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 FM JCS WASHINGTON DC
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 RUEKJCS/DIA
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

[Redacted]
 REPORT CLASS ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~
 DIST: 16 JUNE 1987
 COUNTRY: VIETNAM
 SUBJ: ABSENCE OF AMERICANS AT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE 2300
 REEDUCATION CAMP IN THUAN HAI PROVINCE, SOUTHERN

[Redacted]

982008-1317

VIETNAM; DETENTION OF WOMEN
 DOI: 25 NOVEMBER 1985 - 21 APRIL 1986
 SOURCE: [REDACTED]

TEXT: 1. FROM 25 NOVEMBER 1985 TO 21 APRIL 1986 THERE WERE NO AMERICANS AT THE Z300 REEDUCATION CAMP IN THUAN HAI PROVINCE, SOUTHERN VIETNAM. THE Z300 CAMP WAS LOCATED ALONG NATIONAL HIGHWAY ONE IN HAM TAN DISTRICT, THUAN HAI, ABOUT 145 KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF HO CHI MINH CITY (HCMC). THE LETTER-BOX-NUMBER OF THIS CAMP WAS Z300 HAM TAN, THUAN HAI. Z300 WAS ESTABLISHED IN A JUNGLE AREA OF HAM TAN DISTRICT IN 1978.

2. CAMP Z300 WAS ADMINISTERED BY THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR (BNV). BNV MAJOR TRAN ((Y)) WAS CAMP COMMANDER. THE COMMAND STAFF AND GUARD FORCE AT Z300 INCLUDED 250 TO 300 BNV OFFICERS AND MEN.

3. THIS CAMP CONSISTED OF SUBCAMPS K1, K2 AND K3. K1 WAS THE MAIN SUBCAMP. K1 WAS COMPOSED OF ZONE A WHICH DETAINED MALE PRISONERS AND ZONE B WHICH HELD FEMALES. INMATES AT ZONE A INCLUDED FORMER ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF (SOUTH) VIETNAM (ARVN) ENLISTED MEN AND OFFICERS UP TO THE RANK OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL; POLITICAL PRISONERS FROM THE FORMER GOVERNMENT OF (SOUTH) VIETNAM (GVN) AND MEMBERS OF ANTI-COMMUNIST RESISTANCE FORCES. ZONE A ALSO HELD A GROUP OF PRISONERS WHICH HAD BEEN DETAINED IN REEDUCATION CAMPS IN CENTRAL VIETNAM. THOSE PRISONERS RETALIATED AGAINST THE CRUELITIES IMPOSED ON THEM BY COMMUNIST CAMP CADRE IN CENTRAL VIETNAM. A NUMBER OF THEM

ENGAGED IN PLOTS TO DESTROY THEIR CAMPS. SUBSEQUENTLY THOSE PRISONERS WERE ROUNDED UP, SENT TO TRIAL AND GIVEN DEATH PENALTIES, OR SENTENCES OF 10 YEARS, TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT. THOSE NOT EXECUTED WERE SENT DOWN TO Z300. THERE WERE ABOUT 800 PRISONERS IN ZONE A.

4. ZONE B OF K1 INCARCERATED VARIOUS SORTS OF FEMALE PRISONERS SUCH AS FORMER ARVN OFFICERS, POLICEWOMEN OFFICERS, MEMBERS OF RESISTANCE FORCES, WOMEN ARRESTED ATTEMPTING TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY AND CRIMINALS. WOMEN CRIMINALS CONSISTED OF THIEVES, MURDERERS AND PROSTITUTES. THERE WERE 250 TO 300 WOMEN PRISONERS AT ZONE B. THE WOMEN IN ZONE B WERE ASSIGNED TO THE FOLLOWING LABOR UNITS: ONE LIVESTOCK RAISING UNIT; ONE ENTERTAINMENT UNIT, TWO GREEN VEGETABLE UNITS, ONE AGRICULTURE UNIT, ONE SUPPORT UNIT AND A LABOR UNIT. THERE WERE FOUR LONG HOUSES FOR WOMEN PRISONERS IN ZONE B. IN NOVEMBER 1985 WHEN THE BNV BEGAN TO TRANSFER PRISONERS FROM CAMP Z300 TO Z300, TWO LONG HOUSES IN THE ZONE B WERE USED TO DETAIN MALE PRISONERS. THERE WERE FIVE LONG HOUSES IN ZONE A, EACH OF WHICH HELD 100 TO 120 INMATES. IN 1983 THE BNV BEGAN TO RECONSTRUCT THE BUILDINGS AT Z300 WITH BRICK. AT THAT TIME A CONFERENCE HALL WAS BUILT BETWEEN ZONES A AND B; THAT HALL COULD ACCOMMODATE MORE THAN 1,000 PEOPLE.

5. LIFE AT Z300 WAS QUITE MISERABLE. WHENEVER THE BNV BEGAN A CONSTRUCTION PROJECT, PRISONERS WORKED DAY AND NIGHT IN SHIFTS. SELDOM DID THEY GET A DAY OF REST ON SUNDAYS. THE MORALE WAS LOW. THERE WAS ONE DEPUTY CAMP COMMANDER NAMED (LNU) ((NHU)), A BNV SENIOR

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CAPTAIN, WHO RULED BY THE LAWS OF THE JUNGLE. HE BEAT WHOMEVER HE FELT LIKE BEATING, INCLUDING FEMALE PRISONERS, AND IMPRISONED WHOMEVER HE WANTED. [Redacted] COMMENT: [Redacted] NOT FAMILIAR WITH SUBCAMPS K2 AND K3 BECAUSE THOSE FACILITIES WERE LOCATED SOME DISTANCE FROM K1. [Redacted] K2 AND K3 MAY HAVE DETAINED A TOTAL OF 300 PRISONERS, AND SO [Redacted] THE TOTAL 2300 PRISONER POPULATION WOULD HAVE BEEN ABOUT 1500 INMATES.

DISSEM: [Redacted] SENT [Redacted], USCINCPAC, IPAC, WESTCOM, PACAF, PACFLT, COMSEVENTHFLT, FOSIF/WESTPAC.

[Redacted] REPORT CLASS ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

DECL: OADR BY RECORDED REPORTING OFFICER. SEE CONTROLLING OFFICE FOR CLASSIFICATION AND CONTRLS OF OVERALL DOCUMENT.

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