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PHONE NO. :

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ENVELOPE

CDSN = CFS077 MCN = 98208/06612 TOR = 982080933

OTTUZYUW RUFKJCS7000 2080934-UUUU--RUEALGX.

ZNR UUUUU

HEADER

O 270934Z JUL 98

FM DIA WASHINGTON DC

INFO RUCQVAB/USCINCSOC INTEL OPS CFN MACDILL AFB FL

RUEOFAA/COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC//J2//

RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL

RUEALGX/SAFE

O 270926Z JUL 98

FM AMEMBASSY HANOI

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3035

INFO RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3/J5/FPA// IMMEDIATE

RUHPHQ/CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

RUHVAAA/CDR USACILHI HICKAM AFB//TAPC-PED-H//

RHFHNSC/NSC WASHDC

RUEHBK/CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0331

BT

CONTROLS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 HANOI 002507

B

STATE FOR EAP/BCLTV

NSC FOR KRISTOFF

N

E.O. 12958: DECL: N/A

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

TAGS: KPOW, MIA, VM, US, RU

SUBJECT: "RUGGIAN DOCUMENTS": MEETING BETWEEN AMB.

PETERSON AND EX-CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER HOANG

ANH. JULY 18, 1998

V

REF: HANOI 01248 (150413Z APR 98)

a

1. AT 1030 ON 18 JULY 1998, AMBASSADOR PETERSON MET
WITH MR. HOANG ANH, 87 YEARS OF AGE, FORMER DRV
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, AT THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL
DEFENSE OFFICE OF THE VIETNAM OFFICE FOR SEEKING

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MISSING PERSONS, 40-E TRUONG CHINH STREET, HANOI, TO DISCUSS MATTERS CONCERNING THE SO-CALLED "735" AND "1205" RUSSIAN DOCUMENTS. THIS WAS THE SECOND MEETING WITH MR. ANH. LIKE THE EARLIER MEETING IN APRIL 1998 (REFTEL), THIS MEETING WAS CORDIAL AND ALLOWED FOR FREE DISCUSSION CONCERNING THE DOCUMENTS.

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2. PARTICIPANTS.

A. U.S. CONTINGENT.

- (1) AMBASSADOR DOUGLAS "PETE" PETERSON.
- (2) MR. JAMES BRUNO, POLITICAL COUNSELOR.
- (3) MR. K. GARY FLANAGAN, JTF-FA
DETACHMENT TWO.
- (4) MR. THANH VUONG, INTERPRETER.

B. VIETNAM CONTINGENT.

- (1) MR. HOANG ANH, FORMER MINISTER OF
AGRICULTURE.
- (2) MR. VU KHAC NHU, PERMANENT DEPUTY
DIRECTOR, VIETNAM OFFICE FOR SEEKING
MISSING PERSONS (VNOSMP), MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS.
- (3) MR. TO BINH, INTERNAL SECURITY
SPECIALIST, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR.
- (4) SENIOR COLONEL TRAN VAN BIEN,
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, VNOSMP, MINISTRY OF
NATIONAL DEFENSE.

3. SUMMARY: AMB PETERSON AND MR. ANH QUICKLY RENEWED THEIR ACQUAINTANCE FROM THEIR EARLIER MEETING IN APRIL 1998. AMB PETERSON PROVIDED AN OVERVIEW OF THE "735" DOCUMENT, ITS CONTENTS, AND THE PURPOSE FOR THE MEETING. HE THEN PROCEEDED TO ASK SPECIFIC QUESTIONS PROPOSED BY DPMO AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES TO FOLLOW UP THEIR EARLIER MEETING. TO ENSURE THESE SUBJECTS WERE APPROPRIATELY COVERED, THE AMBASSADOR PREPARED THE QUESTIONS IN ADVANCE AND READ THEM ONE-BY-ONE. MR. ANH RESPONDED TO ALL QUESTIONS POSED BY AMB PETERSON IN A CANDID, STRAIGHTFORWARD MANNER. END SUMMARY.

4. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Q: IN ADDITION TO YOUR OTHER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, DID YOU EVER HOLD THE POSITION OF SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE VIETNAMESE WORKERS PARTY FROM LATE 1970 (THE "735" TIMEFRAME) AND ON INTO THE EARLY TO MID-1970'S?

