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RUHQHQA/COMIPAC HONOLULU HI

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SERIAL:

PASS: NSA FOR ZKZK OO DLS DE (FOR NSOC).

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.

REPORT CLASS CONFIDENTIAL-

DIST: 02 JULY 1987

COUNTRY: VIETNAM

SUBJ: ABSENCE OF AMERICANS AT AND DESCRIPTION OF RE-EDUCATION
CAMP 974 IN VINH LOC, THANH HOA PROVINCE, FROM LATE
1982 TO LATE 1983; DETENTION FOR NARCOTICS SMUGGLING

DOI: LATE 1982 TO LATE 1983

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-SOURCE:

SUMMARY: BETWEEN LATE 1982 AND LATE 1983, NO CAUCASIAN PRISONERS WERE HELD AT RE-EDUCATION CAMP 974 AT VINH LOC IN THANH HOA PROVINCE. CAMP 974 HELD AROUND 200 VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS FOR CRIMES RANGING FROM SMUGGLING TO HOMICIDE. THEY WERE ASSIGNED TO FOUR UNITS TO DO HARD LABOR IN AN AREA SURROUNDED BY MOUNTAINS. CAMP 974 COVERED A TOTAL AREA OF ABOUT 100 HECTARES. IT HAD TWO COMPOUNDS. THE ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT COMPOUND, ALONG WITH THE OFFICES OF THE CAMP MANAGEMENT AND THE WAREHOUSES FOR GOODS PRODUCED BY THE PRISONERS, THAT WAS LOCATED IN THE MIDDLE OF A FIELD. THE OTHER COMPOUND, AT THE FOOT OF A HILL AND FENCED WITH BARBED CONCERTINA WIRE, WAS THE DETENTION CENTER. LOCATED IN A VALLEY, IT WAS SURROUNDED BY MOUNTAINS THAT MADE ESCAPE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE.

TEXT: 1. AS OF LATE 1983, THERE WERE NO AMERICANS AT RE-EDUCATION CAMP 974, WHICH WAS LOCATED BETWEEN SEVEN AND EIGHT KILOMETERS (KM) FROM VINH LOC TOWN WHICH IS BETWEEN 60 AND 70 KM FROM THANH HOA CITY, THANH HOA PROVINCE. IT WAS ALSO ABOUT 20 KM FROM THE LAM SON RE-EDUCATION CAMP. ALTHOUGH THE EXACT DIRECTION WAS NOT KNOWN, CAMP 974 WAS APPROXIMATELY NORTHWEST OF THANH HOA CITY. ITS POST OFFICE ADDRESS WAS BOX 801, THANH HOA. CAMP 974 WAS REPORTEDLY BUILT IN 1974 TO REPLACE A SIMILAR CAMP IN CAO BANG OR LANG SON PROVINCE. IT WAS SUBORDINATE TO THE INVESTIGATION AND INTERROGATION DEPARTMENT (CUC DIEU TRA XET HOI) OF THE JUDICIARY DEPARTMENT (CUC CHAP PHAP) OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR IN HANOI. IT HELD ONLY COMMUNIST OFFICIALS, MOSTLY CADRE OF THE PEOPLE'S ARMY OF VIETNAM (PAVN) WHO COMMITTED CRIMES SUCH AS STEALING AND HOMICIDE. FROM LATE 1982 TO LATE 1983 NO AMERICAN OR CAUCASIAN PRISONERS WERE DETAINED THERE.

2. CAMP 974 IS LOCATED IN A VALLEY SURROUNDED BY MOUNTAINS THAT REPORTEDLY MAKE ANY ESCAPE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE. THERE WERE TWO SEPARATE COMPOUNDS. THE ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT COMPOUND, ALONG WITH THE OFFICES OF THE CAMP MANAGEMENT AND THE WAREHOUSES FOR GOODS PRODUCED BY THE PRISONERS, WAS LOCATED IN THE MIDDLE OF A FIELD. IT WAS SURROUNDED BY RICE FIELDS, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND PISCICULTURE ZONES. THE OTHER COMPOUND, AT THE FOOT OF A HILL AND FENCED WITH BARBED CONCERTINA WIRE, WAS THE DETENTION CENTER. IT HAD A LONG MASONRY HOUSE COVERED WITH TILES THAT HELD THE FIRST AND SECOND INMATE UNITS, A SMALLER MASONRY HOUSE COVERED WITH THATCH TO HOLD THE FOURTH UNIT, AN UNDERGROUND ISOLATION CELL, ONE COLLECTIVE MESS HALL, A COLLECTIVE WATER WELL, A LAUNDRY POND AND LATRINE. THE ENTIRE AREA OF THE CAMP COVERED ABOUT 100 HECTARES.

