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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 0071 FEB' 91

SUBJ: DETAILED REPORT OF INVESTIGATION OF CASE

RIDGES BEYOND THE TEAM'S PRESENT LOCATION. THE TEAM LEADER DECIDED THAT THE VIETNAMESE HAD NOT MISREPRESENTED THE DIFFICULTY OF A SITE VISIT, AND TOLD THE TEAM TO RETURN TO THE VILLAGE OFFICE.

- K. (C) THE TEAM NEXT REQUESTED THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND VAOBMP TO ARRANGE AN INTERVIEW WITH THE RETIRED PSS CHIEF NAMED "VAN." ON THE MORNING OF 7 DEC RUYEN TOLD U.S. TEAM MEMBERS THAT HE HAD GONE TO KIM TIEV VILLAGE THE PREVIOUS EVENING, AND WAS INFORMED BY VAN'S WIFE THAT VAN HAD "GONE TO LOOK FOR GOLD" SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE. THE TEAM THEN SUSPENDED THE INVESTIGATION.

4. (S) MATERIAL EVIDENCE: NONE

5. (C) SURVEY RESULTS: NO SURVEY CONDUCTED

6. (U) RECOMMENDED FUTURE ACTIONS:

- A. (6) REQUEST THE VVOSMP LOCATE AND MAKE AVAILABLE FOR JOINT INTERVIEW "VAN," THE FORMER KIM BOI DISTRICT PSS CHIEF, NOW RETIRED IN KIM TIEN VILLAGE. VAN MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION THAT WOULD HELP ESTABLISH A CHAIN OF CUSTODY FOR LT PATTERSON'S IDENTIFICATION CARD.

B. (C) A SITE SURVEY SHOULD BE CONDUCTED. EVEN
THOUGH THE WITNESSES TESTIFIED THAT THERE WERE FEW
OR NO REMAINS TO BE FOUND AT THE SITE WITHIN A YEAR
OF THE INCIDENT, A SURVEY SHOULD DETERMINE THE
FEASIBILITY OF REMAINS RECOVERY. THE ROAD TO THUONG
TIEN VILLAGE ENDS ABOUT 100 METERS WEST OF THE
VILLAGE OFFICE. BASED ON TEAM OBSERVATION OF THE
GENERAL AREA, AND DESCRIPTION BY LOCAL RESIDENTS OF
THE REPORTED BURIAL AREA, UNLESS HELICOPTER SUPPORT

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IS AVAILABLE, SUCH AN UNDERTAKING WILL REQUIRE THAT THE SURVEY TEAM BE PREPARED TO CLIMB THROUGH EIGHT KILOMETERS OF KARST AND SPEND AT LEAST ONE NIGHT ON THE MOUNTAIN SIDE.

7. (C) PERTINENT LOCATION OR DATA CHANGES: CHANGE LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF 0691-1-01 FROM WH 450961 TO WH 434856.

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8. (C) AREAS OR CASE FILE INFORMATION NOT INVESTIGATED: NONE

9. (U) ANALYST COMMENTS:

A. (C) THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE FOUR WITNESSES INTERVIEWED AT THUONG TIEN VILLAGE IS CONSISTENT WITH THE KNOWN FACTS OF THIS CASE. THE DATE, TIME OF DAY, AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS ALL CORRELATE TO THE REFNO 0691 INCIDENT. THE DOCUMENTS DISCUSSED IN PAR 3C-D ABOVE ALSO SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY PROVIDED BY THE WITNESSES. BUI VAN ONG'S CHRONOLOGICAL DEPICTION OF EVENTS IS CONSISTENT WITH WHAT IS KNOWN TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE DURING THE INCIDENT. ONG REPORTED THAT THE SECOND PILOT WAS SHOT AND KILLED ON 23 MAY, WHILE THE LAST SAR CONTACT WITH LT PATTERSON WAS ON THE EVENING OF 21 MAY. THIS DISCREPANCY MAY BE DUE TO A MISCALCULATION BY ALL OF THE WITNESSES. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT MAY BE THAT LT PATTERSON WAS ABLE TO EVADE THE VIETNAMESE UNTIL THE AFTERNOON OF 23 MAY. FURTHERMORE, THE MENTION OF "BALLOONS" BY ONG AND BUR VAN BAY, WHICH IS ALMOST CERTAINLY A REFERENCE TO THE FULTON EXTRACTION EQUIPMENT DROPPED AT THE SITE, LENDS CREDIBILITY TO THEIR TESTIMONY AND SUPPORTS THEIR CLAIM TO HAVE ACTUALLY PARTICIPATED IN THE INCIDENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT DOES NOT SEEM LIKELY THAT ONG, BEING THE MILITIA COMMANDER, PARTICIPATED EITHER IN THE BURIAL OR THE VISIT TO THE SITE THAT WAS ORDERED BY THE PROVINCE.

B. (C) BUI VAN PHICH'S DESCRIPTION OF WHAT TOOK PLACE DURING THE ATTEMPTED CAPTURE OF THE PILOT SEEMS CREDIBLE. PHICH WAS VERY ANIMATED IN HIS DESCRIPTION OF THE ATTEMPTED CAPTURE AND OF THE

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ACTIONS OF THE PILOT. HIS DESCRIPTION OF THE
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CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 09 OF 11 BANGKOK TH 05557

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MINIMIZE CONSIDERED FOR MILITARY ADDRESSEES

SUBJ: DETAILED REPORT OF INVESTIGATION OF CASE

0691 (U)

PROVIDED BY ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE TEAM WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ATTEMPTED RESCUE OF LT PATTERSON. THIS PERSON EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT AT THE TIME OF HIS LAST RADIO CONTACT WITH LT PATTERSON, PATTERSON SEEMED DELIRIOUS, PROBABLY BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN ON THE GROUND FOR ALMOST FOUR DAYS WITHOUT FOOD OR WATER. PATTERSON CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN LCDR MCDANIEL (WHO HAD BEEN CAPTURED TWO DAYS BEFORE, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN), STATED THAT [REDACTED] (A TECH REP ON THE SHIP) WAS WITH HIM, AND PERIODICALLY REFUSED TO REVEAL HIS NAME. PHICH'S DESCRIPTION OF THE PILOT, WHOM HE SAID WAS JUST TIRING SIDE TO SIDE, LOOKED CONFUSED, AND DID NOT RESPOND TO REPEATED DEMANDS TO SURRENDER, SUPPORTS THIS CONTENTION. MOREOVER, THIS MAY ALSO EXPLAIN WHY RESCUE FORCES WERE UNABLE TO CONTACT LIEUTENANT PATTERSON ON 22 MAY, ALTHOUGH INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM THE WITNESSES INDICATES THAT THEY DID NOT LOCATE LIEUTENANT PATTERSON UNTIL ABOUT 1700 THE FOLLOWING DAY.

C. (U) THE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE DISTURBANCE OF THE GRAVE SEEMS DUBIOUS. IF, IN FACT, LT PATTERSON WAS BURIED IN A COFFIN, IT DOES NOT SEEM LIKELY THAT WILD ANIMALS COULD HAVE DUG UP THE GRAVE, DESTROYED THE COFFIN AND DEVoured THE REMAINS. IT IS MORE PROBABLE THAT NO ONE, INCLUDING BOTH ONG AND DUNG/AN, HAS BEEN BACK TO THE ORIGINAL GRAVE SITE. DJNG/AN SAID OUTRIGHT THAT ONG NEVER WENT BACK, AND HAD SENT HIM INSTEAD. MOREOVER, ONG, AS ONE OF THE MAIN PARTICIPANTS IN THE 1987 UNILATERAL INVESTIGATION OF THIS CASE, PASSED THE SAME INFORMATION ABOUT THE GRAVE SITE TO MEMBERS OF THE VNOSMP, WHO ALMOST CERTAINLY DID NOT GO TO THE GRAVE SITE. IT IS VERY LIKELY THAT THE ORIGINAL BURIAL LOCATION OF LT PATTERSON HAS NEVER BEEN LOCATED EITHER BY LOCAL OFFICIALS OR MEMBERS OF THE VNOSMP. THIS MAY BE REASON THAT THE "WILD ANIMALS ATE THE BONES" THEORY IS BEING PUT FORWARD.

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CONFIDENTIAL 0071 FEB 91

MINIMIZE CONSIDERED FOR MILITARY ADDRESSEES

SUBJ: DETAILED REPORT OF INVESTIGATION OF CASE
0691 (U)

AND THE CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION, THAT THE
CAPTURE OF ONE PILOT AND THE DEATH OF ANOTHER DID
OCCUR IN THUONG TIEN VILLAGE IN 1967, PROBABLY IN
THE MANNER RELATED BY THE WITNESSES, AND THAT THIS
INCIDENT IS, IN FACT, REFNO 0691.

- B. (S) CRT THINKS IT UNLIKELY THAT "THE ANIMALS
ATE THE BONES," AND EVEN LESS LIKELY THAT DUNG/AN IS
UNABLE TO REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT THE THREE MEN HE
SUPPOSEDLY LED TO THE BURIAL SITE. INFORMATION
OBTAINED IN THE COURSE OF OTHER INVESTIGATIONS
INDICATES THAT OFFICIALLY-SPONSORED RECOVERY
OPERATIONS WERE CONDUCTED IN OTHER PROVINCES, FORMER
NGHIA LO PROVINCE, FOR EXAMPLE. IT IS LIKELY THAT
THE THREE MEN MENTIONED BY DUNG/AN WERE SENT FOR A
SIMILAR PURPOSE. CRT THINKS THE "ANIMALS ATE THE
BONES" THEME IS USED TO EXPLAIN THE LACK OF
SUBSTANTIAL REMAINS AT MANY GRAVE SITES EXPLORED BY
THE JOINT TEAM, WHEN OFFICIAL RECOVERY EFFORTS, OR
ILLEGAL EFFORTS OF WHICH THERE IS NOW OFFICIAL
KNOWLEDGE, HAVE ALREADY BEEN UNDERTAKEN.

- C. (S) CRT ALSO THINKS IT DUBIOUS THAT LONG-
TERM RESIDENTS OF THUONG TIEN VILLAGE ARE UNABLE TO
IDENTIFY THE BURIAL SITE OF AN AMERICAN PILOT.
ALTHOUGH THEY MAY HAVE MOVED FROM THE UPLANDS YEARS
BEFORE, IT SEEMS REASONABLE TO EXPECT THAT, WITH
SOME THOUGHT, THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO POINT OUT A
SPECIFIC BURIAL SITE. THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF AN
AMERICAN PILOT WAS CERTAINLY A SIGNIFICANT AND
MEMORABLE EVENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE. EVEN
IF FEW PEOPLE ACTUALLY PARTICIPATED IN THE ORIGINAL
BURIAL, THE SITE SHOULD BE WIDELY KNOWN.

12. (U) TEAM CHIEF COMMENTS:

- A. (S) BUI VAN ONG DID NOT IMPRESS THE TEAM AS
AN ENTIRELY RELIABLE WITNESS. LIKE MANY OF THE

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OTHER "RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS" INTERVIEWED BY THE TEAM IN OTHER CASES, DNG APPEARED TO BE MORE INTERESTED IN DEMONSTRATING THAT HE HAD FULFILLED HIS RESPONSIBILITIES IN A PROPER MANNER THAN IN PROVIDING AN ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF THE INCIDENT. IT IS OFTEN UNCLEAR WHICH PARTS OF HIS TESTIMONY ARE FIRSTHAND, WHICH ARE HEARSAY, AND WHICH ARE PURE INVENTION. CONCUR WITH MSGT [REDACTED]'S OBSERVATION THAT IT IS UNLIKELY THAT DNG ACTUALLY TOOK PART IN THE BURIAL OF THE PILOT'S BODY, ALTHOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HE WAS PRESENT. IT ALSO SEEMS APPARENT, FROM THE TESTIMONY OF OTHER WITNESSES, PARTICULARLY BUR HUNG AN/BUI VAN DUNG, THAT DNG NEVER WENT BACK TO THE SITE AFTER THE INITIAL BURIAL, DESPITE HIS ASSERTIONS TO VNOSMP IN 1987. HE IS PROBABLY TRYING TO COVER HIMSELF BY REPEATING FALSE TESTIMONY TO THE TEAM, FOR THE PURPOSE MENTIONED IN THE SECOND SENTENCE ABOVE. HE DID NOT SEEM TO BE TRYING TO MISLEAD THE TEAM ABOUT THE ACTUAL SEQUENCE OF EVENTS CULMINATING IN THE BURIAL OF THE PILOT'S BODY.

- B. (C) PHICH AND BAY, ON THE OTHER HAND, GAVE CREDIBLE TESTIMONY. BOTH OF THEM PRESENTED THEIR INFORMATION CLEARLY AND SIMPLY (AND IN PHICH'S CASE, DRAMATICALLY, WITH SHOUTS AND GESTURES), AND ANSWERED QUESTIONS WITHOUT HESITATION.

- C. (C) BUI VAN DUNG/BUI HUNG AN'S DEPICTION OF THE BURIAL OF THE PILOT APPEARED TO BE SOMEWHAT MORE CREDIBLE THAN THAT OF DNG, BUT IS STILL OPEN TO QUESTION. DNG WAS NOT PRESENT WHEN DUNG/AN CONTRADICTED HIS CLAIM TO HAVE VISITED THE GRAVE SITE THE SECOND TIME. DUNG/AN PRESENTED HIS INFORMATION IN A LESS AFFECTED MANNER THAN DNG, BUT STILL INJECTED A CONSIDERABLE DEGREE OF SARCASM INTO HIS TESTIMONY. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT BOTH DNG AND DUNG/AN SIGNED OR ARE CITED IN THE VNOSMP REPORT OF 1987, WHEN MANY OF THE "FACTS" PROVIDED IN THAT REPORT HAVE BEEN CONTRAVENED BY THE TESTIMONY OF THESE SAME WITNESSES DURING THE 1990 INVESTIGATION.

- D. (C) THANH REFUSED TO ALLOW THE TEAM TO EXAMINE THE ENTIRE "TAP PHU LUC," EVEN AFTER A BT

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MINIMIZE CONSIDERED FOR MILITARY ADDRESSEES

SUBJ: DETAILED REPORT OF INVESTIGATION OF CASE
0691 (U)

SPECIFIC REQUEST FROM THE AMERICAN SIDE. AT THIS POINT THE U.S. TEAM LEADER EXPLAINED TO THANH THAT THERE WAS OTHER INFORMATION OF PW/MIA INTEREST IN THE DOCUMENT, AND THAT IF THE REQUEST WERE REFUSED, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR THE U.S. SIDE TO REPORT THIS REFUSAL IN THE ACCOUNT OF THE INVESTIGATION. THANH WAS UNMOVED BY THE PROTEST. RUYEN THEN INTERVENED IN THE DISCUSSION, SAYING THAT IF THE LOCALITY DID NOT WANT TO LET THE TEAM EXAMINE THE DOCUMENT FURTHER, THE TEAM WOULD HAVE TO RESPECT THEIR WISHES. THIS HAS AN INSTANCE WHERE THE ABSENCE OF NGO HOANG WAS SORELY FELT. HOANG HAS ENOUGH EXPERIENCE TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE INFORMATION IN THE DOCUMENT WAS OF INTEREST, AND THAT THE OBJECTION HAS MORE THAN PRO FORMA. HE ALSO HAS SUFFICIENT AUTHORITY TO HAVE PRESSED OUR REQUEST AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, AND ENOUGH SENIORITY TO KNOW WHERE IT MAKES SENSE TO GO BEYOND ANY SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS HE MAY HAVE RECEIVED.

E. (C) ABANDONMENT OF DONG DANH HAMLET: LUU VAN THO, HIMSELF A MEMBER OF AN ETHNIC MINORITY, EXPLAINED THAT IN THE EARLY 1960'S, "AFTER THE STABILIZATION OF THE SOCIALIST REGIME," THE DRV GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED A POLICY OF SETTLING SHIFTING CULTIVATORS IN PERMANENT HAMLETS IN LOWLAND AREAS. BECAUSE THE MUONG WERE THE LARGEST SINGLE ETHNIC MINORITY, AND WERE CLOSEST TO THE VIETNAMESE CULTURALLY (MANY OF THEM WERE ALREADY SETTLED FARMERS), THE GOVERNMENT FIRST PUT THIS POLICY INTO EFFECT IN MUONG-INHABITED AREAS. THE WAR SLOWED THIS POLICY DOWN, BUT IT HAS REMAINED IN FORCE. THE MUONG ARE NOW SETTLED IN PERMANENT FARMS, FAR DOWN THE SLOPES FROM SOME OF THEIR EARLIER SETTLEMENTS. DONG DANH HAMLET CAME TO BE ABANDONED AS A RESULT OF THIS POLICY. THO NOTED THAT IN OTHER AREAS (SON LA PROVINCE, FOR EXAMPLE) THE POLICY HAS BEEN LESS SUCCESSFUL, AND THAT SOME OTHER MINORITIES HAVE REVERTED TO SWIDDEN CULTIVATION AFTER AN

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UNSUCCESSFUL PERIOD OF SETTLED FARMING.

- F. (U) LINGUISTIC NOTE: THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE IN THIS PART OF HA SON BINH PROVINCE (THE PART FORMERLY DESIGNATED HOA BINH PROVINCE), ARE OF MUONG ETHNICITY. ALMOST ALL MUONG ARE NOW BILINGUAL IN MUONG AND VIETNAMESE (MUONG IS GENERALLY REGARDED BY LINGUISTS AS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT SOURCES OF MODERN VIETNAMESE, AND SHARES MANY OF ITS BASIC CHARACTERISTICS WITH THE LATTER LANGUAGE). MUONG PEOPLE OFTEN HAVE SOMEWHAT UNUSUAL GIVEN NAMES, BY VIETNAMESE STANDARDS (BUI VAN ONG ((ONGR)), FOR EXAMPLE), BUT THEIR FULL NAMES ARE GENERALLY GIVEN IN VIETNAMESE FORM (SURNAME, MIDDLE NAME, GIVEN NAME). MANY MUONG BEAR THE SURNAMES DINH AND, ESPECIALLY, BUI (BUIF). ~~DECL: OADR~~
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ROUTINE

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 17 BANGKOK TH 29393

RETRANSMITTAL OF MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED 0136 MAY 92

DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE

SUBJECT: REPORT OF EXCAVATION/REINVESTIGATION OF CASE

0691 (PATTERSON)

REF: A. JCRC LIAISON 150921Z FEB 91

- B. JTF-FA DET 1 280703Z JAN 92

- C. 22 SEP 91 LTR, G. M. PATTERSON TO LTC HARVEY

SECTIONAL MSG

1. REF A IS THE DETAILED REPORT OF INVESTIGATION OF CASE 0691 CONDUCTED ON 5 AND 6 DECEMBER 1990. REF B IS THE REPORT OF INTERVIEW WITH ADDITIONAL WITNESS ASSOCIATED WITH CASE 0691 AND THE REPORTED ATTEMPT TO VISIT THE GRAVE SITE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS CASE. REF C IS A LETTER WRITTEN BY G.M. PATTERSON TO THE JCRC EXPRESSING HIS CONCERNS OVER THE RESULTS OF THE CASE 0691 INVESTIGATION.

