

THE DELEGATION, CONSISTING OF SENATOR SMITH, STAFF ASSISTANT MR DINO L. CARLUCCIO, PRESS OFFICER MS LISA B. STOCKLAN, MILITARY ESCORT LTC TERRY L. PAUL, SENATE STAFF INVESTIGATOR MR JOHN MCCREARY, FORMER CONGRESSMAN MR WILLIAM HENDON, NEXT OF KIN OF CASE 0274 MS ELIZABETH STEWART, MR ROBERT GARWOOD, AND ATTORNEY MR VAUGHAN E. TAYLOR, ARRIVED IN HANOI ON 8 JULY 1993. THE GROUP WAS MET AT THE AIRPORT BY JTF-FA SPECIAL ASSISTANT, MR BILL BELL, DET 2 JTF-FA CDR, LTC JOHN CRAY, SRV MFA AMERICAS DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR, MR NGUYEN XUAN PHONG, AND VNOSMP DIRECTOR, MR HO XUAN DICH. THE DELEGATION RECEIVED EXPEDITED PROCESSING AT THE AIRPORT, AND THEN PROCEEDED TO THE MFA GUEST HOUSE FOR AN AFTERNOON PLANNING MEETING HOSTED BY VICE FOREIGN MINISTER, MR LE MAI. SENATOR SMITH EXPLAINED THE MISSION OF THE DELEGATION AND RECEIVED PERSONAL ASSURANCES FROM MR LE MAI THAT ALL SRV GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE DELEGATION DURING THE VISIT. ABC NEWS 20/20 CREW, HANOI BASED REUTERS REP MR JOHN ROGERS, AND SEVERAL OTHER LOCAL AND FOREIGN MEDIA REPS COVERED THE OPENING SESSION OF THE MEETING. ABC 20/20 AND SEVERAL MEDIA REPS ALSO COVERED THE SUBSEQUENT TRIPS TO INSPECT SITES IN HANOI, AS WELL AS MOST OF THE VISITS TO CAMPS IN REMOTE AREAS OF THE COUNTRYSIDE. JTF-FA PAO, LTC DAVID FREDRICKSON WAS ON HAND TO REPRESENT THE JTF-FA CONCERNING MEDIA INTEREST.

SHORTLY AFTER THE MEETING WITH MR LE MAI, THE GROUP VISITED THE MILITARY PUBLISHING HOUSE AND A NEARBY COMPOUND ON LY NAM DE STREET WHERE MR ROBERT GARWOOD REPORTED HAVING OBSERVED POSSIBLE U.S. PERSONNEL SUBSEQUENT TO THE RELEASE OF U.S. POWS IN HANOI DURING OPERATION HOMECOMING IN 1973. THE GROUP WAS RECEIVED BY THE DIRECTOR, LTC PHAM GIA DUC, WHO HAS BEEN ASSIGNED THERE SINCE 1979. LTC DUC SAID HE WAS AWARE OF THE PERIODIC VISITS BY MR GARWOOD TO EAT IN THE ADJOINING DINING HALL, BUT DENIED THE PREVIOUS PRESENCE OF ANY OTHER AMERICAN PERSONNEL AT THE FACILITY, BOTH DURING AND AFTER THE WAR. LTC DUC DID INDICATE THAT FOREIGN CAUCASIAN PERSONNEL, INCLUDING AUSTRALIAN RESEARCHERS AND A FRENCH STAY-BEHIND OF GREEK ORIGIN, WHO TOOK THE VIETNAMESE NAME "NGUYEN VAN LAP", VISITED THE FACILITY AFTER THE WAR. LTC DUC SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT CLEAR CONCERNING THE TIME FRAME OR FREQUENCY OF VISITS TO THE FACILITY BY THE FRENCH STAY-BEHIND MR LAP, HE BELIEVES MR LAP'S MOST RECENT VISIT OCCURRED SOMETIME DURING 1991. MR GARWOOD WAS ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE FAMILIARITY WITH THE PHYSICAL LAYOUT OF THE PUBLISHING HOUSE, AND WAS ABLE TO QUICKLY POINT OUT THE LOCATION OF THE FORMER DINING HALL, EVEN THOUGH THE INTERIOR OF THE COMPOUND HAS BEEN MODIFIED BY FAIRLY RECENT CONSTRUCTION.

A VISIT TO THE NEARBY COMPOUND ON LY NAM DE, WHERE A REFUGEE IN HONG KONG REPORTEDLY OBSERVED AMERICANS DURING 1978 AND 1982, ALSO RESULTED IN DENIALS BY CURRENTLY ASSIGNED CADRE CONCERNING THE PREVIOUS PRESENCE OF ANY AMERICAN PERSONNEL. ALTHOUGH THE GROUP DID NOT DEVELOP ANY INFORMATION SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE REPORTED SIGHTINGS BY THE REFUGEE, THE GROUP WAS ABLE TO DETERMINE THAT THE

LINE OF SIGHT, AS CLAIMED BY THE REFUGEE, WAS POSSIBLE. DUE TO TIME CONSTRAINTS, AND BECAUSE MR HENDON HAD ALREADY VISITED THE GIA LAM AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR FACILITY WHERE MR GARWOOD REPORTED THE PRESENCE OF POSSIBLE U.S. PERSONNEL, THE GROUP DID NOT VISIT THIS SITE. LOCAL CADRE HAVE INDICATED THAT SOME SOVIET PERSONNEL OCCASSIONALLY VISITED THE FACILITY TO OBTAIN SPARE PARTS. SA ALSO CONSIDERED THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE PERSONNEL OBSERVED BY MR GARWOOD WERE FORMER FRENCH MILITARY PERSONNEL WORKING AS MECHANICS OR PICKING UP SPARE PARTS. (SEE JCRC REPORT HK86-007).

