

HANDLING REQUIRED

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ROUTINE  
R 240746Z FEB 88  
FM CIA/DDO  
TO DIA/VO-PW NAME

ZYUW RUEAIIA7783 0550801

DOOR OPENED ONTO A TWO METER WIDE ENCLOSURE WHERE THERE WAS A WATER BASIN AND A LATRINE. CIGARETTE BUTTS IN THE CELL WERE OF A BETTER BRAND THAN THOSE USED BY CAMP CADRE. THE CELL WAS LOCATED IN THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF ZONE K-1. IT WAS UNOCCUPIED AND REMAINED LOCKED AT ALL OTHER TIMES.

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SECTION 1 OF 2  
CITE

*240746Z not in process*

SUBJECT: ALLEGED FOREIGN PRISONERS AT TAN LAP REEDUCATION CAMP

1. PER DISCUSSIONS WITH DIA/VO-PW ANALYSIS BRANCH CHIEF WE ARE FORWARDING INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM PROBABLE FABRICATOR

2. BEGINNING OF REPORT: SUMMARY: THREE TIMES--IN ABOUT JUNE 1985, JULY AND SEPTEMBER 1986, RESPECTIVELY--THREE OR FOUR PRISONERS WERE DROPPED OFF AT NIGHT IN THE SPECIAL CONFINEMENT AREA OF ZONE K-1 AT TAN LAP REEDUCATION CAMP, YEN LAP DISTRICT, VINH PHU PROVINCE. THE PRISONERS, FEATURES NOT SEEN, WERE MUCH TALLER THAN THEIR ESCORTS. THEY WERE CONFINED TO A REMOTE SPECIAL DETENTION CELL IN K-1 THAT WAS NOT OTHERWISE USED. THE CHIEF MEDIC AT ZONE K-1 SAID THE PRISONERS WERE FOREIGNERS BUT DID NOT ELABORATE ON THEIR NUMBER OR IDENTITY. WHILE THE SPECIAL PRISONERS WERE AT K-1 IN JUNE 1985, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR GENERAL PHAN LONG VISITED AND AN UNIDENTIFIED VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS VISITED IN SEPTEMBER 1985. THE CAMP HAD AN ADDITIONAL ZONE, ZONE K-2, ABOUT TWO KILOMETERS AWAY FROM ZONE K-1. EIGHT KILOMETERS BEFORE ARRIVING AT K-1, THERE WERE THREE OTHER ZONES THAT FORMED THANH HA REEDUCATION CAMP.

3. TEXT: THREE TIMES--IN ABOUT JUNE 1985, JULY AND SEPTEMBER 1986, RESPECTIVELY--A REMOTE CONFINEMENT CELL IN ZONE K-1 OF TAN LAP REEDUCATION CAMP, YEN LAP DISTRICT, VINH PHU PROVINCE, WAS ORDERED CLEANED. A SOVIET "UMATT" AND A JAPANESE TOYOTA DROPPED OFF THREE OR FOUR PRISONERS IN THE SPECIAL CONFINEMENT AREA ONE OR TWO NIGHTS LATER. THE SUPERINTENDENT (GIAM THI), MANAGER (TRUC TRAI), AND PERSONNEL OFFICER OF ZONE K-1 ESCORTED THE PRISONERS TO THE CELL. EACH PRISONER CARRIED A FAIRLY BULKY BAG, ASSUMED TO CONTAIN CLOTHING AND SLEEPING GEAR. THE PRISONERS WERE MUCH TALLER THAN THEIR ESCORTS WHO CARRIED FLASHLIGHTS AND AN OIL LAMP. THE FEATURES OF THE PRISONERS, HOWEVER, COULD NOT BE SEEN. FOR ABOUT ONE WEEK SPECIAL FOOD WAS BROUGHT TWICE A DAY IN TWO COVERED 20-LITER CONTAINERS FROM OUTSIDE ZONE K-1 TO THE CELL WHEN THE OTHER CAMP DETAINEES WERE WORKING IN THE FIELDS. WHILE THE SPECIAL PRISONERS WERE AT K-1 IN JUNE 1985, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR (BO NOI VU-BNV) GENERAL PHAN LONG VISITED IT AND AN UNIDENTIFIED VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS VISITED IN SEPTEMBER 1986, EACH TIME FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS. ONE ADDITIONAL GUARD WAS POSTED IN THE SPECIAL CONFINEMENT AREA FOR THE WHOLE WEEK. THE GUARDS WERE CHANGED EVERY TWO HOURS.

4. DURING THE FOLLOWING DAYS, THE CHIEF MEDIC AT ZONE K-1, SECOND LIEUTENANT BUI VAN CUOC, SAID THE PRISONERS WERE FOREIGNERS BUT DID NOT ELABORATE ON THEIR NUMBER OR IDENTITY. CUOC COMPLAINED THAT HE DID NOT LIKE THEIR BEING AT THE CAMP BECAUSE IT REQUIRED MORE WORK TO CARE FOR AND WATCH THEM. ON THESE OCCASIONS, CUOC USUALLY ASKED FOR IMPORTED VITAMIN B-12, ANTIBIOTICS, SOME OTHER MEDICINE AND CANNED MILK WHEN HE WENT TO THE PRISONERS' CELL.

