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1. COUNTRY: VN; LAO CAT Province

2. SUBJECT: (U) CHA PA Weather Station

3. ISC NUMBER: 327.100
301.000
309.000

4. DATE OF INFORMATION: Apr 65

5. PLACE AND DATE OF ACQ: CMIC, SAIGON, VN
19 Oct 70

6. EVALUATION: SOURCE E INFORMATION 6

7. SOURCE: PW Interrogation

8. REPORT NUMBER: 6 029, 1059 70

9. DATE OF REPORT: 21 Oct 70

10. NO. OF PAGES: 5 W27527

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12. ORIGINATOR: US Element, CMIC, USMACV

13. PREPARED BY: CLAUDE R. BRODEUR
SP6, USA

14. APPROVING AUTHORITY: W.H. BEARDSLEY
LTC, USA
Dir, US Elm, CMIC

15. SUMMARY:

(C) This report contains limited information concerning the CHA PA Weather Station located in LAO CAT Province, NVN. Of significance in this report is the fact that this station was operated by Czechoslovakian advisors, employing North Vietnamese personnel. In addition, this station was one of two weather stations supplying primary meteorological information to a central receiving point, having the mission of dissemination priority throughout NVN and Communist bloc countries. Of additional importance in this report is the fact that this station, after 1961, began employing geophysical, as well as meteorological, equipment.

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1. (C) Background Information:

a. Name: NGUYEN THANH LINH (NGUYEENX, THANH LINH), aka TU LINH (TUW, LINH), CMIC 3092470

b. Rank: CPT (NVA)

c. VC/NVA Position and Unit of Assignment: Chief, Enemy Proselyting Section, Political Section, SR-1

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18. ATTACHMENT DATA

None

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ORIGINATOR COMUSMACV (CMIC)

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d. DPOB: 15 Oct 35; Hamlet (2), MY CAM Village, GANG LONG District, VINH BINH Province, RVN

e. Parents' Names: Father, NGUYEN THIEN LONG (NGUYEENX, THIENIS LONG), status unknown; Mother, LE THI CANH (LEE, THIV CANHS), status unknown

f. Circumstances of Capture. On 8 Apr 70, while conducting enemy proselyting inspections of the Northern CU CHI District Unit, located in the vicinity of (XT607217), in TRUNG LAP THUONG Village, CU CHI District, HAU NGHIA Province, RVN, Source and five others were encountered by local forces. One man was killed, and all others were captured.

g. Significant Activities:

(1) DOB to Nov 65. Source attended elementary school at his POB from 1941 until 1947. In 1947, Source enlisted in the VIET MINH and served until 1954, when he regrouped to NVN. When he was discharged from the army in 1956, Source attended the CONG NONG Agriculture and Industry Refresher School, HANOI City, NVN, until 1958. From 1958 to 1962, Source attended the Pedagogic University of HANOI, majoring in mathematics and political science until graduating in 1962, when he began teaching as an elementary school teacher in HANOI City. In 1965, Source was recalled into the NVA and was assigned to the Enemy Proselyting Department, General Political Department, JCS. After extensive political and intelligence training, Source and eight other men were attached to the 714th Infil Op; in Nov 65, the group began its infiltration to the RVN.

(2) Apr 66 to DOG. After arriving in TAY NINH Province, RVN, in Apr 66, Source and most of the members of his infiltration group were assigned to the Political Department, R, located in the TRANG BA DIEC Area, DUONG MINH CHAU War Zone. In May 66, Source was assigned as Staff Assistant of the US Proselyting Section, Enemy Proselyting Section, Political Staff Section, MR-4, located in the HO BO Area, CU CHI District, HAU NGHIA Province, RVN. Source's mission was to adapt existing enemy proselyting policies and guidances and PW policies to US forces. In Oct 66, the MR-4 Headquarters was redesignated SR-1. In late 1967, SR-1 established two PW camps in preparation for the Tet 68 Offensive. In Jul 68, Camp B (one of the two PW camps) was abandoned because of the small number of prisoners. In Jun 69, Source was promoted to Chief of the Enemy Proselyting Section, SR-1. In Nov 69, the remaining PW camp (Camp A) was abandoned because of the lack of sufficient numbers of prisoners. In Dec 69, Source was temporarily promoted to Deputy Chief of Operations for the Northern CU CHI District Unit. He served in an inspector-observer capacity until his capture on 8 Apr 70. For further information concerning Source's past activities, see IR 6 029 0786 70.

h. Additional References: CMIC PW/Rallier Exploitation Guide; Map: VIETNAM, AMS Series L7014, Sheet 5753 I, Edition 1, dtd 1965, Scale 1:50,000.