THE GROUP THEN PROCEEDED TO THE FORMER OFFICE OF GROUP 875 LOCATED AT 3 DUONG THANH STREET. GOVERNMENT CADRE AT THE LOCATION, INCLUDING FORMER GROUP 875 CDR, SR COL DOAN HANH, SAID THAT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MR GARWOOD, NO U.S. PERSONNEL HAD EVER BEEN PRESENT AT THE FACILITY. THE CADRE DID INDICATE, HOWEVER, THAT FOREIGN MILITARY PERSONNEL WORKING JOINTLY WITH THE VIETNAMESE MILITARY FORCES DURING THE WAR, INCLUDING SOVIETS, PERIODICALLY VISITED THE OFFICE IN ORDER TO OBTAIN ENTRY/EGRESS AUTHORIZATION TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE COMPOUND ACROSS THE STREET. WHEN SA MENTIONED PREVIOUS REPORTING INDICATING THE PRESENCE OF A RECEPTION BUILDING FOR FOREIGN SPECIALISTS LOCATED ON CUA DONG STREET, WHICH WAS CONNECTED TO THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (MND) COMPOUND BY A TUNNEL BENEATH LY NAM DE STREET, COL DOAN HANH NERVOUSLY SAID THAT THIS IS A MATTER WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED WITH THE MND. BYSTANDERS ON THE SIDEWALK IN FRONT OF 3 DUONG THANH SAID U.S. REMAINS WERE STORED IN THE BUILDING DURING THE WAR. CADRE AT THE FACILITY DENIED THAT ANY REMAINS WERE EVER STORED THERE, BUT AFTER BEING INFORMED THAT SEVERAL LOCAL RESIDENTS WERE EMPHATIC THAT REMAINS HAD BEEN TAKEN INTO THE BUILDING, SR COL DOAN HANH SAID REMAINS WERE ONLY STORED THERE TEMPORARILY UPON ARRIVAL IN HANOI, AND LATER TRANSFERRED TO 175 PHUNG HUNG STREET WHERE THEY WERE PROCESSED BY A MR "TRAN VIEN LOC". ALTHOUGH PREVIOUS REPORTING INDICATED THAT OFFICES C-12 (SPECIAL PROPAGANDA) AND C-14 (INTELLIGENCE) WERE LOCATED AT 7 DUONG THANH, CADRE AT 3 DUONG THANH SAID THIS WAS NOT CORRECT, AND THAT ACTUALLY OFFICES C-12 AND C-14 WERE LOCATED "OVER THERE", WHILE POINTING IN THE DIRECTION OF THE INTERSECTION OF CUA DONG AND LY NAM DE STREETS. ACCOMPANYING VNOSMP CADRE INFORMED THE GROUP THAT AT THE TIME OF HIS DAUGHTER'S POSTWAR WEDDING, SR COL DOAN HANH HAD INVITED MR GARWOOD AS A GUEST. A PICTURE OF SR COL DOAN HANH HOLDING A PHOTOGRAPH OF MR GARWOOD AND THE THAI PILOT CALLED "SON", WHO STOLE AN AIRCRAFT IN THAILAND AND FLED TO VIETNAM, LATER APPEARED IN THE 12 JULY 1993 BANGKOK POST. ANOTHER ARTICLE INDICATED THAT SR COL DOAN HANH INVITED MR GARWOOD TO ATTEND THE WEDDING OF "MR TIEN". THE REFERENCE TO "MR TIEN" MAY BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE REFERENCE TO A CADRE OF INTERCAMP 1, GROUP 776, MR "THIEN", WHO REPORTEDLY BEFRIENDED MR GARWOOD. (SEE JCRC REPORT RP81-011). MR HO XUAN DICH SAID MR GARWOOD PREVIOUSLY HELD THE RANK OF MAJOR. SA INDICATED TO MR DICH THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT MR GARWOOD HAD HELD A CADRE LEVEL 5 OR 6 POSITION, AND HE WAS ONE GRADE HIGHER THAN THE DEFECTING THAI PILOT, MR "SON". MR PHAM VAN KHOI SAID THAT THIS

