

~~TOP SECRET~~6 July 1976  
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, East Asia Division, DDO

ATTENTION :

THROUGH :

DDO

SUBJECT : Dong Mang Prison Camp, NVN

REFERENCES :

(a)  
(b)

1. This memorandum is in response to your requirement for a  
analysis of a prison camp located in the vicinity of Cam  
Pha, North Vietnam.

Prison Location

NF 48-12

2. The prison is located at 21-04-00N 107-07-15E, approximately 26 kilometers west-northwest of the port of Cam Pha. It is located in a secluded area at the base of the foothills about 1 kilometer north of Dong Mang and 2 kilometers north of Route 183.

Discussion

3. Although we were unable to find any conclusive evidence that this prison might contain American POWs, we did notice several unique features in this prison that differ from other known Vietnamese prisons. It is secluded in a relatively remote area and has an access control point on the road leading to the camp. Walls within the compound physically and visually segregate the prisoners. The visual segregation of prisoners indicates it is not a forced labor camp. The only other known prison that used internally walled compounds to segregate the prisoners was the former POW camp at Dan Hoi.

4. Roof repair work was observed on one of the confinement buildings/living quarters. A close study of the roof repair work revealed a unique alternating light and dark pattern on the roof. This pattern, in the form of squares, was repeated

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three times at different locations on the roof. Because of the seemingly unusual manner in which the roof was being repaired we attempted to discern if this pattern was coincidental or purposeful. We were unable to make this distinction and realize that the prospect of it being purposeful is remote. It is not known if prisoners would be used or allowed to make these repairs. However, we did investigate this possibility. An attempt was made to transpose this pattern into Morse code. The white squares, being larger than the dark ones, were considered as dashes and the dark squares as dots. A dash-dot-dash in Morse code transposes as the letter "K".

two other less conspicuous possibilities exist. These are the letters "N" and "T" that are variations of the same dash-dot-dash pattern. We contacted an individual who has extensive knowledge of the POW situation. According to this source, the letter "K" was the permanently designated signal letter assigned to air crews should they be downed and unable to recall the monthly and/or daily assigned signal letters. This information has been confirmed through discussions with former POWs.

#### Construction Details

5. The prison was observed in the early stages of construction adjacent to a small possible detention camp. The possible detention camp consisted of a secured compound containing approximately ten small, semipermanent buildings. As work on the present prison progressed, the semipermanent facility was dismantled.

6. The currently existing prison consists of a walled compound containing eight confinement buildings/living quarters, one probable messhall, two support buildings, at least four latrines, ten unidentified buildings and two probable guard houses/towers. The interior of the compound is divided into 14 separately secured areas. Each area is secured by a solid wall with a single access. The only buildings in the compound that are not separately secured are the probable messhall and two support buildings. Studies of prisons in North Vietnam known to contain POWs during the war have shown efforts to segregate the prisoners by using walls or other materials to obscure visibility. However, none were as extensively segregated as at this compound. A small building, possibly used for solitary confinement, is located outside of the walled

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compound. The building is secured on three sides by fencing and on one side by the east wall of the compound. Two possible guard houses/towers are at the two outer corners of the fenced area. Another guard tower is located on a hillside outside of the compound near the southeast corner and it affords good visibility of the entire prison.

7. During the construction of one of the confinement buildings/living quarters, [ ] the building [ ] contain eight rooms or cells. Assuming the other confinement buildings also contain eight rooms and if two to four prisoners were in each room the compound could contain between 130 to 260 prisoners.

8. A large area behind the east (rear) wall of the compound has been cleared and leveled. Portions of an outer wall have been constructed around the compound with one segment of this outer wall extending into the cleared area. The height of this outer wall is about three times higher than the existing wall securing the prison. If this cleared area is for enlarging the compound, it could increase the current capacity by approximately 50 percent.

9. The administration and support facility for the prison is located just outside of the prison compound. This facility consists of one administration building, three barracks, one probable messhall and 11 support buildings.

