

ORIGIN CJTF2 INFO DCM POL SA DAO PW/MIA EXA DALO INHB (9)

VZCZC
PP RUHQHQ RUEKJCS RUEKJCS RUHQQB RUEKJCS RUEKJCS
RUEADWW RUEHC
DE RUEHBM #3091/01 253 **
ZNR UUUUU
P 101115Z SEP 93
FM CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH
TO RUHQHQ / CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI//J2// PRIORITY
INFO RUEKJCS / SPCDEF WASHDC//OCJCS-PW-MIA/J5//
RUEKJCS / SECDEF WASHDC//USDP:RSA//
RUHQQB / USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3//
RUEKJCS / USCINCPAC LO WASHDC//
RUEKJCS / DIA WASHDC//
RUEADWW / NSC WASHDC
RUEHC / SECSTATE WASHDC//CA/OCS/CCS/EAP/VLC//
BT
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 07 BANGKOK TH 33091

UNCLASSIFIED 0433 SEP 93

PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE

SURJ: PRIORITY CASE INVESTIGATION TEAM REPORT: CASE 0372

RFPS: (A) DIA DASH SHEET CASE 0372, 2 JUN 93
(B) JTF-FA CASE ASSESSMENT CASE 0372, 6 JUL 93
(C) CJTF-FA DET ONE BANGKOK TH, 210339Z JAN 93

1. BACKGROUND: FROM 24 THROUGH 31 AUGUST 1993, THE PRIORITY CASE INVESTIGATION TEAM (PCIT) SEARCHED FOR DOCUMENTATION AND EXPLORED LEADS ASSOCIATED WITH EIGHT CASES IN GIA LAI PROVINCE. PCIT MEMBERS INCLUDED MSGT WILLIAM R. DEFTER (U.S. TEAM LEADER), WILLIAM P. COUTUR (DIA ANALYST/LINGUIST), LTC PHAM TEO (PHAMJ TFOF) (VNO SMP TEAM LEADER), AND NGUYEN THE CONG (NGUYENX THYS COCNG) (MINISTRY OF INTERIOR). THIS REPORT CONTAINS THE DETAILS OF THE INVESTIGATION INTO CASE 0372.

2. SUMMARY: ON 25 AND 27 AUGUST 1993, THE PCIT INVESTIGATED CASE 0372 IN GIA LAI PROVINCE. THE TEAM INTERVIEWED THREE WITNESSES FOR THE CASE, NONE OF WHOM PROVIDED INFORMATION RELATED TO THIS CASE. IN ADDITION, A JTF-FA ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW TEAM INTERVIEWED A REQUESTED WITNESS FOR THIS CASE ON 17 MAY 93 IN HANOI. THIS WITNESS PROVIDED NO INFORMATION RELATING TO CASE 0372. VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS IN GIA LAI PROVINCE DENIED THE EXISTENCE OF ANY SUPPORTING ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTATION ASSOCIATED WITH CASE 0372. BASED ON THE RESULTS OF THIS AND THE PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION OF THIS CASE, THERE IS NOT ENOUGH INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION.

3. DETAILS:

- A. ON 25 AUGUST 1993, THE JOINT U.S./VIETNAMESE PCIT HELD A TWO HOUR STRATEGY CONFERENCE WITH MEMBERS OF THE GIA LAI PROVINCE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE TO PRESENT INVESTIGATION REQUIREMENTS AND ESTABLISH A COURSE OF ACTION FOR INVESTIGATING CASES IN THE PROVINCE. THE MEETING TOOK PLACE AT THE PROVINCE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE HEADQUARTERS (HQ), PLEIKU CITY, AND HAS ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF THE PCIT AND GIA LAI PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVES, INCLUDING PHAM THE DUNG (PHAMJ THFS ZUNGX) (PROVINCE TEAM LEADER AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CHIEF); NGO NGOC SINH (NGOO NGOCJ SINH) (PROVINCE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPUTY CHIEF); THAN VAN MANH (TRANF VAWN MANHJ) (PAVN PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVE); CAPTAIN HOANG NHAN THANG (HOANGF NHAAN THAWNGS) (PAVN PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVE); AND TRAN MINH TRUONG (TRANF MINH TRWONGF) (PROVINCE POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVE). DURING THE MEETING, THE PCIT PRESENTED THE VIETNAMESE WITH A LIST OF SOURCES WHICH, THE U.S. SIDE BELIEVED, COULD PROVIDE INFORMATION RELATIVE TO CASE 0372. THESE INCLUDED:

Gia Lai
0372

- (1) ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS/UNITS:

