

SECRET

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

(b)(1)

(b)(3)

SUBJECT: BURIAL OF THREE U.S. ARMY PERSONNEL IN 1969 IN
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM TIEN GIANG PROVINCE

1. [REDACTED] IN THE PERIOD 30 OCTOBER-2 NOV-
EMBER 1969 THREE U.S. ARMY PERSONNEL WERE KILLED BY THE VC NEAR VAM
LANG VILLAGE, NOW IN SRV TIEN GIANG PROVINCE.

COMMENT: ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] THIS VILLAGE IS IN FORMER
GOVERNMENT OF (SOUTH) VIETNAM (GVN) GO CONG PROVINCE, ALTHOUGH AN
OFFICIAL GAZETTEER LOCATES A VILLAGE BY THIS NAME IN FORMER GVN
DINH TUONG PROVINCE. HOWEVER, BOTH OF THESE PROVINCES ARE NOW IN
SRV TIEN GIANG PROVINCE.) THE AMERICANS BODIES WERE LEFT OUT FOR
A TIME IN THE HOPE TO AMBUSH ANY RESCUING PARTY. WHEN NONE
APPEARED AFTER SIX DAYS VC AUTHORITIES ORDERED THE LABOR DETAIL
TO DISPOSE OF THE BODIES. THE LATTER HAD NO IDENTIFYING DATA
SUCH AS NAME TAGS OR INSIGNIA. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANY PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE
AMERICANS OTHER THAN THAT THEY WERE CAUCASIANS.)

2. THE LABOR DETAIL TRANSPORTED THE DEAD AMERICANS ACROSS
THE VAM LANG RIVER IN THE VICINITY OF A BUOY (PHAO DAI) AND RED
LIGHT (DEN DO) TO A CANAL 10 TO 15 METERS WIDE CALLED VAM BA TU
AKA RACH DI BA TU. BEFORE 1975 THIS CANAL SERVED AS A WELL-USED
VC INFILTRATION ROUTE, BUT AT PRESENT IS USED TO FERRY WORKERS TO
AGRICULTURAL WORK SITES, ONE OF WHICH BELONGS TO THE GO CONG
DISTRICT PUBLIC SECURITY OFFICE. THE BODIES WERE PLACED IN A
COMMON GRAVE 50 CENTIMETERS DEEP AND WERE COVERED WITH A SHEET OF
BLACK PLASTIC. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE GRAVE WAS BELIEVED TO BE
DEEP ENOUGH TO ENSURE THE BODIES WOULD NOT BE WASHED AWAY DURING
A HEAVY RAIN.)

3. THE GRAVE SITE IS ON THE RIGHT BANK OF THE VAM BA TU
CANAL ABOUT 300-350 METERS FROM THE RIVER AND NEAR A SMALL KNOLL,
WHICH IS THE HIGHEST POINT IN THE AREA. HOWEVER, DURING THE
AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER RAINS THIS KNOLL MAY BE ENTIRELY COVERED BY
WATER. THE KNOLL, WHICH STRETCHES ALONG THE CANAL, HAS SMALL
TREES AND SHRUBS. THE GRAVE SITE IS 35 TO 40 METERS FROM THE
CANAL BANK AND ABOUT THREE METERS UP THE HILL. A TAMARIND TREE,
THE LARGEST IN THE AREA AND WHICH IS VISIBLE FROM THE CANAL, IS
SITUATED TO THE RIGHT OF THE GRAVE SITE. THE SURROUNDING AREA IS
UNDER RICE CULTIVATION. THE SECURITY OFFICE WORKSITE IS ABOUT

2

SECRET

NND 982025 - 52

