

226-100786 MN

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Observation of a U.S. Helicopter Crash Site in Quang Tri Area; Finding of U.S. Identification Tags

TEXT: 1. In October 1982 two Vietnamese traders/smugglers discovered the crash site of a U.S. helicopter in the Quang Tri area of Binh Tri Thien Province in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV) and collected two metal identification tags from the wreckage. The crash site was located about a two-hour walk in a generally westerly direction from an abandoned hamlet. The hamlet was a seven- to eight-hour walk from My Chanh Town on Route 1, south of Quang Tri City, along a rural road which ran westward from the town. The helicopter was small with landing pads instead of wheels, probably a UH-1. The tail was completely broken and the underbelly of the helicopter was crushed so that the windows were at the chest level of a man 1.60 meters tall. Vegetation covered the aircraft completely. The traders/smugglers only collected two metal identification tags which dangled from the side windows of the helicopter.

2. (DATA [] Comment: The two men actually stumbled upon the crash site when they got lost while exploring for old military scrap metal to sell. At the time they sighted the helicopter it was nearing night-time and the men were anxious to find their way back to a familiar area. Therefore, they did not explore the helicopter or observe whether any pilot remains were in the craft.)

3. The men held the identification tags in hopes of receiving a reward from the U.S. Government once they fled the SRV; however, these tags were not in the possession of the trader/smuggler who fled Vietnam in May 1983. He was not able to contact his friend who held the tags prior to his departure. As

NAME DATA
1958 in Dong Ha and worked as an accounting clerk of the cooperative of carpenters of his house-block.

4. (DATA [] Comment: The source is a Vietnamese refugee, SC who worked as a tradesman/smuggler in Binh Tri Thien Province from 1978 until he fled the SRV in May 1983. He personally observed the crash site. The tags were retained by his partner NAME In early July 1983, while in Hong Kong, SC wrote a letter to his brother and a former

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'schoolmate asking them to contact *NAME* to obtain the information on the tags and to send it to him. As of mid-September 1983 there had been no reply.;

[Redacted]

WARNING - S E C R E T -

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DECL GRAB GRV [Redacted] BY RECORDED REPORTING OFFICER. ALL PORTIONS CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF OVERALL DOCUMENT.

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