WAS CORRECT, AND THE GRADE LEVEL OF MR GARWOOD HAD BEEN EQUAL TO THE RANK OF SENIOR CAPTAIN (I.E. T-4). MR DICH CARRIED A FOLDER STUFFED WITH DOCUMENTS WHICH HE SAID WAS THE FILE ON MR GARWOOD. MR DICH SAID GARWOOD ATTENDED SEVERAL COURSES OF INSTRUCTION AFTER ARRIVING IN NORTH VIETNAM. MR DICH BRIEFLY FLASHED A TYPEWRITTEN HISTORICAL SUMMARY WHICH LISTED HA DONG, THANH TRI, NGOC CHUC, AND CAY TRE AS PREVIOUS RESIDENCES OF MR GARWOOD. SEVERAL OTHER LOCATIONS WERE LISTED, BUT SA WAS NOT ABLE TO VIEW THE ENTIRE LIST. SR COL BIEN SAID THAT ACCORDING TO THE POLICY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, THE PRIVACY OF ALL PERSONNEL WHO COOPERATED WITH THE PARTY DURING THE WAR EFFORT WILL BE RESPECTED, EVEN AFTER THEY HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR OWN COUNTRY. SR COL BIEN SAID THAT DUE TO MR GARWOOD'S CONDUCT, HOWEVER, THE PARTY WAS CONSIDERING RELEASING HIS ENTIRE FILE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. HE CITED AS AN EXAMPLE A PHOTOGRAPH IN THE FILE WHICH DEPICTED MR GARWOOD AND THE THAI NATIONAL CALLED "SON". (NOTE: APPARENTLY THIS IS A REFERENCE TO THE SAME PHOTOGRAPH MENTIONED ABOVE, AND THE DECISION TO PUBLICIZE THE PHOTO WAS MADE SUBSEQUENT TO MR GARWOOD'S CONFRONTATION WITH MR DICH. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT SEEMS LOGICAL SINCE MR DICH IS THE ONLY KNOWN MEMBER OF THE VIETNAMESE OFFICE FOR SEEKING MISSING PERSONNEL (VNOSMP) WHO HAS NO OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT POSITION DUE TO HIS STATUS AS PARTY CHAPTER SECRETARY (BI THU DANG BO) FOR THE SRV POW/MIA APPARATUS).

ON THE MORNING OF 9 JULY THE GROUP TRAVELLED BY HELICOPTER TO SUBCAMPS K-5, AND K-1 OF TAN LAP, AKA THANH HA, PRISON CAMP IN YEN LAP DISTRICT, VINH PHU PROVINCE. ALTHOUGH THE INFORMATION AND ACCOMPANYING SKETCH REPORTING THE DETENTION OF AN AMERICAN NAMED "JACKSON" PROVIDED BY A REFUGEE WAS CONSISTENT WITH THE LAYOUT OF THE CAMP, THE WARDEN, COL NGUYEN VAN TINH AND HIS DEPUTY, MAJ HOANG VAN VINH, DENIED THE PRIOR PRESENCE OF ANY U.S. PERSONNEL IN THE CAMP, BOTH DURING AND AFTER THE WAR. COL TINH SAID HE WAS ONLY RECENTLY ASSIGNED TO THE PRISON. MAJ VINH, WHOSE BODY LANGUAGE INDICATED OBVIOUS STRESS, CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED THERE DURING 1973. DURING A SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH THE VNOSMP, DIRECTOR MR HO XUAN DICH OFFERED THE SUGGESTION THAT THE BEST WAY TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION CONCERNING THE REPORT OF A U.S. PRISONER NAMED "JACKSON" WILL BE TO IMMEDIATELY INVESTIGATE THE FOUR CASES IN U.S. CASE FILES ASSOCIATED WITH AN UNACCOUNTED-FOR AMERICAN WITH THE SAME SURNAME. THE WARDEN OF K-1, LTC VU XUAN BEN (BEENS) AND DEPUTY, MAJ TRAN HOA (HOAF), SAID THE CAMP WAS CONSTRUCTED IN 1960 AS A JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER, BUT WAS LATER CONVERTED TO A PRISON FOR LIGHT OFFENDERS. THEY SAID THE CAMP WAS A CENTRAL CAMP OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR, AND THE CURRENT INMATE POPULATION IS COMPRISED PRIMARILY OF THOSE CONVICTED OF MURDER AND ARMED ROBBERY. NEITHER CADRE ADMITTED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF ANY U.S. PERSONNEL CURRENTLY OR PREVIOUSLY DETAINED IN THE CAMP. CADRE IN THE CAMP DID INDICATE KNOWLEDGE CONCERNING THE LACH DINH BRIDGE, VO CHANH VILLAGE, AM THUONG TRAIN STATION, AND ONG NGOC PIER, WHICH HAVE BEEN MENTIONED PREVIOUSLY IN REFUGEE REPORTING.

DURING THE AFTERNOON OF 9 JULY, THE GROUP TRAVELLED BY HELICOPTER TO YEN BAI TOWN WHERE THEY WERE RECEIVED BY PROVINCE VICE CHAIRMAN, MR NGUYEN MANH HUNG, AND PROVINCE PARTY COMMITTEE MEMBER, MR NGUYEN VIET (VIEETS). MR VIET, WHO IS ACQUAINTED WITH VNOSMP DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND MND REP, SR COL TRAN BIEN, CLAIMED NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY AMERICANS EVER HELD IN YEN BAI. ALTHOUGH THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, MR HUNG, WAS SAID TO BE IN CHARGE OF THE VISIT, HE APPEARED TO DEFER TO MR VIET, WHO WAS INTRODUCED AS A "CADRE" OF THE PROVINCE. LATER DURING THE VISIT, A DRIVER INDICATED THAT MR VIET WAS A MEMBER OF THE PROVINCE PARTY COMMITTEE, RATHER THAN THE PROVINCE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE. A LOCAL TELEPHONE DIRECTORY IN THE GUARD POST AT THE ENTRY GATE TO THE GUEST HOUSE COMPOUND INDICATED THE PROVINCE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE HAS TWO DEPUTIES, A MR "HONG" AND A MR "LAN".