2. FROM 2-16 MAY 1992, JOINT RECOVERY ELEMENT NUMBER ONE EXCAVATED TO STERILE SOIL AND ROCK AN APPROXIMATELY 10 X 13 METER AREA REPORTED TO BE THE GRAVE SITE ASSOCIATED WITH CASE 0691. THEY LOCATED NO REMAINS OR PERSONAL EFFECTS AT THE SITE. THE TEAM INTERVIEWED FOUR WITNESSES AT THE SITE WHO PROVIDED INFORMATION GENERALLY CONSISTENT WITH THEIR PREVIOUS TESTIMONY. ONE OF THE WITNESSES RELUCTANTLY TURNED OVER TO THE TEAM WHAT APPEARS TO BE A NAVY OR MARINE KHAKI BELT WITH BRASS BUCKLE WHICH HE CLAIMED HE TOOK FROM THE PILOT'S BODY. DURING HELICOPTER FLIGHTS INTO AND OVER THE GRAVE AREA, THE TEAM OBSERVED THE TERRAIN WAS GENERALLY CONSISTENT WITH THAT REPORTED IN [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED]'S DEBRIEFS. IN PARTICULAR, THE ENTIRE AREA IS DIVIDED BY AN APPROXIMATELY ONE KILOMETER WIDE VALLEY WITH A LARGE RIDGE LINE ON EACH SIDE. NUMEROUS SMALLER RIDGE LINES FEED FROM THESE RIDGE LINES DOWN INTO THE VALLEY FLOOR. ADDITIONALLY, THE TEAM INTERVIEWED 13 WITNESSES IN THE TWO VILLAGES ENCOMPASSING THE AREA OF THE LAST KNOWN LOCATION (WH445955). THESE WITNESSES INDICATED TWO INCIDENTS HAD OCCURRED DURING THE WAR IN THE GENERAL VICINITY, ALTHOUGH NONE OF THE INCIDENTS HAD OCCURRED AT THE LAST KNOWN LOCATION. THE FIRST INCIDENT WAS A 17 SEP 1967 SHOOTDOWN IN THE GENERAL AREA OF NUOC DUC (WJ4600) DU SANG VILLAGE. TWO PILOTS WERE CAPTURED, ONE AT ABOUT NOON THE OTHER PILOT ABOUT FOUR HOURS LATER THE

DAY OF THE INCIDENT. DISTRICT OFFICIALS TOOK BOTH PILOTS FROM THE AREA. (THERE ARE TWO POTENTIAL CORRELATIONS TO THIS INCIDENT, CASE 0882 AND 0837, BOTH RESOLVED). THE OTHER INCIDENT INVOLVED THE 27 DEC 72 SHOOT DOWN OF AN "F4C", WHICH CRASHED IN THE VICINITY OF WH47930, LANG CU, TU SON VILLAGE. THE PILOT OR PILOTS LANDED IN THE VICINITY OF WH4696, DOI MU, DU SANG VILLAGE. ACCORDING TO DU SANG VILLAGERS, ONLY ONE PILOT LANDED IN DU SANG VILLAGE. HE WAS CAPTURED IMMEDIATELY AND DISTRICT OFFICIALS TOOK HIM FROM THE AREA THE SAME DAY. (PROBABLY CASE 1972). THE TEAM WALKED TO THE REPORTED LAST KNOWN LOCATION (WH445955) AND FLEW OVER THE ROUNDED OUT GEOGRAPHIC LAST KNOWN COORDINATES (WH450961). NEITHER AREA IS CONSISTENT WITH [REDACTED]'S AND [REDACTED]'S ACCOUNT. THE LAST KNOWN LOCATION IS ON THE EASTERN EDGE OF A PLATEAU WHICH HAS NUMEROUS KARST HILLS JUTTING FROM ITS FLOOR. MUCH OF THIS AREA IS NOW UNDER CULTIVATION ALTHOUGH THE SPECIFIC COORDINATES ARE PRESENTLY UNDER ELEPHANT GRASS AND EMERGING JUNGLE GROWTH. THE VALLEY REPORTED IN MR. G. M. PATTERSON'S LETTER IS A SEVERAL HUNDRED METER WIDE VALLEY THROUGH WHICH AN F-4 COULD FLY LOW; HOWEVER, THE MOUNTAINS ON EITHER SIDE ARE BEST DESCRIBED AS CLIFFS. THERE ARE SMALL HILLS ON THE VALLEY FLOOR. IN SHORT, NEITHER THE INFORMATION LEARNED NOR THE TERRAIN IN THE AREA OF THE LAST KNOWN LOCATION SUPPORTS THE OCCURRENCE OF CASE 0691 IN THIS AREA. ON THE CONTRARY, BOTH THE WITNESSES' TESTIMONY AND THE TERRAIN IN THE DONG DANG HAMLET (WH4483) AREA IS CONSISTENT WITH FILE DATA.

3. DETAILS OF EXCAVATION/INVESTIGATION:

- A. JOINT RECOVERY ELEMENT NUMBER ONE CONSISTED OF THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL: CAPTAIN [REDACTED], TEAM LEADER; SFC [REDACTED], NCOIC; DR. [REDACTED], ANTHROPOLOGIST; MR. [REDACTED], ANALYST; SFC [REDACTED], LINGUIST; TSGT [REDACTED], LIFE SUPPORT TECHNICIAN; SSG [REDACTED], PHOTOGRAPHER; SFC [REDACTED], MEDIC; SSG [REDACTED], EOD TECH; LLT [REDACTED], SSG [REDACTED], SPC [REDACTED], SPC [REDACTED], SGT [REDACTED], SPC [REDACTED], SPC [REDACTED], GRAVES REGISTRATION TECHNICIANS.

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 17 BANGKOK TH 29393

RETRANSMITTAL OF MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED 0136 MAY 92

DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE
SUBJECT: REPORT OF EXCAVATION/REINVESTIGATION OF CASE
0691 (PATTERSON)

- B. ON 20 APRIL 1992, THE TEAM ARRIVED AT NOI BAI AIRPORT WHERE MR. DUONG VAN NGOC (MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND VNOSHP TEAM CHIEF) WELCOMED THE TEAM TO VIETNAM AND INTRODUCED THE TEAM'S COUNTERPARTS, MR. NGUYEN TRI CHU (LTC, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE) AND MR. LE THANH (MINISTRY OF INTERIOR). MR. NGOC SAID HE WOULD BE ASSISTING WITH THE CODEL (KERRY) VISIT BUT HOPED TO JOIN THE TEAM IN THE FIELD AFTER THE DELEGATIONS DEPARTURE. MR. TRU INFORMED THE TEAM THEY COULD STORE THE MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES WHICH THEY HAD BROUGHT FOR USE DURING THE PLANNED JOINT EXCAVATIONS IN ROOMS COLLOCATED AT THE HELIPAD.

- C. ON 29 APRIL, THE ELEMENT COMMAND CELL (ECC) CONSISTING OF TEAM LEADER [REDACTED], DR. [REDACTED] AND MR. [REDACTED] MET WITH MR. NGOC, MR. CHU AND MR. THANH TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR EXCAVATING THE BURIAL SITE REPORTEDLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE 0691 INCIDENT. ADDITIONALLY, THE TEAM DISCUSSED AREAS OF THIS CASE REQUIRING FURTHER INVESTIGATION. THANH AND CHU SAID THEY WOULD LEAVE THURSDAY MORNING (30 APRIL) FOR HOA BINH CITY (WX3501), HOA BINH PROVINCE TO COORDINATE TEAM ACTIVITIES WITH PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS. AFTERWARDS, THEY WOULD GO TO THUONG THIEN VILLAGE (WH4985), KIM BOI DISTRICT TO COORDINATE THE PREPARATION OF A HELICOPTER LANDING ZONE NEAR THE GRAVE SITE REPORTED DURING THE PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION. THANH EXPLAINED THEY INTENDED TO ACCOMPLISH THESE PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES AND RETURN BY FRIDAY (1 MAY) EVENING. A POSSIBLE COMPLICATION WAS THE FACT IT WAS A FOUR DAY WEEKEND CELEBRATING "MAY DAY". (THEY DID NOT MENTION THE FACT THIS HOLIDAY ALSO INCLUDES THE SO CALLED "LIBERATION" OF SAIGON.) AS THIS WAS A LONG WEEKEND, MANY OFFICIALS WOULD BE RETURNING TO THEIR HOME PROVINCES TO VISIT FAMILIES. THEY COULD NOT BE SURE THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH THEIR OBJECTIVE AS PLANNED AND THE EFFORT MIGHT BE DELAYED UNTIL MONDAY (4 MAY).

- D. AT 1700, 1 MAY THE ECC MET WITH MR. THANH AND MR. CHU WHO REPORTED THEY HAD MET WITH OFFICIALS AT ALL LEVELS AND AN ADVANCE TEAM WOULD BE ABLE TO VISIT THE

REPORTED GRAVE SITE SATURDAY (2 MAY). THE TEAM DETERMINED THE MOST PRACTICAL STAGING AREA WAS IN KIM BOI TOWN (WH5588). MR. CHU SAID HE HAD ARRANGED FOR WITNESSES, WORKERS AND OFFICIALS AS NECESSARY TO BE AT THE HELICOPTER LANDING ZONE ON 2 MAY AT APPROXIMATELY 1030. THE TEAM EXPLAINED THE SERIOUSNESS OF THIS CASE, IN PARTICULAR THE FAMILY'S DISAGREEMENT THAT THE THUONG THIEN LOCATION COULD POSSIBLY BE PATTERSON'S LOSS LOCATION. TO UNDERScore THE NEED FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION, THE TEAM READ THE CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH OF MR. PATTERSON'S LETTER TO LTC HARVEY. THE AMERICAN SIDE THEN SAID REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME OF THE EXCAVATION, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO VISIT THE AREA OF THE LAST KNOWN LOCATION, COORDINATES (WH445955) AND INTERVIEW WITNESSES IN THIS AREA. MR. THANH REQUESTED THE AMERICAN SIDE PROVIDE A LIST OF REQUESTED ACTIVITIES AND REPORTED THEY HAD ALREADY ASKED PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS TO LOOK FOR MORE RECORDS. AS IT WAS GROWING LATE AND CHU AND THANH HAD TO GO TO THE PILOT'S HOME TO MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FOLLOWING DAY, THEY EXCUSED THEMSELVES AND SAID WE COULD DISCUSS FURTHER SPECIFIC ACTIONS LATER.

- E. ON 2 MAY, A SEVEN MAN ELEMENT OF THE TEAM INCLUDING CPT [REDACTED], DR. [REDACTED], MR. [REDACTED], SFC [REDACTED], SSG [REDACTED], SPC [REDACTED], SFC [REDACTED] ALONG WITH MR. CHU AND MR. THANH DEPARTED BY HELICOPTER FOR THE REPORTED GRAVE SITE (LATER GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM- (GPS) TESTS DETERMINED COORDINATES TO BE WH43718409). THE HELICOPTER APPROACHED THE SITE FLYING ALONG A VERY WIDE VALLEY TO THE LANDING ZONE IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES WH44183383 (PER GPS). AFTER DEPLANING, THE ENTIRE PARTY WALKED ALONG A VERY DIFFICULT TRAIL WHICH ESSENTIALLY PARALLELS A STREAM BED UP A MOUNTAIN FOR APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES. ABOUT 100 METERS AFTER THE STREAM TURNED INTO A DRY STREAM BED, THE WITNESS MR. AN, STOPPED AND SAID THIS WAS THE LOCATION WHERE HE HAD BURIED THE PILOT. ACCORDING TO AN, ONE DAY IN 1967, HE AND FOUR OTHER DONG DANH VILLAGE MILITIA MEMBERS WERE SENT TO BURY THE REMAINS OF A PILOT WHO HAD BEEN KILLED ABOUT 1500 THE PREVIOUS DAY. THEY ARRIVED AT THE SITE AT APPROXIMATELY 0800. BY THIS TIME, RIGOR MORTIS HAD SET INTO THE BODY. THE BODY WAS DRESSED IN A PAIR OF LONG PANTS AND A STRAP TEE SHIRT (UNDERSHIRT). THE BODY WAS LYING NEAR THE STREAM BED AND THEY DRUG IT A SHORT WAY UP THE BANK (APPROXIMATELY 3-4 METERS) AND DUG A SHALLOW CUT IN THE BANK AND CAVED DIRT OVER THE BODY.

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SECTIONAL MSG

P.2
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ROUTINE

R 220747Z JUN 92 PSN 145254P21

FM CJTF-FA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

TO CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 17 BANGKOK TH 29393

RETRANSMITTAL OF MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED 0136 MAY 92

DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE
SUBJECT: REPORT OF EXCAVATION/REINVESTIGATION OF CASE
0691 (PATTERSON)

THE BODY WAS COVERED EXCEPT FOR A SMALL PORTION OF ONE OF THE ARMS. PRIOR TO BURIAL, THEY DID NOT WRAP THE BODY IN ANYTHING, THEY JUST PLACED IT ON A BOARD. (SPECIFICALLY SAID NOT A COFFIN, JUST A BOARD, NO SIDES, NO TOP). BECAUSE THERE WERE MANY AIRCRAFT FLYING AROUND THE AREA, THEY DID NOT DO A REAL THOROUGH JOB OF THE BURIAL, BUT RATHER, DID IT QUICKLY. AFTER ACCOMPLISHING THE BURIAL AS DESCRIBED ABOVE, THE LEADER OF THE FIVE MAN GROUP, MR BUI VAN ONG, TOLD THEM "THAT'S GOOD, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE." SEVERAL TIMES OVER THE COURSE OF THE INTERVIEW, THE TEAM ASKED MR. AN TO POINT OUT THE AREA WHERE HE HAD BURIED THE PILOT. EACH TIME HE POINTED OUT A FAIRLY SPECIFIC AREA AND ANGLE OF BURIAL (HEAD AWAY AND FEET TOWARDS THE STREAM BED). THE TEAM INQUIRED AS TO HOW HE COULD BE SURE THIS WAS THE LOCATION. HE RATHER INDIGNANTLY REPLIED HE HAD BEEN CLIMBING IN AND OUT OF THE AREA FOR YEARS LOOKING FOR BAMBOO SHOOTS, BAMBOO, WOOD AND OTHER MATERIALS. HOW COULD HE NOT KNOW? IN OTHER WORDS, IT WAS HIS OWN BACK YARD. THE TEAM ASKED MR. AN TO PROVIDE WHAT HE CONSIDERED TO BE THE MAXIMUM AREA WHERE THE PILOT COULD HAVE BEEN BURIED. HE APPEARED TO HAVE DIFFICULTY WITH THE CONCEPT AND AGAIN POINTED OUT THE PLACE PREVIOUSLY SHOWN. AT THIS POINT ONE OF THE LOCAL OFFICIALS WHO IS ALSO OF THE MUONG MINORITY DISCUSSED THE IDEA WITH MR. AN IN MUONG. MR. AN SAID TEN METERS IN ANY DIRECTION WOULD CERTAINLY COVER THE AREA. MR. AN ALSO POINTED OUT THE STREAM WAS NORMALLY DRY AS IT WAS NOW; HOWEVER, IN 1975, THERE WAS A VERY LARGE FLOOD IN WHICH MUCH OF THE SLOPE HAD ERODED--BOTH THE SOIL AT THE SITE AND SOIL FROM ABOVE THE SITE. THE FLOOD WAS OF LARGE ENOUGH MAGNITUDE AS TO DESTROY MUCH OF THE VEGETATION IN THE AREA. ADDITIONALLY, THE SLOPE WAS VERY STEEP AND THERE HAD BEEN MUCH EROSION OVER THE MANY YEARS SINCE THE INCIDENT. FINALLY, WILD PIGS HAD ROOTED IN THE AREA. BECAUSE OF THESE REASONS, HE WAS NOT SURE IF THE REMAINS OF THE PILOT WERE STILL IN THE AREA.

- F. AFTER DELINEATING THE BOUNDARIES TO BE CLEARED, MR. THANH ARRANGED WITH THE LOCAL VILLAGE OFFICIALS (THE

VILLAGE IS APPROXIMATELY 10 KILOMETERS AND A SIX HOUR WALK AWAY) TO HAVE TWENTY WORKERS AT THE SITE TO CLEAR THE SITE AND BE AVAILABLE TO BEGIN WORKING WITH THE TEAM THE FOLLOWING MONDAY (4 MAY). THE TEAM THEN WENT TO KIM BOI TOWN.

- G. AT KIM BOI TOWN, THE TEAM MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO STAY AT A LOCAL HOTEL COMMENCING MONDAY MORNING. AS THERE WERE NO LOCAL TRANSPORTATION CAPABILITIES, MR. THANH ARRANGED WITH THE HOTEL MANAGER TO HAVE A LANDING ZONE MADE NEAR THE HOTEL.

- H. AFTER ARRIVING AT THE TEAM'S HOTEL, MR. CHU AND MR. THANH REQUESTED A MEETING WITH THE ECC TO DISCUSS PROCEDURES FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE EXCAVATION AND TO AIR SOME DIFFICULTIES REGARDING FURTHER INVESTIGATION OF THE CASE. THE TEAM ALSO WENT OVER THE ITEMS THEY FELT WERE A MINIMUM REQUIREMENT FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION. MR. THANH ASKED THAT THIS BE FORMALIZED IN A WRITTEN REQUEST FOR TWO REASONS. FIRST THE EXTRA TIME REQUIRED FOR INVESTIGATION WOULD PROBABLY MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO COMPLETE THE ADDITIONAL CASES PLANNED FOR EXCAVATION DURING THIS ITERATION. SECONDLY, IT WOULD UNDERSCORE THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE ACTIVITIES TO THE PROVINCE. THE POINTS LISTED IN THE INITIAL WORKING LIST WERE: LOCATE CRASH SITE, GO TO VILLAGE (S) NEAR THE LAST KNOWN COORDINATES AND SEE IF INFORMATION REGARDING THIS INCIDENT COULD BE LOCATED, AND FOR THE PROVINCE MILITARY TO LOCATE THEIR RECORDS AND ARTIFACTS FROM THE CASE-- PARTICULARLY PAPERS AND PATTERSONS' FLIGHT SUIT AND OTHER PERSONAL MATERIALS.

- I. ON 4 MAY 92, THE TEAM DEPARTED FOR KIM BOI DISTRICT BY HELICOPTER. THE FIRST LIFT INCLUDED A SMALL WORKING GROUP WHICH WENT DIRECTLY TO THE SITE TO BEGIN THE EXCAVATION. THE BALANCE OF THE TEAM ARRIVED ON THE SECOND FLIGHT AND ESTABLISHED THE BASE CAMP AT THE HOTEL LOCATION.

- J. ON THE NIGHT OF 5 MAY, THE TEAM DISCUSSED WITH MR. THANH AND CHU THE POSSIBILITY OF BRINGING ADDITIONAL WITNESSES TO THE SITE. MR. CHU REPORTED HE HAD ATTEMPTED THIS PREVIOUSLY; HOWEVER, THE OTHER WITNESSES

CLAIMED AGE AND POOR HEALTH PREVENTED THEM FROM MAKING THE VERY DIFFICULT HIKE TO THE SITE. BECAUSE IT APPEARED THERE WOULD BE NO REMAINS DISCOVERED AT THE SITE, ON THE EVENING OF 6 MAY THE TEAM SUGGESTED THEY SHOULD FLY THE OTHER WITNESSES TO THE LANDING SITE AND

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INTERVIEW THEM AT THE EXCAVATION SITE TO BE SURE THE
TEAM WAS AT THE CORRECT LOCATION. MR. CHU SAID HE WOULD

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ROUTINE

R 220747Z JUN 92 PSN 145296P27

FM CJTF-FA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

TO CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 17 BANGKOK TH 29393

RETRANSMITTAL OF MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED 0136 MAY 92

DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE

SUBJECT: REPORT OF EXCAVATION/REINVESTIGATION OF CASE

0691 (PATTERSON)

ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE THIS FOR FRIDAY 8 MAY.

- K. ON THURSDAY, 7 MAY, THE MAJOR PORTION OF THE TEAM CONTINUED EXCAVATION ACTIVITIES. A SMALL ELEMENT OF THE TEAM WENT TO THE TOP OF THE NEARBY MOUNTAIN (WH437846) IN ORDER TO ATTEMPT TO FIX THE LOCATION OF THE EXCAVATION AND IN ORDER TO BETTER OBSERVE THE GENERAL TERRAIN IN THE AREA. THE ROUTE TO THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN WAS PRIMARILY BAMBOO FOREST, TALL GRASSES AND INTERMITTENT JUNGLE. THERE WERE SOME FAINT TRAILS CRISSCROSSING THE MOUNTAIN; HOWEVER, NO WELL WORN TRAILS. THE WEST AND TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN HAD RECENTLY BEEN CUT AND PORTIONS BURNED FOR SLASH AND BURN FARMING. FROM THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN, TWO SIGNIFICANT PEAKS COULD BE SEEN NEARBY. HILL "888" AT WH434838 AND HILL "969" AT WH442849. WHILE THERE, THE VIETNAMESE PROVINCIAL COUNTERPART, MR. DUNG, REQUESTED THE INDIVIDUALS WORKING AT THE EXCAVATION SITE BUILD A FIRE TO HELP THE TEAM EVALUATE THE LOCATION OF THE DIG SITE. THIS WAS DONE. ALTHOUGH THE SMOKE WAS CONSIDERABLY DISPERSED BY THE TIME IT WAS HIGH ENOUGH FOR THE TEAM TO SEE, THE TEAM WAS ABLE TO ESTIMATE THE COORDINATES TO BE IN THE VICINITY OF WH437840. THE TEAM THEN RETURNED TO THE EXCAVATION SITE.