2. (C) CHA PA Weather Station:

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a. Location. The CHA PA Weather Station was located at (center of mass) in the vicinity of (UK821704), in CHA PA Town, SA PA District, LAO CAI Province, NVN, approximately 17.5 kilometers from the Provincial Capital (LAO KAY City), LAO CAI Province, NVN.

b. History. This facility was built and financed by CZECHOSLOVAKIA in 1961, as a meteorological data collection center. By Apr 65, this facility increased its capabilities by adding seismological equipment (exact type of equipment unknown). Notwithstanding, this facility retained its designation as the CHA PA Weather Station, and was reputed to be the largest facility of its kind in NVN.

c. Organization. Source heard from a friend employed as a member of the security element of the installation, that this facility employed approximately 30 Czechoslovakian meteorologist-seismologists and 40 to 50 North Vietnamese apprentices. The security element for this installation was provided by the CHA PA Border Public Security Armed Battalion. Although this battalion consisted of 600 to 700 personnel, only approximately 40 of those personnel were assigned to the interior guard of the facility. (Interrogator's Note: The remainder of this battalion was used for the security of the CHA PA electrical power plant (exact location unknown), the CHA PA Hotel (a facility for the billeting of visiting Soviet, Soviet bloc, and Communist Chinese dignitaries), and the general security of the CHA PA Resort Area.) Source could provide no information concerning the subordination of this meteorological-geophysical installation.

d. Personalities. Source could provide no information concerning the personalities operating or working with the scientific element of this installation.

e. Mission. The mission of this installation was to report all (sic) data recorded by meteorological, or geophysical equipment (exact types unknown) to a central receiving communications dissemination point designated as the VAN DIEN Meteorological Station located in the vicinity of (WJ886174). For farther information concerning the VAN DIEN facility, see IR 6 029 1071 70.

f. Physical Plant. This installation covered an area approximately (300m x 400m), which was located within a sparsely wooded area 700 meters from the center of CHA PA Town. The entire installation was fenced in by a cement wall (2m x 0.5m) having iron pickets between the cement guideposts. There was an approximate 10cm distance in between the iron pickets, through which Source was able to see the physical plant of the installation. The installation's fence was bordered on the west by a loose surface road approximately four meters wide, on the north by an unnamed stream, and on the east and south by National Route No 4. Although he was not sure, Source believed that he only saw six buildings on this installation, as he observed it from the fence's northwest corner. Five of these buildings (20m x 30m x 4m) were made of cement and were painted light yellow. Each of these five buildings had gable roofs made of red tile. The other building which Source saw was a guard house located at the main entrance to the facility. (Interrogator's Note:

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DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE

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Although Source identified this entrance as the main entrance, he could not provide the location of any other entrances to this facility. This entrance was referred to as the main entrance, because it was the only entrance where Source observed any traffic entering or leaving.) The guard house was (1m x 1m x 2m), was made of wood, unpainted, and had a hip roof made of corrugated steel. For information concerning the layout of the plant, see the sketch on page 5.

g. Miscellaneous. Because Source's friend was not available at the time, he was unable to gain entry into the installation. Source stated that, had his friend been there to escort him, he would have been permitted (sic) to tour the installation. As a result, Source was unable to provide further information concerning this facility.

(C) COMMENTS: Source was highly intelligent and was cooperative during the interrogation. This Source has a fair working knowledge of the English language, which he studied at the Pedagogic University of HANOI, and is psychologically conditioned and oriented toward American military personnel. He had a habit of becoming extremely vague when, in his own mind, he felt he was being asked questions revealing information of immediate tactical value. When asked questions referring to information of strategic value, he frequently volunteered information. Source did not appear to reveal any attempt at deceiving the interrogator during the collection of this information. It is noteworthy to mention that this Source can be extremely crafty when answering questions and can always provide a logical explanation for the minor inconsistencies that occur during normal interrogation procedures. This Source was either telling the truth to the best of his ability or had memorized a truly convincing story. Source was administered the Cross-Cultural IQ Test and scored high average (27). Although Source smoked excessively, he remained calm during interrogation. At times, his smoking privilege had to be withdrawn because of discrepancies in his story or his deviation from the topic. Source made numerous attempts to draw this interrogator and the interpreter into political discussions.

