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SOURCE NAME

REPORT CLASS ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ --WNINTEL--NOFORNAND
DATA

COUNTRY: VIETNAM

SUBJ: SIGHTING OF A U.S. MARINE WORKING AS A GENERATOR
REPAIRMAN FOR THE VIETNAMESE ARMY IN HOANG LIEN
SON PROVINCE

COI: DECEMBER 1976 - MARCH 1978

SOURCE

TEXT: 1. IN DECEMBER 1976, MARCH 1978, AND ON ONE OCCASION BETWEEN THESE TWO DATES, SEVERAL FORMER SOUTHERN VIETNAMESE OFFICERS OF A REEDUCATION CAMP IN HOANG LIEN SON PROVINCE ENCOUNTERED AN ALLEGED U.S. MISSING-IN-ACTION (MIA) WHO WAS WORKING WITH THE MOVIE PROJECTION TEAM OF AN UNIDENTIFIED REGIMENT OF GROUP 776. THE AMERICAN, A CAUCASIAN, HAD TO CARRY A SMALL GENERATOR FOR THE TEAM AND REPAIR IT WHEN IT BROKE DOWN. THE MIA WAS BORN CIRCA 1953, ABOUT 1.80 METERS TALL, SKINNY WITH BROWN EYES AND BROWN HAIR. HE CLAIMED TO BE A U.S. MARINE CAPTURED IN LOC NINH IN 1972. HIS NAME WAS ((NELSON)) BUT HE ALSO HAD A VIETNAMESE NAME. COMMENT: BECAUSE THE MEETING OCCURRED A LONG TIME AGO, AND HE SPOKE IN A HURRY, THE MIA'S VIETNAMESE NAME COULD NOT BE RECALLED AND THE NAME NELSON MIGHT BE INCORRECT.

2. THE PEOPLE'S ARMY OF VIETNAM (PAVN)-TROOPS OF THE MOVIE PROJECTION TEAM CLAIMED THAT NELSON VOLUNTEERED TO REMAIN BEHIND WHEN OTHER U.S. PRISONERS WERE RELEASED. THEY SAID NELSON LIVED IN A HUT IN THE MIDDLE OF SOME COMMUNIST CADRES' HUTS, APPARENTLY UNDER CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE. AREA RESIDENTS SAID THAT NELSON ESCAPED INTO THE WOODS ONCE, HIDING FOR THREE DAYS UNTIL THE VILLAGE GUERRILLA FORCE CAUGHT HIM. HE WAS SEVERELY BEATEN. THE SRV TROOPS, HOWEVER, SAID HE WAS BEATEN BECAUSE HE WAS CAUGHT GOING TO THE VILLAGE

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TO SLEEP WITH A GIRL.

3. THE REEDUCATION CAMP WHICH HELD THE FORMER SOUTHERN VIETNAMESE OFFICERS WAS CAMP 14 (RENAMED CAMP 12 IN 1976 AND CAMP 9 IN 1978) OF INTER-CAMP (LIEN TRAI) IT ADMINISTERED BY GROUP 776 ALONG WITH OTHER INTER-CAMPS NEARBY. TO REACH CAMP 14 FROM YEN BAI TOWN, ONE CROSSES THE AU LAU FERRY ON THE RED RIVER, THEN FOLLOWS THE ROAD LEADING TO NGHIA LO TO THE SOUTHWEST FOR TWO TO THREE KILOMETERS. ONE THEN TURNS LEFT ONTO A TRAIL FOR A ONE AND ONE-HALF HOUR WALK TO A NARROW VALLEY BETWEEN GRANITE HILLS. AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE VALLEY WAS THE LOCATION OF A UNIT OF GROUP 776 AND OF NELSON'S HUT. OTHER REEDUCATION INTER-CAMPS WERE SITUATED ALONG THE VALLEY. BEYOND THE CAMPS WAS A VILLAGE OF ETHNIC VIETNAMESE MOVED TO THE LOCATION TO WORK AT THE VAN SANG NEW ECONOMIC ZONE. BEYOND THE ZONE WAS LANG VAN HAMLET INHABITED BY ETHNIC TAY. LANG VAN WAS AN OLD COMMUNIST BASE. REPORTEDLY, THE REEDUCATION CAMPS HELD U.S. PRISONERS-OF-WAR BEFORE 1976 WHEN THEY WERE MOVED OUT AND HIGH-RANKING SOUTHERN VIETNAMESE OFFICERS WERE MOVED IN.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] NONE.WARNING: REPORT CLASS ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

DECL: OADR BY RECORDED REPORTING OFFICER. ALL PORTIONS
CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF OVERALL DOCUMENT.
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