- (A) MILITARY REGION 5 (MR5)
- (B) P3 FRONT
- (C) V211 HOSPITAL (FORMERLY V94 HOSPITAL)
- (D) COMMO-LIAISON STATION T9
- (E) "CAMP 101" OR "HO MOUNTAIN CAMP" RECORDS
- (F) PROVINCIAL AND MILITARY RECORDS FROM GIET LAI-KONTUM
- (G) GROUP 559 RECORDS
- (H) ENEMY PROSELYTING DIRECTORATE, HANOI
- (I) B3 FRONT/3RD CORPS MEDICAL TECHNICIAN SCHOOL RECORDS

CC		
CD		
OPS		
LOG		
ADMIN		
FILE		
CY TO <i>Sally</i>		

(J) AN LO DISTRICT HQ AND DISTRICT MILITIA TRADITION HOUSE

(2) THE PCIT REQUESTED THE VIETNAMESE LOCATE AND MAKE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS:

(A) PO LAN THUAN (ROW LAN TRUAANJ), IA'MONONG VILLAGE FORCES CHIEF.

(B) RO MAH LIN (ROW MA LUYNH), HEARSAY WITNESS

(C) DR. VU KHAC DIEP (VUX KHACS DIEFPJ), FORMER PATHOLOGIST, V211 HOSPITAL

(D) DR. MA NHUONG (MA NHWONGX), FORMER HEAD OF PATHOLOGY, V211 HOSPITAL

(E) CAPTAIN PHAM HUU DUONG (PHAMJ HWU ZWONG), FORMER CADRE FOR B3 FRONT PW CAMP

(F) CAPTAIN PHUNG VAN Y (PHUNG VAWN Y) OF PAVN-DIRECTED "GROUP 875".

(G) PHAM THANH (PHAMJ THANH), FORMER COMMANDER OF "HO MOUNTAIN CAMP"

(H) KHUONG XUAN QUE (KHUONGX XUAAN QUEFS), FORMER B3 FRONT ENEMY PROSELYTING CADRE

(I) DR. LE CAO DAI (LEE CAO DAIF)

R. THE PCIT HAD DROPPED OFF LEAD SHEET INFORMATION WITH PROVINCE OFFICIALS ON 19 AUGUST 1993. GIA LAI PROVINCE OFFICIALS HAD, DURING THE FIVE DAYS BEFORE THE PCIT ARRIVED, CONTACTED APPROPRIATE DISTRICT AND VILLAGE OFFICIALS IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY AND LOCATE INDIVIDUALS REQUESTED FOR INTERVIEW. THE PROVINCE TEAM INFORMED THE PCIT ALL AVAILABLE WITNESSES HAD BEEN LOCATED AND WOULD BE PRESENT FOR INTERVIEWS ACCORDING TO THE SCHEDULE.

C. ARCHIVAL: DURING THIS AND ALL PREVIOUS SEARCH AND INVESTIGATION EFFORTS, NO DOCUMENTATION ASSOCIATED WITH CASE 0372 HAS EVER BEEN DISCOVERED. THE SUBJECT OF WARTIME DOCUMENTATION WAS DISCUSSED AT LENGTH WITH GIA LAI PROVINCE OFFICIALS. THEY WERE UNAWARE OF ANY EXISTING PROVINCIAL RECORDS PERTAINING TO U.S. SERVICEMEN KILLED OR CAPTURED DURING THE WAR. LTC PHAM TEO, VNOSMP PCIT TEAM LEADER, CONTACTED PAVN 3RD CORPS HQ CONCERNING WARTIME DOCUMENTS, BUT 3RD CORPS HQ PERSONNEL CLAIMED TO HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF ARCHIVAL MATERIAL BELATED TO UNACCOUNTED FOR U.S. PERSONNEL IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. PROVINCE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS POINTED OUT THAT MAIN FORCE AND GUERRILLA UNITS THROUGHOUT THE B3 FRONT WERE EXTREMELY MOBILE AND SELDOM REMAINED AT A FIXED LOCATION FOR EXTENDED PERIODS. THIS WAS DUE TO U.S. AND REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (RVN) COMBAT OPERATIONS AS

WELL AS B-52 STRIKES. GUERRILLA UNITS REFRAINED FROM KEEPING ANY SORT OF WRITTEN RECORDS WHICH, IF CAPTURED, COULD COMPROMISE THEIR MEMBERSHIP OR PAST/PLANNED OPERATIONS. IT WAS STANDARD POLICY FOR THE MAIN FORCES TO BURN OR BURY ALL EXCEPT THE MOST CRITICAL DOCUMENTATION PRIOR TO RELOCATING. THIS WAS DONE TO MAINTAIN OPERATIONAL SECURITY AND TO REDUCE THE LOGISTICAL BURDEN. DURING THESE FREQUENT RELOCATIONS, SOLDIERS WOULD CARRY ONLY THE BARE NECESSITIES REQUIRED TO FIGHT AND SURVIVE. VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS IN GIA LAI PROVINCE WERE INFORMED OF THE JOINT U.S./VIETNAMESE DOCUMENTATION CENTER WHICH OPENED IN HANOI IN JUNE 1993, AND PLEDGED TO FORWARD ANY APPLICABLE RECORDS THEY FOUND TO THIS FACILITY.

