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TDT: 011611Z SEP 87

TO: IMMEDIATE DIRNSA, DEPT OF STATE, DIA, WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM,

PASS:

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

DIST: 01 SEPTEMBER 1987

EXCLUSIVE DISSEMINATION TO ADDRESSEES LISTED AT END OF REPORT

COUNTRY: VIETNAM

SUBJ: POW/MIA: DEBRIEFING ON LIVE SIGHTINGS OF AMERICAN PRISONERS IN NORTH VIETNAM IN 1978

DOI: JULY 1978 - JANUARY 1980

TEXT: 1. IN JULY 1978, [REDACTED] AT THE K-1 SUB-CAMP OF THE VINH PHU REEDUCATION CAMP,

THERE WERE ABOUT 30 FORMER SOUTH VIETNAMESE OFFICERS IN THE DETAIL. THAT NIGHT, ON THE WAY BACK TO THE K-1 SUB-CAMP, [REDACTED] SAW UPON TWO MOLOTOVA (SIC) TRUCKS STOPPED ALONG THE HOA LO ROAD TO SON LA. ONE OF THE VEHICLES SEEMED TO HAVE ENGINE TROUBLE. AS HE CAME WITHIN ONE TO TWO METERS OF THE TRUCKS, HE SAW A NUMBER OF WESTERNERS INSIDE. THERE WERE ABOUT 20 PERSONS IN EACH VEHICLE THOUGH IT WAS NOT CLEAR HOW MANY WERE GUARDS AND HOW MANY WERE PRISONERS. ASKED IN ENGLISH "WHAT IS YOUR NATIONALITY?" SOMEONE INSIDE RESPONDED "U.S.A." THE AMERICAN PRISONERS WORE OLD, TATTERED CLOTHING, NOT UNIFORMS. THEY WERE NOT BLINDFOLDED. TWO AMERICANS STOOD ALONG THE SIDE OF THE TRUCKS URINATING. ARMED GUARDS YELLED "WHAT IS GOING ON THERE?" AND MOVED ON. [REDACTED] ADMITTEDLY NEVER STOPPED BY THE VEHICLES AS IT WAS FORBIDDEN TO DO SO. [REDACTED] CLAIMS THAT ALL 30 VIETNAMESE PRISONERS PASSED BY THE TRUCKS. ALTHOUGH NOT ALL THE WESTERN PRISONERS WERE CLEARLY VISIBLE, THE PRISONERS [REDACTED] SAW LOOKED SICKLY, AND THEIR CHEEKS WERE DRAUN. THE TRUCKS WERE COVERED ON THE TOP ONLY, AND THE SIDES WERE OPEN. [REDACTED] LEFT THE AREA AND

GOING MESSAGE

OUTGOING MESSAGE

OUTGOING MESSAGE

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RETURNED TO THE K-1 SUB-CAMP. HE NEVER HEARD ABOUT THE AMERICANS AGAIN.

2. IN DECEMBER 1978, [] CAME ACROSS AN AMERICAN WITHIN THE K-1 SUB-CAMP COMPOUND. WHO WAS SICK WITH DYSENTERY, WAS HALF-DRAWN BY GUARDS AND THROWN INTO A ROOM. THE DOOR WAS IMMEDIATELY LOCKED. THE ROOMS WERE USED AS AN AREA AWAY FROM THE DISPENSARY FOR SICK OR INJURED PATIENTS TO REST. THERE WERE APPARENTLY 12 SUCH ROOMS IN A TWO-STORY STRUCTURE. AND THE AMERICAN WERE ON THE FIRST FLOOR. SAW THE AMERICAN LYING DOWN INSIDE THIS ROOM. THE AMERICAN WAS ALONE. HE WAS CAUCASIAN, BETWEEN 170 CM 180 CENTIMETERS TALL AND WEIGHED ABOUT 70 KILOGRAMS. HE HAD BROWN HAIR AND A THICK BEARD. HE HAD A WOUND ON HIS RIGHT ANKLE THAT WAS OZZING BLOOD AND PUSS. THE AMERICAN WORE SOME SORT OF "ITARY TROUSERS AND A DIRTY, TATTERED RED AND WHITE STRIPED SHIRT. ASKED THE AMERICAN IN ENGLISH "WHAT IS YOUR NAME?" THE AMERICAN REPLIED [] THEN SAID "YOU WILL STAY HERE A LONG TIME." WHEN [] SAW [] WOUND, TOOK SIX PENCILLIN TABLETS WHICH WERE HIDDEN IN THE CUFF OF HIS TROUSERS AND OFFERED THEM TO [] [] TOOK ONLY FOUR. [] ADDED THAT "THERE WERE 18 OF US. " HAVE GONE OUT ALREADY." A GUARD RATTLED THE DOOR OF THE ROOM AND WAS MOVED TO AN ADJACENT ROOM ON THE SAME FLOOR. A VEHICLE CAME TO THE FRONT OF THIS REST AREA THE SAME EVENING AND [] WAS MOVED AWAY.

