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DIST: 04 AUGUST 1987

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COUNTRY: VIETNAM

SUBJ: POW/MIA: DEATH OF AN ALLEGED U.S. AIRMAN ON DONG  
CHEN ISLAND, CAI BAU DISTRICT, QUANG NINH PROVINCE,  
IN 1970; DISCOVERY OF HIS REMAINS IN 1974  
DOI: 1970-1974

SOURCE:

TEXT: 1. IN 1970, EXACT DATE NOT KNOWN, AN ALLEGED U.S. AIRMAN  
BAILED OUT OF HIS AIRCRAFT OVER THE UNINHABITED ISLAND OF DONG CHEN  
(APPROXIMATE COORDINATES YJ 5820), CAI BAU DISTRICT, QUANG NINH  
PROVINCE, AND PROBABLY DIED WHEN HIS PARACHUTE BECAME ENTANGLED IN  
THE TREES. AS OF 1974 HIS REMAINS FORMED A HEAP AT THE FOOT OF A  
TREE ON WHICH A WHITE PIECE OF PARACHUTE STILL HUNG. THE TREE WAS  
ABOUT HALF AN HOUR WALK FROM A BEACH WHERE SMALL FISHING BOATS LANDED  
AND MOORED.2. ☐ COMMENT: ☐ SAW THE PILE OF  
BONES IN 1974 WHEN ☐ WENT INTO  
THE JUNGLE ON DONG CHEN ISLAND TO GATHER FIRE WOOD. ☐  
☐ TOLD THEM THAT IN 1970 A BURNING AIRCRAFT CRASHED  
NEAR DONG CHEN AND AN AIRMAN BAILED OUT. HE KNEW OF THE BONES AND  
ASSUMED THAT THE BODY HAD DECOMPOSED NATURALLY BECAUSE THE ISLAND WAS  
UNINHABITED AND THE DENSE FOREST IS OFF-LIMITS BY STATE REGULATION.  
HE CALLED THE REMAINS "THE HEAP OF A WESTERN PHANTOM'S BONES." ☐ACTION DIA/SPEC(8)  
INFO CJCS(5) SECDEF-(1) USDP-(5)

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