JOINT TEAM INTERVIEW. HOWEVER, THE AMERICAN TEAM DECLINED INTERVIEW WITH MR. TRI IN ORDER TO CONTINUE THEIR RESEARCH TO IDENTIFY THE POSSIBLE AMERICAN.

- E. FOLLOWING A THIRTY TO FORTY-FIVE MINUTE WAIT, SSG MITCHELL, MR. DUNG AND MR. HWING RETURNED TO THE THANG LOI HOTEL IN BAN ME THUOT TOWN. BECAUSE THE SUB-ELEMENT WAS UNABLE TO LOCATE MRS. TAM, THE JOINT TEAM AGREED TO INVESTIGATE THIS REPORTED SIGHTING WITHOUT PRIOR INTERVIEW OF THEIR ONLY ALLEGED EYEWITNESS. FOLLOWING BRIEF PREPARATIONS, IE2 DEPLOYED TO THE

APPROXIMATELY 50 YEAR OF AGE, BLACK-HAIRED, BLACK-EYED, M'NONG VILLAGER WHO WEARS A WHITE BEARD AND WRITES WITH HIS RIGHT HAND. THE LOCALS STATED MR. Y DJRAK IS SOMEWHAT AMBIDEXTROUS, BUT HE ALWAYS WRITES WITH HIS RIGHT HAND. THEY SAID HE HAS SEVERAL WIVES DUE TO HIS GOOD LOOKS AND HIS FREQUENT TRAVELS SELLING WATER BUFFALO. HE WAS DESCRIBED AS ADEPT AT PLAYING BILLIARDS AND SEVERAL VILLAGERS NOTED THAT HE HAS A KEEN SENSE FOR BUSINESS. MR. Y DJRAK IS A NATIVE SPEAKER OF THE M'NONG LANGUAGE, AN EXCELLENT SPEAKER OF VIETNAMESE, AND AN ENGLISH SPEAKER TO SOME DEGREE DUE TO HIS TIME IN MILITARY SERVICE WITH THE FORMER ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM. NONE OF THE LOCAL RESIDENTS SURVEYED BY THE TEAM BELIEVED THERE WAS ANY POSSIBILITY THAT MR. Y DJRAK COULD, IN FACT, BE AN AMERICAN.

H. FOLLOWING THEIR INTERVIEWS AT BUON TOUR TWO HAMLET, THE JOINT INVESTIGATION TEAM THANKED MR. HWING FOR PROVIDING HIS INFORMATION CONCERNING THE AMERICAN. THE TEAM REASSURED HWING THAT HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH THE JOINT TEAM WERE THE CORRECT STEPS TO TAKE IN SUCH A SITUATION. THE AMERICAN TEAM THEN ADVISED THE VIETNAMESE JOINT TEAM MEMBERS THAT FURTHER FOLLOW-UP WOULD BE NECESSARY CONCERNING THIS CASE TO PROVE THAT MR. Y DJRAK WAS UNEQUIVOCALLY NOT AN AMERICAN. THE AMERICAN TEAM MEMBERS SUGGESTED FOLLOW-UP BY THE DETACHMENT TWO LIVE SIGHTING INVESTIGATOR AND ADVISED THAT MR. Y DJRAK SHOULD MAKE HIMSELF IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW UPON HIS RETURN TO DAK LAK PROVINCE.

4. TEAM CHIEF COMMENTS:

A. THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY MR. HWING WAS EQUALLY UNEXPECTED NEWS FOR THE VIETNAMESE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT TEAM AS WELL AS THE AMERICANS. THE VIETNAMESE TEAM LEADER APPEARED TO BE GENUINELY SURPRISED, ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT SUBDUED, BY THE INFORMATION AND RESPONDED TO ALL AMERICAN REQUESTS IN A VERY TIMELY FASHION. THE ELAPSED TIME FROM THE INITIAL REPORT OF THE ALLEGED AMERICAN UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF THE INVESTIGATION WAS ROUGHLY FOUR AND ONE-HALF HOURS.