10. A possible satellite/auxiliary detention camp is located 1,100 meters northwest of the main compound. This camp began to develop as construction of the main compound progressed. It may have been constructed to hold personnel from the possible detention camp that was dismantled to make room for the main compound. If, as it appears, this satellite area is a detention facility, it indicates an effort to separate the prisoners being kept there from those being confined at the main compound. Otherwise the main compound would have originally been constructed of sufficient size to accommodate these prisoners.

11. This possible satellite compound is triangular shaped and contains four to five possible confinement buildings/living quarters and seven or eight support buildings. These buildings are much smaller than those at the main compound. Two walls of the compound can be seen. Vegetation obscures the area where the third wall should be located. A

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large opening can be seen where the two visible walls should meet. This large opening raises questions about the security of the compound. Nine administration/support buildings are located outside of the compound.

Attachments:

2 Line drawings

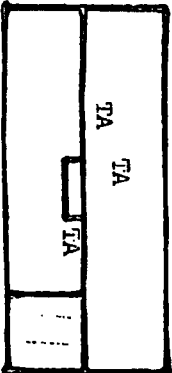
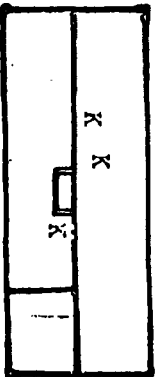
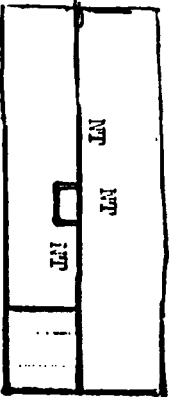
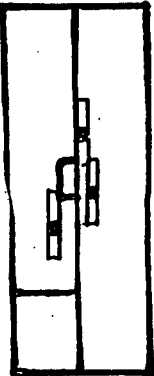
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ASSUMPTION:

White tones, given their greater  
are dashes.  
Dark tones are dots.

K= -.-

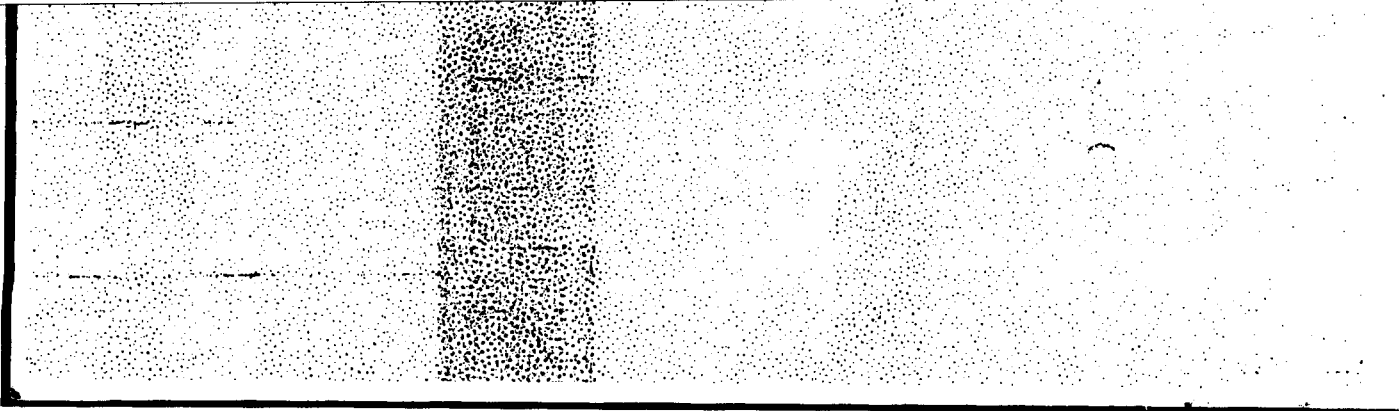
NT= -.-

TA= -.-

Assuming a possible tonal loss, two other combinations  
could exist, i.e. AA or AR.  
AA= -.-  
AR= -.-

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