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Prison Camp No. 6, Nghe Tinh Province, SRV (FIR-311/00511-81)

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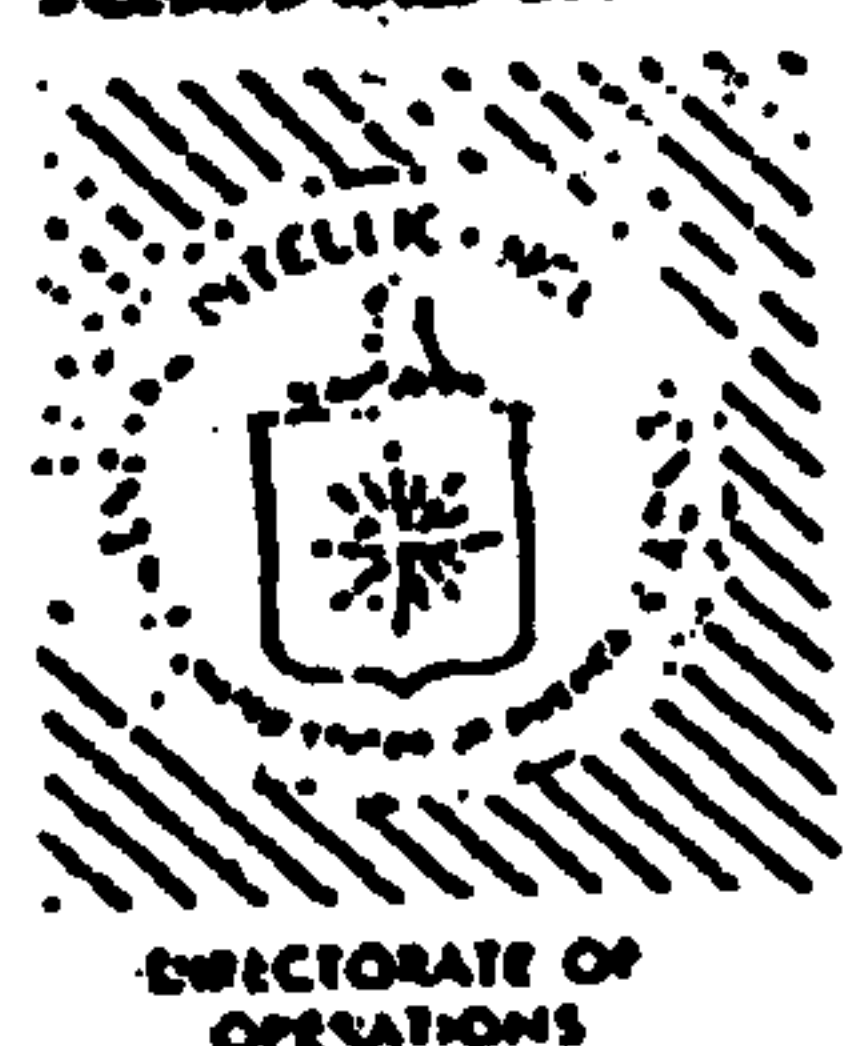
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## Intelligence Information Report

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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

DATE DISTR. June 1981

REPORT CLASS ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - [REDACTED]

COUNTRY Vietnam

SUBJECT Prison Camp No. 6, Nghe Tinh Province, Socialist Republic  
of Vietnam (DOI: January 1978 - January 1981)

SOURCE

1. Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV) Prison Camp No. 6 is a Ministry of Interior prison located approximately 150 kilometers northwest of Vinh township in Nghe Tinh province, near the Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR) border. It was formerly used for the detention of civilians convicted of criminal offenses. In January 1978, however, the civilian inmates were transferred to temporary quarters outside the camp itself and some 1,230 former South Vietnamese armed forces officers were moved in. The officers, who ranged in rank up to Lieutenant Colonel, included political warfare, intelligence and security specialists as well as military police personnel and had been categorized as dangerous elements by virtue of their former work. [REDACTED] Comment: By January 1981, the number of prison camp inmates had dropped to just over 200. At first the Communists attempted to change the political views of the former officers by emphasizing political study and discussion groups. However, the political officers were largely opposed to the task and the emphasis gradually shifted to manual labor to reduce the inmates to a state of mind and body where they would no longer constitute a danger to the government. This is borne out by the fact that the majority of release papers state as the reason for release

