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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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REPORT CLASS ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DIST: 21 APRIL 1987

COUNTRY: VIETNAM

SUBJ: ABSENCE OF AMERICANS AND OTHER FOREIGNERS AT THE T-2  
AND T-7 REEDUCATION CAMPS IN HOANG LIEN SON PROVINCE,  
NORTHERN VIETNAM

DOI: 19 FEBRUARY 1975 - APRIL 1978

SOURCE:

TEXT: 1. FROM 19 FEBRUARY 1975 TO APRIL 1978 THERE WERE NO AMERICANS AT THE T-2 AND T-7 REEDUCATION CAMPS IN HOANG LIEN SON PROVINCE, NORTHERN VIETNAM. THE T-7 CAMP WAS LOCATED ABOUT 12 KILOMETERS (KMS) SOUTHEAST OF YEN BAI CITY IN VIET CUONG VILLAGE, HOANG LIEN SON. T-7 WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1972 TO HOLD PRISONERS CAPTURED ON BATTLEFIELDS IN LOWER LAOS, QUANG TRI AND KHE SANH. AFTER JUNE 1976 T-7 WAS ENLARGED TO ABSORB ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (ARVN) PRISONERS BEING SENT UP FROM THE SOUTH.

2. T-7 WAS SUBORDINATE TO INTER-CAMP-1 OF PEOPLE'S ARMY OF VIETNAM (PAVN) GROUP 776 IN YEN BAI CITY, HOANG LIEN SON. PAVN SENIOR CAPTAIN (FMU) ((THUC)) WAS T-7 COMMANDER; CAPTAIN ((KHAMH)) WAS DEPUTY CAMP COMMANDER AND CONCURRENTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR POLITICAL MATTERS. THERE WERE THREE THOUGHT REFORM OFFICERS; ONE OF THEM WAS A PAVN 2ND LIEUTENANT (LT) (FMU) ((THUY)). THERE WAS A STAFF OF ABOUT 20 PAVN OFFICERS AND MEN.

3. AS OF FEBRUARY 1975 THERE WERE ABOUT 105 ARVN PRISONERS AT T-7. AMONG THE MORE PROMINENT OFFICERS WERE ARVN COLONEL (FMU) ((THO)), COMMANDER OF THE 3RD ARVN AIRBORNE BRIGADE; ARVN LT COLONEL (FMU) ((PHAP)), THE FORMER DEPUTY COMMANDER OF PHUOC LONG SECTOR; MAJOR (FMU) ((LIAN)), CHIEF OF BO DUC SUBSECTOR; MAJOR (FMU) ((KHAT)), CHIEF OF DON LUAN SUBSECTOR; MAJOR (FMU) ((PHUONG)).

ASSIGNED TO PHUOC LONG SECTOR; CIVILIAN (FMU) ((PHUOC)), DEPUTY PHUOC LONG PROVINCE CHIEF, RESPONSIBLE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS; FATHER (FMU) ((QUY)), A CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN; ARVN CAPTAIN TRAN DINH ((THIEN)), DEPUTY COMMANDER OF 1ST BATTALION (BN), 7TH REGIMENT (REGT), 5TH ARVN INFANTRY DIVISION; CAPTAIN (FMU) ((QUY)), A COMPANY COMMANDER WITH THE 1ST BN, 7TH REGT; CAPTAIN (FMU) ((NO)), ASSIGNED TO PHUOC LONG

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SECTOR MILITARY SECURITY SERVICE. THERE WERE ALSO ARVN OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN FROM BINH LONG AND TAY NINH SECTOR REGIONAL FORCES UNITS. T-7 WAS DIVIDED INTO ZONES A THROUGH E. ZONES A AND C HELD 1ST LTS; ZONE B HELD 2ND LTS; ZONE D CAPTAINS; AND, ZONE E HELD FIELD GRADE OFFICERS. IN JUNE 1976 A GROUP OF ABOUT 200 OTHER ARVN OFFICERS WHO HAD BEEN CAPTURED DURING BATTLE IN LOWER LAOS, KHE SANH AND QUANG TRI BETWEEN 1972 AND 1975 WERE TRANSFERRED TO T-7. THERE WAS ALSO ONE SOLDIER, A PRIVATE WHO INFILTRATED TO THE NORTH AND WAS CAPTURED DURING THE DIEM REGIME, STILL AT T-7. COMMENT: SOURCE DID NOT OBSERVE ANY FOREIGN PRISONERS, INCLUDING THAI, LAOTIANS, KOREANS OR CAMBODIANS AT T-7 OR T-2. DURING MAY AND JUNE 1976 SOURCE OBSERVED TWO GROUPS OF ARVN NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS (NCO'S) AND ENLISTED MEN WALKING FROM NGHIA LO TO YEN BAI TO CATCH A TRAIN SOUTH.)

4. IN JUNE 1976 GROUP 776 DISBANDED THE T-2 REEDUCATION CAMP LOCATED ABOUT 50 KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF YEN BAI CITY IN HOANG LIEN SON. THIS CAMP, WHICH HELD ONLY NCO'S AND ENLISTED MEN, WAS ALSO ESTABLISHED IN 1972 TO HOLD ARVN PRISONERS CAPTURED IN CENTRAL VIETNAM AND LOWER LAOS. IN JUNE 1976, T-7 DISPATCHED PAVN 2ND LT THUY, THE THOUGHT REFORM OFFICER, FIVE PAVN GUARDS AND 30 ARVN PRISONERS TO T-2 TO DISMANTLE THAT CAMP. FROM JUNE TO DECEMBER 1976, T-2 RELEASED APPROXIMATELY 2,000 ARVN NCO'S AND ENLISTED MEN IN GROUPS OF 200 TO 300 PRISONERS PER MONTH. THE PRISONERS, CAPTURED BETWEEN 1972 AND 1975 IN CENTRAL VIETNAM AND LAOS, WERE MARCHED TO YEN BAI AND THEN SENT SOUTH BY TRAIN, WHERE THEY WERE REUNITED WITH THEIR FAMILIES. IN THE MEANTIME, THE ARVN PRISONERS DISMANTLED AND TRANSPORTED THE BUILDING MATERIALS FROM T-2 TO T-7. IT TOOK THE TEAM UNTIL DECEMBER 1976 TO TEAR DOWN AND MOVE T-2. THE GUARDS AND PRISONERS RETURNED TO T-7.

5. SOMETIME BETWEEN JUNE 1976 AND EARLY 1977 PAVN GROUP

776 ESTABLISHED INTER-CAMP-1 UNDER THE COMMAND OF PAVN LT COLONEL DOAN ((HANH)) IN ORDER TO ABSORB THE RELATIVELY LARGE NUMBERS OF PRISONERS BEING SENT NORTH. COMMENT: AFTER HIS RELEASE FROM REEDUCATION, SOURCE LEARNED FROM A FORMER FELLOW INMATE THAT SOMETIME IN 1978, INTER-CAMP-1 OF GROUP 776 WAS MOVED ENTIRELY FROM HOANG LIEN SON TO THE SOUTHERN PART OF NORTH VIETNAM IN ANTICIPATION OF CHINESE ATTACKS AGAINST THE NORTH. AT THE SAME TIME ARVN PRISONERS WERE TURNED OVER TO THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR.)

7. COMMENT: OF THIS REPORT

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