- L. ON THE MORNING OF FRIDAY, 8 MAY, THE TEAM WENT TO THE SITE ALONG WITH THREE WITNESSES, MR. PHICH, MR. BAY AND MR. ONG. THE TEAM REQUESTED THE WITNESSES STAY AT A BASE CAMP LOCATED ABOUT EIGHT MINUTES WALK AWAY FROM THE ACTUAL EXCAVATION SITE. ONE BY ONE THE WITNESSES WERE BROUGHT TO THE EXCAVATION SITE AND PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION. (NOTE: DUE TO THE LIMITED AMOUNT OF TIME AVAILABLE AT THE SITE (3.5 HOURS), THE TEAM DID NOT ATTEMPT TO REAFFIRM EACH MINOR DETAIL LEARNED DURING THE PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION BUT RATHER CONCENTRATED ON THOSE AREAS WHICH APPEARED CONTRADICTORY OR UNBELIEVABLE. ADDITIONALLY, THE TEAM ATTEMPTED TO FIX THE EXACT LOCATIONS OF THE VARIOUS STAGES OF THE REPORTED INCIDENT AND THE MEANS BY WHICH THE WITNESSES RECALLED THESE LOCATIONS.)

- (1) MR. BUI VAN PHICH SAID DURING 1967 HE WAS AN 18

YEAR OLD MILITIA MEMBER FROM DONG DANG HAMLET, THUONG THIEN VILLAGE. ONE DAY (NFI), HE WAS SENT TO CATCH AN AMERICAN PILOT WHO HAD PARACHUTED INTO THE AREA. THERE WERE VERY MANY MILITIA MEMBERS FROM SEVERAL VILLAGES (COULD NOT BE SPECIFIC) HOWEVER, HIS GROUP INCLUDED THREE MEN: MR BUI VAN BAY, MR HAI AND HIMSELF. PHICH POINTED OUT THE RIDGE MADE BY THE TOP OF THE SPUR ABOVE THE POINT WHERE THE TEAM WAS WORKING. THIS, AND IN FACT MUCH OF THE ENTIRE AREA, WAS AND IS COVERED WITH SEVERAL TYPES OF BAMBOO. ON THE RIDGE TOP IS A BAMBOO WHICH GROWS 30-40 FOOT LONG, ONE OR TWO INCH THICK VINE LIKE TRUNKS. THIS TYPE GROWS THICKLY AND LIKE A VINE, REQUIRES OTHER TREES FOR VERTICAL SUPPORT. IN THE ABSENCE OF SUPPORT, THEY INTERTWINE AMONG THEMSELVES AND FORM A DENSE, SEVERAL METER DEEP, THICKET ALONG THE GROUND. MR. PHICH AND HIS ELEMENT WERE MOVING ALONG THE RIDGE HEADING UPHILL THROUGH ONE OF THESE THICKETS SIMILAR TO THAT THE TEAM WAS OBSERVING WHEN HE HAPPENED TO LOOK DOWNHILL AND SAW THE PILOT SITTING ON THE GROUND APPROXIMATELY FOUR OR FIVE METERS AWAY. HE SHOUTED IN VIETNAMESE FOR THE PILOT TO STAND UP. THE PILOT BEGAN TO STAND UP THEN WENT INTO A CROUCH (WHICH DEMONSTRATED BY BENDING HIS KNEES TO A LOW CROUCHING POSITION AND TWISTING FROM SIDE TO SIDE WITH HIS HANDS REACHING DOWN TO THE AREA OF THE BUTTOCKS). PHICH THOUGHT THE PILOT WAS ATTEMPTING TO REACH FOR A GUN AND SHOT ONE BULLET. HE HIT THE PILOT (AGAIN POINTING) ABOUT ONE INCH LEFT OF THE MIDDLE OF THE CHEST AND POCKET LEVEL. THE PILOT IMMEDIATELY FELL DOWN, LANDING ON HIS BACK. THE THREE MEN WENT INTO THE THICKET LOOKING FOR THE PILOT. PHICH OBSERVED THE PILOT LYING ON HIS BACK WITH BLOOD COMING OUT OF HIS CHEST. PHICH SAID THERE WAS NOT A GREAT DEAL OF BLOOD; HOWEVER, HE DID NOT TURN THE BODY OVER SO DID NOT KNOW IF THE BULLET HAD EXITED THE BACK OR NOT. IF SO, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN ADDITIONAL BLEEDING, BUT HE DID NOT SEE IT. HE NOTICED VERY LITTLE ABOUT THE PILOT EXCEPT THAT THE PILOT HAD BROWN HAIR. IT WAS LIGHTER AND SHORTER THAN THE INTERVIEWERS' HAIR. (NOTE: INTERVIEWER HAS MEDIUM DARK BROWN HAIR COVERING THE TOP 1/4 INCH OF HIS EARS.) THE PILOT WAS WEARING A WHITE, ARMLESS T-SHIRT (UNDERSHIRT) AND A PAIR OF GRAYISH KHAKI LONG PANTS. HE COULD NOT NAME THE COLOR AND LOOKED AROUND AT EVERYONE IN THE AREA. THE CLOSEST MATCH WAS A VERY LIGHT GREY KHAKI MATERIAL ONE OF THE WORKERS WAS WEARING.) AFTER HEARING MR. PHICH'S TESTIMONY, THE INTERVIEWER AND MR. PHICH CLIMBED TO THE TOP OF THE AREA

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UNDER EXCAVATION. MR. PHICH POINTED OUT A LARGE ROCK IN THE TOP CENTER PORTION OF THE EXCAVATION SITE WHICH HE

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ROUTINE

R 220747Z JUN 92 PSN 145259P26

FM CJTF-FA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

TO CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 17 BANGKOK TH 29393

RETRANSMITTAL OF MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED 0136 MAY 92

DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE
SUBJECT: REPORT OF EXCAVATION/REINVESTIGATION OF CASE
0691 (PATTERSON)

SAID WAS HIS LANDMARK. HE THEN CONTINUED UPHILL FOR ABOUT 4 METERS INTO THE BAMBOO, CROUCHED DOWN AND PANTOMIMED HIS SEEING OF THE PILOT AND THE SUBSEQUENT EVENTS HE HAD REPORTED. PHICH SAID HE WAS ONLY AT THE SITE FOR ABOUT TWO MINUTES AFTER SHOOTING THE PILOT BEFORE MR. ONG TOLD HIM TO GO HOME. DURING THE INITIAL PHASES OF THE INTERVIEW, MR. PHICH WAS MILDLY HOSTILE. HE CLEARLY RESENTED BEING ASKED QUESTIONS HE HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN ASKED AND ESPECIALLY SEEMED TO RESENT INTERVIEWER'S REPHRASING AND REPEATING QUESTIONS IN AN ATTEMPT TO CONFIRM SEVERAL ASPECTS OF HIS PREVIOUS STORY. OVERALL, HE REPORTED THE SAME INFORMATION AS BEFORE; HOWEVER, SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES INCLUDED: NO REPORT OF SEEING SMOKE, NO OTHER INDIVIDUALS IN THE GROUP, NOT BEING TOLD TO SHOOT, AND THE ABSENCE OF A MR. THU (HE SAID MR. HAI, WAS THE VILLAGE SECRETARY AT THE TIME.) INTERVIEWER EXPLAINED IT WAS NECESSARY TO OBTAIN VERY SPECIFIC DETAILS AND ALLOWED AS IT WAS PROBABLY IRRITATING TO ANSWER THE SAME QUESTIONS OVER AND OVER; NEVERTHELESS, INTERVIEWER REQUESTED PHICH'S INDULGENCE. MR PHICH THEN CONTINUED WITH THE INTERVIEW IN A SOMEWHAT MORE COOPERATIVE MANNER. MR. PHICH DID NOT NOTICE ANY SPECIFICS OF THE PILOT'S MATERIALS. HE ONLY RECALLED SEEING THE PARACHUTE UPHILL FROM THE PILOT'S LOCATION. ACCORDING TO PHICH, DISTRICT OR PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS (NFI) HAD TAKEN AWAY THESE ITEMS. MR. PHICH DID NOT SEE ANY SMOKE NOR DID HE SEE A MR. THU OR A MR HAI.

(2) MR BUI VAN BAY. ACCORDING TO HIS RECOLLECTIONS, THE INCIDENT DATE WAS 19-22 OR 23 MAY 1966 OR 1967. AT THAT TIME, HE WAS THE DONG DANH VILLAGE MILITIA PLATOON LEADER. HIS PLATOON INCLUDED 20+ PERSONNEL HOWEVER, AT THE TIME OF THE PILOT'S DEATH, HE WAS THE POINT MAN OF A THREE MAN GROUP LEADING THE ADVANCE TOWARDS THE LOCATION WHERE THE VILLAGE MILITIA BELIEVED THE PILOT WAS HIDING. HIS GROUP INCLUDED MR. PHICH, THE PREVIOUS WITNESS, AND MR. BUI VAN HAI (NOT THU) THE VILLAGE SECRETARY AT THE TIME. MR. HAI IS NOW DEAD. THE INCIDENT INVOLVED TWO PILOTS. ONE WAS CAPTURED ON THE 20TH OF MAY BY MILITIA FROM HOP DANH VILLAGE (CNA BUT PROBABLY VICINITY OF

WH5087) THE FIRST PILOT WAS CAPTURED OVER THE HILL (RIDGE LINE) ABOUT ONE KILOMETER AS THE BIRD FLIES OR TWO KILOMETERS BY FOOT (COULD DEFINE FURTHER). THIS AREA WAS STILL UNDER THE CONTROL OF THONG THIEN VILLAGE. THE CAPTURED PILOT WAS EVACUATED THROUGH THUONG THIEN VILLAGE, BUT MR BAY SAID HE WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THIS ACTIVITY AND KNEW NO SPECIFIC DETAILS OF WHAT WAS DONE. THE THUONG THIEN VILLAGE MILITIA HAD TEMPORARY FIELD HEADQUARTERS NEAR THE AIRCRAFT LANDING SITE WHICH WAS NEAR DONG DANH VILLAGE, APPROXIMATELY 500-600 METERS SOUTH OF THE EXCAVATION SITE. THEY OBSERVED A RED SIGNAL SMOKE SO KNEW THE GENERAL AREA WHERE THE PILOT WAS HIDING. MR. BAY WAS WALKING POINT CUTTING A TRAIL THROUGH THE UNDERGROWTH AND BAMBOO FOLLOWING THE TOP OF THE SPUR WHICH RAN ABOVE THE AREA WHERE THE TEAM WAS WORKING. HE HEARD A NOISE IN THE UNDERBRUSH ON THE SIDE OF THE HILL BELOW HIS POSITION AND REALIZED THE NOISE WAS NOT THAT OF A JUNGLE ANIMAL. AT THAT TIME, MR PHICH WHO WAS SECOND IN THE FILE AND A COUPLE YARDS BEHIND BAY CALLED OUT IN VIETNAMESE FOR THE PILOT TO STAND UP AND NOT MOVE. PHICH STARTED TO MOVE INTO THE THICKET. THE PILOT BEGAN TO STAND UP THEN WENT INTO A CROUCH SWINGING FROM SIDE TO SIDE AND APPEARED TO BE REACHING FOR A PISTOL. PHICH FIRED HIS AMERICAN MADE RIFLE (NFI) HITTING THE PILOT NEAR THE CENTER OF THE CHEST. THE PILOT LANDED ON HIS BACK, BLED FOR A SHORT TIME AND DIED. BAY WAS ONLY AT THE LOCATION FOR ABOUT FIVE MINUTES WHEN HE WAS DIRECTED TO RETURN TO THE VILLAGE. WITHIN A COUPLE MINUTES OF THE SHOOTING, THE AREA WAS VERY CROWDED AS THE REST OF THE MILITIA MEN FOLLOWING UP HILL ARRIVED AT THE SCENE OF THE SHOOTING. BAY COULD NOT RECALL MUCH DETAIL CONCERNING THE PILOT BUT REPORTED HE HAD BROWN HAIR SHORTER THAN THE INTERVIEWERS. HE DID NOT KNOW HOW TALL HE WAS NOR DID HE KNOW HOW HEAVY HE WAS. THE PILOT WAS WEARING A SLEEVELESS WHITE UNDERSHIRT SIMILAR TO THAT WORN BY ONE OF THE AMERICAN TEAM MEMBERS. THE PILOT HAD A BEARD, BUT IT WAS NOT VERY NOTICEABLE--A FEW DAYS GROWTH. BAY DID NOT NOTICE ANY SPECIFIC ITEMS OF THE PILOT'S GEAR BUT UNDERSTOOD DISTRICT AND PROVINCE OFFICIALS COLLECTED AND TOOK IT AWAY. (THE VNOSMP TEAM MEMBERS HAD INFORMED THE INTERVIEWER MR BAY HAD A BELT WHICH HE HAD TAKEN FROM THE PILOT.) THE TEAM ASKED MR. BAY IF HE OR MR. PHICH HAD COLLECTED ANY SOUVENIRS FROM THE SITE. HE SAID MR. PHICH HAD NOT TAKEN ANYTHING BUT HE HAD TAKEN A BELT. INTERVIEWER WAITED A FEW MOMENTS FOR MR. BAY TO PROVIDE

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THE BELT; HOWEVER, MR BAY JUST SAT QUIETLY. INTERVIEWER
THEN ASKED IF BAY HAD BROUGHT THE BELT. MR. BAY
RELUCTANTLY HANDED IT OVER TO THE TEAM. THE TEAM
EXAMINED THE BELT AND DETERMINED IT WAS SIMILAR TO A

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ROUTINE

R 220747Z JUN 92 PSN 145260P18

FM CJTF-FA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

TO CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS SECTION 06 OF 17 BANGKOK TH 29393

RETRANSMITTAL OF MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED 0136 MAY 92

DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE

SUBJECT: REPORT OF EXCAVATION/REINVESTIGATION OF CASE 0691 (PATTERSON)

NAVY/MARINE KHAKI BELT. THE BELT HAD SOME SIGNS OF SWEAT; HOWEVER DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN IN REGULAR OR EXTENSIVE USE. IN OTHER WORDS, IT WAS CLEARLY USED BUT IN GOOD CONDITION. THE TEAM PHOTOGRAPHED THE BELT THEN ASKED IF THEY COULD HAVE THE BELT SO IT COULD BE EXAMINED BY EXPERTS IN AMERICA. MR. BAY SAID HE WOULD GIVE THE BELT TO THE TEAM; HOWEVER, HE GOT THE BELT FROM THE PILOT THE DAY HE WAS KILLED ALMOST 25 YEARS AGO TO THE DAY AT THE SPOT THE TEAM WAS STANDING ON. THE TEAM THANKED MR. BAY AND ASKED HIM TO SHOW THE TEAM THE VARIOUS LOCATIONS WHERE THE REPORTED EVENTS HAD TAKEN PLACE. MR. BAY POINTED OUT THE LARGE ROCKS MR. PHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY POINTED OUT. HE ALSO POINTED TO SEVERAL OF THE LARGER TREES IN THE AREA. HE POINTED OUT SIMILAR AREAS; (1) WHERE MR. PHICH HAD BEEN STANDING AT THE TIME OF THE SIGHTING OF THE PILOT AND (2) WHERE THE PILOT HAD FALLEN--ABOVE THE BIG ROCK. HE REPORTED THE PILOT'S BODY HAD NOT ROLLED DOWN HILL, BUT RATHER JUST FELL IN PLACE. THE TEAM THANKED HIM FOR HIS ASSISTANCE AND HELPED HIM DOWN THE HILL. MR. BAY APPEARED TO BE A VERY TIRED OLD MAN WELL WORN DOWN BY LIFE. HE WAS NOT OVERLY EMOTIONAL AND DID NOT REACT STRONGLY TO MUCH OF WHAT WAS GOING ON AROUND. HE WAS CLEARLY WINDED BY THE SHORT BUT STEEP HIKE TO THE SITE FROM WHERE HE HAD BEEN WAITING FOR HIS TURN TO BE INTERVIEWED. THE VNOSMP LATER PASSED A REQUEST FROM HIM WHICH ESSENTIALLY STATED MR. BAY HAD KEPT THE BELT FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME--25 YEARS--AND ALTHOUGH HE GLADLY GAVE IT TO THE TEAM, IF THE EXPERTS DID NOT BELIEVE IT RELATED TO THIS CASE, COULD THE TEAM RETURN IT TO HIM.

- (3) MR. BUI VAN ONG. AFTER CONFIRMING SEVERAL PORTIONS OF HIS PREVIOUS TESTIMONY IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH HIS LOCATION DURING THE INCIDENT, THE TEAM CONCENTRATED ON HIS DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA. HE POINTED OUT THE TREES MR. BAY HAD POINTED OUT. HE ALSO SAID THE BODY WAS LOCATED NEAR THE TOP OF THE ROCK AND BURIED IN THE SAME LOCATION HE WAS STANDING WITH THE HEAD UPHILL AND THE FEET DOWNHILL AS REPORTED BY MR. AN. THE TEAM ASKED IF THEY HAD BURIED THE BODY IN A COFFIN AND RECEIVED AN

AFFIRMATIVE ANSWER. WHEN ASKED TO DESCRIBE THE COFFIN, HE SAID IT WAS A BOARD LAID UNDER THE PILOT'S BODY. THE BODY WAS PLACED IN A CUT IN THE BANK AND DIRT WAS HEAPED OVER THE BODY. DUE TO THE NUMEROUS AIRCRAFT IN THE AREA, HE ORDERED THE MEN TO MOVE QUICKLY AND LEAVE THE AREA. MR. ONG IS ALSO A VERY OLD, BUT SOMEWHAT MORE ENERGETIC MAN THAN MR. BAY. HE RESPONDED WILLINGLY AND EXTREMELY CONVINCINGLY IN RELATING HIS OBSERVANCE OF THE INFLATION OF THE FULTON EXTRACTION SYSTEM. HE DESCRIBED BOTH THE SOUND OF THE BALLOON INFLATING AND THE FACT THAT IT WAS ATTACHED BY A LONG CABLE (APPROXIMATELY 50 FEET LONG). MR. ONG EXPLAINED THE TERRAIN WAS NO LONGER THE SAME AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED. ONE EXAMPLE WAS THE LARGE CLUMP OF BAMBOO BELOW THE EXCAVATION AREA. THAT CLUMP HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN LOCATED ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF THE EXCAVATION AREA BELOW THE ROCK WHERE THE PILOT HAD BEEN SHOT. DURING A PARTICULAR YEAR WHICH HE COULD NOT RECALL, THERE HAD BEEN SEVERE LANDSLIDES. ONE OF THESE HAD MOVED THE BAMBOO THE 20 OR SO FEET TO ITS PRESENT LOCATION AND IT HAD CONTINUED TO GROW THERE. MR. ONG SAID THAT WHEN THE PROVINCE OFFICIALS HAD COME TO THE SITE AFTER THE INCIDENT AND WANTED TO GO TO THE SITE, HE HIMSELF HAD NOT GONE. RATHER, HE HAD SENT SEVERAL PEOPLE, ONE WHO'S NAME WAS BUI VAN CHINH. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, THE TEAM LEFT THE SITE AND RETURNED TO KIM BOI TOWN.

