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SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO VIETNAMESE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON REPATRIATED REMAINS

1. DURING THE COURSE OF THE EARLY JANUARY INFORMATION/RESEARCH MEETINGS IN HANOI, THE VIETNAMESE REQUESTED A DETAILED STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF THE STATUS OF REPATRIATED REMAINS FOCUSING ON IDENTIFICATIONS.

2. THE JAG REQUESTS THAT JCRC/LNO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO THE EMBASSY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM USING THE TALKING POINTS SPECIFIED BELOW:

A. TALKING POINTS:

-- DURING THE EARLY JANUARY INFORMATION/RESEARCH MEETINGS IN HANOI THE DELEGATION LED BY DANG HUYNH BAI REQUESTED AN UP-TO-DATE STATISTICAL ACCOUNT OF IDENTIFICATIONS FROM THE REMAINS WHICH VIETNAM HAS REPATRIATED TO THE CUSTODY OF THE UNITED STATES FROM MARCH 1974 TO 20 NOVEMBER 1990.

-- THIS DOCUMENT, PREPARED BY CILHI, RESPONDS TO THAT REQUEST.

-- PLEASE FEEL FREE TO COMMUNICATE ANY QUESTIONS THAT MIGHT ARISE ON THIS DOCUMENT TO JCRC/LNO. WE WILL IN TURN INFORM CILHI AND JCRC/HQS. AND THE ISSUES RAISED CAN BE DISCUSSED IN FUTURE TECHNICAL SESSIONS OR VIA COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN YOUR EXPERTS AND OURS, WHICH JCRC/LNO WOULD BE GLAD TO FACILITATE.

B. TALKING POINTS:

-- BEGIN DOCUMENT FOR PASSAGE:

TITLE: STATISTICS ON REPATRIATED REMAINS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 6 MARCH 1974 TO 20 NOVEMBER 1990.

TEXT:

DURING THE PERIOD FROM 6 MARCH 1974 TO 20 NOVEMBER 1990 REMAINS WERE REPATRIATED ON 12 DIFFERENT OCCASIONS.

A TOTAL OF 482 BOXES CONTAINING 451 REMAINS WERE TRANSFERRED BY VIETNAM TO THE CUSTODY OF THE UNITED STATES.

OUT OF THAT NUMBER, THE REMAINS OF TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY EIGHT (258) U.S. AND THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AND ACCOUNTED FOR. HARTSEN, CASE NUMBER 1433, WAS A GERMAN CIVILIAN.

SEVENTY ONE (71) SETS OF REMAINS WERE DETERMINED TO BE OF ASIAN MONGOLOID ORIGIN. FIFTY EIGHT (58) OF THESE 71 REMAINS HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO VIETNAM. THIRTEEN (13) REMAINS WILL BE READY FOR RETURN TO VIETNAM DURING THE NEXT REPATRIATION.

THREE REMAINS WERE DETERMINED TO BE OF NON-HUMAN ORIGIN. THE JCSSP ASSOCIATED THOSE THREE CASES WITH CASE NUMBER 1066 (A B-52 INCIDENT WITH FOUR BODIES NOT RECOVERED (BNR)), CASE NUMBER 0727 (PODACA), AND CASE NUMBER 0489 (ROBERTSON).

TWENTY (20) CASES ARE STILL BEING PROCESSED.

NINETY NINE (99) OF THE SETS OF REPATRIATED REMAINS COULD NOT BE IDENTIFIED. THE POSSIBILITY CANNOT BE EXCLUDED THAT THESE CASES REPRESENT THE REMAINS OF U.S. PERSONNEL OR THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS.

HOWEVER, WITH VERY FEW EXCEPTIONS, THESE 99 SETS OF REPATRIATED REMAINS CONSIST OF SEVERELY FRAGMENTED AND LARGELY INCOMPLETE REMAINS. THOUGH THESE 99 SETS OF REMAINS CAN BE IDENTIFIED AS BEING HUMAN, LITTLE OR NO BIOLOGICAL DATA CAN BE OBTAINED.

FOURTEEN (14) OF THESE CASES HAVE EVIDENCE OF MINIMAL DENTAL RESTORATIVE TREATMENT. HOWEVER, THAT TREATMENT IS NON-DISTINCTIVE AND NON-EXCLUSIONARY. THE DENTAL RESTORATIONS THAT ARE IN EVIDENCE HAVE LIMITED IDENTIFICATION VALUE WITHOUT OTHER SUPPORTING BIOLOGICAL OR CIRCUMSTANTIAL INFORMATION.

ALL BUT THIRTEEN (13) OF THESE CASES HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THE JCSSP ON ONE OR MORE OCCASIONS AT TECHNICAL MEETINGS. THE PARTICULAR DETAILS OF EACH CASE AND THE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR IDENTIFICATION OF THESE EIGHTY SIX (86) CASES HAVE BEEN PRESENTED AT PAST TECHNICAL MEETINGS.

-- AT THE TECHNICAL MEETINGS DURING WHICH THESE EIGHTY SIX (86) CASES WERE DETAILED, WE SOUGHT TO DESCRIBE THE PROBLEMS THAT LED TO THE INABILITY TO IDENTIFY THESE REMAINS. IN SHORT, THESE PROBLEMS WERE LARGELY THE RESULT OF THE PAUCITY OR ABSENCE OF CRITICAL SKELETAL/DENTAL PORTIONS.

-- AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE PAUCITY OR ABSENCE OF REMAINS SUFFICIENT ENOUGH TO ENABLE SCIENTIFIC IDENTIFICATION BASED ON A CLOSE STUDY OF THE REMAINS, WE HAVE SOUGHT DETAILS CONCERNING THE INCIDENT OF LOSS AND THE RECOVERY OF THE REMAINS WHICH MIGHT CONTRIBUTE TO ASSISTING THE IDENTIFICATION OF THESE REMAINS THROUGH MEANS OTHER THAN BIOLOGICAL IDENTIFICATION.

-- THE THIRTEEN (13) CASES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THE JCSSP AT PAST TECHNICAL MEETINGS ARE AMONG THOSE REPATRIATED DURING THE MOST RECENT THREE REPATRIATIONS, AND WILL BE DISCUSSED IN FUTURE TECHNICAL MEETINGS AS APPROPRIATE.

-- WE WOULD LIKE TO ADVISE YOUR GOVERNMENT OF OUR DESIRE TO BEGIN RETURNING THE REMAINS OF ASIA MONGOLOIDS THAT HAVE COME INTO U.S. CUSTODY AND HAVE BEEN SAFEGUARDED AT THE CILHI. THESE REMAINS WERE NOT RECEIVED AS THE RESULT OF OFFICIAL REPATRIATIONS BY THE SRV GOVERNMENT. THEY FALL INTO TWO CATEGORIES:

A. COMMINGLED SKELETAL PORTIONS REPRESENTING THE ONLY RECOVERABLE REMAINS OF 81 SOUTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS WHO WERE VICTIMS OF A C-123 AIRCRAFT CRASH IN 1968 THAT WERE RECOVERED IN 1974.

B. REMAINS TURNED IN TO U.S. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES BY FORMER RESIDENTS OF VIETNAM IN THE BELIEF THEY WERE THE REMAINS OF U.S. SERVICEMEN. THESE HAVE BEEN DETERMINED TO BE OF ASIA MONGOLOID ORIGIN AND WE BELIEVE THEM TO BE THE REMAINS OF CITIZENS OF VIETNAM.

-- BOTH OF THESE POINTS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED AT PREVIOUS TECHNICAL MEETINGS AND WILL BE ADDRESSED AT THE NEXT MEETING.

BT