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 FP RUHQPPA RUHQHQA RUEKJCS RUEADWW
 DF RUFFOK #7628/01 039 **
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P 080925Z APR 86

FM JCRC LIAISON BANGKOK TH

TO RUHQPPA / CDR JCRC BARBERS PT HI PRIORITY

INFO RUHQHQA / USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J2/J3/J36// PRIORITY

RUEKJCS / DIA WASHINGTON DC//DC-2// PRIORITY

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

RUEADWW / WHITEHOUSE WASHDC//NSC/MR CHILDRESS// PRIORITY

RUEKJCS / JCS WASHDC//J5// PRIORITY

PT

URGENT JCRC 06/28/84

APPRV: JCHC:PDM

PRFTD: JCRC:GEB

F

DISTR: JCRC2 AMB DCM2

POL SA2 DAO

CHRON

12/WS

BANGKOK 06 17628

SUBJECT: JCRC REPORT #86-2191 OBSERVATION OF U.S. PWS
 IN HAI PHONG CITY (U)

REF: A. HK 82-004 (REPORT BY SAME SOURCE)

B. HK 82-011 (REPORT BY SAME SOURCE)

1. SOURCE. NAME: TRAN TRONG TUYEN; DOB: 5 MAY 75; POB: HAI PHONG; FORMER POSITION: BARBER; PRESENT LOCATION: KAO, MACAO; IDENTIFICATION DATA: BOAT M116/2; IOI: 1973; MAP USED: HAI PHONG CITY MAP, SERIES L929; SHEET NF 48-12 SERIES 1501; DATE OF INTERVIEW: 15 MAR 86; NAME OF INTERVIEWER: MR. G. E. BELL, GS-13 DOD; OTHER: ARRIVED MACAO 9 JUN 81.

2. SUMMARY: SOURCE, A 50 YOA MALE VM REFUGEE, PROVIDED INFORMATION CONCERNING HIS ALLEGED FIRST HAND OBSERVATION OF A GROUP OF U.S. PWS AT BEN BINH PIER (YJ 7507) HAI PHONG CITY. END SUMMARY.

3. SOURCE STATED THAT SOMETIME DURING 1973 WHILE RESIDING IN HAI PHONG HE OBSERVED A GROUP OF U.S. PWS. SOURCE STATED THAT HIS YOUNGER SISTER WAS KILLED BY ROBBERS IN THUY NGUYEN AFTER SHE WAS EVACUATED THERE DURING THE DECEMBER 1972 BOMBING OF HAI PHONG. SOURCE STATED THAT SEVERAL MONTHS LATER (POSSIBLY SIX OR SEVEN MONTHS LATER BUT NOT SURE) HE TRAVELLED FROM HAI PHONG TO THUY NGUYEN TO ARRANGE FOR THE EXHUMATION OF HIS YOUNGER SISTER'S REMAINS.

4. SOURCE STATED THAT HE ARRIVED AT BEN BINH PIER (XJ 752278) AROUND 2400 HOURS. SOURCE STATED THAT HE AND SEVERAL OTHER TRAVELLERS (U/I) WERE HELD BACK BY PAVN SOLDIERS, APPROX 50 TO 70 METERS FROM THE FERRY. SOURCE STATED THAT AT THAT TIME HE SAW A GROUP OF TALL MEN WHO LOOKED LIKE AMERICANS MOVING ONTO THE FERRY. SOURCE STATED THAT DUE TO THE DARKNESS HE WAS NOT ABLE TO SEE THE MEN CLEARLY AND COULD NOT DESCRIBE THEM. SOURCE STATED THAT NONE OF THE TRAVELLERS IN HIS GROUP WAS ALLOWED ONTO THE SAME FERRY AS THE GROUP OF TALL MEN. AFTER THE GROUP OF TALL MEN MOVED ONTO THE FERRY, THE FERRY MOVED ACROSS THE RIVER TO THE THUY NGUYEN SIDE OF THE RIVER.