- M. THE TEAM ASKED TO TALK TO BUI VAN CHINH WHO

REPORTEDLY GUIDED DISTRICT OFFICIALS TO THE BURIAL SITE. HE IS PRESENTLY LIVING IN THUONG THIEN VILLAGE. MR. THANH AND MR. CHU ARRANGED WITH THE LOCAL OFFICIALS FOR THE INTERPRETER AND ANALYST TO ACCOMPANY THE WITNESS TO THUONG THIEN THAT EVENING WHEN THE DISTRICT AND PROVINCE OFFICIALS TOOK THE WITNESSES (WHO HAD GONE TO THE SITE) HOME. AFTER DRIVING FOR APPROXIMATELY 15 MINUTES ON A GOOD COUNTRY ROAD, THE TRUCK CARRYING THE WITNESSES AND TEAM MEMBERS TURNED OFF ONTO A MUD AND ROCK ROAD. APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR LATER IT STOPPED AT ONE OF THE HOMES IN THUONG THIEN VILLAGE. HOMES ARE WIDELY SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE VALLEY. MR. DUNG, THE PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTED TO THE TEAM THAT MR. CHINH HAD NOT YET COME HOME BUT WAS EXPECTED SHORTLY. ABOUT ONE HOUR OR SO LATER, MR. CHINH ARRIVED LOOKING SOMEWHAT WINDED. (AS THE TEAM DROVE DOWN THE VALLEY INTO THE VILLAGE, THEY OBSERVED A CONSTANT STREAM OF MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN COMING DOWN THE TRAIL FROM THE

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ROUTINE

R 220747Z JUN 92 PSN 145262P28

FM CJTF-FA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

TO CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS SECTION 07 OF 17 BANGKOK TH 29393

RETRANSMITTAL OF MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED 0136 MAY 92

DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE
SUBJECT: REPORT OF EXCAVATION/REINVESTIGATION OF CASE
0691 (PATTERSON)

MOUNTAIN CARRYING VARIOUS FOREST PRODUCTS). MR. CHINH SAID HE WAS "MORE THAN 30 YEARS OLD" (INTERPRETER GUESS IS CLOSER TO 45). (DURING AN APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTE INTERVIEW, MUCH TIME WAS SPENT GOING BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN VIETNAMESE AND MUONG. ALTHOUGH CHINH SPOKE VIETNAMESE, IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR BOTH HE AND THE INTERPRETER TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER. RESULTS OF THE INTERVIEW ARE MORE ACCURATELY CALLED A COMPILATION OF THE DISCUSSION WHICH OCCURRED BASED ON INTERPRETERS' QUESTIONS. THE OUTCOME OF THIS HALF HOUR FOLLOWS). MR. CHINH'S FAMILY WAS THE ONE FROM WHOM MR. ONG OBTAINED THE COFFIN USED TO BURY THE PILOT. AS WAS THE MUONG CUSTOM, THE COFFIN WAS A SET OF TWO BOARDS, ONE WHICH WENT BELOW THE BODY AND THE OTHER WHICH WAS SET ON TOP OF THE BODY. MR. CHINH DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE BURIAL OF THE PILOT. ABOUT FIVE DAYS AFTER THE BURIAL OF THE PILOT, DISTRICT OFFICIALS INCLUDING A PHYSICIAN ARRIVED AT THE VILLAGE AND SAID THEY WANTED TO CONDUCT AN AUTOPSY (MORE ACCURATELY, CONFIRM DEATH BY SHOOTING). MR. ONG DIRECTED MR. CHINH TO TAKE THE OFFICIALS TO THE SITE. HE COULD NOT RECALL ANY OF THE NAMES OF THESE INDIVIDUALS. THE SMALL GROUP WENT TO THE SITE AND MR. CHINH EXHUMED THE GRAVE (BOTH BOARDS WERE STILL IN PLACE AND THE BODY HAD NOT BEEN DISTURBED). DUE TO THE CONDITION OF THE BODY, THE OFFICIALS QUICKLY CONCLUDED THEIR BUSINESS, CHINH REBURIED THE BODY AND THEY ALL DEPARTED THE AREA. APPROXIMATELY NINE OR TEN YEARS LATER (1976 OR 1977), PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS DIRECTED MR. ONG TO CHECK THE CONDITION OF THE GRAVE AND IF THERE WERE REMAINS TO BRING THEM BACK TO THE VILLAGE AND TURN THEM OVER. MR. ONG DELEGATED THIS TASK TO MR. CHINH. MR. CHINH WENT TO THE SITE. WHEN HE ARRIVED HE NOTICED THE WHOLE HILLSIDE HAD BECOME A ROOTING GROUND FOR WILD FIGS. IN THE FORMER AREA OF THE GRAVE, THERE WERE STILL A FEW SMALL BONES, POSSIBLY FINGER BONES, BUT NO MAJOR BONES. THEREFORE, HE LEFT THE SMALL BONES, CONSIDERING THEM UNIMPORTANT, AND RETURNED TO THUONG THIEN VILLAGE. DURING HIS INITIAL VISIT TO THE SITE, BOTH MR. AN AND MR. MUC ACCOMPANIED HIM. MR. AN WAS INTERVIEWED AT THE

SITE PRIOR TO THE TEAM'S EXCAVATION AND POINTED OUT THE AREA TO BE EXCAVATED. MR. MUC WAS ONE OF THE VILLAGERS PRESENT DURING THE INITIAL ON-SITE INTERVIEW WITH MR. AN. (INTERVIEWER HAS NOT AWARE OF THIS FACT AND HAD NOT INTERVIEWED MR. MUC.) ACCORDING TO THE VILLAGE MEMBERS PRESENT, MUC AGREED THE SITE EXCAVATED HAS THE SITE WHERE THE PILOT HAD BEEN BURIED. CHINH SAID HE TOOK NO SOUVENIRS FROM THE SITE. AT APPROXIMATELY 2100 HOURS, THE TEAM COMPLETED THE INTERVIEW WITH MR. CHINH.

- N. ON 9 MAY THE TEAM TRAVELLED TO TU SON VILLAGE IN ORDER TO BEGIN INVESTIGATING THE AREA OF THE LAST KNOWN COORDINATES IN JTF FILES (WH45955). (NOTE: ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS IN VIETNAM ARE AS FOLLOWS: COUNTRY IS BROKEN INTO PROVINCES; PROVINCES INTO DISTRICTS; DISTRICTS INTO VILLAGES; AND VILLAGES INTO HAMLETS. THERE IS NO "UNINCORPORATED" AREA. A VILLAGE MAY CONSIST OF A FEW HOMES, SEVERAL SCATTERED HAMLETS AND MANY SQUARE KILOMETERS OF JUNGLE AND MOUNTAIN.) THE TEAM HAD INTENDED TO NOTIFY THE VILLAGE CADRE OF THEIR 9 MAY VISIT AFTER THE 8 MAY INTERVIEW OF MR. CHINH; HOWEVER, BY THE TIME THE INTERVIEW WAS OVER, IT WAS TOO LATE TO MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS. UPON ARRIVAL IN THE TU SON AREA, THE TEAM EXPERIENCED CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY FINDING A LOCAL OFFICIAL HOWEVER, AFTER ABOUT ONE HOUR OF WAITING, THEY MET MR BUI KHAC SUC, AN ETHNIC MUONG AND THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE TU SON VILLAGE PEOPLES' PARTY.

- (1) MR SUC INFORMED THE TEAM THERE HAS ONLY ONE INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED IN THE VILLAGE DURING THE ENTIRE WAR. THIS WAS A 27 DEC 1972 INCIDENT WHICH INVOLVED AN AIRCRAFT WHICH CRASHED ON THE HILL NORTH OF THE VILLAGE SCHOOL (AT THAT TIME THE DISTRICT PARTY HEADQUARTERS). AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT, SUC WAS 18 YEARS OLD AND A MEMBER OF THE MILITIA. WITHIN FIVE MINUTES OF THE CRASH, HE WAS SENT TO THE SITE TO KEEP VILLAGERS FROM THE SITE. HE ARRIVED AT THE SITE APPROXIMATELY 15 MINUTES AFTER THE CRASH. HE OBSERVED ONE PARACHUTE; HOWEVER, IT LANDED IN DO SANG VILLAGE. HE HEARD THE PILOT WAS CAPTURED ALIVE BUT KNEW NO FURTHER DETAILS. REGARDING THE AIRCRAFT, HE ONLY KNEW IT WAS A JET. HE NEITHER SAW NOR HEARD ABOUT ANY REMAINS OR PILOT'S PERSONAL EFFECTS BEING DISCOVERED AT THE CRASH SITE. THE SITE HAD BEEN SCAVENGED FOR YEARS AND THERE IS VERY LITTLE LEFT AT THE SITE. THE TEAM ANALYST DREW SEVERAL SILHOUETTE OF U.S. AIRCRAFT ON A PIECE OF PAPER AND ASKED WHICH TYPE WAS SIMILAR TO THE AIRCRAFT WHICH

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CJTF-FA DET ON

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INCOMING

CRASHED. WITH ALMOST NO HESITATION HE PICKED THE
 SILHOUETTE OF AN F-4. (A RECORDS CHECK DETERMINED THE
 INCIDENT BEING REPORTED WAS PROBABLY RESOLVED CASE 1972.

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ROUTINE

R 220747Z JUN 92 PSN 145263P21

FM CJTF-FA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

TO CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS SECTION 08 OF 17 BANGKOK TH 29393

RETRANSMITTAL OF MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED 0136 MAY 92

DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE

SUBJECT: REPORT OF EXCAVATION/REINVESTIGATION OF CASE 0691 (PATTERSON)

BECAUSE THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS OF THE REPORTED CRASH SITE SO CLEARLY DID NOT CORRELATE TO THE PATTERSON CASE, THE TEAM DECLINED THE OFFER TO VISIT THE SITE WHICH WAS VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD. AFTER INTERVIEWING SUC, THE TEAM REQUESTED TO SPEAK TO ANYONE ELSE WHO MIGHT BE KNOWLEDGEABLE. PREFERABLY, AN OLD MAN OR, BETTER, AN OLD WOMAN WHO WOULD KNOW ALL THE GOSSIP ABOUT WHATEVER HAD HAPPENED IN THE VILLAGE.

- (2) ABOUT FIVE MINUTES LATER, BUI THI DEN, A 65 YEAR OLD WOMAN, CAME TO THE HOUSE. MRS DEN HAD LIVED IN LANG CU SINCE HER BIRTH. SHE HAD NEVER HAD A POSITION IN THE GOVERNMENT, BUT RATHER WAS A FARMER AND TENDER OF WATER BUFFALO. SHE SAID THE ONLY AIRCRAFT TO CRASH IN THE AREA DURING THE WAR CRASHED IN 1972. SHE DID NOT KNOW WHAT MONTH, BUT IT WAS DURING THE DRY SEASON. SHE DID NOT KNOW WHY THE AIRCRAFT CRASHED, BUT OBSERVED IT FLYING FROM THE SOUTH TO THE NORTH AND CRASHED INTO THE MOUNTAIN ABOVE THE FORMER PARTY BUILDING, NOW A SCHOOL. WHEN IT CRASHED, THERE WAS A LARGE FLAME BUT SHE HEARD NO EXPLOSION. SHE SAW SOMETHING FLOATING IN THE AIR BUT WAS NOT SURE WHAT IT WAS. SHE ONLY KNEW THAT SHE WAS SCARED TO DEATH AND RAN HOME. AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH, SHE WAS IN THE FOOTHILLS OPPOSITE OF THE CRASH SITE (APPROX-ONE KILOMETER AWAY). SHE SAID TWO OLDER PEOPLE WERE HURT IN THE CRASH OF THE AIRCRAFT. THE CRASH OCCURRED ABOUT 1500. SHE RECALLED THE TIME BECAUSE SHE WAS GETTING READY TO COME HOME FROM FEEDING THE WATER BUFFALOS. SHE HEARD NO INFORMATION REGARDING THE PILOT OR HIS FATE.

- (3) THE TEAM THEN INTERVIEWED MR. BACH THUONG WHO IS NOW ABOUT 72 YEARS OLD. HE HAD BEEN VARIOUSLY A PARTY OFFICIAL, THE VILLAGE PARTY CHAIRMAN AND THE VILLAGE SECRETARY OF THE VILLAGE. HIS RECOLLECTIONS OF WHEN HE HELD WHICH POSITION SEEMED CONFUSED, HOWEVER, THEY COVERED THE LATE 1960'S TO THE EARLY 1980'S. ACCORDING TO HIS RECOLLECTION, THE ONLY AIRCRAFT TO CRASH IN THIS AREA WAS A 1972 LOSS WHICH INVOLVED A JET AIRCRAFT FLYING AT A HIGH ALTITUDE FROM THE NORTH TO THE SOUTH. AS IT APPROACHED THE SKY OVER THE VILLAGE, A

MISSILE (HE SURMISED) HIT THE AIRCRAFT AND IT BURST INTO FLAMES. IMMEDIATELY, TWO PARACHUTES EXITED THE AIRCRAFT... THE PLANE THEN HEADED TOWARDS DONG THOI MOUNTAIN AND MADE A SLOW RIGHT TURN EVENTUALLY HEADING BACK NORTH, FLYING SOUTH TO NORTH OVER LANG CU AND CRASHING INTO THE MOUNTAIN JUST ABOVE THE PRESENT VILLAGE SCHOOL. THE PILOTS LANDED IN DU SANG VILLAGE. HE NEVER HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE PILOTS BUT HEARD THAT TWO HAD BEEN CAPTURED ALIVE. HE KNEW NOTHING FURTHER REGARDING THESE INDIVIDUALS. TU SON VILLAGERS RECOVERED NO REMAINS OR PERSONAL EFFECTS FROM THE CRASH SITE OR THE AREA AROUND, THEREFORE, HE BELIEVED ALL THE PILOTS WERE OUT OF THE AIRCRAFT. HE NEVER SAW ANY NUMBERS WITH THE AIRCRAFT. THE PROVINCIAL HEADQUARTERS WAS LOCATED IN THE PRESENT SCHOOLHOUSE AT THAT TIME SO IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO WRITE ANY REPORTS AS THEY GOT THE INFORMATION FIRST HAND. HE DID NOT RECALL THE NAMES OF ANY OF THE OFFICIALS. BECAUSE THE SOURCE HAD ASSISTANCE IN DETERMINING THE 1972 DATE OF THE INCIDENT, INTERVIEWER ASKED HIM HOW HE KNEW THE DATE. HE REPLIED WITHOUT HESITATION THAT THE AIRCRAFT CRASHED AT THE END OF THE SAME YEAR BUT AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE PARTY HOUSE/OFFICE WHICH WAS COMPLETED IN 1972.

- 0. AFTER COMPLETING THE INTERVIEWS, THE TEAM TRAVELLED TO HOA BINH TOWN TO MEET THE PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS AND GIVE A REPORT OF THEIR ACTIVITIES. ADDITIONALLY, THEY INTENDED TO ASK FOR PERMISSION TO CONTINUE THE INVESTIGATION THE FOLLOWING WEEK. AT 1300, THEY MET MR BUI VAN DEN WHO IS THE PROVINCIAL PEOPLE'S PARTY DEPUTY CHAIRMAN. DURING AN APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR SESSION, THEY EXPLAINED THEY HAD EXCAVATED THE REPORTED BURIAL SITE WITHOUT RESULTS, THEREFORE, IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT TO LOCATE DETAILED DOCUMENTS REGARDING THE INCIDENT TO INCLUDE FULL REPORTS RATHER THAN JUST SUMMARIES. ADDITIONALLY, ANY PERSONAL EFFECTS RECOVERED FROM THE PILOT OR INCIDENT SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THE CAPTURE ATTEMPT WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL. THE TEAM ALSO WOULD LIKE TO LOCATE THE CRASHED AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATED WITH THIS INCIDENT. ACCORDING TO RUMOR, IT MAY HAVE CRASHED IN KY SON DISTRICT. MR DEN EXPLAINED THAT THERE WERE VERY FEW RECORDS LEFT DUE TO WAR TIME CONDITIONS AND THE COMBINING AND SEPARATING OF THE PROVINCES COMPLICATED LOOKING FOR ANY WHICH MIGHT REMAIN (HOA SON BINH PROVINCE RECENTLY DIVIDED INTO THREE PROVINCES, ONE OF WHICH IS HOA BINH). THE TEAM THEN HAD

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INCOMING

AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN IN WHICH
HE BROUGHT UP A NUMBER OF UNRELATED SUBJECTS SUCH AS THE

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ROUTINE

R 220747Z JUN 92 PSN 145269P27

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TO CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS SECTION 09 OF 17 BANGKOK TH 29393

RETRANSMITTAL OF MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED 0136 MAY 92

DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE
SUBJECT: REPORT OF EXCAVATION/REINVESTIGATION OF CASE
0691 (PATTERSON)

RECENT UNREST IN LOS ANGELES AND THE INTERVIEWERS WAR
TIME PRESENCE IN VIETNAM. MR DEN CONCLUDED THE MEETING
BY SAYING THE TEAM WAS WELCOME TO COME BACK AND COMPLETE
THEIR INVESTIGATION THE FOLLOWING WEEK.

- P. ON 13 MAY 72, AN ELEMENT OF THE JOINT TEAM
CONSISTING OF CPT [REDACTED], MR. [REDACTED], SFC [REDACTED], SSG
[REDACTED] AND TSGT [REDACTED] DEPARTED HANOI FOR KIM BOI TO
CONTINUE THE INVESTIGATION OF CASE 0691. AT
APPROXIMATELY 1100 HOURS, CPT [REDACTED] AND MR. [REDACTED]
MET WITH MR. NGOC AND MR. CHU TO DISCUSS THE OPTIONS
AVAILABLE FOR THE TEAM DURING THE NEXT FOUR DAYS. THE
TEAM'S GOALS, IN ORDER OF PRIORITY, WERE TO VISIT LANG
THUNG HAMLET (WH4396), TU SON VILLAGE AND DOI MU HAMLET
(WH4696), DO SANG VILLAGE AND INTERVIEW OFFICIALS AND
LONG TIME RESIDENTS OF THE AREA REGARDING INCIDENTS
WHICH HAD OCCURRED IN THEIR AREA DURING THE WAR.
SECOND, THE TEAM WANTED TO LOCATE THE CRASH SITE OF THE
AIRCRAFT IN ORDER TO ASSIST IN DETERMINING THE ACTUAL
VICINITY WHERE PATTERSON AND MCDANIELS LANDED THIRD,
THE TEAM WANTED TO INTERVIEW ADDITIONAL WITNESSES IN THE
THUONG THIEN AREA. FOUR, THE TEAM NEEDED TO TRACK DOWN
THE WITNESS IN THE REGION WHO REPORTEDLY HAD SOME
"AMERICAN REMAINS". MR. CHU SAID THE CRASH SITE WAS
REPORTEDLY ABOUT ONE KILOMETER AS THE BIRD FLIES FROM
THE SITE EXCAVATED BY THE TEAM. THEY WERE SENDING MR.
DUNG FROM THE PROVINCE AND MR. LOI FROM THE DISTRICT TO
LOCATE A WITNESS WHO REPORTEDLY KNEW THE LOCATION OF THE
SITE SO THAT HE COULD GUIDE THE TEAM THE NEXT DAY.
ADDITIONAL COORDINATION WAS BEING DONE WITH THE TWO
VILLAGES IN THE LAST KNOWN LOCATION AND THE TEAM COULD
LIKELY GO THERE ON THE 15TH (FRIDAY). SATURDAY WOULD BE
USED TO TIE UP LOOSE ENDS AS NECESSARY.

- Q. AT APPROXIMATELY 2100 HOURS MR. CHU CAME TO MR.
ATHERTON'S ROOM ALONG WITH MR. LOI AND MR. DUNG AND MR.
NGOC. IN BRIEF THEIR REPORTS WERE AS FOLLOWS.

- R. MR. DUNG REPORTED THEY HAD LOCATED THE WITNESS
WHO KNEW ABOUT THE REPORTED AIRCRAFT CRASH SITE. MR.
BUI VAN KIM IS THE 67 YEAR OLD FORMER DEPUTY VILLAGE
CHIEF AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT. HE REPORTED THE SITE

IN QUESTION WAS NOT A CRASH SITE BUT RATHER WHERE THE
CANOPY HAD LANDED HE HAD TAKEN A SMALL SQUARE OF
PLEXIGLASS AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT WHICH HE WAS
KEEPING IN HIS HOME. SINCE THE INCIDENT, ALL PIECES OF
THE CANOPY HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM THE LOCATION. HE WAS
WILLING TO TAKE THE TEAM TO THE LOCATION, HOWEVER, THEY
WOULD ONLY SEE EMPTY JUNGLE AT THE SITE. MR. CHU
REPORTED NO COORDINATION HAD BEEN DONE WITH KY SON
DISTRICT REGARDING A POSSIBLE CRASH SITE LOCATION FOR
THIS CASE AS THEY (THE VIETNAMESE SIDE) BELIEVED THEY
HAD LOCATED A WITNESS WHO KNEW WHERE THE CRASH SITE WAS.
THEY WOULD ATTEMPT TO DO THE COORDINATION WITH KY SON
DISTRICT ON WEDNESDAY (14 MAY).

