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FF RUMCFBA RUMOHQA RUMKJCS RUMIACS
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FM JCRC LIAISON BANGKOK TH

TO RUMCFBA / CDR JCRC BAREFRS PT HI PRIORITY

INFO RUMOHQA / USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J2/J3/J36//

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CHRG: JCRC 85/05/08

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DISTR: JCRC2 AMB DCM2

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* LIAISON BANGKOK TH 25701

CITE: [REDACTED] 8 MAY 85.

SUBJ: JCRC REPORT M85-019 SIGHTING OF 6 AMERICANS IN
PRISON IN 1975 IN CENTRAL VIETNAM

1. [REDACTED] SOURCE. NAME: NGUYEN THE KHIET; DPCB: 24 AUGUST 1956, BINH HOA (P); FORMER ARVN SGT, SERVICE NUMBER 76/1132E7; PRESENT LOCATION: ZONE D, PULAU BIDONG REFUGEE CAMP, MALAYSIA; II NC: MB 220210; DOI: MARCH 1975; INTERVIEWED BY THOMAS R. MCKAY ON 2 APRIL 1985; OTHER: SOURCE DEPARTED VIETNAM ON 15 SEPTEMBER 1984 AND HAS AN UNCLE, VU MANH HUNG, WHO LIVES AT 14070 SW 22ND ST, BEAVERCREEK, CR 97005.

2. [REDACTED] SUMMARY. SOURCE REPORTS FIRSTHAND INFORMATION OF A GROUP OF 6 AMERICAN CIVILIANS AND ONE FILIPINO CONFINED WITH HIM IN A PRISON CAMP IN CENTRAL VIETNAM IN 1975.

3. [REDACTED] INFORMATION. SOURCE REPORTED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO INTERVIEWER AS FACT. SOURCE WAS AN ARVN SGT WHO WORKED IN PLEIKU SECTOR HQ AS AN INSPECTOR. IN MARCH 1975, HIS UNIT WAS ENROUTE FROM PLEIKU TO NHA TRANG WHEN THEY WERE ATTACKED BY COMMUNIST TROOPS AT PHU BON AND ON 15 MARCH 1975, SOURCE AND APPROXIMATELY 20 OTHER FELLOW SOLDIERS WERE CAPTURED. THEY WERE BLINDFOLDED AND HAD THEIR ARMS TIED AND WERE MARCHED INTO THE JUNGLE FOR THREE DAYS (DIRECTION UNKNOWN). ON THE THIRD DAY, AFTER AN APPROXIMATE FIVE HOUR WAIT THEY BOARDED A MC-LC-TO-VA TRUCK WHICH TRANSPORTED THEM TO A PRISON CAMP. SOURCE HAD NO IDEA WHERE THE CAMP WAS LOCATED, BUT SOME FELLOW PRISONERS CLAIMED TO HAVE WORKED FOR THE US AS MIKE FORCE TROOPS AND CLAIMED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH THE AREA, AND SAID THEY WERE IN CAMBODIA. THEY ESTIMATED THEY WERE LOCATED APPROXIMATELY SEVEN KM FROM THE CAMBODIAN-VIETNAMESE BORDER. SOURCE FELT THIS CAMP WAS AN IMPORTANT CAMP, AS FELLOW INMATES INCLUDE ARVN COL NGUYEN TRONG LUAT, CHIEF OF DARIAC (F) AND COI VU THE QUANG, ARVN 45TH REGT CDR OF THE 231 INFANTRY DIVISION. BOTH THESE MEN WERE IN THE CAMP UPON SOURCE'S ARRIVAL. SOMETIME LATER, ARVN LTC NGUYEN VAN THANH CDR OF THE 6TH ABN BN WAS MOVED TO THIS CAMP.

4. [REDACTED] SOURCE RECALLS SEEING AND MEETING SIX AMERICAN CIVILIANS AND ONE FILIPINO WHO WERE HELD AT THIS CAMP

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WHEN SOURCE ARRIVED. SOURCE LEARNED NONE OF THEIR NAMES AND WAS NORMALLY SEPARATED FROM THEM, BUT SOMETIMES HAD A CHANCE TO MEET AND TALK WITH THEM AT THE CAMP KITCHEN AREA WHEN GOING TO PICK [REDACTED] SOURCE RECALLED THE FOLLOWING CONCERNING THE FOREIGNERS.

A. AN AMERICAN WHO SPOKE VIETNAMESE (THE ONLY ONE OF THE GROUP WHO DID) WHO WAS APPROXIMATELY 27 YOA AT THAT TIME AND WHO CLAIMED TO BE AN ARCHEOLOGIST WHO WAS IN VIETNAM TO STUDY THE CIVILIZATION OF THE CHAM RACE AND HAD WORKED RESEARCHING CHAM RUINS AT PHAN RANG TOWN IN NINH THUAN (P). HE TOLD SOURCE HE HAD BEEN CAPTURED ON 10 MARCH 1975 WHILE AT BAN ME THUOT WHILE HE HAD TRAVELLED TO BE INTERVIEWED ON A RADIO STATION. HE WAS APPROXIMATELY 1.80 M TALL, HAD CURLY BROWN HAIR AND BLUE EYES WAS NOT EATING, SPORTED BOTH A BEARD AND MUSTACHE, DID NOT WEAR GLASSES AND SPOKE WITH A DIALECTICALLY MIXED ACCENT (HIS VIETNAMESE). HE TOLD SOURCE HE WAS SINGLE AND WAS A FORMER PROFESSOR PRIOR TO HIS ARRIVAL IN VIETNAM. HE AS ALL OTHER MALE INMATES WORE THE DARK BURGUNDY SET OF CLOTHES ISSUED TO THE PRISONERS. SOURCE RECALLED HEARING THE MAN'S NAME WHICH PHONETICALLY SOUNDED LIKE KC-NHI (KCC NHEI).