3. IN JANUARY 1980, [] AND FOUR OTHER PRISONERS FROM THE VINH PHU WERE SENT ON A WORK DETAIL TO THE YEN BAI REEDUCATION CAMP. THERE HE CAME ACROSS AN AMERICAN NAMED "NAM". NAM STATED THAT IT WAS FORBIDDEN FOR HIM TO USE HIS AMERICAN NAME. THE VIETNAMESE PRISONERS SUSPECTED THAT NAM HAD REPORTED TO PRISON OFFICIALS WHEN PRISONERS SPOKE ENGLISH TO HIM. A NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE PRISONERS WERE BEATEN FOR THIS INFRACTION. NAM WORKED AS AN ELECTRICIAN WITH THE 778TH UNIT. IT WAS RUMORED AMONG THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PRISONERS THAT NAM HAD A NORTH VIETNAMESE WIFE FROM YEN BAI. THIS INFORMATION FITS THE PREVIOUS SIGHTINGS OF []

4. IN THE SON LA NGHIA LO AREA, THERE WERE A NUMBER OF GRAVES WITH WOODEN CROSS MARKERS. OF THESE GRAVES, AT LEAST TEN HAD AMERICAN NAMES. THREE FILIPINO, AND TWO WERE THAI.

WASHINGTON DISSEM:

TO WHSITRM: EXCLUSIVE FOR THE DIRECTOR,
WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM
TO STATE: EXCLUSIVE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY, INR
TO DIA: EXCLUSIVE FOR THE DIRECTOR, DIA
TO JCS/MC: EXCLUSIVE FOR THE ARMY ACST, NAVY ONI,
AIR FORCE ACST (AF/IN)
TO NSA: EXCLUSIVE FOR THE DIRECTOR, NSA

OUTGOING MESSAGE
OUTGOING MESSAGE
OUTGOING MESSAGE

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DOI: JULY 1978 - JANUARY 1980

TEXT: 1. IN JULY 1978 [REDACTED] AT THE K-1 SUB-CAMP OF THE VINH PHU REEDUCATION CAMP, [REDACTED] WAS ASSIGNED TO AN AFTERNOON WORK DETAIL TO PICK UP FRUIT. THERE WERE ABOUT 30 FORMER SOUTH VIETNAMESE OFFICERS IN THE DETAIL. THAT NIGHT, ON THE WAY BACK TO THE K-1 SUB-CAMP, [REDACTED] SAW UPON TWO MOLOTOVA (SIC) TRUCKS STOPPED ALONG THE NGHIA LO ROAD TO SON LA. ONE OF THE VEHICLES SEEMED TO HAVE ENGINE TROUBLE. AS HE CAME WITHIN ONE TO TWO METERS OF THE TRUCKS, HE SAW A NUMBER OF WESTERNERS INSIDE. THERE WERE ABOUT 20 PERSONS IN EACH VEHICLE THOUGH IT WAS NOT CLEAR HOW MANY WERE GUARDS AND HOW MANY WERE PRISONERS. ASKED IN ENGLISH "WHAT IS YOUR NATIONALITY?" SOMEONE INSIDE RESPONDED "U.S.A." THE AMERICAN PRISONERS WERE OLD, TATTERED CLOTHING, NOT UNIFORMS. THEY WERE NOT BLINDFOLDED. TWO AMERICANS STOOD ALONG THE SIDE OF THE TRUCKS URINATING. ARMED GUARDS YELLED "WHAT IS GOING ON THERE?" AND [REDACTED] MOVED ON. [REDACTED] ADMITTEDLY NEVER STOPPED BY THE VEHICLES AS IT WAS FORBIDDEN TO DO SO. [REDACTED] CLAIMS THAT ALL 30 VIETNAMESE PRISONERS PASSED BY THE TRUCKS. ALTHOUGH NOT ALL THE WESTERN PRISONERS WERE CLEARLY VISIBLE, THE PRISONERS [REDACTED] SAW LOOKED SICKLY, AND THEIR CHEEKS WERE DRAWN. THE TRUCKS WERE COVERED ON THE TOP ONLY, AND THE SIDES WERE OPEN. [REDACTED] LEFT THE AREA AND

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