- S. MR. LOI REPORTED HE HAD GONE TO BOTH VILLAGES IN
THE AREA OF THE LAST KNOWN LOCATION. IN LANG THUNG HE
DISCOVERED NO INDICATION OF ANY AIRCRAFT LOSSES DURING
THE WAR. IN DU SANG VILLAGE, HE LEARNED THERE HAD BEEN
TWO INCIDENTS INVOLVING US AIRCRAFT OR PILOTS DURING THE
WAR. THE FIRST INCIDENT OCCURRED ON 17 SEP 67, INVOLVED
AN F4C AND THE CAPTURE OF TWO UNINJURED PILOTS. THE
PILOTS WERE SENT UP THROUGH DISTRICT AND PROVINCE.
(NOTE CASE NUMBER 0837--RF4C, 17 SEP 67, TWO PILOTS
CAPTURED, RETURNED TO US ALIVE. INCIDENT COORDINATES
APPROXIMATELY 15 KILOMETERS NORTHEAST. PROBABLY PILOT
CONFUSION OVER EAST/WEST ROADS--ONE AT EACH LOCATION.)
THE SECOND INCIDENT INVOLVED THE CAPTURE OF ONE PILOT IN
THE VILLAGE, THE SECOND PILOT BELOW THE VILLAGE ON 27
DEC 72. THE AIRCRAFT IN THIS INCIDENT CRASHED IN TU SON
VILLAGE. (THIS IS THE SAME INCIDENT REPORTED AT SOME
LENGTH ABOVE IN WITNESS INTERVIEWS). OUTSIDE THESE TWO
INCIDENTS, THERE WERE NO AIRCRAFT LOSSES IN THE AREA
DURING THE WAR. THE INTERVIEWER EXPLAINED WHILE THIS
MAY BE TRUE, IT WAS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY FOR THE TEAM TO
GO TO THESE VILLAGES AND INTERVIEW WITNESSES FOR
THEMSELVES AND ATTEMPT TO GO TO THE LAST KNOWN LOCATION
TO DETERMINE IF IT MORE ACCURATELY FIT THE DESCRIPTION
IN JTFFA FILES. MR. CHU INTERPOSED THAT THIS WAS NOT A
PROBLEM AND THE NECESSARY COORDINATION HAD ALREADY BEEN
SET IN MOTION. (THE TEAM ACCESSED THE AREA BY
HELICOPTER AS LANG TUNG IS A THREE HOUR ONE-WAY HIKE
FROM THE ROAD).

- T. ON 14 MAY 1992, AN ELEMENT OF THE TEAM
CONSISTING OF CPT [REDACTED], MR. [REDACTED], TSG [REDACTED],
MR. CHU AND MR. NGOC TRAVELLED WITH VARIOUS LOCAL
OFFICIALS TO MR. BUI VAN KIM'S HOME IN THUONG THIEN
VILLAGE. MR. BUI VAN KIM IS THE NOW RETIRED 67 YEAR OLD

DLVR: CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI (5) ...ACT

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UNCLAS SECTION 10 OF 17 BANGKOK TH 29393

RETRANSMITTAL OF MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED 0136 MAY 92

DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE
SUBJECT: REPORT OF EXCAVATION/REINVESTIGATION OF CASE
0691 (PATTERSON)

VILLAGE CHIEF. HIS TENURE AS VILLAGE CHIEF BEGAN WHEN
THE VIETNAMESE WERE FIGHTING THE FRENCH, CONTINUED
THROUGH THEIR WAR WITH THE AMERICANS AND INTO THE
BATTLES WITH CHINA. MR. KIM IS STILL VERY ALERT AND
HEALTHY. HE ANSWERED QUESTIONS OF BOTH SPECIFIC AND
GENERAL NATURES QUICKLY AND CLEARLY. THE EXCEPTION TO
THIS WERE QUESTIONS WHICH COULD POTENTIALLY CAUSE
TROUBLE FOR THUONG THIEN VILLAGERS. WHEN HE RECEIVED
INDICATIONS FROM SEVERAL OF THE VILLAGE AND PROVINCIAL
OFFICIALS IN THE ROOM THAT IT WAS OK TO ANSWER THESE
QUESTIONS, HE ANSWERED QUICKLY AND WITHOUT HESITATION.

(1) ONE DAY IN MAY 1967, AFTER SOME THOUGHT, 9 MAY
THEN 19 MAY, A GROUP OF AIRCRAFT (NUMBER NOT RECALLED)
FLEW OVER THE AREA HEADING IN THE DIRECTION OF HOA BINH
(WJ3602) (NORTH WEST). A MISSILE CAME UP INTO THE AIR
FROM THE DIRECTION OF HOA BINH AND EXPLODED.
IMMEDIATELY ONE OF THE AIRCRAFT GAINED ALTITUDE THEN
BEGAN TO BLOW MUCH SMOKE. A FEW SECONDS LATER, TWO
PARACHUTES EXITED THE AIRCRAFT. INITIALLY, THEY WERE
ABOUT 50 METERS APART, BUT BY THE TIME THEY LANDED, THEY
WERE ABOUT ONE KILOMETER APART. THE AIRCRAFT CONTINUED
TO FLY IN THE DIRECTION OF KY SON DISTRICT ROUGHLY WEST,
NORTHWEST. THE AIRCRAFT DID NOT CRASH IN THE AREA UNDER
THUONG THIEN VILLAGE'S JURISDICTION, BUT PROBABLY
CRASHED IN YEN SON VILLAGE (CNA), KY SON DISTRICT. THE
ONLY PART OF THE AIRCRAFT TO LAND IN THUONG THIEN
VILLAGE WAS THE CANOPY. THE TEAM SHOWED KIM TWO PHOTOS,
ONE OF AN A6 AND ONE OF AN F4. WITH NO HESITATION, HE
POINTED OUT THE A6 AS THE TYPE OF AIRCRAFT AND FURTHER
POINTED TO THE FRONT PORTION OF THE CANOPY AS BEING WHAT
HE HAD DISCOVERED. HE THEN BROUGHT OUT A PIECE OF THE
CANOPY (SEE MATERIAL EVIDENCE) WHICH HE HAD BEEN KEEPING
SINCE HE LOCATED IT IN 1967. THE CANOPY HAS LONG SINCE
BEEN REMOVED FROM THE PLACE WHERE IT FELL. HE DESCRIBED
THE CANOPY AS ABOUT FOUR BY SIX FEET IN SIZE WITH A THIN
METAL OR METAL-LIKE FRAME AROUND IT. A LINE OF FRAME
DIVIDED THE CANOPY IN TWO DOWN THE MIDDLE. THE FRAME
WAS LIGHT BLUE OR CREAM COLOR.

(2) AFTER THE PILOTS PARACHUTED FROM THE AIRCRAFT,

THE LOCAL VILLAGE MILITIAS OF THUONG THIEN, HOP DANG,
AND VINH DONG (WHS188), BEGAN MOVING TOWARDS DONG DANH
HAMLET WHERE THEY SET UP A COMMAND POST TO CAPTURE THE
PILOTS. THERE WAS BETWEEN ONE AND TWO HUNDRED MILITIA
MEMBERS INVOLVED IN THIS ACTIVITY. BUI VAN HAI (NOW
DECEASED), THE VILLAGE SECRETARY, WENT TO THE SITE WITH
THE VILLAGE MILITIA WHILE MR. KIM REMAINED BEHIND TO
ORGANIZE THE SUPPLIES FOR THE VILLAGE MILITIA AND OTHER
ASPECTS OF THE ATTEMPTED CAPTURE. ON THE SECOND DAY OF
THE EFFORT, THE VILLAGERS CAUGHT A PILOT AND BROUGHT HIM
TO THE VILLAGE. HE ARRIVED IN THE LATE AFTERNOON AND WAS
ACCOMPANIED BY A DISTRICT OFFICIAL NAMED MINH. MINH
TOLD WITNESSES ACCORDING TO THE PILOT'S ID CARD, THE
PILOT WAS 42 YEARS OLD. NONE OF THE VILLAGERS OR
DISTRICT OFFICIALS COULD SPEAK ENGLISH, SO NO ONE TALKED
TO THE PILOT. THE VILLAGERS FED HIM FOOD AND WATER
WHICH HE TOOK. THE PILOT WAS NOT WOUNDED AND MOVED
QUITE WELL. THE PILOT WAS LARGE, ABOUT SIX FEET TALL
(WITNESS WHO WAS ABOUT FIVE FEET TWO INCHES SAID HE CAME
UP TO THE PILOT'S SHOULDER). THE PILOT HAD CURLY, LIGHT
COLORED HAIR. HIS EYES WERE BLUE, HOWEVER DID NOT SEEM
TO SEE WELL AS HE HELD THINGS CLOSE TO LOOK AT THEM.
WHEN ASKED REGARDING THE CLOTHES THE PILOT WAS WEARING,
THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION AND WITNESS COULD NOT
CLEARLY RECALL BUT SEEMED TO INDICATE PANTS, SHIRT AND
PERHAPS A VEST OF SOME SORT. DURING THIS DISCUSSION,
WITNESS'S WIFE, WHO WAS SITTING ABOUT FIFTEEN FEET AWAY
WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF VILLAGERS WHO HAD ENTERED THE
HOUSE TO ENJOY THIS ODD OCCASION, CHIMED IN WITH HER
DESCRIPTION. A LIVELY ARGUMENT ENSUED FOR ABOUT FIVE
MINUTES. DISCUSSION WAS IN VIETNAMESE AND MUONG AND
INVOLVED TWO OR MORE PEOPLE TALKING AT ONE TIME. UNDER
THE GUISE OF GETTING HIS BAMBOO WATER PIPE, THE WITNESS
WALKED TO WHERE HIS WIFE WAS SITTING AND APPEARED TO
TELL HER TO BE QUIET. HE THEN WALKED BACK AND IN A
RESPONSE TO ONE OF THE OTHER INDIVIDUALS PRESENT REPLIED
"WE AGREE NOW". AT THIS POINT HE PROVIDED THE STILL
CONFUSED DESCRIPTION ABOVE. THE WITNESS SAID THE PILOT
WAS NOT WEARING SHOES OR SOCKS WHEN HE ARRIVED AT THE
HOUSE BECAUSE IT WAS THE NORMAL PRACTICE TO REMOVE SHOES
AND SOCKS FROM PRISONERS TO PREVENT THEIR ESCAPE. THE
FOLLOWING MORNING, MINH TOOK THE PILOT UP THE CHAIN AND
HE KNEW NOTHING MORE ABOUT HIM. ON THE SECOND DAY OF
THE INCIDENT AN AIRCRAFT DROPPED TWO BUNDLES OF
SUPPLIES, ONE CONTAINING "STUFF" AND THE OTHER
CONTAINING AN OBJECT WITH A BALLOON. ON THE THIRD DAY

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CJTF-FA DET ON

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OF THE INCIDENT, HE HEARD THAT A GROUP OF MILITIA
MEMBERS HAD LOCATED AND SHOT THE PILOT. INITIALLY, HE
SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE DEATH OF THE

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ROUTINE

R 220747Z JUN 92 PSN 145314P18

FM CJTF-FA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

TO CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS SECTION 11 OF 17 BANGKOK TH 29393

RETRANSMITTAL OF MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED 0136 MAY 92

DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE

SUBJECT: REPORT OF EXCAVATION/REINVESTIGATION OF CASE 0691 (PATTERSON)

PILOT AND WHO HAD SHOT HIM. THE INTERVIEWER REPHRASED THE QUESTION SAYING HE HEARD THAT PHICH WAS THE ONE WHO SHOT THE PILOT. AFTER GETTING A HIGH SIGN FROM THE PRESENT VILLAGE LEADER, HE SAID THAT WAS TRUE. FURTHER, MR. BUI VAN BAY AND MR. HAI WERE PRESENT WITH PHICH WHEN PHICH SHOT THE PILOT. HE DID NOT KNOW A GREAT DEAL MORE ABOUT THE INCIDENT AS HE WAS NOT ACTUALLY AT THE SITE. THE DISTRICT REMOVED ALL PERSONAL EFFECTS CAPTURED DURING THE INCIDENT. THE BURIAL TEAM CONSISTED OF BUI VAN AN, BUI VAN MUC AND MR. ONG.

- (3) REGARDING THE ISSUE OF SUBSEQUENT VISITS TO THE GRAVE, MR. KIM REPORTED THERE HAD BEEN THREE VISITS. THE FIRST OCCURRED THREE DAYS AFTER THE SHOOTING. A DOCTOR AND HIS ASSISTANT, AND POSSIBLY A THIRD DISTRICT OFFICIAL, VISITED THE SITE WITH SEVERAL LOCAL PEOPLE INCLUDING MR. AN AND MR. CHINH TO DIG UP THE BODY IN ORDER TO DETERMINE FOR SURE IF THE DEATH HAD BEEN BY SHOOTING. AFTER CHECKING THE BODY, IT WAS REBURIED. ANOTHER TEAM CAME BACK ABOUT A YEAR LATER, BUT NOT SURE OF DATE. BY THAT TIME, THE GRAVE AREA HAD BEEN DESTROYED BY THE ROOTING OF WILD PIGS. IN 1970 DISTRICT OR PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS CONDUCTED A THIRD AND FINAL VISIT TO THE SITE. ON THIS OCCASION, HE ACCOMPANIED THEM TO THE SITE. THERE WAS NO SIGN OF THE GRAVE AT THAT TIME. THIS WAS THE ONLY TIME HE WENT TO THE SITE.

- (4) THE ONLY DISTRICT OFFICIAL OF THAT TIME WHOSE NAME HE COULD RECALL WAS BUI VAN TINH, THE SECRETARY OF THE DISTRICT. MR. KIM SAID THIS WAS THE ONLY INCIDENT TO OCCUR IN THE AREA DURING THE WAR.

- U. ON 15 MAY, THE TEAM FLEW BY HELICOPTER INTO LANG THUNG HAMLET, TU SON VILLAGE IN ORDER TO INTERVIEW WITNESSES AND WALK TO THE LAST KNOWN LOCATION (WH445955). THE TEAM MET MR BACH KHAC NAM, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF TU SON VILLAGE. HE INTRODUCED THE WITNESSES WHO PROVIDED THEIR ACCOUNTS AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) BUI VAN KIEM IS A 36 YEAR OLD FARMER LIVING IN THE AREA. HE SUPPLEMENTS HIS INCOME BY SEARCHING FOR ALLUVIAL GOLD WHICH IS FOUND THROUGHOUT THE AREA. ONE DAY DURING MAY 1989, HE AND HIS FRIEND, BUI VAN TON,

WERE LOOKING FOR GOLD ABOUT TWO HUNDRED METERS FROM HIS HOME IN THE EASTERN PART OF LANG TUNG VILLAGE (LATER, THE TEAM OBSERVED THIS AREA WHICH IS HONEYCOMBED WITH NATURAL AND MANMADE CAVES). WHILE TAKING A LUNCH BREAK, THEY NOTICED A SMALL CAVE ABOUT ONE METER ACROSS. THEY LOOKED IN THE CAVE TO SEE IF THERE WAS ANY GOLD. AT THE BOTTOM OF THE APPROXIMATELY SIX METER DEEP CAVE, THEY DUG FOR GOLD BUT FOUND NONE. THE CAVE WAS ABOUT 2.5 TO THREE METERS WIDE. WHILE LEAVING THE CAVE, THEY SAW A NUMBER OF BONES. THEY THOUGHT THE BONES WERE PIG BONES BUT SAW A JAW BONE AND SMALL TEETH LIKE HUMAN TEETH. THEY GOT SCARED AND LEFT. AFTER LEARNING ON 8 MAY THAT THE TEAM WAS IN THE AREA, HE WENT TO THE CAVE AND RECOVERED A TOOTH. HE TOOK THE TOOTH TO KIM BOI VILLAGE; HOWEVER ARRIVED TO LATE TOO TALK TO THE TEAM WHICH WAS DEPARTING FOR HANOI. AT THIS POINT IN THE INTERVIEW, HE GAVE WHAT APPEARED TO BE AN ANIMAL TOOTH TO THE TEAM. ACCORDING TO KIEM, THE OTHER REMAINS IN THE CAVE CONSISTED OF VARIOUS SMALL BONES ABOUT THE SIZE OF A FINGER BONE. THE LONGEST BONE WAS ABOUT FIVE INCHES LONG. THERE WERE ALSO SEVERAL PIECES OF FLAT BONE ABOUT THE SIZE OF THREE FINGERS TOGETHER WHICH HE BELIEVED WERE THE SKULL BONES. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION AND EXAMINATION OF THE TOOTH BY THE MEDICAL AND CIMHI REPRESENTATIVES, IT WAS DETERMINED THE REMAINS WERE ANIMAL. HE RECALLED AS A YOUNG MAN THE 1974 DOWNING OF WHAT HE HEARD WAS AN F4H ON TU SON MOUNTAIN ABOVE THE SCHOOL. HE SAW TWO PARACHUTES, BUT THEY DID NOT LAND IN TU SON VILLAGE. NO AIRCRAFT OR PILOTS LANDED IN THE MOUNTAINS SURROUNDING LANG TUNG. HE REMEMBERS THIS AS A FIERCE TIME OF WAR AND THE YEAR HE BECAME TEN YEARS OLD. BEFORE THAT HE NEVER HEARD ANYTHING AND HE NEVER HEARD OLD FOLKS TALK ABOUT ANY OTHER INCIDENT.

- (2) BUI VAN KICH IS A 75 YEAR OLD RESIDENT OF XOM TEN, LANG THUNG, TU SON. HE HAS LIVED HERE SINCE HIS BIRTH. THE ONLY INCIDENT HE HAS HEARD ABOUT WAS THE CRASH ON TU SON MOUNTAIN NEAR THE ROAD. HE DID NOT SEE THE CRASH, BUT HAD HEARD ABOUT IT. HE DOES NOT REMEMBER WHAT YEAR. NO AMERICANS OR PILOTS WERE EVER SHOT DOWN IN LANG TUNG. THIS INCIDENT HAPPENED IN LANG CU BUT HE NEVER WENT TO SEE THE CRASH SITE. HE WORKS AS A MOUNTAIN FARMER. (LAM NUONG 001).

- (3) BUI VAN GHINH IS A 64 YEAR OLD RESIDENT OF XOM KHA, LANG TUNG, TU SON. THE ONLY AIRCRAFT TO CRASH IN THE AREA THAT HE WAS AWARE OF WAS THE AIRCRAFT WHICH

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ROUTINE

R 220747Z JUN 92 PSN 145279P23

FM CJTF-FA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

TO CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS SECTION 12 OF 17 BANGKOK TH 29393

RETRANSMITTAL OF MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED 0136 MAY 92

DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE

SUBJECT: REPORT OF EXCAVATION/REINVESTIGATION OF CASE 0691 (PATTERSON)

CRASHED ON TU SON CLIFF DURING 1974. HE SAW TWO PARACHUTES BUT DID NOT GO SEE CRASH SITE. HE DOES NOT KNOW WHAT TYPE OF AIRCRAFT IT WAS. HE BELIEVED THE AIRCRAFT CRASHED BECAUSE IT WAS BURNING BUT DID NOT KNOW WHY IT WAS BURNING. AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT, HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE LEADERSHIP GROUP OF THE VILLAGE COOPERATIVE. ACCORDING TO WHAT HE HEARD, THE PILOTS WERE CAPTURED IN DU SANG. HE DOES NOT REALLY RECALL PRECISELY THE DATE. AS FAR AS HE KNEW, NO OTHER INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN THIS AREA.

(4) AFTER COMPLETING THE INTERVIEWS, THE TEAM WALKED TO THE LAST KNOWN LOCATION (WH45955). THEY TOOK A ROUNDABOUT ROUTE AND COVERED MUCH OF THE AREA ON THE SOUTHEASTERN PORTION OF LANG THUNG VILLAGE. THIS AREA IS A FAIRLY WIDE OPEN PLATEAU WITH NUMEROUS KARST OUTCROPPINGS JUTTING UP FROM THE GROUND. LARGE PORTIONS OF THE AREA ARE NOW UNDER CULTIVATION IN VARIOUS CROPS REQUIRING LITTLE WATER. THE ENTIRE AREA IS FILLED WITH BOTH NATURAL CAVES AND DEEP PITS DUG BY GOLD MINERS. THERE ARE A FEW AREAS OF JUNGLE STILL REMAINING. THE SPECIFIC AREA OF THE COORDINATES ABOVE WAS FIXED BY BOTH GPS MACHINE AND MAP TRACKING. THIS AREA IS PRESENTLY COVERED WITH APPROXIMATELY 10 FOOT HIGH ELEPHANT GRASS AND EMERGING JUNGLE GROWTH.

