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SUBJECT: Sightings of About 30 Caucasian Prisoners in a Jail  
in Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Text: 1. In the early summer of 1978 and again in August 1982  
the source, [redacted]

[redacted] saw about 30 Caucasian prisoners on the grounds of a two-  
building jail behind the editorial office of "Van Nghe Quan Doi"  
(Army Arts And Letters), a monthly journal published by the  
People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN). The editorial office was  
located at 17 B Ly Nam De Street, Hanoi. The prisoners were  
moving about in a courtyard and bathing, using water drawn from a  
cistern with dippers. [redacted] noted that the prisoners were  
trim and appeared healthy. None limped, used crutches or were  
missing limbs. All the Caucasian prisoners seemed to be over 1.7  
meters in height. Some had moustaches and beards. Some were  
blonde and others were dark-haired. All the prisoners wore only  
underpants. [redacted] Comment: [redacted] presumed that the  
prisoners were Americans. At least once [redacted] heard  
snatches of their conversations. Though [redacted] did not speak  
English, he had studied enough Russian to know that they were not  
speaking Russian, and thought that they might have been speaking  
English.)

2. The prisoners were controlled by an armed security  
guard. The jail, surrounded by a barbed wire fence, was hidden  
behind the two-story quarters for ranking PAVN officers (Khu Nha  
Tap The Can Bo Cao Cap Quan Doi), located at 17 C Ly Nam De  
Street, Hanoi. The entire area was restricted. Signs  
prohibiting the taking of photographs were posted. All visitors  
to the area required an escort. The prisoners were held behind a  
barbed wire-topped brick wall that was about the height of a one-story

[redacted]  
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[redacted]

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building. The entire area where the prisoners were contained was about the size of a basketball court. A basketball goal was located at one end of the courtyard. The cistern was round and about 15 feet in diameter. A guard was posted on top of a platform that stood above the courtyard. Guardposts and floodlights were located in the four corners of the compound. Comment: [redacted] speculated that the low buildings adjacent to the compound, which were topped by barbed wire and had corrugated iron roofs, were housing for the prisoners.)

3. [redacted] saw the prisoners from the first floor (second story) residences of [redacted]

[redacted] Their residences were in the officers' quarters, approximately 30 feet away from the walled area restricting the prisoners. At the time of the August 1982 sighting, [redacted]

[redacted] told [redacted] that the Caucasian prisoners were U.S. pilots and air crew members. Comment: [redacted] and [redacted] did not volunteer the reason why the prisoners remained under SRV control. People living in the officers' residences within this restricted area knew about the prisoners and school-aged children had talked about them in school. The incarceration of the Caucasian prisoners was not common knowledge throughout the city. However, individuals who learned of the prisoners by word-of-mouth, including [redacted] father and close friends of the residents of the officers' quarters, presumed that the prisoners were Americans and speculated that they were being held as hostages in case of some future U.S. action against the SRV.)

4. The jail was independent from and smaller than the five or six building prison located on Le Van Linh Street, near a railroad, where many U.S. Prisoners of War (POW's) were detained during the war. Many U.S. POW's had been transferred from the L [redacted]

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[redacted]

Van Linh Jail to the Hoa Lo Prison (the "Hanoi Hilton") and eventually released after the war. [redacted] Comment: In September 1982 the National League of Families of American Prisoners Missing in Southeast Asia visited the site at which [redacted] saw the about 30 Caucasian prisoners. At the time of their visit some construction was taking place in the compound, and there was evidence that the area had been in use as a film storage facility by a PAVN department responsible for making motion pictures. The National League of Families representatives saw no prisoners at that time.)

5. [redacted] Comment: From the debriefing of [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] the two men who identified the Caucasian prisoners as U.S. POWs. [redacted] visited the house from which he saw the prisoners often, though he seldom went to the second floor. Normally even the friends of residents of the officers' quarters required escorts, though some of [redacted] friends had been able to sneak in to the area.)

[redacted]

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