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REPORT CLASS SECRET

DIST: 19 JUNE 1987

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COUNTRY: VIETNAM/USSR

SUBJ: POW-MIA: DEBRIEFING ON REPORTED HOLDINGS OF AMERICAN  
PRISONERS OF WAR AND REMAINS IN 1986

DOI: JULY 1986

SOURCE:

MSG PILOTED; NEW MCN 170/5300

ACTION FILE SVC(0)

(M,C)

MCN=87170/05119 TOR=87170/1543Z TAB=87173/2025Z CDSN=DIA000

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TEXT: 1. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] CONVERSATION BETWEEN NGUYEN QUANG ((HUONG)) AND COLONEL (FNU) ((CHUAN)) [REDACTED] IN HAI PHONG, NORTHERN VIETNAM. COLONEL CHUAN WAS A MILITARY ATTACHE IN LAOS WHO HAD RETURNED TO VIETNAM ON BUSINESS. HUONG WAS THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL MACHINERY COMPANY IN HAI PHONG. THE PRIMARY TOPIC OF DISCUSSION WAS THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN VIETNAM. DURING THIS CONVERSATION, THE POSSIBILITY OF VIETNAM'S FINALLY RECEIVING THE PROMISED U.S. \$7 BILLION IN WAR REPARATIONS WAS REVIEWED. HUONG CONCLUDED THAT IT HAD BEEN A GOOD IDEA TO RETAIN THE AMERICAN CORPSES. CHUAN REMARKED THAT IT WAS NOT THE CORPSES THAT WERE IMPORTANT, BUT THE AMERICAN PRISONERS STILL BEING HELD AS PART OF OUR (VIETNAMESE) STRATEGY THAT WAS MOST IMPORTANT (TU BINH MY CUN GIU LAI THEO CHIEN LUOC CUA NHA NUOC MINH LA QUAN TRONG NHAT).

COMMENT: [REDACTED] IT WAS NOT DIRECTLY STATED THAT AS OF JULY 1986 THERE WERE AMERICAN PRISONERS STILL IN VIETNAM; HOWEVER, THE VIETNAMESE WORD "CUN" MEANS "STILL" AND IMPLIES AN ONGOING ACTION.) HUONG EXPRESSED NO SURPRISE AT HEARING THIS. CHUAN CONTINUED THAT THESE AMERICAN PRISONERS WERE U.S. AIR FORCE OFFICERS SHOT DOWN OVER NORTH VIETNAM AND THAT THEY CAME FROM FAMILIES OF "CAPITALIST"

EXECUTIVES AND HIGH RANKING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS (TU GIA DINH TU BAN VA CAP CAO). COLONEL CHUAN CONCLUDED HIS REMARKS BY SAYING THAT "ALTHOUGH THERE WERE ONLY A FEW "OF THEM", THEY WERE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT" (TUY KHONG NHIEU MA RAT QUAN TRONG).

COMMENT: THE "WAR REPARATIONS" STATEMENT IS A SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (SRV) MISINTERPRETATION OF THE 1973 PARIS CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT. (FNU) CHUAN MAY BE IDENTICAL WITH COLONEL NGUYEN DINH ((CHAN)), WHO HAS BEEN THE MILITARY ATTACHE AT THE SRV EMBASSY IN VIENTIANE SINCE AT LEAST JANUARY 1984 AND WHO PREVIOUSLY SERVED AT THE EMBASSY IN VIENTIANE IN 1962.)

2. HUONG DISCUSSED WITH CHUAN THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD AGREED TO PAY U.S. \$7 BILLION IN WAR REPARATIONS ACCORDING TO THE PARIS ACCORDS, BUT HAD RENEGED ON ITS COMMITMENT. HE SAID THIS MONEY SHOULD NOW BE PAID; SINCE, ACCORDING TO VIETNAMESE RADIO AND NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS, THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT WAS TURNING OVER THE REMAINS OF AMERICANS KILLED DURING THE VIETNAM WAR TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. HUONG SAID THAT IT WAS RUMORED AMONG THE CADRE AT THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL MACHINERY COMPANY THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD PAY THE U.S. \$7 BILLION TO THE SOVIET UNION. THE SOVIET UNION WOULD, IN TURN, SEND SEVEN BILLION RUBLES WORTH OF MACHINERY AND OTHER MATERIALS TO VIETNAM AS FOREIGN AID. [REDACTED] COMMENT: ONE RUBLE EQUALS US\$1.42.)

MCN=87170/05119

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TAD=87173/2025Z

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3. WHILE DISCUSSING THE ECONOMIC SITUATION, BOTH MEN AGREED THAT MISMANAGEMENT BY GOVERNMENT CADRES HAD CONTRIBUTED TO VIETNAM'S PROBLEMS. THEY STATED THAT FOREIGN AID FROM THE SOVIET UNION HAD ALSO BEEN USED UNWISELY.

4. COLONEL CHUAN SPENT APPROXIMATELY THREE HOURS WITH HUONG AND DEPARTED AFTER LUNCH. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] THIS STORY WAS TOLD MATTER-OF-FACTLY; THERE WAS NO AIR OF SECRECY. [REDACTED] THESE TWO MEN, WHO WERE VERY OLD FRIENDS, WERE SERIOUS PEOPLE AND NOT PRONE TO IDLE CHATTER.)

5. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED]

DISSEM: [REDACTED] NONE.

WASHINGTON DISSEM:

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TUR=87170/1545Z

TAD=87173/2025Z

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