THE GROUP THEN TRAVELLED BY VEHICLE TO THAC BA LAKE. THE GROUP CONTINUED BY BOAT FROM THE DAI DONG FERRY LANDING TO A PENINSULA RESEMBLING AN ISLAND ON THE EASTERN SHORE OF THE LAKE. MR GARWOOD GUIDED THE GROUP TO A SITE WHERE HE BELIEVES HE OBSERVED U.S. PERSONNEL SUBSEQUENT TO THE WAR. NO STRUCTURE WAS OBSERVED AT THE SITE POINTED OUT BY MR GARWOOD, BUT SOME LOOSE BRICKS WERE FOUND IN THE TALL GRASS. LOCAL CADRE SAID THE AREA WAS FORMERLY THE SITE OF A BRICK MAKING KILN, AND THE BRICKS WERE USED TO CONSTRUCT TWO ROW-HOUSES OBSERVED ON A NEARBY HILL. THE CADRE SAID THAT LOCAL RESIDENTS HAD INTENDED TO ESTABLISH A BRICK MAKING COOPERATIVE IN THE AREA, BUT DUE TO THE POOR QUALITY OF THE CLAY THERE, THEY DECIDED TO ABANDON THE PROJECT AND FORM A TEA GROWING COOPERATIVE INSTEAD. ACCORDING TO THE CADRE, THE TEA COOPERATIVE IS CALLED "VAN HUNG", (NOTE: PROBABLY A DERIVATIVE OF THE VAN HUNG AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION SITE LOCATED SOUTH OF THAC BA LAKE) IN DOAN HUNG DISTRICT OF VINH PHU PROVINCE. NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION INDICATING THE PREVIOUS PRESENCE OF ANY AMERICANS WAS RECEIVED BY THE GROUP, AND LOCAL CADRE WERE NOTICEABLY RIGID IN EXPRESSING THEIR COLLECTIVE OPINION THAT AT THE TIME OF HIS ALLEGED OBSERVATION, MR GARWOOD ACTUALLY VISITED INTERCAMP 4 IN CAM NHAN DISTRICT (SEE JCRC REPORTS I86-022 AND T82-017), WHICH WAS LOCATED A CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE NORTHEAST OF THE SITE REPORTED BY MR GARWOOD. (NOTE: MR GARWOOD'S SKETCH OF THAC BA LAKE, CIRCA 1988 INDICATES THE TRAVEL TIME FROM THE PIER TO THE ISLAND AS APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR. SA UNDERSTANDS THAT MR GARWOOD SUBSEQUENTLY REFINED THE TRAVEL TIME TO "APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES". THE TRIP MADE BY SENATOR SMITH'S GROUP LASTED APPROXIMATELY 18 MINUTES. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT CLEAR FROM THE SKETCH CONCERNING THE MODE OF TRANSPORTATION (I.E. WHETHER OR NOT THE BOAT WAS MOTORIZED, TYPE AND SIZE OF BOAT AND MOTOR, RATE OF SPEED)). ACCOMPANYING CADRE WERE EQUALLY EMPHATIC THAT WITH THE NOTED EXCEPTION OF MR GARWOOD, NO OTHER U.S. PERSONNEL HAD EVER BEEN PRESENT IN INTERCAMP 4. SRV GROUP LEADER, MR VIET, PRODUCED A HAND DRAWN, APPARENTLY CONTEMPORARY SKETCH MAP DEPICTING THE PREVIOUS DISPOSITION OF THE GROUP 776 CAMP SYSTEM. ACCORDING TO THE MAP, INTERCAMP 1 WAS LOCATED TO THE WEST OF THAC BA LAKE. INTERCAMP 4 WAS LOCATED ON THE EASTERN SIDE IN CAM NHAN DISTRICT, WITH CAMPS T-1, T-3, AND T-5 IN XUAN LAI VILLAGE, CAMPS T-4, T-6, CAMP T-2 IN MY GIA VILLAGE,

CAMP T-9 IN CAM NHAN VILLAGE, AND CAMP T-7 IN TICH COC, AKA TICH KOC VILLAGE. CAMP T-7 CARRIED A STANDARD PEOPLE'S ARMY OF VIETNAM (PAVN) MAP SYMBOL INDICATING IT HAD SERVED AS THE HEADQUARTERS FOR INTERCAMP 4. THERE WAS NO CAMP DESIGNATED T-8 SHOWN ON THE MAP. LOCAL CADRE POLITELY DEFLECTED ATTEMPTS TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER OR NOT A CAMP DESIGNATED T-8 HAD EVER EXISTED. ALTHOUGH THE MAP DID NOT SHOW THE DISPOSITION OF INTERCAMP 1, SR COL PHAM THAI SAID THE HEADQUARTERS HAD BEEN LOCATED IN VIET CUONG VILLAGE.