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5. SOURCE STATED THAT SHORTLY AFTER THE GROUP OF TALL MEN DEPARTED, HE AND OTHER TRAVELLERS MOVED ONTO ANOTHER FERRY AND ALSO CROSSED THE RIVER. SOURCE STATED THAT WHEN THE FERRY ON WHICH HE WAS RIDING REACHED THE THUY NGUYEN SIDE HE SAW THE SAME GROUP OF TALL MEN STANDING ON THE PIER BENEATH A RED LIGHT. SOURCE STATED THAT ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT SEE THE MEN CLEARLY HE WAS ABLE TO DETERMINE THAT THEY WERE CAUCASIANS RATHER THAN VIETNAMESE. SOURCE RECALLED THAT SOME OF THE MEN WERE WEARING WHITE BANDAGES AS IF THEY HAD BEEN WOUNDED. SOURCE RECALLED SEEING AT LEAST ONE MAN WITH A HEAD BANDAGE AND AT LEAST ONE MAN WITH AN ARM BANDAGE. SOURCE WAS NOT ABLE TO DETERMINE THE NATIONALITY OF THE MEN PUT HEARD FROM PEOPLE (U/I) STANDING AROUND THE PIER THAT THEY WERE AMERICANS. SOURCE COULD NOT RECALL HOW MANY CAUCASIANS HE HAD OBSERVED BUT STATED THAT THE GROUP CONSISTED OF AT LEAST 12 AND NO MORE THAN 16 MEN. JUST AFTER SOURCE'S GROUP OFFLOADED FROM THE FERRY, SOURCE SAW THE GROUP OF CAUCASIANS GET INTO A LARGE MILITARY TRUCK COVERED BY DARK COLORED CANVAS. SOURCE SAW SEVERAL PAVN SOLDIERS ALSO GET INTO THE TRUCK AND THEN THE TRUCK DEPARTED FROM THE PIER IN THE DIRECTION OF THUY NGUYEN. WHEN THE TRUCK DEPARTED SOURCE HEARD FROM PEOPLE (U/I) STANDING AROUND THE PIER THAT THE CAUCASIANS WERE BEING TAKEN TO A PRISON LOCATED IN DINH LAP (YJ 1984), QUANG BINH PROVINCE. AFTER THE TRUCK DEPARTED SOURCE DID NOT SEE OR HEAR ABOUT THE CAUCASIANS AGAIN. SOURCE WAS NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PRISON IN DINH LAP AND STATED THAT HE HEARD NOTHING FURTHER CONCERNING THE PRISON AND HAD NEVER GONE THERE. SOURCE WAS NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ALLEGED CAUCASIANS SAID TO BE AMERICANS.

6. SOURCE STATED THAT HIS POB WAS LOCATED AT #18 CAU DAT ST, HAI PHONG. BEGINNING IN 1945 SOURCE STUDIED AT THE A-PHA FRENCH SCHOOL LOCATED ON CAT DAI ST, HAI PHONG. AFTER FIVE YEARS AT A-PHA FRENCH SCHOOL, SOURCE TRANSFERRED TO THE PHU THANG SCHOOL LOCATED ON PHO TRAI CAU ST, HAI PHONG, WHERE HE STUDIED FOR FIVE MORE YEARS. AFTER GRADUATION FROM SCHOOL SOURCE WORKED/STUDIED AS A

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 ON 6 APR 1993

DRIVER/MECHANIC A [REDACTED], HAI PHONG, FOR APPROX SIX TO SEVEN MONTHS. SOURCE THEN GAINED EMPLOYMENT AS A CLERK WITH A FRENCH OWNED CANNED FOOD COMPANY (COULDN'T RECALL NAME). AFTER THE WITHDRAWAL OF FRENCH FORCES FROM HAI PHONG SOURCE WORKED AS A BARBER IN THE BARBERSHOP OF HIS FATHER (TRAN TRONG THIFF, BOB HAI PHONG, FORMER FRENCH SOLDIER, DECEASED IN 1967) WHICH WAS LOCATED AT #72 HOANG VAN THAI, HAI PHONG. SOURCE CONTINUED TO WORK IN THE BARBER SHOP UNTIL HE DEPARTED FROM VIETNAM IN MAY 1961. SOURCE LEFT HIS WIFE (LE THI CHINH, 48 YOA NATIVE OF THUY NGUYEN, HAI PHONG, TAILOR, CURRENTLY RESIDING IN THE HOME OF SOURCE'S FATHER #74 HOANG VAN THAI) AND THREE CHILDREN (17-25 YOA) IN HAI PHONG AT THE TIME OF HIS DEPARTURE. SOURCE CLAIMED TO HAVE NO RELATIVES WORKING FOR THE SAV GOVERNMENT. SOURCE CLAIMED TO HAVE HAD ONLY ONE FRUSH WITH THE LAW WHICH OCCURRED DURING 1959. SOURCE STATED THAT DURING 1958 HE HAD ATTEMPTED TO FLEE NORTHERN VIETNAM FOR THE SOUTH BUT WAS ARRESTED AND HELD IN TRAN PHU PRISON, HAI PHONG, FOR FIVE MONTHS THEN RELEASED TO CONTINUE WORK AS A BARBER.

