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Reports on Tan Lap Prison, Vinh Phu Province; Sourcing for This Report

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REPORT CLASS C O N F I D E N T I A L

DATE: 23 JULY 1982
COUNTRY: VIETNAM

SUBJECT: ORGANIZATION AND INMATES OF TAN LAP PRISON, VINH PHU PROVINCE, FORMER DETENTION SITE FOR U.S. POW'S (DOI: 1964-FEBRUARY 1982)

SOURCE: FROM THE DEBRIEFING OF TWO FORMER INMATES OF TAN LAP PRISON.

SUMMARY: AS OF FEBRUARY 1982, THE TAN LAP PRISON WAS RUN BY A PUBLIC SECURITY MAJOR. THE FACILITY HELD ABOUT 6,000 PRISONERS; HALF WERE POLITICAL PRISONERS AND HALF WERE MALE AND FEMALE CRIMINALS AND JUVENILE OFFENDERS. PROMINENT PRISONERS ARE NAMED AND INMATE CATEGORIES GIVEN; THE RINGLEADERS OF AN ESCAPE ATTEMPT BY SPECIAL FORCES PERSONNEL IN 1984 WERE EXECUTED. END SUMMARY.

1. THE TAN LAP PRISON, ALSO KNOWN AS CENTRAL PRISON NUMBER ONE, IS LOCATED IN A RAVINE ON THE LEFT BANK OF A MALE CANAL IN SONG THAO DISTRICT (FORMER YEN LAP DISTRICT), VINH PHU PROVINCE, SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (SRV). IT OCCUPIES AN AREA ABOUT TEN KILOMETERS (KM) LONG AND THREE KM WIDE AND HOUSES SEVEN CAMPS KNOWN AS K1 THROUGH K7. THE TAN LAP PRISON IS SUBORDINATE TO THE SRV INTERIOR MINISTRY PRISON MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT.

2. AS OF FEBRUARY 1982, THE TAN LAP PRISON COMMANDER WAS PUBLIC SECURITY MAJOR BUI ((CHIEU)). SUPPORTING HIM WERE THE PRISON MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP COMMITTEES AS FOLLOWS:

A. A PUBLIC SECURITY SENIOR CAPTAIN WAS SECRETARY OF THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST PARTY (VNC) TAN LAP PRISON PARTY GROUP COMMITTEE. HE WAS IN CHARGE OF OVERALL POLITICAL EDUCATION AND CADRE AND INMATE MANAGEMENT POLICIES.

B. PUBLIC SECURITY CAPTAIN PHUNG VIET ((BANG)) WAS HEAD OF THE PRISONERS' EDUCATION PROGRAM.

C. FIVE PERSONS CONTROLLED THE PLANNING, MANAGEMENT, SECURITY, REAR SERVICES AND SECURITY GUARD OFFICES.

3. AT THE "K" MANAGEMENT LEVEL, THE DEPUTY WARDEN WAS ASSISTED BY A CADRE COUNCIL (HOI DONG CAN BO) COMPRISED OF A CHAIRMAN AND ABOUT 30 LEADERS OF REEDUCATION MANAGEMENT UNITS (DOI QUAN GIAD). THIS COUNCIL RECEIVES, REVIEWS AND REPORTS TO THE K WARD DAILY ACTIVITIES OF INMATES AND DISCIPLINARY MEASURES TO BE TAKEN AGAINST REGULATION VIOLATORS.

4. AS OF FEBRUARY 1982, THE TAN LAP PRISON POPULATION WAS COMPRISED OF ABOUT 3,000 FORMER ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

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(ARVN) PERSONNEL AND GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM (GVN) OFFICIALS, 2,000 JUVENILE DELINQUENTS, 800-1,000 FEMALE AND 300 MALE CRIMINAL ELEMENTS PRIMARILY FROM HANOI AND HAIPHONG. PROMINENT POLITICAL INMATES INCLUDED: TRUONG VINH ((LE)), PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY; DAM SI ((HIEU)), MINISTER OF LABOR; LE VAN ((THU)), MINISTER OF JUSTICE; TRAN TRUNG ((DUNG)), DEPUTY MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE; AND NGUYEN MANH ((NHU)), LONG DINH ((VIEP)) AND VU TIEN ((TAN)), GVN SUPREME COURT JUSTICES.