(5) DURING THIS WALK, THE TEAM STOPPED TO CHAT WITH A GROUP OF FARMERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. ONE OF THESE HAS AN APPROXIMATELY SIXTY YEAR OLD MAN WHO SAID HE HAD LIVED AND WORKED IN THE AREA ALL HIS LIFE. THE ONLY INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED IN THE AREA WAS THE CRASH OF THE AIRCRAFT INTO TU SON MOUNTAIN NEAR THE ROAD. THE PILOT OR PILOTS IN THIS INCIDENT HAD LANDED IN DU SANG VILLAGE AND HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT THEIR FATE WAS.

(6) THE TEAM WAS NOT ABLE TO WALK TO THE ROUNDED OUT GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES WHICH EQUATE TO WH450961; HOWEVER, DID FLY OVER THESE COORDINATES. THE HELICOPTER MADE TWO SLOW PASSES OVER THE AREA PERMITTING THE TEAM MEMBERS A CLEAR VIEW AND THE ABILITY TO FIX THE LOCATION BASED ON THE TERRAIN FEATURES SHOWN ON THE MAP. THE VALLEY REPORTED IN MR PATTERSON'S LETTER IS A SEVERAL

HUNDRED METER WIDE VALLEY THROUGH WHICH AN F-4 COULD FLY LOW; HOWEVER, THE MOUNTAINS ON EITHER SIDE ARE BEST DESCRIBED AS CLIFFS. THERE ARE SMALL HILLS ON THE VALLEY FLOOR. NEITHER THIS LOCATION OR THE WH45955 LOCATION ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE INFORMATION IN THE [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] DEBRIEFS.

V. AFTER COMPLETING THE INTERVIEWS IN LANG THUNG, THE TEAM FLEW TO KIM BOI AND DROVE BACK TO GO THAO HAMLET (SHOWN AS DOI MU ON THE MAP (WH4696), DU SANG VILLAGE, WHERE THEY MET MR. BUI VAN PIEN, THE DU SANG PEOPLES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND BACH DUC THAI, THE VILLAGE SECRETARY. THEY INTRODUCED THE TEAM TO THREE WITNESSES.

(1) BACH CHU DOC, 57 YOA. VILLAGE CHIEF IN 1972. THIS HAS A POSITION HE ATTAINED UPON HIS RETURN TO VILLAGE IN EARLY 1972. HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT EARLIER INCIDENTS. THE ONLY AIRCRAFT HE KNEW ABOUT WAS THE 27 JULY 1972 CRASH OF AN AIRCRAFT FIVE KILOMETERS AWAY IN TU SON VILLAGE. HE SAW ONE PILOT BAIL OUT AND LAND ABOUT FIVE HUNDRED METERS FROM WHERE THE TEAM WAS SITTING. THE PILOT HAS A CAUCASIAN AND BEARD HE WAS A MAJOR. HE WAS ABOUT 1.72 METERS TALL (TWO CENTIMETERS TALLER THAN WITNESS). HE HAD KNOWN THE PILOTS NAME, BUT HAD SINCE FORGOTTEN IT. WITNESS WAS ONE OF THREE THAT CAPTURED BUT ACTUALLY NOT ONE WHO DID THE CAPTURING BECAUSE HE WAS THE BOSS. IF THERE WAS A SECOND PILOT, HE DID NOT LAND IN THIS AREA. WHEN THE FIRST WAS CAPTURED THE DISTRICT OFFICIALS TOOK CONTROL OF HIM RIGHT AWAY AND MOVED HIM FROM THE VILLAGE. AFTER THAT HE DOES NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PILOT. HE DID NOT HEAR RUMORS ABOUT THE TYPE OF THE AIRCRAFT, BUT AS IT FLEW OVER, IT APPEARED TO HIM AND OTHER LOCALS TO BE AN F4C. THE TEAM TRIED TO CLARIFY HOW HE KNEW THIS INFORMATION BUT RECEIVED NO CLEAR ANSWER. THERE WERE A LOT OF AIRCRAFT IN THE AREA AND HE HAS NOT SURE WHAT CAUSED THE AIRCRAFT TO CRASH OR WHAT DIRECTION IT WAS FLYING WHEN IT WAS HIT. HE HEARD THE EXPLOSION AND NOTICED THE AIRCRAFT AT THAT TIME. HE DOES NOT RECALL IF THE AIRCRAFT WAS SMOKING OR BURNING BECAUSE IT WAS SO

LONG AGO.

(2) BUI VAN NIEU HAS A 70 YEAR OLD FARMER. HE LIVED IN THE AREA DURING THE ENTIRE WAR. ONE INCIDENT OCCURRED JUST AS THE PREVIOUS WITNESS HAD SAID. DURING THE 1972 INCIDENT, HE HAS ABOUT FOUR OR FIVE KILOMETERS

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CJTF-FA DET ON

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AWAY AND DID NOT NOTICE THE ACTUAL OCCURRENCE OF THE

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SECTIONAL MSG

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ROUTINE

R 220747Z JUN 92 PSN 145281P21

FM CJTF-FA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

TO CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS SECTION 13 OF 17 BANGKOK TH 29393

RETRANSMITTAL OF MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED 0136 MAY 92

DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE

SUBJECT: REPORT OF EXCAVATION/REINVESTIGATION OF CASE 0691 (PATTERSON)

INCIDENT. HE SAW THE PILOT WHEN HE CAME BACK BUT COULD NOT GIVE ANY DESCRIPTION OF THE PILOT AS HE DID NOT SEE THAT CLEARLY. INITIALLY, HE SAID HE KNEW OF NO INFORMATION REGARDING ANY AIRCRAFT CRASHES IN 1967. AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE SECRETARY, HE ADMITTED THERE HAD BEEN ONE INCIDENT ON 17 SEP 67 ABOUT SIX OR SEVEN KILOMETERS NORTH OF THE VILLAGE. TWO PILOTS PARACHUTED FROM THE AIRCRAFT LANDING IN XOM NUOC DUC. THE AIRCRAFT ALSO CRASHED IN XOM NUOC DUC. THIS ALSO BELONGS TO DU SANG VILLAGE. AT THIS POINT MR BACH, THE PREVIOUS WITNESS INTERJECTED THE PILOTS INCLUDED ONE AMERICAN AND ONE AUSTRALIAN. MR. NIEU CONTINUED SAYING THE MILITIA CAUGHT BOTH ALIVE. ONE HAS A FIRST LIEUTENANT AND THE OTHER A MAJOR. THE VILLAGE SECRETARY WHO RETURNED IN 1981, INTERJECTED THAT HE HAD HEARD FROM HIGHER OFFICIALS THAT ONE OF THE MEN WAS AUSTRALIAN. NONE OF THE THREE KNEW WHAT TYPE OF AIRCRAFT WAS INVOLVED IN THIS INCIDENT. NIEU SAID HE WAS IN THE VILLAGE MILITIA AT THE TIME. HE SAW THE TWO PILOTS BUT DOES NOT RECALL ANY DETAILS OF THE PILOT'S APPEARANCE. THE MILITIA TURNED THE TWO PILOTS OVER TO THE DISTRICT. AFTER THAT NIEU DID NOT KNOW ANYTHING ELSE. NONE OF THE AIRCRAFT IS RECOVERABLE BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN TOTALLY SCAVENGED. AT THAT TIME, THEY HAD JUST GONE TO GET THE RICE. NO OTHER AIRCRAFT OR PILOTS WERE DOWNED IN THE AREA.

(3) BUI QUE BIEN IS A 58 YEAR OLD VILLAGER. HE LIVED IN THE AREA BETWEEN 1960 AND 1975. DURING THAT PERIOD, ONLY ONE AIRCRAFT CRASHED ON THE LAND UNDER DU SANG VILLAGE CONTROL. THAT AIRCRAFT CRASHED ON 17 SEP 1967. HE RECALLS THE DATE DUE TO THE FACT THEY HAD TO GET TOGETHER TO DO THE RICE HARVEST. THE AIRCRAFT CRASHED IN NUOC DUC HAMLET BUT DOES NOT RECALL THE TYPE OF AIRCRAFT. BOTH PILOTS IN THE AIRCRAFT EJECTED AND THE MILITIA CAUGHT THEM SOON THEREAFTER. HE WAS NOT THERE WHEN THEY WERE CAUGHT BUT ARRIVED SHORTLY AFTERWARDS. BOTH WERE TALL, BIG AND HEALTHY. NEITHER WAS WOUNDED. THE MILITIA TURNED THEM OVER TO THE DISTRICT SHORTLY AFTER THEIR CAPTURE. HE DID NOT RECALL ANY OF THE DISTRICT OFFICIALS INVOLVED. REGARDING THE

SECOND INCIDENT, HE HEARD THE PILOT CAME DOWN IN THE VILLAGE. HE WAS NOT ACTUALLY IN THE AREA WHERE THE PILOT CAME DOWN SO DID NOT SEE THE PILOT AND WAS ONLY REPORTING HEARSAY INFORMATION. HE HEARD ONE PILOT LANDED NEAR THE PLACE WHERE THEY WERE NOW TALKING. THE PLANE CRASHED THREE OR FOUR KILOMETERS AWAY FROM HERE IN TU SON. HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT TYPE OF AIRCRAFT. HE DID NOT HEAR INFO REGARDING THE CAPTURE OF A SECOND PILOT. ALSO HE HAD HEARD NO INFORMATION REGARDING A PILOT BEING KILLED OR DEAD IN THIS AREA. AFTER COMPLETING THIS INTERVIEW, THE TEAM RETURNED TO KIM BOI.

- W. THE TEAM WAS DISSATISFIED REGARDING THE LACK OF SPONTANEITY IN THE PREVIOUS DAYS INTERVIEWS IN DOI MU. ON SATURDAY MORNING, 16 MAY, THE TEAM APPROACHED MR. CHU MR. NGOC AND MR. DUE OF THE PROVINCE TEAM AND EXPLAINED THEY BELIEVED THE TEAM HAD INTERVIEWED WITNESSES WHO HAD RECEIVED SOME OF THEIR INFORMATION--NAMELY THE DATES FROM ELSEWHERE THAN THEIR MEMORY. FURTHER, THE TEAM WAS NOT CONFIDENT THE PEOPLE HAD BEEN FREE TO TALK--EVEN THOUGH CHU AND SEVERAL DISTRICT AND PROVINCE OFFICIALS HAD ENCOURAGED THEM TO ANSWER QUESTIONS. - MR. CHU EXPRESSED FRUSTRATION AT THIS LATE REQUEST STATING HE HAD ALREADY RELEASED CERTAIN ASSETS, THE JEEP BEING ONE. FURTHER, THE TEAM HAS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE IN ABOUT THREE HOURS AND IT WAS NECESSARY TO NOTIFY THE VILLAGE OFFICIALS. THE INTERVIEWER REPLIED ALL HE WANTED TO DO WAS GO BACK TO THE VILLAGE, KNOCK ON A FEW DOORS AND TALK TO SOME LONG TIME RESIDENTS OF THE AREA IN ORDER TO DETERMINE IF THE INFORMATION OF THE PREVIOUS DAY WAS ACCURATE. MR. CHU ASKED FOR ABOUT AN HOUR TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE. AT 0930, CAPTAIN [REDACTED], MR. [REDACTED] AND TSgt [REDACTED] DEPARTED FOR DU SANG VILLAGE. WHEN THEY ARRIVED, NO VILLAGE OFFICIALS WERE PRESENT. THE TEAM WAS PERMITTED TO WALK UP TO INDIVIDUALS AND HAS GIVEN TOTAL FREEDOM TO GO TO ANY HOUSE AND ASK ANYONE THEY DESIRED WHATEVER THEY WANTED. AFTER TALKING TO THREE WITNESSES, THE TEAM DETERMINED THEY HAD TALKED WITH TWO VERY GENUINE INDIVIDUALS WHO PROVIDED INFORMATION AS THEIR MEMORY RECALLED IT. THIS INFORMATION HAS COMPLETELY CONSISTENT WITH THE INFORMATION LEARNED THE DAY BEFORE AND PROVIDED SOME AMPLIFICATION. THEIR ACCOUNTS FOLLOW:

(1) MR. BUI VAN THU IS A 54 YEAR OLD FARMER. HE WAS PROBABLY PRESENT IN THE HOUSE DURING THE INTERVIEWS ON 15 MAY, AS HE STATED HE KNEW THE TEAM'S PURPOSE AS THEY HAD BEEN IN THE VILLAGE THE PREVIOUS DAY. HE

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APPEARED NERVOUS AND REPEATEDLY LOOKED AT MR. PHUC, THE
PROVINCIAL MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE FOR APPROVAL OF WHAT

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ROUTINE

R 220747Z JUN 92 PSN 145284P24

FM CJTF-FA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

TO CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS SECTION 14 OF 17 BANGKOK TH 29393

RETRANSMITTAL OF MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED 0136 MAY 92

DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE
SUBJECT: REPORT OF EXCAVATION/REINVESTIGATION OF CASE
0691 (PATTERSON)

HE HAS SAYING. MR. PHUC IMPATIENTLY TOLD HIM TO ANSWER
THE INTERVIEWERS' QUESTIONS AFTER WHICH MR. THU
RESPONDED MORE READILY. ACCORDING TO THU, THERE WERE
TWO INCIDENTS IN THE VILLAGE AREA DURING THE WAR. THE
FIRST OCCURRED IN 1967, POSSIBLY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE
YEAR, BUT HE HAS NOT SURE. THE PILOTS LANDED IN THE
NUOC DUC AREA. BOTH PILOTS WERE CAPTURED ALIVE AND
FORWARDED TO HIGHER HEADQUARTERS DURING THE EVENING OF
THE DAY OF THEIR CAPTURE. AS NEAR AS HE COULD RECALL,
ONE WAS ABOUT INTERVIEWER'S SIZE (5'7"). THE SECOND WAS
OLDER (OVER 30) AND TALLER. HE DID NOT KNOW WHERE OR
WHY THE PLANE CRASHED.

- (2) THE SECOND WITNESS WAS A 64 YEAR OLD FARMER
NAMED BACH CONG THIET. AFTER CONCLUDING INTERVIEWS ON
THE DAY BEFORE (15 MAY), THE TEAM HAD WALKED THE
APPROXIMATELY 400-500 METERS TO THE LOCATION WHERE TEAM
VEHICLES WERE PARKED. THERE WAS A LARGE CROWD OF
APPROXIMATELY 200-300 PERSONS WATCHING THE TEAM. ONE OF
THESE WAS MR THIET. THE INTERVIEWER HAD SHAKEN HIS HAND
AND TALKED BRIEFLY WITH HIM. WHEN THE TEAM ARRIVED ON
THE 16TH, MR. THIET WAS STANDING EAGERLY BY THE ROAD AND
OBVIOUSLY WANTED TO TALK WITH THE TEAM. THE INTERVIEWER
WENT OVER AND OBTAINED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION.
DURING THE WAR, THERE WERE THREE PILOTS CAPTURED IN THE
VILLAGE. ONE HAD LANDED ON THE HILL ABOUT ONE HUNDRED
METERS FROM WHERE THE TEAM WAS STANDING. HE WAS
CAPTURED IMMEDIATELY AND TURNED OVER TO THE DISTRICT
ABOUT 4-5 HOURS AFTER HIS CAPTURE. AS FAR AS HE KNEW,

THERE WAS ONLY ONE INDIVIDUAL IN THE AIRCRAFT WHICH
CRASHED IN TU SON VILLAGE NEAR THE ROAD. AS NEAR AS HE
COULD RECALL, THE INCIDENT HAD OCCURRED IN 1976. THE
SECOND INCIDENT INVOLVED TWO PILOTS WHO LANDED IN NUOC
DUC HAMLET TO THE NORTH. ONE PILOT LANDED IN THE
VILLAGE AND THE LOCAL MILITIA CAUGHT HIM IMMEDIATELY.
THE SECOND PILOT EVADED FOR THREE OR FOUR HOURS AND WAS
CAUGHT. HE ONLY SAW THE FIRST PILOT BUT COULD NOT
DESCRIBE HIM OTHER THAN TALL AND BIG. HE DID NOT KNOW

THE AIRCRAFT TYPE.

- (3) THE FINAL WITNESS, BUI VAN SANG HAS A 59 YEAR
OLD FARMER. AS THE TEAM WAS WALKING TOWARDS A GROUP OF
ROUSES TO LOOK FOR AN INTERVIEWEE, THEY PASSED A SMALL
PAVILION CONTAINING WHAT IS APPARENTLY THE VILLAGE
HEARSE AND A FEW SMALL BENCHES. INSIDE WAS A FAIRLY
LARGE CROWD OF VILLAGERS WHO HAD GATHERED TO WATCH THE
FOREIGNERS. THE OLDEST LOOKING OF THESE WAS MR. SANG.
THE INTERVIEWER APPROACHED HIM AND MADE SOME SMALL TALK
AND ASKED IF HE WOULD BE WILLING TO TALK TO THE TEAM.
HE SAID THE TEAM SHOULD COME TO HIS HOUSE FOR TEA. THE
TEAM ACCOMPANIED HIM AND LEARNED THE FOLLOWING
INFORMATION. THERE WERE TWO INCIDENTS WHICH HAD
OCCURRED IN THE VILLAGE DURING THE WAR. ONE INCIDENT
ABOUT 1000-1200 ONE DAY IN PROBABLY MID-1972, HE HEARD A
PLANE FLY OVERHEAD HEADING EAST. HE HEARD AN EXPLOSION
AND SECONDS LATER OBSERVED ONE PARACHUTE WHICH DRIFTED
DOWN INTO THE VILLAGE AREA. THE MILITIA IMMEDIATELY
CAPTURED THE PILOT AND TURNED HIM OVER TO THE DISTRICT
FORCES LATER THAT DAY. HE DID NOT KNOW THE TYPE OR
CRASH SITE OF THE AIRCRAFT. THE SECOND INCIDENT
OCCURRED IN NUOC DUC. HE DID NOT RECALL THE YEAR BUT IT
WAS PRIOR TO THE 1972 INCIDENT. IN THIS CASE, TWO
PILOTS LANDED IN NUOC DUC BETWEEN 1000 AND 1200. ONE OF
THESE LANDED IN THE VILLAGE AND THE MILITIA CAUGHT HIM
IMMEDIATELY. THE OTHER WAS CAUGHT ABOUT 1700. THEY
WERE TAKEN TO DISTRICT EITHER THAT NIGHT OR THE
FOLLOWING MORNING. ONE WAS ABOUT 5'7" AND THE OTHER
ABOUT 5'11". THE TALLER ONE WAS OLDER. HE DID NOT KNOW
WHERE THE AIRCRAFT CRASHED. HE THOUGHT THE INCIDENT
MIGHT HAVE OCCURRED IN JULY AS IT WAS HOT AND IT
OCCURRED WHEN THE VILLAGERS WENT TO THE JUNGLE TO GET
BAMBOO SHOOTS. HE DID NOT SEE THE AIRCRAFT, ONLY HEARD
THE EXPLOSION. HE SURMISED BOTH AIRCRAFT WERE SHOT DOWN
BY MISSILES.

- X. AFTER COMPLETING THIS INTERVIEW, MR. LOI ASKED IF
THE TEAM DESIRED TO TALK TO ANYONE ELSE. CONSIDERING
THE TIME AND THE TWO CLEAR ACCOUNTS WHICH SUPPORTED ALL
PREVIOUS ACCOUNTS, THE TEAM DECIDED THERE WAS NOTHING
FURTHER TO BE ACCOMPLISHED AND DEPARTED THE AREA.

- Y. AFTER ARRIVING IN KIM BOI, MR. LOI CAME TO MR
[REDACTED] AND REPORTED THEY, TOO, AGREED THE TESTIMONY ON
THE 15TH HAD BEEN STILLED AND THEY HAD NOT UNDERSTOOD
WHY AS THEY HAD TOLD THE OFFICIALS TO BE FULLY
COOPERATIVE. DURING THE MORNING'S WORK THEY HAD TALKED
TO SOME OF THE MEN PRESENT THE DAY BEFORE AND DISCOVERED

DLVR:CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI (S)...ACT

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INCOMING

THE VILLAGERS WERE AFRAID THE TEAM WOULD WANT TO VISIT THE NUOC DUC SITE AND THEREFORE KEPT THEIR TESTIMONY VAGUE AS THEY DID NOT WANT TO MAKE THE SIX TO SEVEN HOUR HIKE TO THE LOCATION.

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THEY WERE AFRAID THE TEAM WOULD WANT TO VISIT THE NUOC DUC SITE AND THEREFORE KEPT THEIR TESTIMONY VAGUE AS THEY DID NOT WANT TO MAKE THE SIX TO SEVEN HOUR HIKE TO THE LOCATION.

