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TOT: 280111Z MAY 87~~SECRET~~

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TO: DIA WASH DC//VO-PW ATTN GARY SYDOW.

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SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SIGHTINGS OF AMERICAN DESERTERS IN VIETNAM

1. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CORRELATES WITH INFORMATION PASSED TO JCRC IN OCTOBER 1986 CONCERNING WHAT APPEARS TO BE THE SAME INDIVIDUAL MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH 2 BELOW.

2. IN EARLY MARCH 1987 A SIGHTING WAS REPORTED OF A LARGE AMERICAN BLACK MAN ON A BICYCLE IN HANOI NEAR A RAILWAY JUNCTION AT THE SOUTH END OF DIEN BIEN PHU STREET.

3. A SECOND POSSIBLE SIGHTING ALSO INVOLVES A BLACK MAN. AT A FESTIVAL 15 MARCH 1987, NEAR THE PERFUME PAGODA, ABOUT 40 KILOMETERS WEST OF HANOI, A BLACK MAN IN A BOAT WAS SEEN HEADED DOWNSTREAM. THE MAN WAS 35-40 YEARS OLD, WORE A BRIGHT YELLOW T-SHIRT AND A PITH HELMET. BASED ON MAN'S FACIAL FEATURES, IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT HE WAS AN AMERICAN BLACK. THE MAN DID NOT APPEAR TO BE PLEASED TO BE SEEN AND DUCKED DOWN. THE MAN WAS IN A BOAT WITH DOZENS OF VIETNAMESE CIVILIANS, INCLUDING WOMEN AND CHILDREN, AND THAT THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE MAN WAS UNDER ANY TYPE OF RESTRAINT. SINCE THERE WERE MANY TOURISTS IN THE AREA BECAUSE OF THE FESTIVAL, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HE WAS SOME TYPE MIXED RACE VIETNAMESE.

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