D. INTERVIEWS: THE GIA LAI PROVINCE TEAM DETERMINED THAT THREE OF THE SEVEN INDIVIDUALS IDENTIFIED BY THE PCIT WERE RESIDENTS OF THE PROVINCE. THESE THREE INDIVIDUALS WERE DR. VU KHAC DIEP, RO LAN THUAN, AND RO MAH LIN. IN ADDITION, A DET 2, JTF-FA, ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW TEAM INTERVIEWED KHUONG XUAN QUE IN HANOI ON 17 MAY 1993. DETAILS OF THESE INTERVIEWS ARE CONTAINED IN THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS. ADDITIONAL RESEARCH BY PROVINCE OFFICIALS INTO THE LOCATION OF THE REMAINING POTENTIAL WITNESSES DETERMINED THE FOLLOWING CONCERNING THE STATUS OF REQUESTED WITNESSES:

- MA NHUONG, CURRENTLY RESIDES IN THAI BINH PROVINCE
 - LE CAO DAI, CURRENTLY RESIDES IN HANOI
 - PHAM THANH, CURRENTLY RESIDES IN QUANG NGAI PROVINCE
 - PHAM HUU DUONG, ORIGINALLY FROM VINH PHU CITY, CURRENT WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN
 - PHUNG VAN Y, CURRENT WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN

(1) ON 25 AUGUST 1993, THE PCIT INTERVIEWED DR. VU KHAC DIEP (VUXS KHACS DIEEPJ). A 56 YEAR OLD RESIDENT OF UNIT 10, UNIFICATION WARD, PLEIKU CITY, GIA LAI PROVINCE. HE IS A RETIRED PATHOLOGIST.

(A) DR. DIEP BEGAN HIS MILITARY SERVICE WITH THE 108TH HOSPITAL IN HANOI, WORKING THERE FROM 1959 THROUGH 1965. IN DECEMBER 1965, HE TRANSFERRED TO THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS TO HOSPITAL V211, AKA V94. DIEP EXPLAINED THAT THE V211 DESIGNATOR WAS ORIGINATED BY ADDING 108 (FROM MILITARY HOSPITAL 108) AND 103 (FROM MILITARY HOSPITAL 103). PERSONNEL FROM THESE TWO HOSPITALS HAD COMBINED TO FORM V211. THE V211 HOSPITAL HAD THREE DEPARTMENTS: MILITARY MEDICAL, POLITICAL, AND REAR SERVICES. DIEP WORKED IN THE FORENSICS SECTION OF THE MILITARY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT CONDUCTING AUTOPSIES UNTIL THE END OF THE WAR IN 1975.

(B) HOSPITAL V211 WAS DIVIDED INTO THREE BRANCHES: NORTH (V211 AKA V94), CENTRAL (V2) AND SOUTH (V1). ALL BRANCHES WERE IN CAMBODIA JUST ACROSS THE BORDER FROM VIETNAM. THE NORTH BRANCH WAS ADJACENT TO NORTHERN KONUM PROVINCE, THE CENTRAL WAS ADJACENT TO GIA LAI PROVINCE, AND THE SOUTH WAS ADJACENT TO DAC LAC PROVINCE. THE NORTH BRANCH WAS THE MAIN HOSPITAL AND THE OTHER TWO WERE SMALLER BRANCHES. THERE WERE ALSO PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO COMBAT UNITS AND FIELD DISPENSARIES UNDER THE OVERALL COMMAND OF V211. DR. DIEP WORKED AT THE CENTRAL WING FROM DECEMBER 1965 THROUGH MAY 1966, WHEN HE WENT TO THE NORTH WING. HE STAYED THERE THROUGH DECEMBER 1966, THEN RETURNED TO CENTRAL WHERE HE REMAINED THROUGH THE END OF 1968 OR 1969, AT WHICH TIME HE MOVED BACK TO THE NORTH WING WHERE HE STAYED THROUGH LIBERATION.