B. THE SECOND MAN WAS AN AMERICAN PROTESTANT PASTOR WHO WAS PLUMP, APPEARED TO BE 40 YOA, APPROXIMATELY 1.75 M TALL AND HAD A FULL BEARD AND MUSTACHE, WHICH SOURCE RECALLS WATCHING HIM PULL UP OUT OF THE WAY WHILE EATING WITH CHESTNUTS TO AVOID GETTING FOOD CAUGHT IN IT. HE ALSO DID NOT WEAR GLASSES. INFORMATION OF THIS MAN'S CAPTURE WAS UNKNOWN TO SOURCE.

C. THE THIRD MAN WAS AN AMERICAN APPROXIMATELY 1.78 M TALL AND WAS OVER 40 YOA. SOURCE NEVER LEARNED MUCH ABOUT THIS MAN.

D. THE FOURTH MAN WAS A FILIPINO PROTESTANT PASTOR WHO WAS APPROXIMATELY 40 YOA. HE WAS APPROXIMATELY 1.6 - 1.63 M TALL.

E. THE FIFTH INDIVIDUAL WAS AN AMERICAN WOMAN WHO WAS APPROXIMATELY 37 YOA. SHE WAS APPROXIMATELY 1.70 M TALL AND WAS VERY SLIM AND WAS THE WIFE OF ONE OF THE MEN OF IT

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THE GROUP. SHE HAD LIGHT BROWN HAIR. EYE COLOR WAS UNKNOWN AND SHE WORE A WESTERN-STYLE BLOUSE AND SKIRT.

F. THE SIXTH PERSON WAS ALSO AN AMERICAN WOMAN WHO APPEARED TO BE APPROXIMATELY 37 YOA WAS APPROXIMATELY 1.65 M TALL BUT WAS HEAVIER THAN THE OTHER WOMAN. SHE HAD LIGHT BROWN HAIR.

G. THE SEVENTH WAS AN AMERICAN FEMALE CHILD, APPROXIMATELY 7 YCA, AND WAS THE DAUGHTER OF THE WOMAN WHO WAS VERY SLIP.

██████████ APPROXIMATELY 10 MAY 1975, ALL INMATES THE CAMP WERE WALKED TO DUC CO INCLUDING THE CHILD. ALL MADE IT AND NO ONE DIED ENROUTE. THE TRIP TOOK APPROXIMATELY 7 DAYS, WHICH CAUSED SOURCE TO ESTIMATE THE DISTANCE AT 200 KM. THE PRISON CAMP AT DUC CO WAS APPROXIMATELY 2 KM FROM THE DUC CO AIRFIELD AND THE CAMP WAS GUARDED BY THE 655 REGT OF THE LIBERATION TRUOPS. IN THIS CAMP, SOURCE WAS SEPARATED FROM THE FOREIGNERS. ON 15 MAY 1975, A GENERAL INMATE ASSEMBLY WAS CALLED TO LISTEN TO CADRE EXPLANATION OF THE POLICIES OF THE LIBERATION, WHICH WAS THE LAST TIME SOURCE SAW THE FOREIGNERS.

E. ██████████ IN JULY 1975, SOURCE AND ALL VIETNAMESE PRISONERS WERE MOVED TO THE FORMER LE THANH DISTRICT AKA THANH AN SUB-SECTOR WHERE THEY WERE HELD IN A TEA PLANTATION AREA WHICH HAD BEEN CONFISCATED FROM THE FRENCH CORNER. THIS WAS A HARD LABOR CAMP, AND LATER IN JULY 1975 SOURCE ESCAPED CAPTIVITY HERE AND RETURNED TO PLEIKU.

7. ██████████ AFTER SOURCE'S ESCAPE, HE RETURNED TO PLEIKU, WHERE HE MET A FRIEND DO DUC VUONG WHO HAD ALSO BEEN CAPTURED BUT WAS RELEASED BEFORE SOURCE AND WAS THEN LIVING SOMEWHERE IN GIA LAI-KONTUM. SOURCE STAYED AT THE HOUSE OF A COMMON FRIEND FOR ONE NIGHT FOLLOWING HIS ESCAPE, WHERE VUONG HAPPENED TO BE VISITING. VUONG HAD BEEN HELD IN A CAMP AT PLTIME AND TOLD SOURCE HE HAD BEEN CONFINED WITH TWO NEW ZEALANDERS WHO WERE MEMBERS OF THE NEW ZEALAND RED CROSS SOCIETY, BUT REMEMBERED VERY LITTLE ABOUT THEM. (AFI)
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