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ZNY CCCCC  
R 162304Z JUN 87  
FM JCS WASHINGTON DC  
INFO RUEADWD/OCSA WASHINGTON DC  
RUENAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC  
RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC  
RUEAMCC/CMC CC WASHINGTON DC  
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RUEABOA/HQ AFOSI BOLLING AFB DC  
RUHQHQA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
RHHMBRA/CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI  
RUEALGX/SAFE  
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FM CIA  
TO RUETIAA/DIRNSA  
RUEHC/DEPT OF STATE//FOR INR  
RUEKJCS/DIA  
RUEATRS/TREASURY DEPT  
RUEADWW/WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM  
RUEAT III/NPIC

RUEAHQA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
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RUHVAAA/CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI  
RUAJMAB/FOSIF/WESTPAC  
RUHGAAA/COMSEVENTHFLT

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EZ1:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

EZ2:

SECTION 1 OF 2

CITE

SERIAL

PASS:

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT CLASS ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DIST: 16 JUNE 1987

COUNTRY: VIETNAM

SUBJ: ABSENCE OF AMERICANS AT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PHU  
SON-4 REEDUCATION CAMP IN BAC THAI PROVINCE, NORTHERN  
VIETNAM

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DOI: 16 JULY 1978 - MARCH 1979  
 SOURCE: [REDACTED]

TEXT: 1. FROM 16 JULY 1978 TO MARCH 1979 THERE WERE NO AMERICANS AT THE PHU SON-4 REEDUCATION CAMP IN BAC THAI PROVINCE, NORTHERN VIETNAM. THIS CAMP WAS LOCATED ABOUT 12 KILOMETERS (KMS) EAST OF THAI NGUYEN CITY, BAC THAI, AND ABOUT 80 KMS NORTH OF HANOI. THE PHU SON-4 CAMP WAS BUILT PRIOR TO 1975 TO DETAIN NORTH VIETNAMESE CRIMINALS. THIS CAMP USED LETTER-BOX-NUMBER 60AT063/04 BAC THAI AS A MAILING ADDRESS.

2. THE PHU SON-4 CAMP WAS ADMINISTERED BY THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR (BNV). BNV LIEUTENANT COLONEL DANG ((HUU)) WAS CAMP COMMANDER. APPROXIMATELY 250 TO 300 BNV OFFICERS AND MEN WERE ASSIGNED TO THIS CAMP.

3. PHU SON-4 WAS COMPOSED OF SUBCAMPS A AND C. THERE WAS A "PHU LUONG" SUBCAMP FOR DETENTION OF WOMEN PRISONERS. SUBCAMP A, THE MAIN SUBCAMP AT PHU SON-4, WAS SOLIDLY BUILT WITH HEAVY DUTY CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS. WALLS AROUND SUBCAMP A WERE MADE OF BRICK AND BARBED WIRE FENCING. SUBCAMP A CONSISTED OF ZONES ONE AND TWO. ZONE ONE DETAINED APPROXIMATELY 800 PRISONERS, AMONG THEM WERE FORMER GOVERNMENT OF (SOUTH) VIETNAM (GVN) SENATORS, REPRESENTATIVES, SOUTHERN POLITICAL PARTY MEMBERS AND PRIESTS. ZONE ONE HAD EIGHT LONG HOUSES, ONE OF WHICH WAS USED FOR SOLITARY CONFINEMENT CASES. ZONE TWO IMPRISONED FORMER ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF (SOUTH) VIETNAM (ARVN) AND POLICE OFFICERS UP TO THE RANK OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL. THERE WERE ABOUT 700 TO 800 OFFICERS AT ZONE TWO. [REDACTED] COMMENT: ZONES ONE AND TWO WERE COLOCATED WITHIN THE SAME FENCED-IN COMPOUND. EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS NO PHYSICAL BARRIER BETWEEN ZONES ONE AND TWO, PRISONERS FROM ONE ZONE NEVER CONTACTED INMATES AT THE OTHER BECAUSE OF STRICT COMPARTMENTATION.)

4. SUBCAMP C WAS ABOUT TWO KMS NORTHWEST OF SUBCAMP A. SUBCAMP C, BUILT INITIALLY AS A TEMPORARY DETENTION FACILITY, WAS CONSTRUCTED OF BAMBOO WITH THATCHED ROOFS AND MUD WALLS. IN EARLY 1979 INMATES BEGAN TO REBUILD SUBCAMP C BUILDINGS WITH BRICK, TILE AND BARBED WIRE FENCING. SUBCAMP C CONSISTED OF FIVE LONG HOUSES. 450 TO 500 PRISONERS WERE DETAINED AT SUBCAMP C. [REDACTED] COMMENT: SUBCAMP C DETAINED SERIOUSLY ILL AND WEAK INMATES SENT THERE FROM SUBCAMP A. PRISONERS AT THIS SUBCAMP WERE NOT ALLOWED TO HAVE VISITORS NOR WERE THEY EXPOSED TO FOREIGN DELEGATIONS DURING INSPECTION TRIPS BECAUSE OF THE PRISONERS' POOR HEALTH. LABOR DETAILS AT SUBCAMP C WERE MORE ARDUOUS THAN AT SUBCAMP A. NONETHELESS, PRISONERS AT SUBCAMP C SEEMED TO HAVE HIGHER MORALE THAN THOSE AT SUBCAMP A.)

5. THE PRISONERS POPULATION AT PHU SON-4 SEEMED TO FLUCTUATE BETWEEN 2000 AND 2300 INMATES, INCLUDING CIVILIANS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL. THERE WERE 1200 TO 1500 ARVN AND POLICE PRISONERS, AND AN ESTIMATED 800 GVN CIVIL SERVANTS AND POLITICIANS. IN MARCH 1979 THE BNV MOVED ALL ITS POLITICAL PRISONERS, MILITARY AND CIVILIAN, TO REEDUCATION CAMPS IN HA NAM PROVINCE AND NGHE TINH DUE TO CHINESE

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## MILITARY PRESSURE

6. AMONG THE MORE PROMINENT PRISONERS AT PHU SON-4 WERE REPRESENTATIVE DUONG VAN ((THUY)), A FORMER ARVN LIEUTENANT COLONEL AND STAFF MEMBER AT DA LAT MILITARY ACADEMY; BUI CONG ((HUE)), A DIRECTOR OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PERSONNEL STAFF; ARVN COLONEL SON ((THUONG)), A DIRECTORATE CHIEF IN 4TH CORPS; AND FATHER KHONG NANG ((BAO)) OF THE NHA TRANG DIOCESE.

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