(C) THERE WERE THREE LOGISTICS STATIONS, SIMILAR TO BUT NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO COMMO-LIAISON STATIONS, THAT SERVICED THE THREE BRANCHES OF THE HOSPITAL. THEY WERE CALLED THE NORTH, SOUTH AND CENTRAL STATIONS. THEY PROVIDED ALL SUPPLIES AND OTHER PROVISIONS TO THE HOSPITAL AND ITS BRANCHES. DR. DIEP EMPHASIZED THAT THEY WERE NOT PART OF THE NORMAL COMMO-LIAISON SYSTEM THAT RAN FROM NORTH VIETNAM INTO THE SOUTH ALONG THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL. THESE STATIONS HANDLED HOSPITAL RELATED NEEDS ONLY.

(D) THE V211 CENTRAL BRANCH WAS LOCATED

JUST INSIDE CAMBODIA ON THE WEST SIDE OF PO MOUNTAIN (NUIS HOOS) WHICH STRADDLED THE VIETNAM-CAMBODIA BORDER. THERE WAS A PW CAMP ABOUT 45 MINUTES WALKING DISTANCE, INSIDE VIETNAM, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN. IT WAS NEAR THE CA GIANG RIVER (SOONG CA GIANG) WHICH WAS 30 TO 50 METERS WIDE AT ITS WIDEST. AS FAR AS HE KNEW IT WAS JUST CALLED "THE PW CAMP" (TRAIJ GIAM). AFTER 1970, ACCORDING TO DIEP, THERE WAS A SECOND PW CAMP IN THE AREA OF THE V211 NORTH BRANCH. HE COULD PROVIDE NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON THIS CAMP.

(E) THERE WERE MANY RVN PW'S AT THE FIRST CAMP AND ONLY, TO HIS KNOWLEDGE, THREE AMERICAN MALES, TWO CAUCASIAN AND ONE BLACK. THESE THREE U.S. PRISONERS WERE TREATED AT DIFFERENT TIMES IN THE PW CAMP BY A NURSE, A DOCTOR, AND A MEDIC.

(F) THE BLACK MALE PRISONER WAS ABOUT 5 FEET 9 INCHES TALL AND HAD BEEN WOUNDED IN THE CHEST. HE WAS TREATED JUST AFTER ARRIVING IN THE PW CAMP AND DIED SHORTLY THEREAFTER. DR. DIEP REQUESTED AND RECEIVED APPROVAL TO PERFORM AN AUTOPSY ON THIS PRISONER AND DETERMINED THAT THE PRISONER HAD DIED OF MALARIA. OTHER THAN HIS CHEST WOUND, THIS PW HAD NO IDENTIFYING SCARS, MARKS OR TATTOOS. THE PCIT SHOWED DR. DIEP PHOTOGRAPHS OF FIVE BLACK U.S. PERSONNEL FROM

DIRECT HIT DURING B-52 STRIKES IN 1969 AND MOST OF THE RECORDS WERE DESTROYED. DR. DIEP SAID THAT B-52 STRIKES WERE SO FREQUENT AND DESTRUCTIVE THAT BY 1972, ALMOST NO USEABLE RECORDS REMAINED FROM PREVIOUS YEARS. IT WAS HIS OPINION THAT BY 1975, ANYTHING THAT SURVIVED WOULD SINCE HAVE BEEN DESTROYED BY WEATHER AND POOR STORAGE CONDITIONS. HE KNEW OF NO RECORDS SURVIVING THE WAR THAT CONCERNED U.S. PERSONNEL TREATED IN THE V211 HOSPITAL.

(L) IN AUGUST 1975, DR. DIEP ACCOMPANIED PHUNG VAN Y (PHUNG VAWN Y) ON A MISSION TO RECOVER SOME PAVN REMAINS BURIED IN THE HOSPITAL CEMETERY. THEY FOUND THAT DUE TO B-52 STRIKES, THE AREA WAS ALMOST UNRECOGNIZABLE, EVEN TO SOMEONE WHO HAD SPENT MANY YEARS IN THE AREA. HE ALSO SAID THAT MANY OF THE GRAVES HAD BEEN DESTROYED. THE PAIR RECOVERED SOME REMAINS BUT MANY HAD BEEN UNEARTHED AND DESTROYED BY U.S. BOMBING OVER THE YEARS. DR. DIEP SAID THAT ON A PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION WITH MR. GARNETT BELL (SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO CJTF-FA), THEY DISCOVERED A PENICILLIN VIAL USED TO HOLD PAVN KIA IDENTIFYING DATA, BUT NO ASSOCIATED REMAINS.