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THEY WERE AFRAID THE TEAM WOULD WANT TO VISIT THE NUOC DUC SITE AND THEREFORE KEPT THEIR TESTIMONY VAGUE AS THEY DID NOT WANT TO MAKE THE SIX TO SEVEN HOUR HIKE TO THE LOCATION.

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ROUTINE

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TO CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS SECTION 15 OF 17 BANGKOK TH 29393

RETRANSMITTAL OF MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED 0136 MAY 92

DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE

SUBJECT: REPORT OF EXCAVATION/REINVESTIGATION OF CASE
0691 (PATTERSON)

4. MATERIAL EVIDENCE:

- A. REF PARA 3L2. ONE WITNESS TURNED OVER TO THE TEAM WHAT APPEARS TO BE A KHAKI NAVY OR MARINE BELT WITH GOLD COLORED BUCKLE. THIS WILL BE FORWARDED FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS.

- B. REF PARA 3TL. THE TEAM OBSERVED AND PHOTOGRAPHED A PIECE OF PLEXIGLASS WHICH WAS REPORTEDLY FROM A CANOPY THE WITNESS SAID WAS SIMILAR TO THE FORWARD PORTION OF THE CANOPY ON PHOTOGRAPH OF AN A6A. THE PIECE OF PLEXIGLASS WAS APPROXIMATELY 8 INCHES BY 18 INCHES AND ABOUT 3/8 INCH THICK.

5. SURVEY/EXCAVATION RESULTS:

- A. A GRID OF 8 X 12 METERS WAS SET UP TO EVALUATE THE LOCATION SELECTED BY AN INFORMANT AS THE PLACE OF BURIAL, WITH THE SPECIFIC SPOT IN THE APPROXIMATE CENTER. THE SOIL WAS SYSTEMATICALLY EXCAVATED AND THEN EXAMINED IN 1/4 INCH MESH SCREENS FROM THE GRIDS WHICH INCLUDED THE PURPORTED BURIAL SPOT AND ALL ADJACENT 2 BY 2 METER SQUARES. AREAS EAST, WEST AND SOUTH (UP SLOPE) OF THE GRID WERE STRIPPED OF SURFACE VEGETATION, RAKED, AND INTENSIVELY SURFACE SURVEYED. MUCH OF THE AREA WITHIN THE GRID CONSISTED OF ROCK OUTCROPPINGS. THESE ROCKY AREAS WERE CLEANED, WITH CREVICES BEING DUG OUT. A GULLY AT THE BOTTOM OF THE GRID WAS CLEANED OF SMALL ROCKS, THEN RAKED AND CAREFULLY INSPECTED. THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE GULLY BEYOND THE PROJECT AREA WAS WALKED OVER NUMEROUS TIMES.

- B. RESULTS: NO HUMAN REMAINS OR ARTIFACTS OF ANY TYPE WERE FOUND IN THE PROJECT AREA OR THE GULLY. THE SOIL AT THE PURPORTED BURIAL LOCATION SHOWED NO SIGNS OF BEING SUBSTANTIVELY DISTURBED FOR PLACEMENT OR REMOVAL OF REMAINS. THE EXTENSIVE ROCK EXPOSURES AND SHALLOW SOIL CONDITIONS OVER MUCH OF THE PROJECT AREA, AS CONDITIONS EXISTED AT THE TIME OF THIS EXCAVATION, WOULD HAVE PRECLUDED ANYTHING OTHER THAN A SHALLOW BURIAL IN A FEW PLACES ON THE STEEP ROCKY SLOPE.

6. RECOMMENDED FUTURE ACTIONS:

- A. PROVINCE SHOULD CONTINUE LOOKING FOR DOCUMENTS REGARDING THIS INCIDENT, IN PARTICULAR, COMPLETE REPORTS OF THE INCIDENT.

- B. PROVINCE SHOULD CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR THE CRASH SITE PERTINENT TO THIS INCIDENT.

- C. PROVINCE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO LOCATE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN THE ATTEMPTS TO RECOVER REMAINS FROM THE REPORTED GRAVE SITE AND IN OTHER ASPECTS OF THIS CASE. TWO NAMES WHICH CAME AVAILABLE WERE "MINH" WHO ESCORTED MCDANIELS (PROBABLY A KIM BOI DISTRICT OFFICIAL) AND BUI VAN TINH, THE DISTRICT PARTY SECRETARY AT THAT TIME.

7. PERTINENT DATA OR LOCATION CHANGES. CHANGE LAST KNOWN LOCATION FROM WH434856 TO WH437841. THIS IS A REFINEMENT OF THE PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION'S CHANGE WHICH WAS BASED ON MAP TRACKING. THE 17TH ITERATION TEAM WAS ABLE TO VISIT THE SITE, AND CONFIRM THE LOCATION BASED ON GPS READINGS AND WITNESS INTERVIEWS.

8. AREA OR CASE FILE INFORMATION NOT INVESTIGATED.

- A. THE TEAM ATTEMPTED TO LOCATE THE CRASH SITE. OTHER THAN RUMORS THAT IT WAS LOCATED IN KY SON DISTRICT, THEY WERE NOT ABLE TO FIX A CRASH SITE.

- B. THE TEAM UNSUCCESSFULLY ATTEMPTED TO LOCATE DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THIS INCIDENT. MR. THANH REPORTED TO THE TEAM THAT HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO RECOVER DOCUMENTS AND MAKE THEM AVAILABLE TO THE VNOSMP.

- C. THE TEAM UNSUCCESSFULLY ATTEMPTED TO LOCATE DISTRICT AND PROVINCIAL LEVEL OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT. TWO NAMES SURFACED AND THE VNOSMP SAID THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO ATTEMPT TO LOCATE THESE INDIVIDUALS.

9. ANALYST'S COMMENTS:

- A. WITNESSES WERE INTERVIEWED SEPARATELY AT THE SITE. WHEN QUESTIONED CONCERNING THE LOCATION OF THE SHOOTING OR BURIAL ALL POINTED TO THE SAME SPOT. ONE WITNESS TURNED OVER A MILITARY ISSUE TYPE BELT TO THE CUSTODY OF THE JOINT TEAM, THAT HE ALLEGED HE HAD TAKEN FROM THE AMERICAN PILOT WHO HAD BEEN SHOT AND BURIED AT

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DLVR: CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI (S)...ACT

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ROUTINE

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TO CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS SECTION 16 OF 17 BANGKOK TH 29393

RETRANSMITTAL OF MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED 0136 MAY 92

DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE

SUBJECT: REPORT OF EXCAVATION/REINVESTIGATION OF CASE 0691 (PATTERSON)

THIS LOCATION. ALL WITNESS TESTIMONY AT THE SITE WAS COMPATIBLE WITH THE KNOWN FACTS OF THIS CASE.

- B. ONE MAJOR AREA OF CONCERN WAS THE CLAIM THE BODY HAD BEEN BURIED IN A COFFIN. WITNESSES AGREED NO ACTUAL COFFIN HAD BEEN USED, BUT RATHER ONE OR TWO BOARDS HAD BEEN USED. REPORTEDLY, THE BODY WAS LAID ON A BOARD AND (IN SOME STATEMENTS) ANOTHER BOARD PUT ON TOP OF THE BODY.

- C. SEVERAL WITNESSES INDICATED THE GROUND HAD ERODED OR THERE HAD BEEN LANDSLIDES IN THE AREA. THIS SEEMS CONSISTENT WITH THE LAY OF THE LAND. ADDITIONALLY, ONE OF THE WITNESSES CLAIMED A LARGE CLUMP OF BAMBOO HAD SLID DOWN THE HILL AND CONTINUED TO GROW THERE. ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL OF THIS CLAIM, AT ANOTHER SITE, THE TEAM OBSERVED A CLUMP OF BAMBOO WHICH HAD FALLEN OVER MAKING THE ROOT SYSTEM VISIBLE. THE ROOTS WERE VERY SMALL AND SEEM TO SUPPORT THE WITNESS'S CLAIMS.

- D. WITNESS TESTIMONY AT THE SITE STATED THAT THE PILOT WAS SHOT ON 22 OR 23 MAY 1966 OR 1967. THE OTHER PILOT HAD BEEN CAPTURED AROUND THE 20TH OF MAY APPROXIMATELY 1-2 KILOMETERS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE HILL. ANOTHER WITNESS SAID THE PILOTS HAD EJECTED CLOSE TOGETHER AND CAME DOWN ABOUT ONE KILOMETER APART. THESE ARE ALL CONSISTENT WITH THE RECORDS OF THIS INCIDENT.

- E. TWO WITNESSES ALSO DESCRIBED HAVING SEEN A BALLOON WITH A CABLE ATTACHED TO IT. THIS COULD VERY EASILY HAVE BEEN THE EXTRACTION SYSTEM THAT HAD BEEN DROPPED TO LIEUTENANT PATTERSON.

- F. AS DEMONSTRATED IN THE BASIC TEXT, THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LAND NEAR THE OLD LAST KNOWN LOCATION (NM445955) BORE LITTLE OR NO RESEMBLANCE TO INFORMATION IN JTF FILES. THIS LACK OF TERRAIN SIMILARITY WAS FURTHER REINFORCED BY THE INTERVIEWS WITH 13 WITNESSES, NONE OF WHOM PROVIDED INFORMATION SUPPORTING 0691'S LOSS IN THIS AREA. FURTHERMORE, THE TERRAIN IN THE DONG DANH AREA, THUONG THIEN VILLAGE DID MATCH THAT IN THE RECORDS. THE WITNESSES PROVIDED INFORMATION WHICH IS ALSO CONSISTENT WITH THE RECORDS.

- G. REF PARA 372. WITNESS'S ACCOUNT SAID THE CAPTURED PILOT WAS 42 YEARS OLD. ALLEGEDLY, THIS INFORMATION CAME FROM HIS ID CARD. THE TEAM ANALYST AND LINGUIST ATTEMPTED TO LOCATE A BASIS FOR THIS CLAIM; HOWEVER, YEAR OF BIRTH, SQUADRON AND ACTUAL AGE WERE ALL NEGATIVE.

- H. REF PARA 372. ALTHOUGH THE WITNESS WAS NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE A CLEAR ACCOUNT OF THE CAPTURED PILOT'S CLOTHING, IT IS ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THERE WAS A PILOT IN THEIR VILLAGE. THE ARGUMENT BETWEEN HE AND HIS WIFE AND HIS MANNER OF HANDLING IT WERE CLEARLY A NATURAL AND UNSTAGED EVENT IN WHICH TWO PEOPLE COULD NOT AGREE ON WHAT HAPPENED 25 YEARS PREVIOUSLY.

- I. REF PARA 353: SEVERAL OF THE WITNESSES REFERRED TO SUBSEQUENT TRIPS TO THE GRAVE SITE WHICH THEY CONDUCTED OR HAD CONDUCTED AT HIGHER ECHELON INVESTIGATION. THE REPORTS ARE SOMEWHAT CONFUSING AND DO NOT AGREE AS TO THE DATES; HOWEVER, THE FOLLOWING PATTERN SEEMS TO EXIST. AN INITIAL VISIT WITHIN SEVERAL DAYS OF THE INCIDENT IN WHICH MEDICAL PERSONNEL CONFIRMED DEATH BY SHOOTING. ANOTHER VISIT WITHIN A YEAR TO CHECK THE STATUS OF THE GRAVE AND A FINAL VISIT A NUMBER OF YEARS AFTERWARDS. WHILE THE ACTUAL NUMBER AND DATES OF VISITS MAY BE CONFUSED, MULTIPLE VISITS TO THE SITE ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE FAIRLY HIGH PERCENTAGE OF REMAINS RECOVERED IN CASES IN HOA BINH PROVINCE WHICH RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF A PILOT.

- J. REF PARA 3LL, 2: BOTH WITNESSES DESCRIBED A CROUCHING, TWISTING MOTION WITH HANDS OUTSPREAD AS IN A TRADITIONAL WESTERN GUNFIGHT SCENE. THE MOVEMENTS THEY MADE WERE CONSISTENT WITH BOTH DELIRIOUSNESS AND WITH AN INDIVIDUAL ATTEMPTING TO RISE AND KEEP HIS BALANCE IN SPITE OF A BROKEN LEG.

10. TEAM CHIEF COMMENTS:

- A. THE MAJORITY OF THE INDIVIDUALS ASSIGNED TO THE TEAM, PARTICULARLY THE VNOSMP MEMBERS, WERE HELPFUL AND COOPERATIVE IN ASSISTING THE TEAM. THERE WERE SEVERAL REQUESTS MADE BY THE TEAM WHICH PUT THE VIETNAMESE COUNTERPARTS ON THE SPOT--PARTICULARLY THE LAST MINUTE TRIP TO DU SANG VILLAGE TO INTERVIEW ADDITIONAL WITNESSES. THEY CONSISTENTLY AGREED TO THE REQUESTS OR

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UNCLAS SECTION 17 OF 17 BANGKOK TH 29393

RETRANSMITTAL OF MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED 0136 MAY 92

DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE

SUBJECT: REPORT OF EXCAVATION/REINVESTIGATION OF CASE
0691 (PATTERSON)

PROPOSED ALTERNATE COURSES OF ACTION WHICH WERE EQUALLY
BENEFICIAL.

- B. THE ONE EXCEPTION TO THIS RULE INVOLVED THE
MATTER OF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY. INITIALLY, THE TEAM WAS
PERMITTED TO TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS OF ANY AREA THEY DESIRED.
THEY TOOK NUMEROUS AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE DIG SITE
AND SOME LIMITED PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE LANG THUNG
(WH44559555) AREA. LATER, THE TEAM WAS INFORMED THERE
WAS A CENTRAL GOVERNMENT REGULATION REGARDING
PHOTOGRAPHING IN MINORITY AREAS AND NO FURTHER
PHOTOGRAPHY WAS ALLOWED. MR. NGOC SAID GENERAL [REDACTED]
SHOULD BRING THIS ISSUE UP AT THE NEXT EXPERTS TALKS SO
THAT THE ISSUE COULD BE RAISED WITH THE MINISTRY
RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT LAW.

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ROUTINE
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FM CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI//J2//
TO BUPERS WASHINGTON DC//PERS-663P//
INFO WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASH DC
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//
SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//CA/OCS/CCS/EAP/VLC//
JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//OCJCS/J5/PW-MIA/J5-300//
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3/J30-M//
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SECTION 01 OF 03
DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE//
MSGID/SYS.RRM/CDR JTF-FA/J2//
AMPW/SUBJ: FIELD INVESTIGATION REPORT OF CASE 0691 (PATTERSON)//
REF/A/JCRC LIAISON BANGKOK/150921Z FEB91//
REF/B/JTF-FA DET ONE/280703Z JAN92//
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RWKS/1. REF A IS THE DETAILED REPORT OF INVESTIGATION OF CASE 0691 CONDUCTED ON 5 AND 6 DECEMBER 1990. REF B IS THE REPORT OF INTERVIEW OF ADDITIONAL WITNESSES ASSOCIATED WITH CASE 0691 AND THE ATTEMPT TO REACH THE GRAVE SITE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS CASE. REF C IS THE REPORT OF EXCAVATION/REINVESTIGATION OF CASE 0691 CONDUCTED FROM 2 TO 16 MAY 1992. THIS REPORT IS BASED ON CRS OBSERVATIONS AND FIELD ANALYSIS AND IS NOT INTENDED TO PROVIDE FINAL ANALYTICAL CONCLUSIONS.

2. SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIONS: ON 2 AND 3 APRIL 1993, A JOINT U.S./SRV TEAM RETURNED TO THE EXCAVATION SITE ASSOCIATED WITH CASE 0691-1-01. THE TEAM TRAVELED TO THE REPORTED INCIDENT SITE LOCATED ABOVE DONG DANH HAMLET, THUONG TIEN VILLAGE, KIM BOI DISTRICT, HOA BINH PROVINCE, IN AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON THE CASE. THE TEAM LOCATED NO ADDITIONAL EYEWITNESSES OR RECORDS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS CASE. THE TEAM TRAVELED TO THE SITE PREVIOUSLY EXCAVATED AS REPORTED IN REF C. A JOINT REVIEW OF THIS CASE AND DISCUSSION WITH VILLAGE OFFICIALS INDICATES THAT PREVIOUS JOINT TEAMS HAVE EXHAUSTED THE LIST OF KNOWN EYEWITNESSES. AFTER RE-SURVEYING THE SITE EXCAVATED DURING MAY 1992, U.S. AND VIETNAMESE TEAM MEMBERS RECOMMENDED NO FURTHER ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN AT THIS SITE IN THUONG TIEN VILLAGE, KIM BOI DISTRICT, HOA BINH PROVINCE.

3. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION/SURVEY:

A. ON 2 APR 93, A JOINT US/VIETNAM INVESTIGATIVE ELEMENT FORMED IN HANOI TO RETURN TO THE SITE OF PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION AND RECOVERY ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH CASE 0691. THIS WAS THE THIRD JOINT TEAM TASKED WITH THIS CASE. THE U.S. CONTINGENT CONSISTED OF MR. KEITH GARY FLAMAGAN, DETACHMENT 2 CASUALTY RESOLUTION SPECIALIST. THE VIETNAMESE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CONTINGENT CONSISTED OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL PHAM CONG KHOI (PHAMJ COONG KHOOI), MINISTRY OF DEFENSE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE VIETNAM OFFICE FOR SEEKING MISSING PERSONS (VNOSMP).

B. THE TEAM TRAVELED FROM HANOI CAPITAL REGION TO HOA BINH PROVINCE TOWN (N33701). THE TEAM STOPPED AT HOA BINH PROVINCE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE TO INFORM PROVINCE OFFICIALS THAT THE JOINT TEAM WOULD BE TRAVELING TO KIM BOI DISTRICT ON SHORT NOTICE IN ORDER TO RETURN TO THE CASE 0691 SITE AS NEEDED. AT THE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE BUILDING, THE TEAM WAS JOINED BY PROVINCE MILITARY HEADQUARTERS REPRESENTATIVE MAJOR BUI VAN PHUC (BUIF VAWN PHUCS). AND PROVINCE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE MR. NGUYEN VAN TRUNG (NGUYENX VAWN TRUNG).

C. THE JOINT TEAM PROCEEDED TO KIM BOI DISTRICT TOWN (N5684), HOA BINH PROVINCE. AT KIM BOI TOWN, THE TEAM WAS JOINED BY DISTRICT PUBLIC SECURITY REPRESENTATIVE MR. BUI VAN NOI (BUIF VAWN NOOIJ). CRS INFORMED MR. NOI THAT TWO ACTIONS WERE ESSENTIAL TO CLARIFYING THIS CASE. FIRST, CRS SAID THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO ATTEMPT TO LOCATE CERTAIN TERRAIN FEATURES DESCRIBED BY AVIATORS AND SEARCH AND RESCUE FORCES AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT. MR. NOI

WAS NONCOMMITTAL ON THIS POINT BUT OFFERED NO OBJECTIONS. SECOND, CRS SAID THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO IDENTIFY THE LOCATION OF THE CRASH SITE OF THE AIRCRAFT DOWNED IN THIS CASE. MR. NOI RESPONDED THAT THE AIRCRAFT IN QUESTION HAD NOT CRASHED WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF KIM BOI DISTRICT. AFTER A BRIEF DISCUSSION, THE VIETNAMESE CENTRAL, PROVINCE, AND DISTRICT LEVEL TEAM MEMBERS WERE ALL IN AGREEMENT THAT AS A RESULT OF PREVIOUS EFFORTS, THE UNITED STATES SIDE HAD INTERVIEWED FIFTEEN WITNESSES, HAD VIEWED CONTEMPORARY DOCUMENTS CONCERNING THE INCIDENT WHICH DOCUMENTED THE DEATH OF ONE AMERICAN AVIATOR AND THE CAPTURE OF A SECOND AVIATOR FROM THE SAME INCIDENT, AND THAT THEY HAD NO EXPECTATIONS FOR ANY NEW EYEWITNESSES OR EVIDENCE ON THIS CASE. CRS THEN REQUESTED TO TRAVEL TO THE AREA OF THE EXCAVATION SITE IN THUONG TIEN VILLAGE AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME. THE JOINT TEAM THEN PLANNED THE TRIP TO THE EXCAVATION SITE. AT 1100 HOURS ON 2 APR 93, DISTRICT OFFICIALS SAID THAT IT WAS ALREADY TOO LATE IN THE DAY TO BEGIN THE TREK TO THE EXCAVATION SITE. DISTRICT OFFICIALS ESTIMATED THAT IT WOULD TAKE SIX HOURS TO WALK FROM THE POINT WHERE THE TEAM'S FOUR-WHEEL-DRIVE VEHICLES WOULD HAVE TO BE PARKED TO REACH THE SITE. THE TEAM AGREED TO DEPART AT FIRST LIGHT ON 3 APR 93.