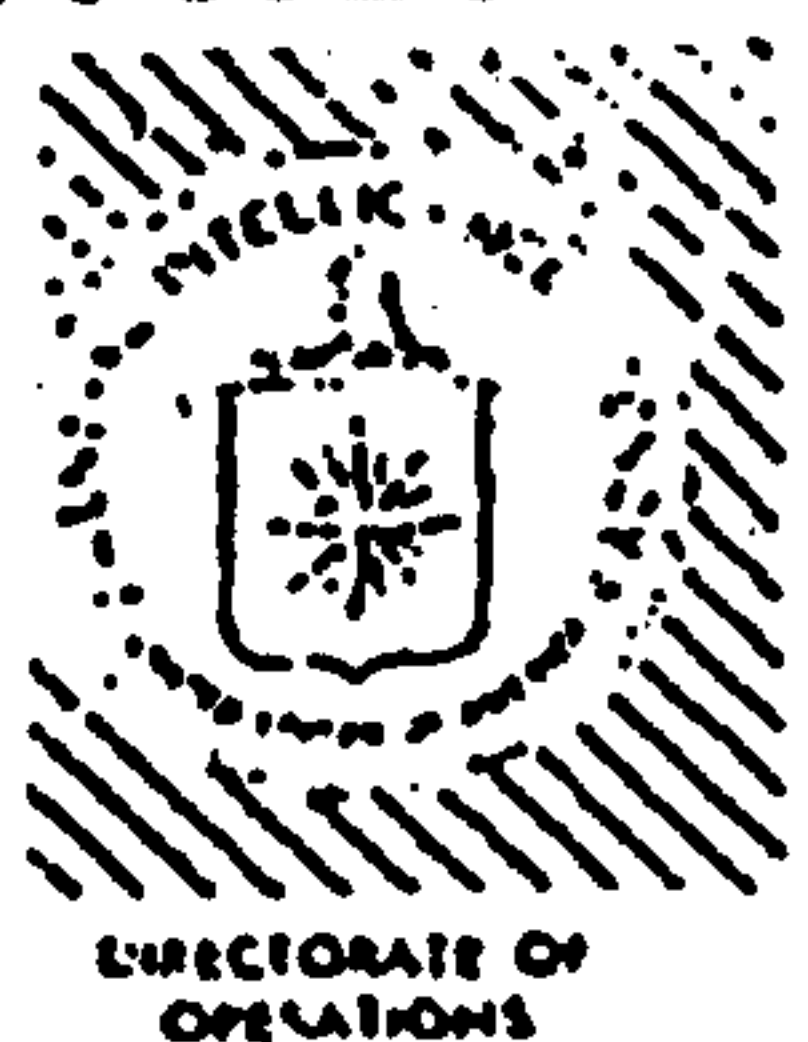
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Vietnam

SUBJECT

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"has attained a satisfactory standard of re-education" whereas, in fact, most of the inmates' anti-communist feelings had if anything intensified during their internment. In reality, the principal reasons for release were the lack of adequate food supplies, and the weakened state of mind and/or body through malnutrition and overwork, which meant that the inmate was no longer productive, and became a drain on the already dwindling food supplies.)

2. The camp consists of a rectangular compound 100 x 200 meters, surrounded by a stone wall approximately five to six meters high, with one access gate. It contains ten two-story dormitory-style accommodation buildings, a kitchen, a small clinic and a punishment block, with a small parade ground and the camp administration buildings in the center of the compound. Each building is separated from the others by a surrounding wall three to four meters high with a single small entrance gate. All buildings and walls are built of stone. The camp is bound on three sides by a road and on the fourth side by the temporary camp for civilian prisoners.

3. The ground floor of the accommodation buildings consists of two 20-centimeter (cm) high concrete slabs (with a cleared area between) running the full length of the building on which the inmates sleep. Inmates on the first floor sleep on the floor which is constructed of timber. A small toilet/washing area is located at one end of the building on the ground floor. Inmates are locked in the building during hours of darkness.

4. The Public Security Service (PSS) is responsible for the administration and control of the camp. Inmates are permitted to write one letter a year to their family and are allowed to receive one letter. Visitors are permitted under the camp regulations, but visits are infrequent because of the remote locality of the camp and difficulty in reaching it. Doctors or medical assistants are not provided by the PSS and inmates must provide their own. The clinic is small and the stocks of drugs and medicines are so limited that only very minor ailments and injuries can be treated. ( ) Comment: The manpower problem has become so critical in Northern Vietnam the 16 and 17-year-old youths are being conscripted into the PSS as guards for the re-education camps.)

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5. The staple diet in the camp is manioc roots. There are three meals daily: The morning meal prior to commencing work when inmates receive one piece of manioc root about seven to ten cm long, the mid-day meal (three pieces) and the evening meal (three pieces). Salt is also issued to the inmates. Once or twice a month small amounts of rice are also handed out. The only other food available to the inmates is that which they can scrounge during work details. (Source Comment: Salt rations are now issued in liquid solution, to prevent hoarding of dry salt. This precaution followed an unsuccessful escape attempt when five inmates tried to escape into the LPDR and, when recaptured on the LPDR/SRV border, were found to be carrying varying amounts of dry salt, presumably as a food supplement. Some former officers have been returned to Southern SRV but to date they have not been released. It is common knowledge that these officers are being held in camps in Thuan Hai Province. Shortage of food in Northern SRV is believed to be the reason for their transfer.

6. Daily routine begins about 0600 hours immediately following the morning meal. The inmates are released from their compounds in group lots and marched off under PSS guard to their work detail. Inmates work eight hours a day in two shifts, 0600-1030 hours and 1400-1730 hours. Work details are changed regularly and include cultivation of the land surrounding the camp, tending fish ponds in the vicinity of the camp, maintenance work on the camp buildings and walls and kitchen duties.

7. [REDACTED]

8. [REDACTED]

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