B. AFTER LEARNING OF THE ALLEGED AMERICAN, IE2 POSTED TEAM MEMBERS AT CRITICAL LOCATIONS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE HOTEL TO OBSERVE THE ACTIONS OF VIETNAMESE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT TEAM. NO UNUSUAL ACTIVITIES WERE NOTED THROUGHOUT THE INVESTIGATION.

C. DURING THEIR INVESTIGATION IE2 NOTED THE FOLLOWING TWO UNUSUAL OCCURRENCES:

(1) WHILE TELEPHONING THE DETACHMENT TWO TO REPORT THE SUPPOSED LIVE SIGHTING OF A POSSIBLE AMERICAN, THE TEAM WAS DISCONNECTED AT THE PRECISE TIME THEY WERE SPELLING THE ALLEGED AMERICAN'S NAME. IE2

PLACED ANOTHER CALL TO DETACHMENT TWO AND THE CONVERSATION PROCEEDED WITHOUT INCIDENT.

(2) THE VIETNAMESE TEAM APPARENTLY ATTEMPTED TO DISTRACT THE U.S. TEAM FROM THE CASE BY PRESENTING A WITNESS, A FORMER CADRE WITH THE DAK LAK PROVINCE ENEMY PROSELYTIZING SECTION, IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE AMERICAN WAS REVEALED. ALTHOUGH MR. TRI IS A LOCAL RESIDENT OF BAN ME THUOT TOWN, HE WAS NOT PROVIDED AS A WITNESS UNTIL MR. HWING PRESENTED INFORMATION CONCERNING THE LIVE AMERICAN. IT IS WORTHY TO NOTE THAT THE U.S. TEAM HAD REQUESTED AN INTERVIEW ONE TO TWO WEEKS EARLIER, BUT THE WITNESS WAS NOT BROUGHT FORWARD UNTIL LATE IN THE AFTERNOON ON 10 NOVEMBER. THE VIETNAMESE TEAM CHIEF ATTEMPTED TO PERSUADE THE AMERICANS TO INTERVIEW THE WITNESS, BUT WHEN THE AMERICANS POLITELY REFUSED, MR. NHU AGREED AND DID NOT FURTHER PRESS THE ISSUE.

D. OVERALL VIETNAMESE COOPERATION DURING THE INVESTIGATION OF THIS CASE WAS VERY GOOD. THEY RESPONDED IN A TIMELY FASHION TO ALL U.S. REQUESTS AND MADE NO OBVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO MANIPULATE THE CASE. THE U.S. TEAM CHIEF CONSIDERED THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE VIETNAMESE TEAM MAY HAVE FABRICATED THIS INCIDENT AND

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PROVIDED THE INFORMATION TO MR. HWING IN AN EFFORT TO DISCREDIT HIM AS A SOURCE (HWING HAD PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED VALUABLE INFORMATION TO THE JOINT TEAM CONCERNING A SEPARATE CASE WHICH IS REPORTED IN REF C); HOWEVER, NO DETAILS WERE OBTAINED DURING THE INVESTIGATION TO CONFIRM THIS UNLIKELY SUSPICION.

F. ALTHOUGH MRS. TAM (PARA 3F) STATED THAT SHE HAD NEVER BEFORE MET MR. HWING, HIS EXPRESSION BEFORE SHE MADE HER STATEMENT INDICATED THAT HE RECOGNIZED HER AS THE CORRECT MRS. TAM WITH WHOM HE PREVIOUSLY MET ON 7 NOVEMBER. MR. HWING WAS OBVIOUSLY SHOCKED WHEN MRS. TAM DISAVOWED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF HIM AND HE LATER STATED SHE WAS NOT THE CORRECT MRS. TAM IN ORDER TO DEFLECT ANY POSSIBLE ACCUSATIONS CONCERNING HIS CREDIBILITY. IT WAS APPARENT, HOWEVER, THAT THE MRS. TAM MET BY THE JOINT TEAM OUTSIDE BUON TOUR HAMLET WAS THE SAME MRS. TAM INTERVIEWED BY MR. HWING ON 7 NOVEMBER. MRS. TAM NEVERTHELESS REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE MR. HWING OR ADMIT HER PREVIOUS ACCUSATIONS CONCERNING MR. Y DJRAK.

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