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ZNY SSSSS  
R 172325Z FEB 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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RUEADWW/WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM  
[REDACTED]  
RUHQHQA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
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RUHQHQA/COMIPAC HONOLULU HI  
RHHMBRA/CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI  
RUHVAAA/CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI  
RUAJMAB/FOSIF/WESTPAC  
RUHGOAA/COMSEVENTHFLT  
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EZ1:  
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EZ2:  
CITE [REDACTED]  
SERIAL: [REDACTED]  
PASS: NSA FOR ZKZK OO DLS DE (FOR NSOC).

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
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WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.  
REPORT CLASS C O N F I D E N T I A L-- [REDACTED]

DIST: 17 FEBRUARY 1987

COUNTRY: VIETNAM

SUBJ: ABSENCE OF AMERICANS AT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE BEN  
TRANH REEDUCATION CAMP IN BEN TRE PROVINCE, SOUTHERN  
VIETNAM

DOI: 7 APRIL 1976 - AUGUST 1977

SOURCE: [REDACTED]

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(b)(3)

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[REDACTED]

TEXT: 1. FROM 7 APRIL 1976 TO AUGUST 1977 THERE WERE NO AMERICANS AT THE BEN TRANH REEDUCATION CAMP IN BEN TRE PROVINCE, SOUTHERN VIETNAM. THE BEN TRANH REEDUCATION CAMP WAS LOCATED AT A FORMER ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM (ARVN) ARTILLERY BASE, ALONG THE HAM LUONG RIVER ABOUT 15 KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF BEN TRE CITY, FORMERLY CALLED TRUC GIANG CITY, IN BEN TRE PROVINCE. IT TOOK ABOUT ONE HOUR TO ARRIVE AT THE CAMP BY SAMPAN FROM BEN TRE CITY.

2. THE BEN TRANH CAMP WAS ADMINISTERED BY THE BEN TRE PROVINCE PUBLIC SECURITY SERVICE (PSS). PSS SENIOR CAPTAIN NGUYEN THANH ((HUNG)), AKA HAI THANH HUNG, WAS CAMP COMMANDER. PSS CAPTAIN NGUYEN THANH ((LONG)), AKA HAI THANH LONG, WAS CAMP ADMINISTRATOR. A STAFF OF ABOUT 40 PSS OFFICERS AND MEN WERE ASSIGNED TO THE CAMP.

3. ABOUT 400 PRISONERS WERE DETAINED AT THE BEN TRANH CAMP. FORMER GOVERNMENT OF (SOUTH) VIETNAM (GVN) POLICE MAJOR (LNU) ((LIEM)) WAS THE ONLY FIELD GRADE OFFICER IMPRISONED AT THIS FACILITY. THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 30 JUNIOR GRADE ARVN OFFICERS AT THE CAMP. OTHER PRISONERS INCLUDED FORMER GVN VILLAGE CHIEFS, POPULAR FORCES OUTPOST COMMANDERS, PROVINCE LEVEL CIVIL SERVANTS AND ONE DEPUTY DISTRICT CHIEF. THERE WAS ONE BUDDHIST MONK AND TWO CATHOLIC PRIESTS, ONE OF WHOM WAS NAMED VO HOANG ((SINH)) OF THE BINH DAI DISTRICT DIOCESE IN BEN TRE.

4. PRISONERS LIVED IN GROUP HOUSING WITH ABOUT 100 INMATES IN EACH OF THE FOUR HOUSES. THE GROUPS WERE ORGANIZED INTO CELLS OF ABOUT 10 MEMBERS EACH. ONE PRISONER-COOK WAS ASSIGNED TO EACH CELL. THE COOKS WERE NOT ASSIGNED TO OTHER LABOR DETAILS. FOR WORK PURPOSES THE PRISONERS WERE ORGANIZED INTO SECTIONS ACCORDING TO THEIR SKILLS. THERE WERE CARPENTRY, BLACKSMITH, LIVESTOCK, VEGETABLE GROWING, WEAVING, ORIENTAL MEDICINE, RICE CULTIVATION AND MISCELLANEOUS JOBS SECTIONS. COMMENT: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A FORMER GVN POLICEMAN NAMED (LNU) ((LONG)) LOST ONE OF HIS LEGS WHEN HE STEPPED ON A MINE WHILE COLLECTING BARBED WIRE FENCE USED TO MAKE NAILS FOR THE CAMP CARPENTERS. THE CARPENTRY SECTION BUILT A WOODEN BED FOR TRAN VAN ((CHIEN)), A DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE BEN TRE PUBLIC SECURITY SERVICE. THAT SECTION ALSO BUILT A HOUSE IN THANH PHU DISTRICT FOR TAM ((TIEN)), ANOTHER BEN TRE PSS DEPUTY CHIEF. TAM TIEN PAID FOR THE PRISONERS' LABOR, BUT THE MONEY WAS PUT IN THE CAMP TREASURY.)

5. THE BEN TRANH REEDUCATION CAMP WAS EQUIPPED WITH A MOTORIZED SAMPAN AND A JEEP. TWO ANTENNAS, ONE AN AT-292 ANTENNA AND THE OTHER ONE SIMILAR TO FORMER GVN NATIONAL POLICE STATION ANTENNAS, WERE OBSERVED AT THE BEN TRANH CAMP, BUT THE TYPE OF RADIO EQUIPMENT USED AT THIS CAMP WAS UNKNOWN. THE BEN TRANH CAMP CONTINUED TO FUNCTION AS OF SEPTEMBER 1986. VILLAGERS IN BA TRI DISTRICT TRAVELED TO VISIT RELATIVES AT THE CAMP.

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