



# Intelligence Information Report

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REPORT

DATE DISTR. - 16 JANUARY 1986

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COUNTRY: VIETNAM

SUBJ: THE LO GACH AND BAU NON REEDUCATION CAMPS IN DONG NAI PROVINCE, VIETNAM

DOI: FEBRUARY 1977 TO FEBRUARY 1980

SOURCE:

SUMMARY: THE LO GACH REEDUCATION CAMP WAS ESTABLISHED IN FEBRUARY 1977, IN BA TO VILLAGE, XUYEN MOC VILLAGE, DONG NAI PROVINCE, SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (SRV). IN 1977 AND 1978, THERE WERE 300 TO 400 PRISONERS AT THE CAMP. THERE WERE RICE PRODUCTION, BRICK PRODUCTION AND LAND CLEARING UNITS AT LO GACH CAMP. THE REPORT NOTES THE DUTIES OF GUARD FORCES AT THE CAMP AND LISTS THE NAMES OF THE KEY CADRES. THE LO GACH CAMP WAS CLOSED DOWN IN SEPTEMBER 1978. THE BAU NON REEDUCATION CAMP WAS LOCATED ABOUT EIGHT KILOMETERS WEST OF THE BA TO INTERSECTION IN BA TO VILLAGE. THERE WERE ABOUT 400 PRISONERS IN THIS CAMP THROUGH FEBRUARY 1980. THE BAU NON CAMP INMATES HANDLED AGRICULTURAL TASKS NEAR THE CAMP. THE BAU NON REEDUCATION CAMP WAS STILL OPERATING IN FEBRUARY 1980. THERE WERE NO FOREIGN OR AMERICAN PRISONERS AT THESE CAMPS.

TEXT: 1. THE LO GACH (BRICK KILN) REEDUCATION CAMP WAS ESTABLISHED IN FEBRUARY 1977, IN BA TO VILLAGE, XUYEN MOC DISTRICT, DONG NAI PROVINCE, SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (SRV). THE CAMP WAS LOCATED ALONG A DIRT ROAD ABOUT FOUR KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF THE BA TO INTERSECTION OF THE BA RIA-XUYEN MOC AND HAM TAN-LONG KHANH ROADS. THE LO GACH CAMP WAS A SUB-CAMP OF THE BAU LAM REEDUCATION CAMP AT THE BA TO INTERSECTION IN XUYEN MOC DISTRICT.

2. BETWEEN FEBRUARY 1977 AND SEPTEMBER 1978 THE NUMBER OF INMATES AT LO GACH FLUCTUATED BETWEEN 300 AND 400 PERSONS. THERE WERE NO AMERICAN OR FOREIGN PRISONERS AT THE CAMP, NOR WERE ANY FOREIGN ADVISORS POSTED THERE.

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3. THE PRISONERS WERE HOUSED IN TWO LONG HOUSES, EACH ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE UP TO 200 INMATES. FOR LABOR DETAIL AND SECURITY PURPOSES, THE PRISONERS WERE DIVIDED INTO THREE MAIN GROUPS:

A. A "C RUONG" ELEMENT, MEANING RICE PRODUCTION UNIT, CONSISTING MAINLY OF FORMER GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM (GVN) JUNIOR-GRADE POLICE PERSONNEL, AND HAMLET AND VILLAGE CHIEFS.

B. A "C PHAT QUANG", LAND CLEARING UNIT, CHARGED WITH PREPARING WASTELAND FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. THIS UNIT ALSO GREW PEPPERMINT AND CORN ON CLEARED LAND. IT WAS MADE UP OF FORMER GVN JUNIOR GRADE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL, AND INCLUDED OTHERS WHO FAILED TO REPORT FOR REEDUCATION IN APRIL 1975.

C. THE "C LO GACH" ELEMENT, MEANING BRICK KILN UNIT, WAS TASKED WITH BUILDING A BRICK KILN FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF BRICKS, WHICH WERE SENT TO THE BAU LAM CAMP FOR DISTRIBUTION AND USE THROUGHOUT DONG NAI PROVINCE. THIS UNIT INCLUDED CRIMINALS AND PEOPLE WHO WERE CAPTURED ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE FROM VIETNAM.

4. THERE WERE NO SENTRIES POSTED AT THE MAIN GATE OF THE LO GACH CAMP, BUT THERE WERE SEVERAL ARMED GUARDS STATIONED IN FRONT OF THE STAFF OFFICES WITHIN THE COMPOUND. ARMED PUBLIC SECURITY GUARDS ESCORTED LABOR UNITS ON DETAILS NEAR THE CAMP. WHENEVER THE LABOR UNITS WERE ON DUTY, A SMALL GROUP OF PUBLIC SECURITY PERSONNEL WENT HUNTING IN THE JUNGLE AREAS ADJACENT TO THE WORKSITES. (COMMENT: THE HUNTERS PROBABLY FUNCTIONED AS A PERIMETER GUARD FORCE.)