(M) PHUNG VAN Y IS IDENTIFIED IN REF A AS A FORMER MEMBER OF PAVN GROUP 875. LTC PHAM TEO.

CASES IN THE AREA, BUT HE WAS UNABLE TO IDENTIFY THE PERSON HE TREATED. HE SAID EVEN IF ONE OF THE PICTURES WAS THE MAN HE TREATED, THE HARDSHIPS OF IMPRISONMENT WOULD PROBABLY HAVE CHANGED THE INDIVIDUAL'S FEATURES TO THE POINT THAT RECOGNITION WOULD BE DIFFICULT. AFTER THE AUTOPSY, DIEP COMPLETED A DEATH CERTIFICATE INCLUDING THE DATE AND TIME OF DEATH, CAUSE OF DEATH, AND THAT THE DECEASED WAS A PW. AS FOR THE NAME ON THE CERTIFICATE, DIEP EXPLAINED THAT SINCE V211 HOSPITAL STAFF COULD SPEAK NO ENGLISH, THEY SELDOM KNEW PRISONER'S TRUE NAMES AND USUALLY USED NAMES PHONETICALLY SIMILAR TO THE INDIVIDUAL'S ACTUAL NAME. THE PW CAMP SOMETIMES PROVIDED NAMES FOR PRISONER TREATMENT RECORDS, BUT OFTEN THE RECORD WAS ONLY ANNOTATED WITH "U.S. PRISONER (TUF BINH MYX).

(G) DR. DIEP RECEIVED PERMISSION TO PRESERVE THE SKELETAL REMAINS OF THE BLACK MALE PRISONER FOR TRAINING PURPOSES AT V211'S MEDICAL TECHNICIAN'S SCHOOL. THE REMAINS WERE KEPT THERE UNTIL THE SCHOOL TRANSFERRED TO THE NORTH AT SOME TIME IN 1969. HE DID NOT KNOW IF THE SKELETAL REMAINS WERE BURIED OR RETAINED BY 3RD FRONT (LATER PAVN 3RD CORPS).

(H) LTC PHAM TEO, VNOSMP TEAM CHIEF, RECALLED THAT FOLLOWING THE 14TH JFA, HE RECOVERED A COMPLETE SET OF SKELETAL REMAINS FROM THE 3RD CORPS MEDICAL TECHNICIAN SCHOOL WHICH WERE LATER EXAMINED IN HANOI. THIS SKELETON HAD BEEN DRILLED AND ASSEMBLED IN SUCH A MANNER THAT IT COULD BE DISPLAYED FOR CLASSROOM USE. IT WAS EXAMINED BY BOTH U.S. AND VIETNAMESE JOINT FORENSICS PERSONNEL AND DETERMINED TO BE MONGOLOID. THE REMAINS WERE LEFT IN THE CUSTODY OF THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT. THE HEIGHT OF THE REMAINS WAS DETERMINED TO BE 1.6 METERS.

(I) ACCORDING TO DR. DIEP, THE TWO CAUCASIAN PRISONERS DIED AT SEPARATE TIMES IN THE MONTHS FOLLOWING THE BLACK PRISONER'S DEATH AND WERE BURIED IN THE HOSPITAL CEMETERY. DIEP DID NOT PERFORM AUTOPSIES OR EXAMINE THE BODIES, BUT SAID THE MEN DIED OF MALARIA OR MALNUTRITION. THE HOSPITAL REPORTED THEIR DEATHS JUST AS HE HAD THE BLACK MALE PW'S DEATH, VIA 15 WATT RADIO TO HIGHER HQ.

(J) DURING A 1969 U.S. RAID ON V211, ACCORDING TO DR. DIEP, VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST SECURITY FORCES SHOT DOWN AN AMERICAN HELICOPTER WHICH CRASH LANDED INTACT IN THE CEMETERY WHERE THE TWO CAUCASIAN MALE U.S. PW'S WERE BURIED. U.S. RESCUE FORCES IMMEDIATELY RECOVERED ALL PERSONNEL FROM THE HELICOPTER. DR. DIEP FELT THAT IF U.S. RECORDS SHOWED WHERE THE HELICOPTER WENT DOWN, THIS INFORMATION MIGHT HELP LOCATE THE GRAVES.

(K) V211 HOSPITAL RECORDS WERE MAINTAINED BY A UNIT CALLED T9. THIS UNIT SUFFERED A

HIMSELF A FORMER GROUP 875 CADRE, STATED EMPHATICALLY THAT PHUNG VAN Y WAS NEVER IN GROUP 875. HE SUGGESTED THAT DURING PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS INTO THIS CASE, INTERVIEWERS MAY HAVE MISTAKENLY UNDERSTOOD THAT PHUNG VAN Y HAS "IN [GROUP] 875", INSTEAD OF THAT Y ATTEMPTED TO RECOVER PAVN REMAINS IN 8/75, I.E. AUGUST 1975.

