

MSGNO 56 (PCXX) *08/12/87* *18:04:49.4.9*
ZCZC 23:03:38Z (PC)
EMI DTG : 87081217451041
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ZNY CCCCC
R 122119Z AUG 87
FM JCS WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEADWD/OCSA WASHINGTON DC
RUENAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC
RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC
RUEAMCC/CMC CC WASHINGTON DC
RUEACMC/CMC WASHINGTON DC
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FM CIA
TO RUETIAA/DIRNSA
RUEHC/DEPT OF STATE//FOR INR
RUEKJCS/DIA
RUEATRS/TREASURY DEPT
RUEADWW/WHITE HOUSE SITUATION RO
[REDACTED]
RUHQHQA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
RUHHHMA/CDRWESTCOM FT SHAFTER H
RUHQHQA/COMIPAC HONOLULU HI
RHHMBRA/CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBO
RUHVAAA/CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB F
RUAJMAB/FOSIF/WESTPAC
RUHGOAA/COMSEVENTHFLT
BT
EZ1:
CONFIDENTIAL [REDACTED]
EZ2:
SECTION 1 OF 2
CITE [REDACTED]
SERIAL: [REDACTED]
PASS: NSA FOR ZKZK OO DLS DE (FOR NSOC).

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY


WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.
REPORT CLASS CONFIDENTIAL-- [REDACTED]
DIST: 12 AUGUST 1987
COUNTRY: VIETNAM
SUBJ: ABSENCE OF AMERICANS AT CAM THUY RE-EDUCATION CAMP,
THANH HOA PROVINCE, FROM EARLY 1984 TO MID-1986;
DETENTION OF CHRISTIAN CHAPLAINS, SINO-VIETNAMESE AND
SAN DIEU TRIBESMEN IN CAM THUY RE-EDUCATION CAMP
DOI: EARLY 1984 - MID-1986
SOURCE: [REDACTED]

NND 982022-377

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SOURCE DATA

SUMMARY: AS OF MID-1986 THERE WERE NO CAUCASIAN PRISONERS AT THE CAM THUY RE-EDUCATION CAMP IN WESTERN THANH HOA PROVINCE. THE CAMP WAS ABOUT 70 KILOMETERS FROM THANH HOA CITY AND HAD TWO AREAS. AREA-ONE HELD ABOUT 1,800 DETAINEES WHO ALLEGEDLY WERE POLITICAL PRISONERS AND OFFICIALS OF THE FORMER SOUTH VIETNAMESE REGIME. BETWEEN 50 AND 60 CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT CHAPLAINS OF THE FORMER SOUTH VIETNAMESE REGIME WERE HELD HERE IN IRONS. AREA-TWO HELD ABOUT 800 SINO-VIETNAMESE AND SAN DIEU TRIBESMEN ACCUSED OF SPYING FOR CHINA. THE PRISONERS WORKED AT FARMING, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND TIMBER PRODUCTION. SEVERAL DIED EACH MONTH FROM STARVATION.

TEXT: 1. FROM EARLY 1984 THROUGH MID-1986 THERE WERE NO AMERICANS AT THE CAM THUY RE-EDUCATION CAMP, LOCATED ABOUT 70 KILOMETERS (KM) WEST OF THANH HOA CITY, THANH HOA PROVINCE, EXACT LOCATION UNKNOWN. THE BUS FROM THANH HOA CITY TO THE CAMP STOPPED AT THE FOLLOWING STATIONS: SONG MA RIVER FERRY, LAM SON, THEN THE VAC FERRY BEFORE IT TURNS LEFT AND CONTINUES ON TO THE BUS TERMINAL AT DEN LU (TEMPLE). THE TRIP TAKES ABOUT FIVE HOURS. FROM VAC, THE ROAD CONTINUES FOR ABOUT TWO KM TO A JUNCTION. AREA-ONE OF CAM THUY CAMP IS ABOUT ONE KM TO THE LEFT OF THE JUNCTION; AREA-TWO IS ABOUT TWO KM TO THE RIGHT. AREA-TWO CAN ALSO BE REACHED BY A ROAD THAT TURNS RIGHT AT VAC STATION FOR ABOUT TWO KM. ANOTHER RE-EDUCATION CAMP IS LOCATED IN THE VICINITY OF LAM SON. 