5. THE COMMANDER OF THE LO GACH REEDUCATION CAMP WAS PUBLIC SECURITY SENIOR LIEUTENANT HAI ((LOI)), A SOUTH VIETNAMESE REGRUPEE. LOI WAS BLIND IN ONE EYE. LOI HAD A REPUTATION FOR VICIOUSNESS: HE OFTEN BEAT THE PRISONERS. THE DEPUTY CAMP CHIEF WAS BAY ((THANH)), A PUBLIC SECURITY ASPIRANT FROM THE SOUTH. THANH WAS ALSO IN CHARGE OF THE CAMP LABOR DETAILS. MISS BAY ((FNU)), A PUBLIC SECURITY 2ND LIEUTENANT, WAS THE CAMP NURSE. TU ((THAO)), A PUBLIC SECURITY CORPORAL FROM THE SOUTH, WAS IN CHARGE OF CAMP DISCIPLINE. THAO WAS KNOWN TO BE "FIERCE." THERE WERE SIX OTHER PERSONNEL, ALL PUBLIC SECURITY GUARDS, AT THE BAU LAM REEDUCATION CAMP. IN SEPTEMBER 1978, THE LO GACH CAMP WAS CLOSED DOWN AND ITS BRICK KILN OPERATIONS WERE MOVED TO THE BAU LAM CAMP.

6. THE BAU NON REEDUCATION CAMP WAS LOCATED ABOUT EIGHT KILOMETERS WEST OF THE BA TO INTERSECTION IN BA TO VILLAGE, XUYEN MOC DISTRICT, DONG NAI PROVINCE. BAU NON WAS A SUB-CAMP OF THE BAU LAM REEDUCATION CAMP IN THE SAME AREA. THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS REMAINED FAIRLY CONSTANT AT ABOUT 400 INMATES IN THIS CAMP FROM MAY 1979 TO FEBRUARY 1980. THERE WAS NEVER AMERICAN OR FOREIGN PRISONERS IN THE BAU NON CAMP.

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7. THE INMATES AT THE BAU NON CAMP WERE ORGANIZED INTO THREE MAIN GROUPS: THE MOBILE ONE UNIT (CO DONG-1) CONSISTED OF FORMER GVN HAMLET AND VILLAGE CHIEFS, AND JUNIOR GRADE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL WHO DID NOT REPORT FOR REEDUCATION IN APRIL 1975, JUNIOR GRADE POLICE OFFICERS, PEOPLE WHO ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE FROM VIETNAM, AND THIEVES AND GANGSTERS. MOBILE UNIT TWO (CO DONG-2) WAS MADE UP COMPLETELY OF THIEVES. THE RICE PRODUCTION SECTION (BAN RUONG) INCLUDED FORMER JUNIOR-GRADE GVN POLICEMEN AND WOULD-BE ESCAPEES FROM VIETNAM. OF THE 400 PRISONERS AT BAU NON CAMP, TEN OF THEM WERE MILITARY OR CIVILIAN PERSONNEL WHO DID NOT REPORT FOR REEDUCATION. ABOUT 100 INMATES WERE FORMER POLICEMEN, AND ALMOST 50 OTHERS WERE EX-GVN HAMLET AND VILLAGE CHIEFS. THE REMAINING CAMP INMATES HAD BEEN ARRESTED FOR TRYING TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY, AND THERE WERE SOME CRIMINALS.

8. IN EARLY 1979 A FORMER STUDENT OFFICER NAMED LUONG SON ((HOA)), BORN CIRCA 1960, DIED FROM APPARENTLY NATURAL CAUSES. HOA'S WAS THE ONLY KNOWN DEATH AT THE BAU LAM, LO GACH OR BAU NON REEDUCATION CAMPS FROM 1975 TO FEBRUARY 1980.

9. BAU NON CAMP PRISONERS WORKED PRIMARILY AT AGRICULTURAL TASKS. THEY LABORED IN A LARGE RICE PADDY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DIRT ROAD IN FRONT OF THE CAMP. THE INMATES ALSO GREW CORN IN FIELDS NEAR THE CAMP AND WERE CLEARING A 10,000 SQUARE METER FIELD TO THE REAR OF THE CAMP FOR OTHER CROPS. THERE WAS A LARGE PAPAYA PLANTATION TO THE LEFT OF THE CAMP RICE FIELDS.

10. BA ((OAU)), A PUBLIC SECURITY SENIOR LIEUTENANT FROM SOUTH VIETNAM, WAS THE CAMP COMMANDER. TAM ((KIET)), A SOUTH VIETNAMESE PUBLIC SECURITY SERGEANT, WAS DEPUTY COMMANDER. KIET'S LEFT ARM WAS PARALYZED. IN 1979, TAM ((DUC)), DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE BAU LAM CAMP TRANSFERRED TO REPLACE KIET AS DEPUTY CAMP COMMANDER. THERE WERE FIVE OTHER PUBLIC SECURITY PERSONNEL AT THE CAMP. THE BAU NON REEDUCATION CAMP WAS STILL OPERATING AS OF FEBRUARY 1980.

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