7. COMMENT: SOURCE WAS NOT VERY CONVINCING IN RELATING HIS STORY. SOURCE WAS COOPERATIVE BUT ALSO VERY NERVOUS AND GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WANTED TO ABANDON THE INTERVIEW SEVERAL TIMES. SOURCE AT FIRST CLAIMED THAT HE HAD SEEN THE GROUP OF CAUCASIANS IN 1975 ABOUT ONE YEAR AFTER THE BOMBING HALT AND THE END OF THE WAR. SOURCE ALSO INDICATED THAT HE HAD GONE TO EXHUME THE REMAINS OF HIS SISTER ABOUT ONE YEAR AFTER HER DEATH WHICH HAD OCCURRED DURING THE BOMBING OF HAI PHONG AND, WHICH WAS CAUSED BY THE BOMBING BY U.S. AIRCRAFT. WHILE BEING QUESTIONED CONCERNING THESE POINTS AND ABOUT HOW HE WAS ABLE TO ESTABLISH THE TIME FRAME, SOURCE SUDDENLY REALIZED THAT HAI PHONG HAD BEEN HEAVILY BOMBED IN 1972 AND CHANGED HIS STORY ACCORDINGLY. SOURCE THEN STATED THAT HE HAD GONE TO EXHUME THE REMAINS OF HIS SISTER SEVERAL MONTHS AFTER THE BOMBING AND SEEMED TO RECALL THAT PERHAPS SIX OR SEVEN MONTHS TIME HAD ELAPSED. SOURCE DECIDED THAT NO MORE THAN SEVEN MONTHS HAD EXPIRED PRIOR TO HIS TRIP TO THUY NGUYEN. WHEN ASKED ABOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE OF VIETNAMESE LAW AS WELL AS CUSTOMS WHICH REQUIRE THAT THE BODY OF THE DECEASED REMAIN BURIED FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR AND NORMALLY THREE YEARS, SOURCE CHANGED HIS STORY TO INDICATE THAT HE HAD GONE TO THUY NGUYEN AT THE TIME TO ARRANGE FOR THE FUTURE EXHUMATION OF HIS SISTER RATHER THAN THE ACTUAL EXHUMATION. SOURCE WAS UNABLE TO EXPLAIN WHY HE HAD WAITED FOR FIVE YEARS IN KAO IANG CAMP BEFORE COMING FORWARD WITH HIS STORY. SOURCE REFUSED A REQUEST FOR POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION AND STATED THAT HE ONLY WANTED TO PROVIDE HIS INFORMATION AND NOT GET CONNECTED TO THE MATTER. SOURCE CLAIMED THAT HE WAS AFRAID FOR THE SAFETY OF HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN AND REQUESTED THAT THEY NOT BE INVOLVED IN ANY WAY. SOURCE WAS INTERVIEWED IN FEBRUARY 1992 AND RESPONDED FOR ANOTHER INTERVIEW ON THE SAME INCIDENT WITH A DIFFERENT INTERVIEWER IN APRIL 1992 BUT DID NOT INDICATE THAT HE HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY INTERVIEWED. WE [REDACTED]

NOTE SEVERAL DISCREPANCIES IN SOURCE'S PREVIOUS TWO REPORTS CONCERNING THAT ONE INCIDENT (REMAINS FROM WRECKAGE BURIED NEAR HAI PHONG) AND THAT SOURCE HAD PREVIOUSLY GIVEN HIS OCCUPATION AS PUBLIC WORKS. THE POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT SOURCE WAS A CIVIL SERVANT (OR PERHAPS MILITARY) AND WAS MORE INVOLVED IN THE DEFENSE OF HAI PHONG THAN HE WOULD LEAD US TO BELIEVE. THIS MAY ALSO ACCOUNT FOR SOURCE'S PREVIOUS STATEMENT INDICATING THAT HE HAD RESIDED IN LANG RE VILLAGE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF HAI PHONG CITY AND HIS STATEMENT EARLIER IN THIS INTERVIEW INDICATING THAT HIS SISTER'S DEATH WAS CAUSED BY THE BOMBING. ADDITIONALLY, SOURCE IS PROBABLY ANXIOUS FOR RESETTLEMENT AFTER WAITING FOR FIVE YEARS IN KAO CAMP.

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(12) ACTION JCRC2 INFO AMB DCM2 SA3 POL DAG DATT/TLC DO

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TOR: 13:35

RR RUEHKK

CN: 15651

DE RUHQSGG #2607 0101256

CHRG: JCRC

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DIST: JCRC

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FM CDR JCRC BARBERS PT HI

TO RUEHKK/JCRC LIAISON BANGKOK TH

INFO RUHQHQA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J36//

RUEKJCS/DIA WASHINGTON DC//VC-PW//

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//

RUEADWW/WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASH DC

RUEKJCS/JCS WASHINGTON DC//J5/OCJCS-PW-MIA//

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[REDACTED]//N03450//

SUBJ: EVALUATION OF RPT HK86-019 (U)

NSC FOR MR. CHILDRESS

A. JCRC LIAISON BANGKOK TH 080925Z APR 86

1. (C) REVIEW OF INFORMATION PROVIDED BY TRAN TRONG XUYEN, SOURCE OF REF A, REVEALS NO CORRELATION TO DATA IN JCRC FILES.

2. (U) THIS IS A PRELIMINARY ANALYTICAL POSITION AND NOT A FINAL EVALUATION. EVAL - RE.

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