WHILE THE GROUP WAS IN THE AREA, A LOCAL BOAT OPERATOR PROVIDED LIMITED INFORMATION CONCERNING A U.S. JET AIRCRAFT SHOT DOWN DURING 1972. WHEN SA MENTIONED THE CHINESE AIR DEFENCE FORCE PREVIOUSLY DEPLOYED TO PROTECT CHINESE ENGINEER UNITS CONSTRUCTING THE FRIENDSHIP (HUU NGHI) HIGHWAY FROM THE PRC BORDER TO YEN BINH, THE MAN SAID THE AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN BY VIETNAMESE, RATHER THAN CHINESE FORCES IN DAI DONG VILLAGE YEN BINH DISTRICT. ACCORDING TO THE WITNESS, THE PILOT EJECTED FROM THE AIRCRAFT, BUT HIS CHUTE DID NOT OPEN DUE TO LOW ALTITUDE. THE BODY OF THE PILOT WAS BADLY MANGLED BY THE FORCE OF IMPACT, AND THE LOCAL MILITARY FORCES BURIED THE BODY IN DAI DONG. (NOTE: SA RECALLS HAVING INTERVIEWED AT LEAST ONE REFUGEE CONCERNING A SIMILAR INCIDENT IN HONG KONG DURING THE MID-1980'S). THE SOURCE LAST SAW THE GRAVE DURING 1978. SOURCE RECALLED A SECOND AIRCRAFT, ALSO A JET, WHICH CRASHED IN THAC BA LAKE. SOURCE DID NOT OBSERVE ANY PARACHUTES PRIOR TO THE CRASH. SOURCE DID NOT OBSERVE ANY CREW MEMBERS IN THE WATER. THE AIRCRAFT SANK, AND SOURCE IS NOT AWARE OF ANY ATTEMPTS TO RECOVER THE WRECKAGE. SOURCE DECLINED TO IDENTIFY HIMSELF AND ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY WAY TO CONTACT SA AT A LATER DATE. SA INFORMED SOURCE SUCH A CONTACT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE, BUT THAT SA WOULD ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE TO SEE HIM AGAIN WHEN MORE TIME WAS AVAILABLE FOR OBTAINING DETAILS. (NOTE: INFORMATION PROVIDED BY SOURCE MAY POSSIBLY CORRELATE TO CASE 1849). AFTER THE VISIT TO THAC BA LAKE, A RAIN STORM PROHIBITED THE RETURN OF THE GROUP TO HANOI BY HELICOPTER, AND THE GROUP MADE THE TRIP BY VEHICLE, ARRIVING BACK IN HANOI LATE ON THE NIGHT OF 9 JULY.

ON THE MORNING OF 10 JULY, THE GROUP TRAVELLED BY VEHICLE TO CAMP T-16, FORMERLY CAMP T-52, IN THE AREA OF BINH DA VILLAGE, MY DUC DISTRICT, HA TAY PROVINCE. DURING A MEETING WITH THE CAMP LEADERSHIP, CONSISTING OF THE WARDEN, LTC NGUYEN VAN HO, DEPUTY WARDEN, LTC HOANG DUC THANG, AND DEPUTY WARDEN PHAN VAN NHAN. MR HENDON PRESENTED A REFUGEE PROVIDED SKETCH SAID TO DEPICT A SUBCAMP WHERE AMERICANS WERE DETAINED AFTER THE WAR, (SEE JCRC REPORT HK84-139). ALTHOUGH NOT VERY CONVINCINGLY, THE LOCAL CADRE DENIED HAVING ANY KNOWLEDGE CONCERNING ANY SUBCAMP. LOCAL CADRE CLAIMED THEY WERE ASSIGNED TO THE AREA SUBSEQUENT TO THE ALLEGED SIGHTING (I.E. HO-1979, THANG-1985, NHAN-1988). THEY WERE ALSO NOTICEABLY EVASIVE CONCERNING ANY INDIRECT (I.E. HEARSAY FROM OTHER CADRE) KNOWLEDGE OF A SUBCAMP OF CAMP T-16. SINCE THE REPORTED SUBCAMP WAS SAID TO BE LOCATED IN NEIGHBORING HOA BINH PROVINCE, THE GROUP CONSIDERED THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE REPORT MAY RELATE TO THE "MIEU MON" CAMP IN NEARBY LUONG SON DISTRICT OF HOA BINH, WHERE U.S.

PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN DETAINED DURING THE WAR. CADRE CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO T-16 WERE RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE OF WARTIME CAMPS IN HOA BINH, BUT DID PROVIDE THE NAME OF A RETIRED CADRE AS A POTENTIAL WITNESS FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTION REGARDING THE ALLEGED SIGHTING. (NOTE: THE NAME OF THE CADRE, COL NGUYEN DUY SUY, WAS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED BY A REFUGEE SOURCE WHO INDICATED THAT COL SUY ACCOMPANIED A SOVIET DELEGATION TO THE CAMP). ACCOMPANYING CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CADRE TOOK NOTE OF THIS POTENTIAL LEAD, AND PLEDGED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING THE RETIRED CADRE IDENTIFIED BY CAMP STAFF FOR FUTURE INTERVIEW.