(N) DIEP ALSO KNEW PAVN CAPTAIN PHAM HUU DUONG (PHAMJ HWUX ZWONG), A DOCTOR WHO HAS WOUNDED IN THE LEG AND CAPTURED WHILE ON A COMBAT OPERATION. DUONG HAS ASSIGNED TO A COMBAT MEDICAL TREATMENT TEAM (DOOIJ DIEUEF TRIJ), DT4. DR. DIEP HEARD THAT WHILE A PRISONER, DR. DUONG APPARENTLY DESCRIBED THE COMMAND STRUCTURE OF THE V211 HOSPITAL TO ALLIED FORCES. DUONG IS ORIGINALLY FROM VINH PHU (VINHX PHUS), BUT DR. DIEP HAD NO IDEA OF HIS PRESENT WHEREABOUTS OR DISPOSITION.

(O) FINALLY, DR. DIEP NEVER HEARD OF ANY OTHER AMERICANS WHO DIED WHILE UNDER THE CARE OF THE V211 HOSPITAL. HE HAS NEVER HEARD OF OR SEEN LIVE AMERICANS, EITHER IN PRISON OR LIVING FREELY IN VIETNAM, SINCE 1973.

(2) ON 27 AUGUST 1993, THE PCIT INTERVIEWED MR. RO LAN THUAN (ROW LAN THUAANJ) AT THE IA'NAN VILLAGE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE HOUSE. MR THUAN IS APPROXIMATELY 45 YEARS OLD. HE IS ETHNIC JAPAI AND A RESIDENT OF IA'NAN VILLAGE, DUC CO (DWCS COW) DISTRICT, GIA LAI PROVINCE.

(A) BEGINNING IN 1961, THUAN WAS A VILLAGE GUERRILLA FIGHTING FOR THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT AND THE AMERICANS.

(B) THUAN RELATED HEARSAY CONCERNING A NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER 1966 INCIDENT IN WHICH THE PAVN 95TH BATTALION (BN) ANNIHILATED AN RVN BATTALION WITH AN AMERICAN ADVISOR AT A HELICOPTER LANDING ZONE (NFI). A NORTHERNER NAMED QUI (QUIR) (NFI) COMMANDED THE 95TH BN, WHICH CONSISTED OF AN INFANTRY COMPANY AND A SAPPER COMPANY. MOST OF THE RVN FORCE, INCLUDING THE U.S. ADVISOR, WAS KILLED AND THE COMMUNIST FORCE TOOK NO PRISONERS. HE COULD PROVIDE NO FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS INCIDENT.

(C) THUAN ALSO REPORTED THAT ON AN UNRECALLED DATE, THE 95TH BN SHOT DOWN A U.S. FIXED WING AIRCRAFT. DURING THE INTERVIEW, THUAN ALTERNATELY REFERRED TO THIS AIRCRAFT AS A HELICOPTER, AN I-19 TYPE, AND ONE WHICH DROPPED BOMBS. THE AMERICAN PILOT PARACHUTED FROM THE AIRCRAFT AND 95TH BN TROOPS SHOT AND KILLED HIM SHORTLY AFTER HE REACHED THE GROUND. THE COMMUNIST ELEMENT THEN BURIED THE DEAD PILOT. THUAN RECOUNTED THIS INCIDENT ENTIRELY FROM HEARSAY AND COULD PROVIDE NO FURTHER INFORMATION.

(D) ON ANOTHER UNRECALLED DATE, THUAN CLAIMED TO HAVE DISCOVERED AN AMERICAN STYLE BOOT AND

PART OF A LEG BONE LYING ON THE GROUND NEAR A STREAM. THE LEG BONE HAS LARGE AND SMELLED BADLY FROM DECOMPOSITION. IN THE BOOT WERE SMALL FOOT BONES WHICH FELL OUT WHEN THUAN TURNED THE BOOT UPSIDE DOWN. HE THREW THE BONES INTO THE RIVER AND LEFT THE BOOT BESIDE THE STREAM. THUAN INITIALLY SAID THIS WAS THE BURIAL LOCATION OF THE PILOT DESCRIBED IN PARA. 3.D.(2)(C), ABOVE, BUT LATER SAID THE FOOT WAS LOCATED 10 KM AWAY FROM THE PILOT'S GRAVE AND THAT THE STREAM WAS THE IA'DRANG RIVER.

