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SPECIAL REPORT

Additional requirements for levy on subject source should be relayed immediately to MACV, J2, IOD referencing CMIC source number **C449**

COUNTRY: NVN

SUBJECT: US PW Camps in NVN

DATE OF INFORMATION: 24 Apr 66

PLACE OF ACQUISITION: ARVN MID, PLEIKU Prov, II CTZ

EVALUATION: SOURCE C INFORMATION 2

SOURCE: Returnee NGUYEN CONG TAN (NGUYEENK, COONG TAAN) aka NGUYEN THANH THUY (NGUYEENK THANH THUYR), CMIC # C-449

REPORT NUMBER: US 1164-67

DATE OF REPORT: 7 Oct 67

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REFERENCES: SICR D 1E6 14883; Map: HANOI, VIETNAM; Series L903; Sheet GSGS 4593; AMS Edition 2; Dtd 1951; Scale 1:10,000 (5)

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SUMMARY: This report contains information concerning two PW camps in and near HANOI, NVN, as provided by returnee NGUYEN CONG TAN (NVA Major). Source was Province Chief and Political Officer in QUANG NINH Prov, NVN prior to training in HANOI, NVN and infiltration to the RVN in Apr - May 66.

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OCT 13 1967

Report Registry No. 211100

## 1. Background Information:

NGUYEN CONG TAN was born in 1930 (month unk) at HOANG THANH Vil, HOANG HOA Dist, THANH HOA Prov, NVN. He entered the VNA in 1947. In 1958 he traveled to RUSSIA for one week and to COMMUNIST CHINA for five days on a NVN government sponsored vacation. He became the Province Chief of HAI NINH Prov, NVN in Aug 63. In Feb 65, when HAI NINH Prov and HON GAY Prov were combined into QUANG NINH Prov, he became Political Officer of the new province. In Jan 66, source was selected to receive three months special training along with a group of 101 other political cadre officers who infiltrated the RVN. He was one of five majors in the group (the five senior officers) who were assigned as Political Cadremen to COSVN. Source completed training in HANOI on 30 Apr 66 and infiltrated with his group to QUANG TRI Prov, RVN, on 7 May 66. Then they went through LAOS to QUANG NAM Prov, RVN where he became ill with malaria and was separated from his group to receive medical care. During two months hospitalization, source was reassigned by MR-6 as the PHAN LY CHAM District Chief in BINH THUAN Prov, RVN. He arrived at his new assignment station on 19 Apr 67. During source's infiltration through LAOS and KONTUM, PHUOC LONG, LAM DONG, BINH THUAN Provinces, RVN, he received further medical care. Source returned to the SONG MAO training school in BINH THUAN Prov, RVN on 30 Aug 67 and was processed and interrogated at CHIEU HOI Centers at BANMETHUOT, NHA TRANG and PLEIKU. The following report was derived from the interrogation at PLEIKU.

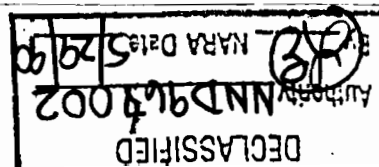
## 2. PW Camps in NVN.

a. Source visited a US PW Camp in HANOI on 24 Apr 66 at 1500 hours as part of his training program prior to infiltration to the RVN. The purpose of the tour was to provide a morale boost for the 101 political cadre officers and to point out to them the need for the thorough disrupting of US activities in the South, in order to hinder the bombing of the North. The two-hour PW Camp tour was conducted by, MG TRAN DO (TRAANL DOO), who was their chief instructor and member of the Political Department, Ministry of Defense, NVN. MG DO spoke English well and carried on continuous conversation with various US PWs, frequently joking with them. Mr LE DUC THO (LEE DUWCS THO) was Superintendent in charge of the PW Camp and personally conducted the five NVA Majors, on their tour. The remainder of the trainee contingent was broken down into smaller groups for the tour. The PW Camp contained 79 PWs, all officers. There were two LTCs, six MAJs, and the rest were company grade officers. Source met and talked for about 20 minutes with the two LTCs.

(NOTE: Source identified LTC ROBINSON RISNER from his photograph in "LIFE" magazine, as one of the persons with whom he had talked) Source described them, as well as all PWs he saw, as being in good health. Source furnished the following information about the PW Camp:

(1) The PW Camp was located on TRAN HUNG DAO Street in downtown HANOI, a short distance southwest of HOANG KIEM Lake. (Note: Source was shown an AMS map copied from a 1936 edition of a French city map of HANOI, but could not locate the PW Camp or TRAN HUNG DAO Street since the map was written in French. Source remembered the general location, but could not recall other streets or buildings in the area).

(2) PWs were housed in a long two-story building (dimensions unk) surrounded by trees. The building contained small bedrooms (number unk), kitchen and dining hall, a recreation room and medical treatment room. The two LTCs shared a bedroom.



(3) The camp staff included one doctor, who was educated in the USSR and a number of nurses and medics.

(4) The PWs had access to English magazines. The PWs were required to attend "political training" two days each week (Amount of time unk)

(5) The PWs are driven about the city of HANOI "for their own recreation", frequently and always on 20 July, the "NVN Revolutionary Day For Peace". During these trips they are jeered, but not mistreated, by the people.

b. When his group asked about the danger to the PWs from US bombing of HANOI, they were told by MG TRAN DO that a new PW Camp was scheduled for completion in "about one month" all the PWs would be relocated there because it would provided greater safety. Source made no special effort to find out details of this new camp, but was told that it was about 69 kilometers southwest of HA DONG City, HOA BINH Prov, and about 80 kilometers southwest of HANOI City, NVN. The area was jungle and there were caves for protection against air raids. (Exact location unknown) Source could provide no further information on this PW Camp.

3. Interrogator's Comments.

a. Source was of above average intelligence, displayed a candid knowledge of political matters and was extremely cooperative. He was familiar with many of the places and persons photographed and reproduced in the LIFE Magazine feature, "NORTH VIETNAM Under Siege". Source wishes to locate his family, who are probably in SAIGON, and then return to NHA TRANG to offer his aid in the Region II, Psy War Program.

b. Source appeared to be healthy after recovering from malaria.

c. Source was previously interrogated at BAN ME THUOT, DAR LAC Prov (30 Aug - 10 Sep 67) and at NHA TRANG, KHANH HOA Prov, (10 Sep - 21 Sep 67), and by US Army MID PLEIKU (21 Sep - 23 Sep 67).