THE GROUP CONTINUED BY VEHICLE TO SUBCAMP "ME" (MEER) OF THE NAM HA, AKA "BA SAO" PRISON CAMP (PREVIOUSLY CALLED "ROCKPILE" BY WARTIME U.S. POWS). ALTHOUGH A REFUGEE PROVIDED SKETCH WAS CONSISTENT WITH THE OUTLAY OF THE CAMP, LOCAL CADRE, CONSISTING OF THE WARDEN, COL NGUYEN TIEN LAN (LAAN), DEPUTY LTC TRAN BANG (BAWNGF), AND SUBCAMP "ME" COMMANDER, SR CPT PHUNG VAN HAO (HAOR) INDICATED THAT NO U.S. PERSONNEL WERE DETAINED IN THE CAMP AFTER THE WAR. THE CADRE SAID TWO U.S. POWS WERE DETAINED IN THE CAMP DURING WARTIME YEARS, BUT BOTH WERE TRANSFERRED TO HANOI FOR RELEASE AT THE TIME THE PARIS AGREEMENTS ENDING THE WAR WERE SIGNED ON 27 JANUARY 1973. BECAUSE THE CADRE WERE ONLY ASSIGNED TO THE PRISON AFTER THE WAR ENDED, THEY CLAIMED TO BE UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING THE IDENTITIES OF THE TWO WARTIME INMATES. THE CADRE DID INDICATE THAT THE PRISON HAD ALSO BEEN USED TO DETAIN "PUPPET" CIVILIAN AND MILITARY OFFICIALS OF THE FORMER RVN GOVERNMENT, AND IN CASES WHERE THOSE PERSONNEL HAD CONTRACTED ILLNESS, THEY HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM THE MAIN CAMP (I.E. CAMPS "A", "B", OR "C", TO CAMP "ME" FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT. GRAFETTI OBSERVED IN "ME" CAMP INDICATED THAT INMATES (POSSIBLY GVN COMMANDOS, INCLUDING ONE INMATE "LI HONG SON"), WERE HELD THERE AS EARLY AS 20 JULY 1969. ONE DATE WAS RECORDED AS "11,6,75 F P". CADRE ESCORTED THE GROUP THROUGH THE FORMER PRISON, WHICH NOW SERVES AS A FACTORY FOR PRODUCTION OF PEACH BRANDY. CADRE ALSO INDICATED LIMITED INDIRECT KNOWLEDGE CONCERNING THE WARTIME SHOOT DOWN OF A U.S. HELICOPTER INVOLVED IN THE RESCUE OF A FIXED WING AIRCRAFT SHOT DOWN IN THE "NOI COC" AREA ADJACENT TO THE MAIN CAMP. THIS INFORMATION WILL REQUIRE FURTHER ANALYSIS. EMPHASIS PLACED ON INVOLVEMENT OF THE SRV CONTROLLED MEDIA AT THE SIGHT PROBABLY INCREASES THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE REVELATIONS REGARDING U.S. PERSONNEL ASSOCIATED WITH THIS FACILITY. DUE TO THE SUITABILITY OF THE CAMP LOCATION AS A NIGHTTIME STOPOVER POINT FOR FOREIGN PERSONNEL ARRESTED IN THE SOUTH (I.E. AREA "B") BEING MOVED TO THE CENTRAL PRISON SYSTEM IN HANOI (I.E. PRISON "B", AKA THANH LIET), SA CONSIDERED THIS CAMP AS POSSIBLY BEING ASSOCIATED WITH THE PREVIOUS TEMPORARY PRESENCE OF U.S. POWS CAPTURED IN THE SOUTH DURING THE WAR, INCLUDING REFNO 0155 AND PERSONNEL ASSOCIATED WITH CAPTURED VESSELS SUCH AS THE "OCEAN KING" (SEE DAO BKK 281201Z MAY 92) AND "SEA TIGER" (SEE JCRC REPORT BP-009). DUE TO PREVIOUS REPORTING CONCERNING THE WARTIME PRESENCE OF AN ELEMENT OF THE ENEMY PROSELYTING DEPARTMENT IN THE NAM HA, AKA BA SAO CAMP, AND THE PHYSICAL OUTLAY OF THE CAMP "ME" SUBCAMP (I.E. INDIVIDUAL



ISOLATION CELLS IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO A MEDICAL DISPENSARY), THE POSSIBILITY THAT A STRATEGIC LEVEL INTERROGATION TEAM OPERATED WITH AUTHORITY FROM THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT HOSTILE INTERROGATIONS, INCLUDING CHEMICAL/MEDICAL SUPPORT, CANNOT BE RULED OUT. PREVIOUS REPORTING INDICATES THAT FORMER REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN COUNTERINTELLIGENCE DURING THE WAR YEARS WERE SUBJECTED TO STRATEGIC LEVEL INTERROGATIONS IN THE "SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY" FACILITY ON TRAN NHAT DUAT STREET

IN HO HOAN KIEM DISTRICT OF HANOI CITY BEFORE BEING TRANSFERRED TO NAM HA. SOME OF THESE PERSONNEL (I.E. FORMER ARVN CI CHIEF, COL HOC) REPORTEDLY DIED AS A RESULT OF BRUTAL INTERROGATIONS.