A: AT THE END OF 1970 I CONTINUED TO SERVE THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE UNTIL THE FOURTH PARTY CONGRESS AS THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURAL, MARINE AND FISHERY MATTERS. MR. ANH EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS A SPECIFIC YET TEMPORARY DUTY ASSIGNED TO HIM BY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, AND NOT A NAMED OR TITLED POSITION, SUCH AS SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

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Q: DID YOU EVER PRESENT A REPORT TO A PLENUM SESSION OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE VIETNAMESE WORKERS PARTY COVERING ANY OF THE THREE SECTIONS DELINEATED IN

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THE "735" DOCUMENT I JUST LISTED FOR YOU? IS IT POSSIBLE YOU MIGHT HAVE DELIVERED SUCH A REPORT SOMETIME DURING LATE DECEMBER 1970 TO EARLY JANUARY 1971?

A: WHAT SUBJECT? (MR. ANH WAS AWARE OF THE GENERAL NATURE OF THE "735" DOCUMENT, BUT HE DID NOT ABSORB THE THREE SECTIONS. AMB PETERSON EXPLAINED, AND MR. ANH CONTINUED.) I ONLY REPORTED ON MATTERS OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, MARITIME AND IRRIGATION/HYDROLOGIC SYSTEMS INCLUDES THE PROTECTIVE SYSTEM OF DYKES ALONG MAJOR WATERWAYS SUBJECT TO FLOODING. I DON'T THINK I EVER SUBMITTED SUCH A REPORT TO A PLENUM SESSION OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, ONLY MY ANNUAL OR SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTS, WHICH I WOULD HAVE PRESENTED ORALLY. BEYOND

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MY PRESENTATION TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, THE HEAD OF EACH AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR A SPECIFIC MATTER WITHIN THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S PLANNING AGENDA WOULD PROVIDE HIS OWN INDIVIDUAL REPORT ON HIS SPECIFIC FIELD OF EXPERTISE. AS FOR THE CONSOLIDATED REPORT, IT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE GOVERNMENT TO COMPILE. NO SPECIFIC MINISTER WOULD KNOW THE EXACT DETAILS OF THE CONSOLIDATED REPORT COMPILED BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE. SINCE I NEVER SAW THIS REPORT (THE "735" REPORT), I CANNOT FULLY ANSWER THAT QUESTION.

Q: AT THIS POINT AMB PETERSON EXPANDED ON THE QUERY: "WOULD ANYONE ELSE HAVE SUBMITTED SUCH A REPORT ON AGRICULTURE?"

A: I'M NOT SURE I UNDERSTAND. I SPOKE THE TRUTH WHEN I SAID THE CONSOLIDATED REPORT WOULD HAVE BEEN PRESENTED TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE. I WOULD NOT SUBMIT SUCH A REPORT TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MYSELF.

Q: FURTHER EXPANSION: "IN THE OPINION OF MANY, THIS IS AN AUTHENTIC AGRICULTURAL REPORT. IS IT POSSIBLE THAT SOMEONE UNKNOWN COULD HAVE INSERTED POW INFORMATION INTO AN AUTHENTIC AGRICULTURAL REPORT?"

A: ALL VIETNAMESE PARTICIPANTS SPONTANEOUSLY LAUGH AT THE SUGGESTION. NEVER, NEVER WOULD SUCH A TOPIC BE INTERJECTED INTO A PLANNING SESSION OR PLANNING DOCUMENT. THERE WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN SUCH A THING. SPECIFICALLY, THE ONLY TOPICS THAT WOULD HAVE EVER BEEN

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ADDRESSED TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE CONCERNING AGRICULTURE BY MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE PERSONNEL WOULD HAVE BEEN AGRICULTURAL MATTERS. SINCE POW ISSUES WERE IN NO WAY RELATED TO AGRICULTURAL MATTERS, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE INSERTED SUCH A TOPIC INTO AN AGRICULTURAL REPORT. IF FOR SOME OTHERWISE UNKNOWN REASON SUCH A THING HAD HAPPENED, THE POW INFORMATION WOULD HAVE BEEN IMMEDIATELY REJECTED AS LUDICROUS BY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. LET US SAY THAT IF THERE WAS A MILITARY TOPIC FOR PLANNING, THEN THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE WOULD HAVE BROUGHT IN ONLY MILITARY CADRE FOR ANY REPORTING ON THAT TOPIC. IF THE TOPIC WERE A FOREIGN AFFAIRS TOPIC, ONLY FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPECIALISTS WOULD BE PRESENT. FOR INSTANCE, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO REASON TO BRING UP SUCH A TOPIC AS THE SITUATION IN

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LAOS OR CAMBODIA UNLESS THE INDIVIDUALS IN SUCH A MEETING WERE INVOLVED IN LAO OR CAMBODIAN MATTERS BECAUSE THEY WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND IT.