D. AT APPROXIMATELY 0600 HOURS ON 3 APR 93, THE TEAM DEPARTED KIM BOI TOWN FOR THUONG TIEN VILLAGE (VIC WH4985), WHERE THE TEAM WAS JOINED BY THE THUONG TIEN VILLAGE CHAIRMAN, MR. DINH QUANG HOP (DINH QUANG HOMPJ); VILLAGE TEAM CHIEF, MR. BUI VAN THANH (BUIF VAWN THANH); AND THE VILLAGE VICE CHAIRMAN, MR. DINH THANH THAP (DINH THANH THAAPJ). AT 0720 HOURS THE TEAM REACHED A LOCATION (VIC WH475839) ON THE PROMINENT TRAIL NEAR LANG VAY HAMLET WHERE THE TRAIL WAS NO LONGER WIDE ENOUGH FOR FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES. LED BY THE VILLAGE CHAIRMAN, MR. HOP, THE TEAM DEPARTED ON FOOT FROM THE LOCATION WHERE THE VEHICLES WERE PARKED AND TRAVERSED IN GENERALLY EAST-TO-WEST DIRECTION OVER A COMBINATION OF HAMLET TRAILS, STREAMS, AND FOREST SCAVENGING TRACKS. AT 0930 HOURS, TEAM ARRIVED AT A LOCATION (VIC WH442832) ABOVE DONG DANH HAMLET (VIC WH447829) WHICH OVERLOOKS THE VALLEY RUNNING FROM SOUTHWEST TO NORTHEAST AND PROVIDES A GOOD VISTA OF THE VALLEY. AT THIS TIME IN THE MORNING, HEAVY FOG AND HAZE OBLSCURED THE OTHER SIDE OF THE VALLEY AND NO DISCERNIBLE LANDMARKS WERE VISIBLE. MR. HOP INFORMED CRS THAT THIS POINT HAD SERVED AS THE LANDING ZONE FOR THE EXCAVATION TEAM HELICOPTER. MR. HOP AT THIS TIME SAID THAT HE FELT THAT THE FOG AND HAZE MIGHT LIFT ENOUGH FOR PHOTOGRAPHS BY MID-AFTERNOON. FREQUENTLY DURING THE TREK, THE TEAM ENCOUNTERED SMALL GROUPS OF LOCAL INHABITANTS ON THE TRAIL ENGAGED IN HARVESTING TREES, BAMBOO AND OTHER FOREST PLANTS. WHILE CRS DID NOT STOP TO TALK WITH ANY OF THE SMALL GROUPS AT LENGTH, SEVERAL OF THE PASSERSBY INDICATED THAT THEY KNEW OF THE LOCATION WHERE THE AMERICAN PILOT HAD BEEN KILLED DURING THE WAR.

E. FROM THE LANDING ZONE THE TEAM FOLLOWED A RIDGE LINE AND A STREAM BED UP TO A POINT WHICH MR. HOP ANNOUNCED WAS THE EXCAVATION SITE. THE TEAM ARRIVED AT THE SITE AT 1030 HOURS AS THE HAZE WAS

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ONLY BEGINNING TO LIFT. EXCEPT FOR THE HAZE, THE SKY WAS OTHERWISE CLOUDLESS. CRS TOOK COMPASS BEARINGS FROM THE EXCAVATION SITE TO AN 888-METER PEAK AND A 724-METER PEAK WHICH WERE CONSISTENT WITH THE GRID COORDINATES ESTABLISHED BY THE PREVIOUS RECOVERY TEAM TO BE WH437841. DUE TO THE COMBINATION OF DENSE FOLIAGE AND HAZE, CRS COULD NOT ACQUIRE A COMPASS BEARING ON A THIRD PROMINENT LANDMARK FROM THE EXCAVATION SITE BUT HAD TO MOVE APPROXIMATELY AN ADDITIONAL 40 METERS UPHILL IN ORDER TO TAKE A COMPASS BEARING ON A 969-METER HILL. THIS THIRD COMPASS BEARING ALSO SUPPORTED THE LOCATION OF THE EXCAVATION SITE BEING NEAR WH437841. CRS VIDEOTAPED AND PHOTOGRAPHED THE EXCAVATION SITE, AND DISCUSSED THE LOSS INCIDENT WITH MR. HOP. CRS BRIEFED MR. HOP ON THE TEAM'S CURRENT LOCATION AS DEPICTED ON THE 1:50,000 MAP (SHEET 6050-II, SERIES L7014) AND ASKED FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE.

F. MR. HOP (37-YOA) SAID THAT HE WAS ONLY ABOUT TEN YEARS OF AGE AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT, BUT THAT HE AND MANY OTHER YOUNGSTERS IN THE VILLAGE HAD HEARD ABOUT THE CAPTURE OF AN AMERICAN PILOT. IT WAS A FEW DAYS AFTER THE CAPTURE OF THIS FIRST AMERICAN PILOT BEFORE HE HEARD ABOUT THE DEATH OF A SECOND AMERICAN.

BUPERS WASH DC
ACTION PERS66(4)
INFO PERS40(1) ECC(0) PERS00B(1) PERS01EE(1) PERS31(1)
PERS05(1) PERS83(2) DUTY OFFICER(1) CNP(1)
TFX CK-USN(1)

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OUT OF CURIOSITY, HE AND A GROUP OF OTHER YOUNGSTERS FROM THE VILLAGE GATHERED AND WENT TO THE SITE WHERE THE AMERICAN HAD BEEN KILLED. ACCORDING TO MR. HOP, SINCE THAT DAY, THE DIFFERENT FATES OF THE TWO AMERICANS (I.E., ONE PILOT CAPTURED AND ONE PILOT KILLED) HAS BEEN COMMON KNOWLEDGE THROUGHOUT THE VILLAGE. MR. HOP POINTED OUT THAT THE SITE WHERE THE SECOND AMERICAN WAS KILLED WAS WELL KNOWN TO A VERY LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE. MR. HOP SAID THAT SINCE THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT, DUE TO HIS PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE LOCATION OF THE INCIDENT, THIS WAS THE SEVENTH TIME THAT HE HAD LED A GROUP OF PEOPLE TO THE SITE. MR. HOP SAID THAT THE SEVEN GROUPS INCLUDED BOTH UNILATERAL AND BILATERAL EFFORTS. MR. HOP SAID THAT WHILE THE SITE WAS SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT TO REACH, IT WAS VERY SIMPLE TO PINPOINT ONCE YOU REACHED THE VICINITY. MR. HOP THEN POINTED OUT THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE INCIDENT SITE TO THE PEAK OF DONG DANH MOUNTAIN. MR. HOP INDICATED THAT DONG DANH MOUNTAIN WAS THE 888-METER PEAK ON THE MAP USED BY CRS TO FIX THE LOCATION OF THE SITE. MR. HOP SAID THAT AS FAR AS HE KNEW, THE MOUNTAIN HAD ALWAYS BEEN CALLED DONG DANH MOUNTAIN AND THAT DONG DANH HAMLET TOOK ITS NAME FROM THE MOUNTAIN. MR. HOP WENT ON TO DESCRIBE THE INCIDENT LOCATION AT THE EDGE OF THE SMALL BASIN BELOW THE PEAK OF DONG DANH MOUNTAIN AND HOW HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO REMEMBER THE LOCATION SINCE THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT. MR. HOP ALSO SAID THAT THE LOCATION WAS COMMON KNOWLEDGE FOR THE INHABITANTS OF DONG DANH VILLAGE AND WAS GENERALLY KNOWN THROUGHOUT THUONG TIEN VILLAGE. MR. HOP THEN DREW A ROUGH OUTLINE OF THE TERRITORIAL BOUNDARIES OF THUONG TIEN VILLAGE ON THE MAP USED BY CRS. (OUTLINE MAP OF THUONG TIEN VILLAGE WILL BE FORWARDED SEPARATELY). MR. HOP SAID HE WAS ABLE TO DRAW THE ROUGH OUTLINE OF THE VILLAGE BOUNDARIES BY REFERRING TO HIGHPOINTS ON THE MAP. WHEN ASKED AGAIN BY CRS, MR. HOP SAID THAT HE WAS ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT NO U.S. AIRCRAFT HAD EVER BEEN DOWNED WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THUONG TIEN VILLAGE. MR. HOP ALSO ADDED THAT AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT, THE SUMMER "LAO WINDS" WERE ALREADY IN EFFECT. "LAO WINDS" ARE THE TERM FOR THE HOT SUMMER WINDS BLOWING FROM WEST TO EAST (FROM LAOS). ACCORDING TO MR. HOP, THE TWO PILOTS MUST HAVE EJECTED OVER A POINT DUE WEST OF DONG DANH MOUNTAIN AND DRIFTED EASTWARD. MR. HOP SAID THAT THERE WAS NO ACCURATE MEANS FOR HIM TO SPECULATE WHERE THE AIRCRAFT IN THIS INCIDENT MIGHT HAVE CRASHED.

6. PRIOR TO DEPARTING THE AREA, CRS EXAMINED THE EXCAVATION SITE. SINCE THE EXCAVATION IN MAY 1992, THE AREA HAS BECOME COMPLETELY OVERGROWN WITH TALL NATIVE GRASS. EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT THE GROUND IS COMPLETELY CLEAR OF UNDERGROWTH, THE EXCAVATION SITE IS INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM THE SURROUNDING TERRAIN. THE SITE, ON A STEEP SLOPE (NEARLY 60 DEGREES) AND BENEATH A SIGNIFICANT WATERSHED ON THE SLOPE OF DONG DANH MOUNTAIN, EXHIBITED SIGNS OF SIGNIFICANT RECENT EROSION. CRS CONDUCTED A CURSORY SURFACE SEARCH OF THE AREA BUT FOUND NO MATERIAL EVIDENCE AT THE SITE.

7. THE TEAM RETURNED TO THE LANDING ZONE FROM THE EXCAVATION SITE. BY THE TIME THE TEAM ARRIVED AT THE LANDING ZONE, THE FOG HAD CLEARED, AND THE HAZE HAD LESSENED SOMEWHAT. ENOUGH HAZE REMAINED TO CLEARLY DEFINE WHAT WOULD APPEAR AS A "U-SHAPED VALLEY" FROM THE AIR. CRS VIDEOTAPED AND PHOTOGRAPHED THE FEATURES WHICH DEFINE THE "U-SHAPED VALLEY." (THE VIDEOTAPE AND PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE FORWARDED SEPARATELY.) COMPASS BEARING FROM THE LANDING ZONE TO DONG DANH MOUNTAIN AND THE 969-METER PEAK SUPPORTED A DETERMINATION THAT THE LANDING ZONE IS LOCATED IN THE VICINITY OF WH442832. DOI THOI MOUNTAIN WAS NOT VISIBLE FROM THE LANDING ZONE. NO OTHER PROMINENT LANDMARKS WERE CLEARLY VISIBLE; HOWEVER, OTHER CLOSER, MINOR PEAKS AND RIDGES WERE CONSISTENT WITH DETAILS ON THE 1:50,000 MAP SHEET. SPECIFICALLY DUE TO THE HAZE, THE "U-SHAPED VALLEY" WAS CLEARLY DEFINED. ON THE RETURN TREK TO THE LOCATION WHERE THE VEHICLES WERE PARKED, THE BASE OF THE "U" COULD BE CLEARLY SEEN FROM A TRAIL VISTA LOCATED IN THE VICINITY OF WH453832. CRS ALSO VIDEOTAPED THIS VIEW.

8. AT 1600 HOURS ON 3 APR 93, WITH NO NEW LEADS AND NO NEW WITNESSES, THE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT TEAM AGREED TO DISCONTINUE THIS INVESTIGATIVE EFFORT. BOTH THE US AND SRV SIDES AGREED TO CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR POTENTIAL WITNESSES OR LEADS. CRS AGAIN ASKED THAT PROVINCE OFFICIALS CONDUCT A SEARCH FOR THE CRASH SITE LOCATION OF THE ASSOCIATED AIRCRAFT IN HOA BINH PROVINCE.

9. MATERIAL EVIDENCE: NONE.

10. SURVEY RESULTS: THE AREA EXCAVATED BY THE JOINT EXCAVATION TEAM IN MAY 92 LIES ON A SLOPE OF NEARLY 60 DEGREES AND LIES IN THE PATH OF A LARGE WATERSHED OF THE DONG DANH MOUNTAIN PEAK (AN 888-METER PEAK LOCATED VICINITY OF COORDINATES WH437837). IN THE MONTHS SINCE THE EXCAVATION, THE EXCAVATED AREA HAS BECOME

COMPLETELY OVERGROWN WITH INDIGENOUS TALL GRASSES OF MORE THAN SIX FEET IN HEIGHT. EXCEPT FOR THE ABSENCE OF UNDERGROWTH, WHICH WAS CLEARED AWAY BY THE EXCAVATION EFFORT, THE AREA IS VIRTUALLY INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM OTHER SURROUNDING VEGETATION.

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6. RECOMMENDED FUTURE ACTIONS:

A. REQUEST THE VNOSMP CONTINUE TO SEARCH FOR, AND ALLOW THE U.S. ACCESS TO, ANY ADDITIONAL WARTIME FILES, RECORDS OR JOURNALS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS CASE. THIS CASE RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION BY U.S. FORCES WHEN THE INCIDENT OCCURRED DUE TO THE LENGTH OF TIME THAT THE INDIVIDUAL WHO ULTIMATELY BECAME UNACCOUNTED FOR IN THIS INCIDENT WAS ABLE TO MAINTAIN COMMUNICATIONS WITH SEARCH AND RESCUE FORCES. SPECIFICALLY IN THIS CASE, RECORDS, NOTEBOOKS, OR DIARIES CONTEMPORARY TO THE CAPTURE INCIDENT WILL BE OF HIGH VALUE DUE TO THE LACK OF OTHER MATERIAL EVIDENCE AT THIS TIME. NEGATIVE ENTRIES (OR A LACK OF ENTRIES) IN CONTEMPORARY DOCUMENTS PREPARED BY THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO SHOULD HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THE FATE OF THE INDIVIDUAL IN THIS INCIDENT WOULD ALSO BE SIGNIFICANT. WARTIME DOCUMENTS CREATED BY THOSE OFFICES OR INDIVIDUALS WHO SHOULD HAVE KNOWN ABOUT THIS INCIDENT SHOULD BE MADE A PRIORITY FOR THE ARCHIVAL RESEARCH TEAM WHICH IS BASED AT DETACHMENT TWO IN HANOI. IN REF A, PARA 3D ENTRY 3D AND ENTRY 31 OF A STATISTICAL COMPILATION INDICATE THAT THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES WHO RECEIVED CUSTODY OF THE PILOT IN CASE 0691 WHO RETURNED TO U.S. CUSTODY ALSO RECEIVED INFORMATION AND IDENTIFICATION DATA FOR THE INDIVIDUAL WHO REMAINS UNACCOUNTED FOR IN THIS INCIDENT.

B. REQUEST THE VNOSMP REVIEW THE INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM WITNESSES DURING PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE WHICH MILITARY UNITS WOULD HAVE RECEIVED REPORTING, EITHER VERBALLY OR WRITTEN, CONCERNING THE FATE OF THIS INDIVIDUAL. IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION OF THIS INCIDENT, REQUEST THAT ANY OFFICERS OR CADRE WHO WOULD HAVE RECEIVED THE REPORTING OF THE FATE OF THIS INDIVIDUAL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR JOINT INTERVIEW.

C. REQUEST THE VNOSMP ATTEMPT TO LOCATE A FORMER PRISON GUARD WHO MAY HAVE TOLD THE SURVIVING MEMBER OF THE FLIGHT CREW WHO SURVIVED THIS INCIDENT THAT THE UNACCOUNTED FOR INDIVIDUAL HAD RECOVERED FROM HIS WOUNDS.

D. REQUEST THAT THE VNOSMP WORK WITH HOA BINH PROVINCE MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO DETERMINE THE CRASH SITE LOCATION OF THE AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATED WITH THIS INCIDENT. VILLAGERS AND HAMLETS DWELLERS IN THE AREA OF THE EXCAVATION CONDUCTED CONTINUE TO BE ADAMANT THAT THERE IS NO AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THUONG TIEN VILLAGE. CRS BELIEVES THAT AIRCRAFT MAY HAVE CRASHED IN KY SON DISTRICT WHICH BORDERS KIM BOI DISTRICT.

7. PERTINENT LOCATION OR DATA CHANGES: NONE.

8. AREAS OR CASE FILE INFORMATION NOT INVESTIGATED: NONE.

9. CASUALTY RESOLUTION SPECIALIST COMMENTS:

A. THERE ARE NO FURTHER PRACTICABLE ACTIONS TO PURSUE AT THIS SITE. ALL CURRENT FEASIBLE ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN AT THE SITE HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED.

B. RECOMMEND NO FURTHER JOINT FIELD INVESTIGATION OF THIS CASE.

C. PREVIOUS JOINT TEAMS HAD INTERVIEWED FIFTEEN WITNESSES CONCERNING THIS LOSS INCIDENT. BEFORE ARRIVING AT THUONG TIEN VILLAGE, THE MEMBERS OF THIS JOINT TEAM REVIEWED WITH CRS THE RESULTS OF THE PREVIOUS JOINT INVESTIGATION AND RECOVERY ACTIVITIES FOR THIS CASE.

D. DURING THE TREK, CRS OVERHEARD TWO VILLAGERS SAY THEY WISHED THAT THERE WERE SOME CRASHED U.S. AIRCRAFT IN THE VILLAGE TERRITORY. AN AMERICAN AIRCRAFT IS A HIGHLY-VALUED SOURCE OF RAW MATERIALS. EARLIER AT THE EXCAVATION SITE, THE VILLAGE CHAIRMAN, MR. HOP HAD ASSURED CRS THAT IF THERE HAD BEEN ANY U.S. AIRCRAFT CRASH SITES WITHIN THE VILLAGE CONFINES, HE WOULD DEFINITELY BE AWARE OF IT.

E. WHILE AT THE EXCAVATION SITE, THE VIETNAMESE TEAM MEMBERS PROFFERED THAT THEY HAD EXHAUSTED THEIR RESOURCES FOR ANY NEW LEADS ON THIS CASE. THE TEAM MEMBERS LOOKED TO CRS FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR SUGGESTIONS FROM THE U.S. SIDE WHICH MIGHT HELP RESOLVE THIS CASE. THE TEAM MEMBERS SEEMED SOMEWHAT DISMAYED WHEN

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CRS HAD NO FURTHER SUGGESTIONS.

F. PRIOR TO THE ACTIONS OF THIS TEAM, CRS CONSULTED WITH PREVIOUS U.S. TEAM MEMBERS WHO HAD EARLIER PURSUED THIS CASE. AFTER DISCUSSING THE DETAILS OF THE CURRENT INVESTIGATION AND REVIEWING PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS, IT WAS AGREED THAT NEW LEADS, ESPECIALLY THROUGH ARCHIVAL RESEARCH, WERE ESSENTIAL TO RESOLVE THIS CASE. NEW WITNESSES REMAIN A SLIM POSSIBILITY BUT NONE HAVE BEEN FORTHCOMING. THE STORY OF THE CAPTURE OF ONE AMERICAN PILOT ON DONG DAMM MOUNTAIN AND THE LATER DEATH OF A SECOND AMERICAN PILOT ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE SAME MOUNTAIN IS NOW A PART OF THE THUONG TIEN VILLAGE LORE. ACCORDING TO ONE UNIDENTIFIED VILLAGER, EVERYONE IN THUONG TIEN VILLAGE KNOWS OF THE INCIDENT.

G. THE VIDEOTAPE AND PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN, TOGETHER WITH THE MAPS USED AND ANNOTATED BY CRS DURING THIS TRIP TO THE REPORTED BURIAL SITE HAVE BEEN HAND-CARRIED TO HQ JTF-FA FOR INCLUSION IN THE REFNO 0691 CASUALTY FILE.

10. FOR BUPERS/PERS-863P: FORWARDED FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION.//
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