5. THE SPECIAL CONFINEMENT CELL WAS ABOUT SIX BY THREE METERS LARGE. IT HAD A FIVE BY 2.2 BY 0.8 METERS CONCRETE PLATFORM AS A BED. IT DID NOT CONTAIN ANY FURNITURE OR OTHER ITEMS. IT WAS CLEANED AND SPRAYED BEFORE EACH USE. THERE WAS ONE DOOR AT EACH OF THE DIAGONALLY OPPOSITE CORNERS. THE REAR

ACTION DIA/SPEC(10)

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MCN=88055/02713

TOR=88055/0759Z

TAD=88055/1550Z

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6. NEXT TO THE SPECIAL CONFINEMENT CELL WAS ANOTHER CELL FOR UNDISCIPLINED PEOPLE OR THOSE SUSPECTED OF ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE. THESE PEOPLE WERE CONFINED FOR A MAXIMUM OF SEVEN TO TEN DAYS. THERE WAS A THIRD CELL IN THE AREA USED TO DETAIN PRISONERS WHO WERE STRONG-ARM MEN OR FOREMEN OVER OTHER INMATES. THIS AREA, LIKE THE AREA OF THE OTHER TWO DETAINMENT CELLS, WAS SURROUNDED BY HIGH BRICK WALLS. EACH AREA HAD ONE GATE OPENING INTO THE CENTRAL YARD OF THE CAMP--THERE WAS ONE GATE BETWEEN THE TWO AREAS:

7. THE CADRE OF K-1 INCLUDED:

A. (FNU) NAM, BNV SENIOR CAPTAIN, BORN ABOUT 1945 IN HAI HUNG PROVINCE. HE WAS ABOUT 1.65 METERS TALL AND WEIGHED 60 KILOGRAMS (KGS). HE OFTEN YELLED BUT WAS NOT BRUTAL. HE WAS DEPUTY OF THANH HA REEDUCATION CAMP BEFORE HIS ASSIGNMENT AS SUPERINTENDENT OF ZONE K-1 AT TAN LAP.

B. (FNU) CHT, NICKNAMED THE OLD WOMAN (BA GIA), BNV FIRST LIEUTENANT, BORN ABOUT 1952 IN NAM DINH, HA NAM NINH PROVINCE. HE WAS ABOUT 1.62 METERS TALL AND WEIGHED 50 KGS. HE WAS THE K-1 PERSONNEL OFFICER. HE HAD A QUIET BUT SHREW CHARACTER.

C. (FNU) NGUYET, BNV SECOND LIEUTENANT, BORN ABOUT 1960 IN VINH PHU PROVINCE. HE WAS ABOUT 1.55 METERS TALL AND WEIGHED 47 KGS. HE HAD A BRUTAL AND CUNNING CHARACTER.

D. CUOC, BORN ABOUT 1955 IN VINH PHU PROVINCE. HE PRACTICED ACUPUNCTURE IN ADDITION TO GENERAL MEDICINE. ALL THE ABOVE CADRE ACCEPTED BRIBES.

8. AS OF LATE 1986, ZONE K-1 ALSO HAD 16 INSTRUCTORS/POLITICAL WARDENS AND 35 ARMED GUARDS TO CONTROL SOME 1,200 CRIMINALS FROM NORTHERN VIETNAM. THE PRISONERS WERE LOCKED AT NIGHT IN TWELVE 40 BY SIX BY FOUR METER BUILDINGS. IN LATE 1984 OR EARLY 1985 ALL PRISONERS FROM SOUTHERN VIETNAM WERE MOVED FROM TAN LAP, REPORTEDLY TO NAM HA, HA NAM NINH PROVINCE. ONE OF THE LAST SOUTHERNERS TO GO WAS DOCTOR (FNU) HAN, BORN ABOUT 1933. HE HAD BEEN A MAJOR IN THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE ARMY.

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FINAL SECTION OF 2  
CITE

SUBJECT: ALLEGED FOREIGN PRISONERS AT TAN LAP REEDUCATION CAMP

9. TAN LAP CAMP IS ABOUT 30 KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF AN THUONG TRAIN STATION, THE ONE BEFORE YEN BAI (VK 8799) WHEN COMING FROM HANOI. IT CONTAINED AN ADDITIONAL ZONE, ZONE K-2, ABOUT TWO KILOMETERS AWAY FROM ZONE K-1. EIGHT KILOMETERS BEFORE ARRIVING AT K-1, THERE WERE THREE OTHER ZONES--K-3, K-4 AND K-5--THAT FORMED THANH HA REEDUCATION CAMP. DETAILS OF THESE ZONES WERE NOT KNOWN. PRISONERS AT TAN LAP PRODUCED RICE, VEGETABLES, LUMBER, AND BRICKS AND UNDERWENT HARSH TREATMENT SIMILAR TO THAT AT ANY OTHER CAMP.

10. COMMENT: CLAIMED

HE DID NOT KNOW HOW OR WHEN THE PRISONERS WERE TAKEN AWAY.)

*CYS sent to 915 VO VOPW Yvette 2-25-88*

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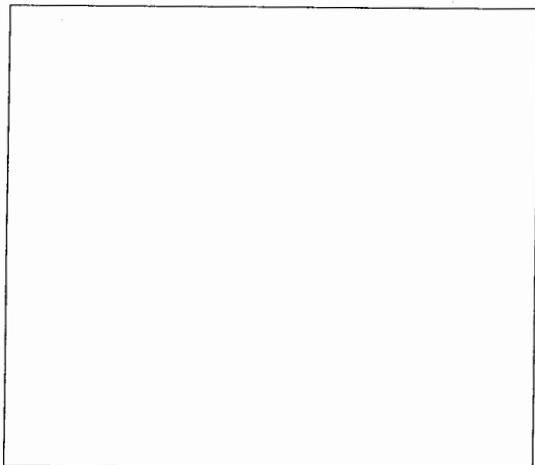
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15. [Redacted]  
16. DECL ORDR DRV [Redacted] BT

MCN=88055/02713 TOR=88055/07597 TAD=88055/15507 CDSN=MIA594

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