THE GROUP RETURNED TO HANOI ON THE EVENING OF 10 JULY AND ATTENDED A MEETING CHAIRED BY MR HO XUAN DICH THAT SAME EVENING. AMERICAS DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR, MR NGUYEN XUAN PHONG, ATTENDED AS A PARTICIPATING OBSERVER/MONITOR. THE GROUP SUMMARIZED THE RECENT EFFORTS DURING THE VISIT, AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE GOOD COOPERATION AFFORDED THE GROUP, INCLUDING THE ADVANCE VISIT BY MR HENDON. THE GROUP PRESENTED PREPARED TALKING POINTS SUMMARIZING THE RESULTS OBTAINED AS A RESULT OF SITE INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE TRIP, AS WELL AS THE REQUESTS PASSED DURING PREVIOUS VISITS CONCERNING CASES 0274 AND 0691. MR DICH RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT THE VNOSMP HAS ALREADY CONDUCTED A UNILATERAL RECOVERY, AND HAVE SUPPORTED A JOINT EXCAVATION OF THE 0954 SITE, WHICH WAS ONE OF THREE CASES LOCATED IN LAI CHAU PROVINCE. ACCORDING TO MR DICH, THE 0274 SITE IS ONE OF THE THREE CASES LOCATED IN A REMOTE AREA OF LAI CHAU, AND BECAUSE OF THE RELATIVELY LARGE NUMBER OF VNOSMP PERSONNEL INVOLVED WITH THE JOINT FIELD ACTIVITIES, IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE THEY WILL BE ABLE TO DO ANY WORK ON THE TWO CASES REMAINING IN LAI CHAU, INCLUDING CASE 0274. MR DICH SAID NO FURTHER ACTION WILL BE TAKEN REGARDING CASE 0691 IN HOA BINH PROVINCE, BECAUSE BOTH SIDES HAVE AGREED THAT THE INVESTIGATION OF THIS CASE HAS BEEN CONCLUDED. SENATOR SMITH ALSO ASKED FOR JUSTIFICATION FOR THE TWO YEAR DELAY CONCERNING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON CASE 0782 IN HA TINH PROVINCE. THE SENATOR EXPLAINED TO THE VIETNAMESE SIDE THAT INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS CASE, OBTAINED BY A JOINT INVESTIGATION TEAM DURING JULY 1991, INDICATED THAT COL HYNDY WAS CAPTURED ALIVE, RATHER THAN KILLED IN THE INCIDENT, AS INDICATED IN U.S. CASE FILES. ON BEHALF OF THE VIETNAMESE SIDE, MR HO XUAN DICH PLEADED INNOCENT BY STATING THAT THE VNOSMP WAS VERY BUSY WITH EXCAVATIONS AND OTHER FIELD ACTIVITIES, AND THAT THE U.S. SIDE HAD NOT MADE ANY SPECIFIC REQUEST REGARDING THE 0782 CASE. SENATOR SMITH INQUIRED AS TO WHETHER CASE 0782 HAD BEEN MOVED TO THE PRIORITY CASE INVESTIGATION LIST, AND IF NOT, WHY NOT. MR DICH SAID THE CASE STATUS HAD NOT BEEN CHANGED. SENATOR SMITH ASKED THE VIETNAMESE FOR AN EXPLANATION AS TO HOW CASES ARE SELECTED FOR PLACEMENT ON THE LIST FOR CONDUCTING LIVE SIGHTING INVESTIGATIONS AND THE LIST FOR PRIORITY CASE INVESTIGATIONS. MR PHONG SAID CASES SELECTED FOR

BOTH LISTS ARE BASED ON UNILATERAL DECISIONS MADE BY THE U.S. SIDE. MR PHONG ADDED THAT SUCH CASES ARE PASSED TO THE VNOSMP BY DETACHMENT 2 IN HANOI. MR DICH SUGGESTED THAT SENATOR SMITH DISCUSS THIS ISSUE WITH LTC CRAY, THE EXPERT DESIGNATED BY THE U.S. SIDE FOR SUCH TECHNICAL MATTERS IN VIETNAM. BOTH MR PHONG AND MR DICH SUGGESTED THAT SENATOR SMITH COORDINATE ANY REQUESTS FOR STATUS ON CASES WITH LTC CRAY BECAUSE THERE ARE CURRENTLY SEVERAL LISTS CONTAINING DIFFERENT CASES CONSIDERED AS "PRIORITY CASES" BY THE DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS SUBMITTING THE LISTS. MR PHONG SAID THE VIETNAMESE ARE CONFUSED AND WOULD LIKE TO CONSOLIDATE THE VARIOUS LISTS INTO ONE FINAL LIST. STAFF INVESTIGATOR, MR MCCREARY PRESENTED 32 SEPARATE SUMMARIES OF INCIDENTS SOURCED TO WARTIME PAVN FORCES STATIONED IN LAOS. THE VNOSMP CAREFULLY RECORDED NOTES REGARDING THESE REPORTS, AND STATED THAT IT HAS BEEN QUITE SOME TIME SINCE THEY HAVE RECEIVED THIS TYPE OF INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. SIDE. THEY SAID THEY WELCOME SUCH INFORMATION AND PLEDGED TO PROVIDE AN EVALUATION OF THE REPORTS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. WHEN ASKED IF HE HAD ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO ADD, SA PASSED A REQUEST FOR EVALUATION CONCERNING A WARTIME REPORT INDICATING THAT THE 7TH AND 8TH BNS OF THE 66TH REGT, 304TH DIV REPORTED THE CAPTURE OF "25 POWS", INCLUDING "TWO AMERICAN ADVISORS", DURING A BATTLE IN QUANG TRI PROVINCE ON 1 APRIL 1972. THE VNOSMP INDICATED THAT THEY WILL RESEARCH THE INFORMATION PROVIDED AND RESPOND AT A LATER DATE. SENATOR SMITH SAID HE HOPES TO BE ABLE TO RETURN TO VIETNAM AGAIN, POSSIBLY IN SEPTEMBER 1993. MR NGUYEN XUAN PHONG SAID THE VIETNAMESE SIDE WILL TRY TO BE HELPFUL, BUT THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION WILL BE DIFFICULT BECAUSE THE VIETNAMESE SIDE HAS NO DATA BASE FOR ONLY INFORMATION ON U.S. POWS; SUCH INFORMATION IS COMINGLED WITH INFORMATION ON OTHER SUBJECTS, AND SINCE THE U.S. STILL CONSIDERS VIETNAM "THE ENEMY AND WANTS TO DESTROY VIETNAM", IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO RELEASE INFORMATION DUE TO NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERNS.