Q: WERE YOU INVOLVED IN PREPARATIONS FOR THE FOURTH PARTY CONGRESS, OR WERE YOU SELECTED BY THE POLITBURO TO SERVE ON AN ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THIS EVENT ALONG WITH QUANG?

A: I WAS IN CHARGE OF AGRICULTURAL MATTERS, AND I WAS NEVER A PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. IN 1970 AND 1971, ALL OF US IN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS WERE SO BUSY THAT WE WERE CONSTANTLY ON THE VERGE OF EXHAUSTION. THE DYKES WERE IN DANGER; WE WERE SUPPORTING THE WAR EFFORT. IT WAS A REAL STRUGGLE TO CONTINUE TO FIND WAYS TO OVERCOME OUR DIFFICULTIES WHEN WE WERE SO LOW ON RESOURCES AND THE DYKES WERE CONSTANTLY IN DANGER OF BEING OVERLOADED. I PERSONALLY HAD NO TIME FOR THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. I WAS EVEN SO BUSY THAT I CANNOT EVEN RECALL ANY OF THE FOURTH PARTY CONGRESS ORGANIZERS. I DO NOT REMEMBER ANY OF THEM.

Q: WERE YOU AWARE OF TRAN VAN QUANG AND HIS POSITIONS WITHIN THE PARTY OR GOVERNMENT?

A: NO. LAUGHS. QUANG WAS IN THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE. I WAS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. SHORT PAUSE TO THINK ABOUT ANY OF QUANG'S POSITIONS. I RECALL THAT QUANG WAS THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF OF THE PAVN (TOONGR THAM MWU PHOS).

Q: DO YOU RECALL QUANG EVER PRESENTING REPORTS AT A CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM ON MILITARY OFFENSIVE MATTERS DURING THE WAR?

***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 003 *****/
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A: LAUGHS AGAIN. I NEVER SAW ANY REPORTS BY TRAN VAN QUANG. AND I NEVER SAW HIM PRESENT ANY KIND OF REPORT.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY KNOWLEDGE OF ANY VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT DISINFORMATION PROGRAM?

A: LAUGHS. NO! NEVER! VERY CHEERFUL. FINDS THE QUESTION VERY AMUSING.

Q: DID YOU EVER SEE ANY REPORTS, WRITTEN OR ORAL, CONCERNING POW/MIAS?

A: NO! I WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAD A VERY DIFFICULT TASK AT THE NATIONAL PLANNING LEVEL. THEY WOULD HAVE NEVER PERCEIVED A NEED TO PRESENT SUCH A SMALL, MUNDANE TOPIC. AFTER AMB PETERSON'S DISCUSSION ABOUT POW/MIA MATTERS ACTUALLY BEING A VERY IMPORTANT TOPIC, ESPECIALLY WHILE THE PARIS PEACE TALKS WERE STILL UNDERWAY, MR. ANH EXPLAINS FURTHER. A SESSION OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE COULD HAVE CONSIDERED A MATTER SUCH AS THE POW/MIA ISSUE, BUT IN SUCH A CASE THEY WOULD HAVE ASKED MEMBERS OF THE POLITBURO ONLY. BECAUSE IT WAS A MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE ISSUE, CONTROLLED SOLELY WITHIN THE POLITBURO, NO ONE ELSE WOULD HAVE BEEN PRESENT. PRESENTING

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POW/MIA AT ONE OF THE SEMI-ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE? IT SIMPLY WOULD NOT HAVE EVER HAPPENED.

Q: IS THE TEXT CONCERNING AGRICULTURE IN THE "735" DOCUMENT CONSISTENT WITH YOUR VIEWS AT THE TIME? BASED ON YOUR RECOLLECTIONS, CAN YOU COMMENT ON THE ACCURACY STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO YOU AND CONTAINED IN THE DOCUMENT?

A: I AM UNFAMILIAR WITH THE MATERIAL. MFA, MOI AND MND REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT FOR THE MEETING AGREED WITH AMB PETERSON'S SUGGESTION THAT JTF-FA WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH MR. ANH CONCERNING HIS RECOLLECTIONS WITH RESPECT TO ANY ASPECTS OF THE DOCUMENT.

Q: WERE YOU EVER AWARE OF A DRV POLICY DURING THE WAR YEARS TO WITHHOLD PUBLICATION OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF AMERICAN PILOTS UNDER DRV CONTROL FOR DIPLOMATIC, NEGOTIATION REASONS AS THE DOCUMENT ASSERTS?

A: NO.

Q: ARE YOU AWARE OF ANY SOVIETS EVER HAVING ACCESS TO UNCLASSIFIED

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U.S. POWS?

