

(12) ORIGIN JCRC2 INFO AMB DCM2 [REDACTED] DAO/SR

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VZCZCBFI *
 FF RUFQFFA RUFHQHA RUEKJCS RUEKJCS RUEKJCS RUFADW
 DE RUFHFF #5927/01 090 **
 ZNY SSSSS
 R 300200Z MAR 88
 FM JCRC LIAISON BANGKOK TH
 TO RUFQFFA / CDP JCRC BARBERS PT HI
 INFO RUEHQHA / USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J2/J3/J36//
 RUEKJCS / DIA WASHINGTON DC//VO-PW//
 RUEKJCS / JCS WASHDC//J5/P-MIA//
 RUEKJCS / SECDEF WASHDC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//
 RUEADWW / WHITEHOUSE WASHDC//NSC/ME CHILDRESS//
 BT

CHRG: JCRC 87/29/03
 APPRV: JCRC:FCM
 DRFTD: JCRC:GLS
 CLEAR: NO'E
 DISTR: JCRC
 ORGIN: OCF

152 MAR 88

SUBJECT: JCRC RPT HK88-011; SPOOTDOWN OF AIRCRAFT IN
 NORTH VIETNAM; CAPTURE OF CREW MEMBER/DEATH OF CREW
 MEMBER (C)

1. (C) SOURCE/ADMINISTRATIVE DATA.
 - A. NAME: DINH VAN THANG (M)
 - B. DPOB: 15 JUN 62; HANOI CITY
 - C. PROFESSION:
 - PRE-1975: STUDENT
 - POST-1975: FISHERMAN, SAILOR
 - D. PRESENT LOCATION DATA: HPI LING CHAU CLOSED CAMP, HONG KONG
 - E. IDENTIFICATION DATA: NO. 6885; L/M 242M
 - F. EDUCATIONAL LEVEL: 9/12
 - G. LANGUAGES SPOKEN: VIETNAMESE (NATIVE)
 - H. RELIGION: BUDDHIST
 - I. STATUS: CLOSED CAMP INTERPRET
 - J. DATE OF INFORMATION: OCTOBER 1972
 - K. INTERVIEW DATA: SOURCE WAS INTERVIEWED AT HPI LING CHAU CLOSED CAMP, HONG KONG ON 3 MAR 88 BY GARRY L. SMITH, CW3, USA.
 - L. OTHER: SOURCE ARRIVED IN CAMP ON 5 AUG 87. HIS FINAL ADDRESS IN VIETNAM WAS 73 THONG PHONG ST., HANG POI, VIETNAM. SOURCE HAS NO RELATIVES LIVING IN THE U.S.
 - M. MAPS USED. SCALE: 1:52,000; SERIES: L7014; SHEET: 0150 II

2. SUMMARY: SOURCE PROVIDED FIRSTHAND INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SHOOTDOWN OF A WHITE, FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT (MODEL UNKNOWN) IN LATE 1972, POSSIBLY IN OCTOBER, AT ABOUT 1300 HRS IN THE AFTERNOON. THE PLANE CRASHED IN A FIELD ONE OR TWO KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF [REDACTED] VILLAGE (WH 788883). THE TWO CREW MEMBERS ABOARD THE AIRCRAFT EJECTED; ONE WAS DEAD WHEN HE TOUCHED DOWN IN A FIELD ABOUT 500 METERS SOUTH OF WHERE THE AIRCRAFT IMPACTED. SOURCE HEARD THE OTHER WAS CAPTURED UNHARMED SEVERAL KILOMETERS (NFI) AWAY FROM HOA XA VILLAGE. END SUMMARY.

INFORMATION: WHEN SOURCE WAS TEN YEARS OLD IN [REDACTED] 1972, POSSIBLY IN OCTOBER, HE WITNESSED THE CRASH OF A WHITE, FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT (MODEL NOT KNOWN BY SOURCE) AT ABOUT 1300 HRS IN THE AFTERNOON. AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT SOURCE WAS PLAYING ON THE DIRT OF A RICE FIELD IN HOA XA VILLAGE (WH 788883) WHEN HE LOOKED UP AND SAW AN AIRCRAFT FALLING, TRAILING SMOKE. SUDDENLY, SOURCE SAW TWO PARACHUTES BLOSSOM IN THE SKY: ONE WAS RED, THE OTHER WHITE. WHILE THE PARACHUTES WERE FLOATING DOWN, THE AIRCRAFT HIT THE GROUND WITHOUT EXPLODING ONE OR TWO KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF HOA XA VILLAGE. THE RED PARACHUTE LANDED IN A FIELD ABOUT 500 METERS OR SO SOUTH OF WHERE THE AIRCRAFT IMPACTED. SOURCE LOST SIGHT OF THE WHITE PARACHUTE AND DOES NOT KNOW WHERE IT LANDED.

4. [REDACTED] VILLAGERS, INCLUDING SOURCE, RAN TO THE CRASH SITE AND TO THE PLACE WHERE THE RED PARACHUTE LANDED. SOURCE WENT FIRST TO THE CRASH SITE. HE COULD SEE THAT THE FUSELAGE PORTION OF THE AIRCRAFT REMAINED RECOGNIZABLY INTACT, BUT THE WINGS AND REAR PORTION WERE TOTALLY IN PIECES AND SCATTERED IN AND AROUND A CRATER. SOURCE DOES NOT RECALL ANY IDENTIFYING SYMBOLS OR NUMBERS ON THE REMAINING STRUCTURE OF PIECES OF THE AIRCRAFT. SOURCE THEN WENT TO THE LOCATION WHERE HE SAW THE RED PARACHUTE DESCEND. HE SAW THE BODY OF A CREW MEMBER WITH ONE LEG TWISTED BEHIND HIS BACK, LYING ON THE GROUND AND STILL IN THE PARACHUTE FARNESH. THE DEAD CREW MEMBER WAS WEARING A FLIGHT HELMET. SOURCE DOES NOT RECALL ANY IDENTIFYING FEATURES PERTAINING TO THE CREW MEMBER, TO INCLUDE HEIGHT AND WEIGHT. WHILE SOURCE WAS STANDING WITH A GROUP OF BYSTANDERS OBSERVING THE BODY, A U.S. AIRCRAFT CIRCLED THE AREA OF THE CRASH SITE AND THE BODY, AND THEN DEPARTED. NO OTHER AIRCRAFT WERE IN THE CLOSE VICINITY.

5. [REDACTED] ABOUT TWO HOURS AFTER THE CRASH, PUBLIC SECURITY PERSONNEL CAME TO THE CRASH SITE AND PICKED UP THE BODY AND EQUIPMENT, PUT THEM IN THE BACK OF A MILITARY CAR, THEN PROCEEDED TO A DESTINATION UNKNOWN TO SOURCE. SOURCE NEVER SAW THE CREW MEMBER WITH THE WHITE PARACHUTE AFTER HE LOST SIGHT OF HIM IN THE AIR. HE HEARD THAT HE WAS CAPTURED UNHARMED IMMEDIATELY AFTER

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[REDACTED] LIAISONBANGKOK 015927/02

LANDING SEVERAL KILOMETERS FROM HOA XA VILLAGE. SOURCE
DOES NOT RECALL HEARING OF READING ABOUT [REDACTED] SPASH [REDACTED]
THE FATE OF THE TWO CREW MEMBERS IN THE OFFICIAL NEWS
MEDIA. DECL:OADR.

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