2. AREA-ONE OF CAM THUY RE-EDUCATION CAMP IS ABOUT ONE KM SQUARE. IT HAS TWO ROWS OF SEVEN 15 BY TEN METER BRICK BUILDINGS. THE BUILDINGS ARE COVERED WITH IRON SHEETS. EACH BUILDING NORMALLY HOLDS AROUND 100 PEOPLE. WARD-A DETAINEES WERE MOSTLY NORTHERNERS WHO WERE ALLEGEDLY POLITICAL PRISONERS, INCLUDING PEOPLE WHO TRIED TO LEAVE VIETNAM. WARD-B DETAINEES WERE OFFICIALS OF THE FORMER SOUTH VIETNAMESE REGIME. IN THE MIDDLE OF AREA-ONE, BEYOND THE TWO ROWS OF BUILDINGS, IS ONE 30 BY FIVE METER BUILDING WITH A FLAT CONCRETE ROOF, WHERE BETWEEN 50 AND 60 CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT CHAPLAINS OF THE FORMER SOUTH VIETNAMESE REGIME WERE HELD IN IRONS. THE KITCHEN IS IN THE FAR RIGHT HAND CORNER OF AREA-ONE. THERE IS NO MESS HALL. AS OF MID-1986 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PRISONERS IN AREA-ONE WAS AROUND 1,800.

3. AREA-ONE IS SURROUNDED BY A STONE WALL ABOUT EIGHT METERS HIGH AND TOPPED WITH BARBED WIRE. THE GATE IS ABOUT SIX METERS WIDE AND HAS TWO STEEL DOORS. DOUBLE GUARDS ARE POSTED AT THE GATE AND THERE ARE WATCH TOWERS AT THE FOUR CORNERS. THE GUARDS QUARTERS ARE OUTSIDE THE GATE. AREA-ONE MANAGEMENT IS COMPOSED OF ABOUT 100 PEOPLE INCLUDING WARDENS, SECURITY, CULTURAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF. THEIR IDENTITIES WERE NOT KNOWN.

4. AREA-TWO IS ABOUT 800 BY 300 METERS. IT HAS TWO LONG BUILDINGS, ABOUT 60 BY 10 METERS EACH, HOLDING SOME 800 PEOPLE, SINO-VIETNAMESE AND SAN DIEU TRIBESMEN BEING MOVED FROM THE NORTHERN BORDER, MANY OF WHOM WERE ALLEGEDLY CAPTURED WHEN THEY TRIED TO CROSS THE BORDER. THEY WERE ACCUSED OF SPYING FOR CHINA.

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5. ALL AREA-TWO PRISONERS WERE FORCED TO FARM SOME 15 HECTARES OF LAND NEAR THE CAMP GROWING SUGAR CANE. AREA-ONE PRISONERS, EXCEPT FOR THE CONFINED CHAPLAINS, WERE FORMED INTO THREE LABOR GROUPS. THE MAJORITY WORKED ABOUT 20 HECTARES OF LAND, MAINLY GROWING MANIOC. SEVERAL GROUPS OF 40 PEOPLE WENT INTO THE JUNGLE TO FELL BAMBOO AND TIMER. GROUPS OF 20 PEOPLE WORKED AT RAISING FISH. DAILY PRODUCTION NORMS FOR EACH LABORER WERE EITHER TO WORK 150 SQUARE METERS OF LAND OR TO FELL 50 BAMBOO POLES, EACH EIGHT METERS LONG, OR ONE CUBIC METER OF WOOD. THEIR RATION WAS REPORTEDLY ONE BOWL OF RICE ON SATURDAYS. OTHER MEALS CONSISTED OF TWO MANIOC TUBERS DAILY. SEVERAL DEATHS OCCURRED FROM STARVATION EACH MONTH. THE DEAD WERE BURIED IN THE GRAVEYARD BETWEEN THE TWO AREAS, SOME 600 METERS FROM AREA-TWO.

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SOURCE DATA

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