B. OTHER POLITICO-MILITARY PRISONERS WERE BROKEN DOWN INTO THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

- A. 20 GVN LEGISLATORS
- B. 30 GVN PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS
- C. 300 PARTICIPANTS IN THE NATIONAL RESTORATION MOVEMENT (PHONG TRAO PHUC QUOC)
- D. 50 ARVN COLONELS
- E. 300 ARVN LIEUTENANT COLONELS
- F. 700 ARVN MAJORS
- G. 1,000-1,100 ARVN CAPTAINS
- H. 300 ARVN FIRST AND SECOND LIEUTENANTS
- I. 200 ARVN CHAPLAINS
- J. 200 ARVN NON-COMMISSIONED AND ENLISTED PERSONNEL
- K. AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF SPECIAL FORCES (BIET KICH) PERSONNEL

B. ALL THESE INMATES WERE INTERNED IN K1 THROUGH K8 CAMPS WHICH WERE BROKEN DOWN AS FOLLOWS: K1, ABOUT 800; K2 400; K3, 300; K4, 800; K5, 450; K6, 100. HOWEVER K8 WAS CLOSED DOWN IN 1981. THE JUVENILE DELINQUENT CORRECTIONAL SCHOOL AND WOMEN'S PRISON OCCUPY SEPARATE FACILITIES.

7. LONG-HELD INMATES NOTED THAT UP TO 1973 AMERICAN PRISONERS HAD BEEN INTERNED AT THIS PRISON. HANOI POLITICAL OPPONENTS HAD BEEN JAILED HERE UP TO 1978 WHEN THEY WERE TRANSFERRED TO OTHER PRISONS. BETWEEN 1984 AND 1985 THERE HAD BEEN 900 POLITICAL PRISONERS OF THE NORTH AND 120 SPECIAL FORCES PERSONNEL INTERNED THERE. POLITICAL INMATES WERE NUNG, HEO (HONG) AND DAO (YAO) ETHNIC MINORITIES WHO HAD COLLABORATED WITH THE FRENCH AND MEMBERS OF NATIONALIST POLITICAL PARTIES, CATHOLIC PRIESTS, CAPITALIST ELEMENTS IN THE NORTH AND FORMER NON-COMMUNIST PARTICIPANTS IN THE VIET MINH RESISTANCE MOVEMENT. THESE INMATES HAD BEEN SENTENCED FOR LIFE. PROMINENT AMONG THESE WERE:

- A. HOANG VAN ((THAI)), CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONALIST PARTY OF VIETNAM (VIETNAM QUOC DAN DANG/VNQQD) QUANG BINH PROVINCE CHAPTER;
- B. HO ((NHUAN)), VNQDQ OR DAI VIET PARTY LEADER FROM BAC NINH PROVINCE;
- C. HOANG SI ((UY)), WEALTHY HANOI CAPITALIST;
- D. DANG HUNG ((NHAN)), FORMER EMPLOYEE OF THE FRENCH DEUXIEME BUREAU IN HANOI;

E. LE ((XUAT)), LANDLORD FROM QUANG BINH PROVINCE, REPORTEDLY A SUPPORTER OF LATE PRESIDENT NGO DINH ((DIEN));

F. HO ((LIEU)), WEALTHY BUILDING CONTRACTOR COLLABORATING WITH THE FRENCH; AND

G. TRINH A ((SAM)), A NUNG COLLABORATOR WITH THE FRENCH COLONIAL AUTHORITIES.

H. IN APRIL 1981 AN *was organized by NGUYEN*

YAN ((HIEU))

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(NOW VINH PHU) PEOPLE'S COURT. HIEU AND THUONG WERE EXECUTED,
VINH AND VAN RECEIVED LIFE SENTENCES AND OTHER INMATES RECEIVED
ADDITIONAL SEVEN YEAR SENTENCES.

8. ACO: [REDACTED] (JULY 1982) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SENT TO
[REDACTED] CINCPAC, IPAC, WESTCOM, PACAF,
PACFLT, COMSEVENTHFLT.

NEAREST CLASSIFICATION [REDACTED]

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