(E) IN ANOTHER INCIDENT IN 1965 OR 1966, THUAN SAID HE SAW THREE AMERICANS IN THE CUSTODY OF PAVN SOLDIERS. TWO OF THE AMERICANS WERE BLACK AND ONE WAS CAUCASIAN. THE PAVN SOLDIERS WOULD ONLY SAY THE AMERICANS WERE CAPTURED IN A BATTLE AT CHU'PPANG. HE KNEW NOTHING ELSE ABOUT THESE THREE AMERICANS AND COULD NOT DESCRIBE THEM FURTHER, NOR COULD HE REMEMBER WHERE HE HAS WHEN HE SAW THEM.

(F) WHEN ASKED ABOUT AN INCIDENT IN WHICH HE AND RO LAN LEP (ROW LAN LEPS) REPORTEDLY DISCOVERED DECOMPOSING REMAINS ON A BATTLEFIELD (SEE PAR C), THUAN CLAIMED NOT TO REMEMBER THIS INCIDENT.

(3) ON 27 AUGUST 1993, THE PCIT INTERVIEWED -

AUGRO MAH LIN (RO MA LUYNH) AT THE IA'NAN VILLAGE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE HOUSE. LIN IS AN APPROXIMATELY 50 YOA ETHNIC JAPAI AND A RESIDENT OF IA'NAN VILLAGE, DUC CO (EMCS COW) DISTRICT, GIA LAI PROVINCE.

(A) LIN RECALLED A 1964 INCIDENT (HE LATER CHANGED THE YEAR TO 1973 OR 1974) IN WHICH HE, MR. LFP, AND RO LAN THUAN ATTEMPTED TO SCAVENGE A BATTLEFIELD ON WHICH A BATTLE BETWEEN PAVN AND A FORCE OF UNKNOWN COMPOSITION HAD OCCURRED. THE GROUP ENCOUNTERED PAVN SOLDIERS WHO WARNED THEM NOT TO ENTER THE AREA DUE TO MINES AND UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE. THE PAVN SOLDIERS SAID THERE HAD BEEN MANY KILLED IN THE BATTLE, BUT RELATED NO SPECIFICS.

(B) AFTER ENCOUNTERING THE PAVN GROUP, LIN CLAIMED HIS GROUP LEFT THE AREA WITHOUT FURTHER INVESTIGATION. HE SAID HE NEVER SAW A DISCOMPOSING BODY, DID HE KNOW OF ANY PLACE AN AMERICAN MIGHT BE BURIED. HE HAD NEVER HEARD OF ANY REMAINS FOUND IN THE AREA.

(4) ON 17 MAY 1993, A JOINT ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW TEAM INTERVIEWED REQUESTED SOURCE KHUONG XUAN QUE, A 51 YOA HANOI RESIDENT AND FORMER B3 FRONT ENEMY PROSELYTING CADRE FROM 1965 UNTIL 1973. THE TEAM MET AT THE ANTE-BUILDING MEETING ROOM OF THE GOVERNMENT GUEST HOUSE, 2 LE THACH STREET, HOAN KIEM DISTRICT, HANOI TO INTERVIEW QUE. HE PROVIDED NO INFORMATION CONCERNING CASE 0372. HIS STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING SEVERAL UNACCOUNTED FOR AMERICANS IN B3 FRONT WERE VAGUE AND AT TIMES CONFLICTING. THOUGH DURING THE COURSE OF HIS ENEMY PROSELYTING DUTIES, HE FREQUENTED B3 FRONT PW CAMPS AND HOLDING FACILITIES, HE PROVIDED NO INFORMATION ON CAMP DESIGNATORS OR LOCATIONS. NEITHER COULD HE PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE DISPOSITION OF WARTIME PW RECORDS. (FOR A COMPLETE ACCOUNT OF KHUONG XUAN QUE'S STATEMENTS, SEE ORAL HISTORY REPORT OF INTERVIEW, 15 JUNE 1993.)