ON THE MORNING OF 11 JULY, THE DELEGATION MET WITH LTG TRAN VAN QUANG, THE REPORTED AUTHOR OF THE DOCUMENT CONCERNING 1205 U.S. POWS FOUND IN THE ARCHIVES OF THE FORMER COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION DURING JANUARY 1993. LTG QUANG POLITELY DEFLECTED ALL QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE DOCUMENT AND CLAIMED TO HAVE NO INVOLVEMENT WITH IT. HE OPINED THAT THE DOCUMENT IS NOT AUTHENTIC. THE GROUP LATER MET WITH COMMUNIST PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY, MR DO MUOI AND VICE FOREIGN MINISTER, MR LE MAI. BOTH PLEDGED TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO FIND ANSWERS CONCERNING U.S. MIAS, BUT WERE ADAMANT IN THEIR ASSURANCES THAT THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO U.S. PERSONNEL REMAINING IN VIETNAM. SENATOR SMITH PRESSED FOR ANSWERS AND ALSO EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SRV'S UNILATERAL REPATRIATION OF REMAINS. SENATOR SMITH INFORMED THE GENERAL SECRETARY THAT THE FAMILIES WANTED TO KNOW THE FATE OF THEIR LOVED ONES, AND THAT NO ONE ON THE U.S. SIDE INTENDED TO BE VINDICTIVE. SENATOR SMITH ALSO PRESSED FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING REPORTED AUTHENTICATOR CODES OF U.S. PILOTS WHICH HAD COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE. GENERAL SECRETARY DO MUOI PLEDGED TO DO HIS BEST TO SPEED UP EFFORTS ON THE PART OF THE VIETNAMESE.



THE DELEGATION DEPARTED FROM HANOI AT 1140 ON 11 JULY AND RETURNED TO BANGKOK. THE DELEGATION HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE ARNOMA HOTEL AT 1800 HOURS THAT SAME EVENING. SA DID NOT ATTEND THE PRESS CONFERENCE, BUT UNDERSTANDS THAT TWO MEMBERS OF DETACHMENT 1, JTF-FA DID ATTEND AND THEY WILL REPORT SEPARATELY.

COMMENTS: SENATOR SMITH INDICATED HE WAS GENERALLY PLEASED WITH THE LEVEL OF COOPERATION ON THE PART OF THE VIETNAMESE REGARDING ACCESS TO FACILITIES. HOWEVER, HE TOOK NOTE OF THE FACT THAT ALTHOUGH THE LEADERSHIP IN HANOI WAS INFORMED IN ADVANCE CONCERNING THE SITE INSPECTIONS, NO RECORDS WERE PRESENTED AND WITH THE EXCEPTION OF TAN LAP CAMP, NO CADRE ASSIGNED DURING THE TIME FRAME OF THE REPORTED SIGHTINGS WERE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW. THE SENATOR ALSO EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN THAT NUMEROUS DETAILED FIRSTHAND LIVE SIGHTING REPORTS CONTAINED IN U.S. FILES WERE NOT NOMINATED FOR INVESTIGATION DURING THE SELECTION PROCESS, AND OTHER NEW INFORMATION INDICATING THAT U.S. PERSONNEL PREVIOUSLY BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN KILLED AT THE TIME OF THEIR INCIDENT WERE ACTUALLY CAPTURED, IS NOT BEING INVESTIGATED PROMPTLY. HE STATED HIS INTENTION TO IDENTIFY AND ELIMINATE THE SOURCE OF THE PROBLEM IN BOTH AREAS. THE SENATOR ACCEPTS THE FACT THAT THE NORMALIZATION PROCESS MUST MOVE FORWARD IN ORDER FOR THE U.S. SIDE TO RECEIVE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM. HOWEVER, HE IS ALSO EMPHATIC THAT A VIABLE SYSTEM, ABLE TO SUSTAIN A THOROUGH, ETHICAL ACCOUNTING EFFORT, MUST BE IN PLACE AND FUNCTIONING BEFORE HE WILL BE WILLING TO SUPPORT MOVING THE NORMALIZATION PROCESS FORWARD TO FRUITATION. ALTHOUGH THE SENATOR WAS CAREFUL IN NOT SETTING A DATE FOR A FOLLOW-UP VISIT OR GIVE THE IMPRESSION HE IS DELIVERING AN ULTIMATUM, HE HAS MADE IT CLEAR TO THE VIETNAMESE THAT HE INTENDS TO CONTINUE CLOSELY MONITORING THE EFFORTS OF BOTH SIDES, AND MAY RETURN TO VIETNAM PRIOR TO A DECISION OF THE PRESIDENT REGARDING THE FUTURE STATUS OF THE TRADE EMBARGO. SA GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT ALTHOUGH THE VIETNAMESE MIGHT PREFER TO WORK WITH U.S. OFFICIALS MORE PROGRESSIVE THAN SENATOR SMITH, THEY NEVERTHELESS HAVE A DEGREE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPECT FOR HIS TENACITY AND ATTENTION TO DETAIL AKIN TO THEIR OWN. SA ALSO BELIEVES THAT THE REQUESTS FOR UNILATERAL EVALUATION OF NEW INFORMATION PASSED BY THE SENATOR'S DELEGATION WILL RESULT IN MORE RECLASSIFICATIONS FROM "DEAD-BODY NOT RECOVERED" TO "LAST KNOWN ALIVE". SUCH RECLASSIFICATIONS MAY RESULT IN PUBLIC COMPLAINTS BY THE VIETNAMESE REGARDING THEIR PERCEPTION OF "MOVING THE GOAL POSTS". HOWEVER, BEING BY NATURE A PRACTICAL PEOPLE, THEIR LEADERSHIP MAY DECIDE TO ADDRESS THE INEVITABLE PRIOR TO THE CRITICAL SEPTEMBER PRESIDENTIAL DECISION CONCERNING THE U.S. LED TRADE EMBARGO.