

Anonymous letter

on 12/14/84

ITINERARY & REPORT

SUBJECT: JAVA SEA Life Boat

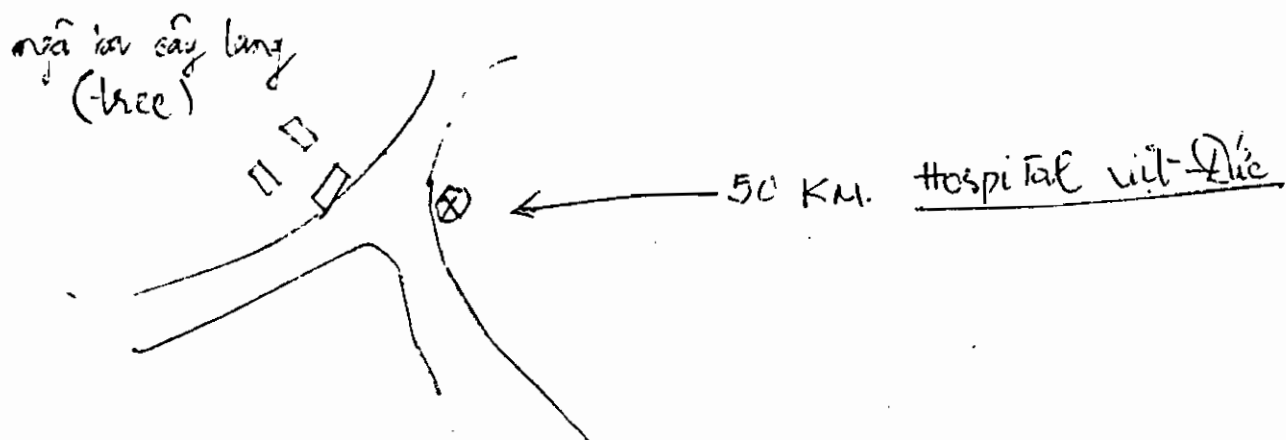
On February 13, 1984, my partner and I went to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with a letter to request permission to tour Da Nang city. The Ministry referred us to the Immigration office, but curious to issue us the necessary permit inspite of the explanation on the letter that we have been requested by the Embassy to locate a person living in Da Nang. Instead, they told us to secure an official letter from the Embassy for our trip and purpose. However, we did not lose time and went to the Tourist office made inquiries on how we can possibly go to Da Nang without a problem. The tourist office told us that they can book us for the month of April as they have so many Vietnamese tourist who came recently from abroad to claim the remains of their love ones as ordered by the government to be removed. Since that will take a time so we decided to go without permit. Fortunately, we reached Da Nang city on February 17, 1984 and stayed only two days because we are worried the securities might check our papers so came back immediately without any accomplishment. In Saigon we discussed and planned what we should do, and we decided to split and look for people who can do our job. My partner had his counter-part with his instruction. However, up to this time the persons he sent to do the job did not come back yet. As for myself, I have three persons working for me. A married couple from Hue province and a woman from Da Nang who comes to Saigon once a month to make buy and sell business. Therefore on March 5, I sent all the three with my instruction of what to do. The couple went to Hue and Quang Tri and the lone woman to Da Nang. To date, the couple have not return yet and I don't know what happen. However, the woman from Da Nang came back to Saigon last March 16, with the following information:

According to the informer, on or about November 2, 1983, after the typhoon No. 6 subsided, the villagers around the My Khue and Tien Sa Beaches noticed a foul-smelling rotting of dead carried by the breeze. Villagers from the shore can see in the far distance a floating figures numbering around 100. The people thought it was some dead animals drown during the typhoon, but when they went to investigate using sampans and as they drew nearer what they saw were human corpses. Immediately the people reported this matter to the securities and in a short while Vietnamese coast guards fished out 126 corpses. Among the dead were 46 Vietnamese, mostly fishermen. And, 80 were those of the foreigners which were brought to the Viet Duc hospital. (Note: Vietnamese-German hospital situated in the center of Da Nang city. The place is Hai Phong street. There were many witnesses because of the foul-smell, but the securities and hospital staff told the people that they were Polish. They were warned not to spread the word to anybody or they will be arrested. In the evening of the same day, the corpses were brought to the Buddhist Pagoda about 50 kilometers from the city. In the Pagoda

there are 5 Crematory that can cremate two bodies at one time. Behind the Pagoda is a cemetery. This place is called Nga 3 Cai Lang. The informer could not determine whether the bodies were cremated or buried because from the time corpses were brought to that place the people were forbidden to enter the Pagoda for about a week or so. In my opinion, the dead foreigners could not be cremated as their bodies had already absorbed too much water. And to cremate a body with the size almost of that water buffalo will take at least 10 hours or more before it turn to ashes. Furthermore, the government will spend to much charcoal and firewood to cremate them. Therefore, I conclude that the dead foreigners were buried behind the Pagoda or somewhere else. The woman who gave this information has already return to Da Nang to find out exactly what the government did to the dead foreigners and to look for more evidence.

As to the Life Boat, no trace up to this time. In the meantime this is the only information we can provide.

Below is a sketch that may be useful for further information:



360 2h
Beach

360 2h
Beach

monkey
ma mountain