4. PCIT COMMENTS:

A. COOPERATION: THE COOPERATION AND SUPPORT OFFERED BY GIA LAI PROVINCE OFFICIALS WAS OUTSTANDING. THIS SUPPORT BY PROVINCE OFFICIALS ENSURED THAT OPERATIONS WERE CONDUCTED IN A TIMELY AND WELL ORGANIZED MANNER AND ENHANCED PREPARATION FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEW. MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCE TEAM TRAVELLED SEVERAL HUNDRED KILOMETERS AND SPENT NUMEROUS HOURS EACH DAY IN PREPARATION FOR PCIT'S ARRIVAL. PRELIMINARY PREPARATION BY PROVINCE OFFICIALS WAS SO COMPLETE THAT THE FIRST INTERVIEW WAS CONDUCTED THE AFTERNOON AFTER THE INITIAL MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE PCIT. A PRIME EXAMPLE OF THE LEVEL OF COOPERATION PROVIDED BY THE PROVINCE TEAM, ONE OF THE INDIVIDUALS REQUESTED IN ASSOCIATION WITH ANOTHER CASE WAS INCARCERATED IN GIA TRUNG (GIA TRUNG) PRISON, A CORRECTIONAL FACILITY FOR

CRIMINAL OFFENDERS RUN BY THE NATIONAL MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR. THIS PRISON IS LOCATED IN, BUT NOT UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF, GIA LAI PROVINCE. PROVINCE OFFICIALS TOOK IT UPON THEMSELVES TO CONTACT THE PRISON AND FIND OUT FROM OFFICIALS THERE WHAT ARRANGEMENTS WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE BY PCIT TO INTERVIEW THE INMATE. THIS SAVED MUCH TIME AND SIMPLIFIED THE PREPARATION FOR THE PCIT INTERVIEW OF THE INCARCERATED SUBJECT.

B. WITNESS RELIABILITY

(1) DR. VU KHAC DIEP: DR. DIEP WAS STRAIGHTFORWARD AND APPARENTLY SINCERE IN HIS STATEMENTS. THE PCIT DETECTED NO SIGNS OF COACHING OR SCRIPTING DURING THE INTERVIEW. ASSESS THIS SOURCE'S RELIABILITY TO BE GOOD.

(2) RO LAN THUAN: MR. THUAN CAME TO THE INTERVIEW, AT 0900 HOURS, HIGHLY INTOXICATED. WHEN QUESTIONED BY MR. TEO, VNOSMP, HE ADMITTED TO HAVING THREE DRINKS WITH HIS FRIENDS BEFORE THE INTERVIEW. HE SPOKE VERY BROKEN VIETNAMESE, SOMETIMES UNINTELLIGIBLE, AND REFUSED TO LET LOCAL COMMITTEE OFFICIALS OR OTHERS PRESENT INTERPRET FOR HIM. WHEN THEY TRIED TO EXPLAIN OR TRANSLATE SOMETHING HE SAID, HE BECAME VISIBLY UPSET AND TRIED TO TALK OVER THEM. NOTHING REPORTED BY MR.

THUAN SHOULD BE CONSIDERED RELIABLE. EVEN WHEN RELATING HEARSAY INFORMATION, HE APPEARED TO BE TRYING TO RELATE EXPLOITS AS THOUGH HE WERE THERE. WHEN PINNED DOWN TO FACTS, HE BECAME VERY EVASIVE, MAKING HIS STATEMENTS SUSPECT.

- (3) RO MAH LIN: MR. LIN CAME TO THE INTERVIEW SOBER AND SERIOUS. HE ASKED IF HE COULD SPEAK VIETNAMESE DURING THE INTERVIEW AND USE AN INTERPRETER IF HE ENCOUNTERED DIFFICULTIES. THE ENTIRE INTERVIEW WAS CONDUCTED BY PCIT PERSONNEL IN VIETNAMESE. HIS TESTIMONY WAS CLEAR AND LOGICAL. HE DID NOT SEEM TO HAVE BEEN COACHED OR OTHERWISE PREPARED FOR THE INTERVIEW. HIS TESTIMONY GENERALLY AGREED WITH THAT OF RO LAN LEP (SEE REF C), ENHANCING HIS CREDIBILITY.

- (4) KHUONG XUAN QUE: QUE HAD NO INFORMATION RELATING TO CASE 0372. THE INFORMATION HE DID PROVIDE IS SUSPECT DUE TO CONTRADICTIONS IN THE STATEMENTS.

- C. ANALYSIS/CONCLUSION: THIS WAS THE SECOND INVESTIGATION OF CASE 0372. BASED ON THIS AND THE PREVIOUS EFFORT, THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS ARE OFFERED:

- (1) NO ARCHIVAL RECORDS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS CASE WERE LOCATED.

- (2) NO FIRSTHAND WITNESSES TO THE DEATH OR BURIAL OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATED WITH CASE 0372 WERE LOCATED. IN ADDITION, THE TEAM OBTAINED NO HEARSAY INFORMATION PERTINENT TO THE DETERMINATION OF FATE FOR THE INDIVIDUAL INVOLVED.

- (3) THERE IS NOT ENOUGH INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THIS CASE TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION.

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