A: NO. WHILE WE (DRV) RELIED ON SOVIETS AND CHINESE FOR AID, WE WERE VERY DETERMINED TO BE SELF-RELIANT. FOR THIS REASON, WE WOULD NEVER HAVE ALLOWED SUCH A THING.

Q: CONCERNING THE SOVIET UNION, DO YOU KNOW OF A MAN BY THE NAME OF VORONIN, WHO WAS STATIONED IN VIETNAM AROUND THE TIMEFRAME OF THE DOCUMENT?

A: NO. DURING SOVIET-RELATED DISCUSSION, MR. ANH ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD MADE ONE TRIP TO THE FORMER SOVIET UNION, BUT HE DESCRIBED IT SOLELY AS A PLEASURE TRIP (DI CHOW).

Q: POW QUESTIONS WOULD BE MILITARY QUESTIONS. WOULD IT BE REASONABLE TO SAY THAT TRAN VAN QUANG WOULD HAVE BEEN IN CHARGE OF SUCH AN ISSUE OR REPORTING SUCH AN ISSUE TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE?

A: I DON'T KNOW. SUCH INFORMATION WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN RELATED TO ME OR MY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (IN AGRICULTURE).

Q: IS IT POSSIBLE A SUBORDINATE OF YOURS COULD HAVE PREPARED SUCH A DOCUMENT, SIGNED YOUR NAME TO IT, AND SUBMITTED IT WITHOUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE?

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 004 *****/

A: NEVER! I HAVE A VERY DISTINCTIVE SIGNATURE. EVERYONE WOULD HAVE RECOGNIZED IMMEDIATELY IF SOMEONE HAD TRIED TO FORGE MY SIGNATURE. NO ONE COULD HAVE DUPLICATED IT.

Q: AS I ASKED YOU IN OUR FIRST MEETING, WOULD YOU PLEASE GIVE US YOUR OWN OPINION ABOUT THE "735" REPORT?

A: I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT DOCUMENTS WE HAVE LOST. I DON'T KNOW WHO COULD HAVE AUTHORED OR TRANSMITTED SUCH

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A DOCUMENT. AS FAR AS SOMEONE ELSE FORGING MY SIGNATURE - AT EITHER THE POLITBURO OR THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE - WHEN SUCH A FORGERY ARRIVED AT EITHER BODY, NO ONE WOULD HAVE ACCEPTED SUCH A REPORT FROM AN AGRICULTURE-RELATED PERSON SUCH AS MYSELF.

5. JTF-FA, DET TWO CRS COMMENTS:

- A. THE MEETING WAS VERY CORDIAL, WITH STRONG REPRESENTATION BY THE VNOSMP. MEMBERS OF THE VNOSMP WERE AT EASE AND SEEMED TO GO OUT OF
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THEIR WAY TO MAKE MR. ANH FEEL AT EASE ALSO. MEMBERS OF THE VNOSMP FREQUENTLY MADE SIDE COMMENTS TO ONE ANOTHER WHILE AMB PETERSON AND MR. ANH WERE TALKING. MOST OF THE SIDE TALK THAT COULD BE OVERHEARD WERE COMMENTS ABOUT LACK OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE PART OF AMERICANS CONCERNING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CENTRAL COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND WHY SUCH INFORMATION AS THE "735" DOCUMENT WOULD NEVER BEEN HAVE PRESENTED IN SUCH A VENUE.

- B. MR. ANH SHOWED NO OPEN SIGNS OF DECEPTION, SIDE-STEPPING ISSUES, OR AVOIDING ANSWERS. HE GENUINELY SEEMED TO REPLY TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE. WHEN HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND QUESTIONS, HE QUICKLY ASKED FOR EXPLANATION. HE APPEARED RELAXED, HEALTHY AND QUICKMINDED. ANH TOOK NOTES THROUGHOUT THE 100-MINUTE SESSION.

- C. MR. ANH PROVIDED UNEXPECTED EXAMPLES OF TYPES OF MEETINGS, RELATIVE DIVISION OF DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIFFERENT MINISTRIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR REPORTING TO VARIOUS AGENCIES SUCH AS THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. IN HIS VERY CANDID MANNER, HE APPEARED TO BE SEARCHING FOR WAYS TO HELP US UNDERSTAND OR ANSWER OUR OWN QUESTIONS ABOUT THE "735" REPORT.

- D. MR. ANH FREELY GAVE HIS OPINION ABOUT THE "735" REPORT.

PREPARED BY: K. G. FLANAGAN, GM-13, DOD; 18 JULY 1998

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