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FEDERAL INTELLIGENCE

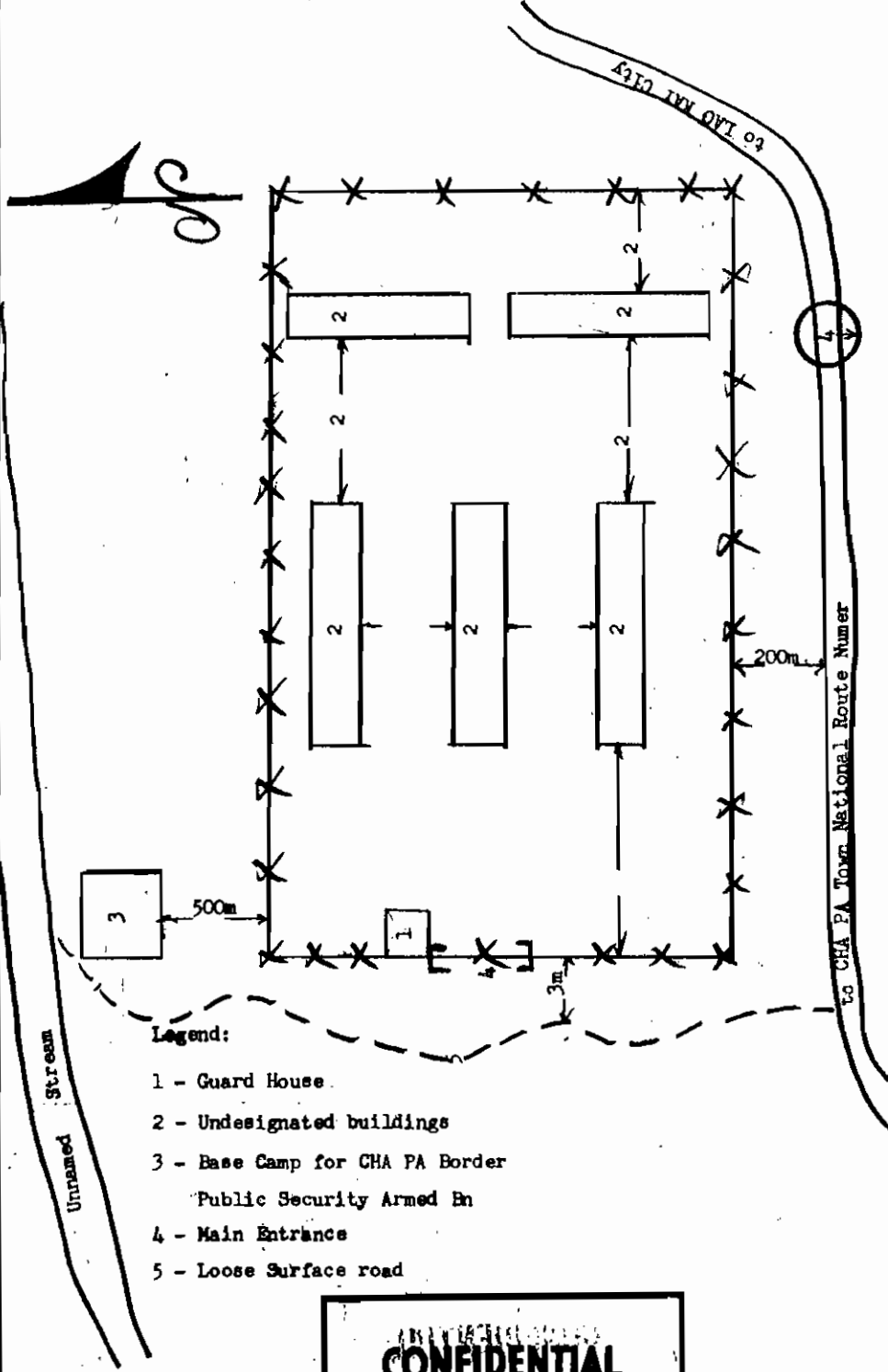
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(C) Sketch of CHA PA Weather Station, as provided by captive
NGUYEN THANH LINH, CMIC 3092-70 (DOI: Apr 65) (Not to Scale)

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