3. AS OF LATE 1983 THE FIRST UNIT HAD BETWEEN 70 AND 80 INMATES WHO FARMED THE AREA. THE SECOND UNIT HAD AROUND 60 INMATES WHO FELLED TIMBER AND CARRIED OUT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. THE THIRD UNIT HAD AROUND 30 PRISONERS WHO WERE CALLED SELF-CONSCIOUS OR REPENTANT PRISONERS. THEY WERE ALLOWED TO LIVE OUTSIDE THE DETENTION CENTER AND PRODUCED BRICKS AND TILES. THE FOURTH UNIT HAD AROUND 40 INMATES WHO RAISED ANIMALS AND GREW VEGETABLES. THE MOST HIGH

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RANKING CADRE WERE MADE FOREMEN OVER THE OTHER INMATES. ALL HAD TO WORK AT LEAST NINE HOURS A DAY. SOME DAYS THEY WOULD WORK FROM 0600 HOURS UNTIL 2100 HOURS WITH 15 MINUTES REST TO EAT EACH OF THE TWO MEALS. EACH MEAL CONSISTED OF ONE BOWL OF RICE MIXED WITH YAMS AND SALTED WATER. THE WORK CONSISTED, FOR EXAMPLE, OF DIGGING AND MOVING 3.5 CUBIC METERS OF EARTH A DAY AND OF WORKING IN FLOODED RICE FIELDS ALL DAY IN THE WINTER. AT NIGHT ALL INMATES SLEPT ON THE BARE CEMENT FLOOR.

4. SECURITY AT CAMP 974 WAS SEVERE. AT NIGHT, THE WIRE SURROUNDING THE DETENTION CENTER WAS ELECTRIFIED AND THE COMPOUND WAS LIGHTED. INMATES WERE LOCKED UP FROM 2000 HOURS UNTIL 0600 HOURS. IF ANYONE WALKED OUT OF HIS CELL, HE WAS SHOT WITHOUT WARNING. ISOLATED INMATES WERE KEPT IN FETTERS. SOCIALIZING BETWEEN INMATES AND WARDENS WAS SEVERELY PUNISHED. ANY SOCIALIZING OR EVEN THE THEFT OF ONE POTATO WAS PUNISHED BY ONE TO THREE MONTHS ISOLATION. VISITS BY RELATIVES WERE ALLOWED ONCE EVERY TWO OR THREE MONTHS BUT NO MORE THAN TEN KILOGRAMS OF SUPPLIES BY RELATIVES TO ONE INMATE WERE ALLOWED. THE GIFT PARCELS WERE CHECKED THOROUGHLY. THE INMATES WERE SO STARVED THAT THEY ATE SNAKES AND FROGS, HALF COOKED, IF THEY COULD CATCH ANY IN THE FIELD.

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5. AS OF LATE 1983 THE INMATES AT CAMP 974 ALLEGEDLY INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

A. (FNU) ((HUNG)), A FORMER PAVN REGIMENTAL COMMANDER, WHO WAS SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR HAVING ORDERED THE KILLING OF THREE GUERRILLAS IN DACLAC PROVINCE. HE WAS THE SENIOR FOREMAN OF THE FIRST INMATE UNIT.

B. (FNU) ((KY)), AN OLD MAN, WHO ALLEGEDLY WAS A

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BODYGUARD OF HO CHI ((MINH)) AND LATER COMMANDER OF AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REGIMENT. HE WAS IMPRISONED FOR HAVING STOLEN SEVERAL TONS OF COFFEE.

C. (FNU) ((HOA)), FOREMAN OF THE SECOND INMATE UNIT, HAD BEEN A STAFF MEMBER OF A UNIT IN CAMBODIA. HE WAS IMPRISONED FOR HAVING KILLED A CIVILIAN IN ORDER TO ROB HIM OF HIS GOLD.

D. (FNU) ((KHOANG)), AN ELECTRONIC ENGINEER, WAS IMPRISONED FOR HAVING KILLED HIS BULGARIAN LOVER WHEN IN TRAINING IN BULGARIA. HIS SENTENCE WAS COMMUTED FROM DEATH TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT BECAUSE HE WAS A RELATIVE OF A HIGH RANKING REVOLUTIONARY CADRE.

E. HO SI ((DU)), A NATIVE OF QUANG BINH, BINH TRI THIEN PROVINCE. HE WAS IMPRISONED FOR STEALING A K-54 PISTOL.

F. NGUYEN DINH ((AN)), DU'S CO-VILLAGER, WAS IMPRISONED FOR SMUGGLING OPIUM BETWEEN LANG SON/HA BAC AND BINH TRI THIEN PROVINCES.

G. IN LATE 1983, A NEW INMATE, ABOUT 45 YEARS OLD, A TWO-LEVEL SPECIALIST AND AN ECONOMIC ADVISOR IN CAMBODIA, NAME NOT KNOWN, WAS IMPRISONED FOR INVOLVEMENT IN HEROIN SMUGGLING. THERE WERE DOCTORS IMPRISONED FOR TAKING BRIBES TO FALSIFY MILITARY DRAFTEES' MEDICAL RECORDS. A SCORE OF COMPANY GRADE OFFICERS WERE IMPRISONED FOR STEALING STATES GOODS, MOSTLY PETROLEUM.

DISSEM: []
USCINCPAC, IPAC, WESTCOM, PACAF, PACFLT, COMSEVENTHFLT,
FOSIF/WESTPAC.

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