

~~SECRET~~ [redacted]

PRANG RANGEN CAMP, QUANG DUC PROVINCE, SOUTH VIETNAM, HAVE UNDERGONE IMPRISONMENT AT THE CAMP IN CHBAR DISTRICT. END SUMMARY.

1. [redacted] A 19-YEAR-OLD ETHNIC M'ONG FARMER WHO WAS FORMERLY A PRIVATE IN THE CAMBODIAN NATIONAL ARMED FORCES [redacted] REPORTED ON 26 DECEMBER 1970 THAT HE HAD BEEN CAPTURED BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY /NVA/ ON 18 MAY 1970 AND TAKEN TO A CONCENTRATION CAMP WHICH WAS LOCATED AT YV295134, NEAR K'ONG ROK /NEAR YV389145/, CHBAR DISTRICT, MONDKIRI PROVINCE, CAMBODIA. HE WAS HELD AT THIS CAMP FOR SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE HE WAS ABLE TO ESCAPE. [redacted] COMMENT--EXISTENCE OF THE CONCENTRATION CAMP NEAR K'ONG ROK IS FAIRLY COMMON KNOWLEDGE AMONG THE M'ONG BECAUSE OF THE HIGH ESCAPE RATE. THERE ARE PERSONS LIVING NEAR BU PRANG RANGER CAMP /YU683505/, QUANG DUC PROVINCE, SOUTH VIETNAM, WHO WERE FORMERLY PRISONERS AT THE CAMP. PRISONERS ARE SENT TO THE CAMP FROM MONDKIRI, KRATIE, RATANAKIRI AND STUNG TRENG PROVINCES. THE CAMP WAS LOCATED IN THE CHBAR DISTRICT BECAUSE OF THE LARGE NVA PRESENCE THERE AND THE FACT THAT THE NVA AND KHMER ROUGE /KR/ HAVE TIGHT CONTROL OVER THE CIVILIAN POPULATION. PRISONERS ARE BROUGHT TO THE CAMP BY FOOT ALONG EXISTING TRAILS. THEIR HANDS ARE TIED AS THEY APPROACH THE CAMP, BUT THEY ARE NOT BLINDFOLDED.

2. THE CAMP, WHICH IS SEVERAL ACRES IN SIZE, IS THREE MILES NORTHWEST OF CHBAR VILLAGE /YV344126/ IN A JUNGLE AREA WHICH EXTENDS FOR FIVE MILES ALONG A MOUNTAIN RIDGE. THE CAMP IS BISECTED BY A JUNGLE TRAIL WHICH TRAVERSES THE AREA FROM YV37156 TO YV29143 AFTER LEAVING CHBAR VILLAGE. THE PORTION TO THE WEST OF THE TRAIL IS UNDER KR JURISDICTION, AND THE EASTERN PORTION IS CONTROLLED BY THE NVA. [redacted] COMMENT-- FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH ESCAPEES FROM THE CAMP WHO HAVE RECENTLY COME TO DU PRANG, IT APPEARS THAT THE NVA RELINQUISHED CONTROL

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OF THE CAMP TO THE KR IN JANUARY 1971. HOWEVER, THEY CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A HEADQUARTERS FACILITY TO THE EAST OF THE PRISON CAMP. ABOVE-GROUND STRUCTURES ARE LONG HOUSES BUILT ON STILTS. EAST OF THE TRAIL, BEYOND THE PRISON CAMP, THERE IS A RESTRICTED AREA WHICH IS AN NVA MILITARY HEADQUARTERS, WHERE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, VARIOUS PERMITS AND OTHER NVA DOCUMENTS ARE ISSUED. THE TRAIL DIVIDING THE CAMP IS SECURED BY A GATE WHICH IS GUARDED BY EITHER AN NVA OR KR CADRE, THERE BEING USUALLY ONE GUARD ON DUTY. THE MOUNTAIN IS HONEYCOMBED WITH CAVERNS WHICH SERVE AS BUNKERS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE TRAIL. ONE LARGE CAVE ON THE KR SIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 200 METERS DEEP AND HOUSES 100 - 150 PRISONERS. THIS CAVE HAS TWO DOORWAYS, ONE SEALED, THE OTHER GUARDED BY A SINGLE KR CADRE. THERE ARE FEW OTHER GUARDS SEEN ON THE KR SIDE OF THE CAMP. HOWEVER, THERE ARE LAO, CAMBODIAN AND NVA CADRES ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE TRAIL. THE LAO DO NOT APPEAR TO BE INVOLVED IN GUARD OR INTERROGATION DUTY. THE 200 PRISONERS IN THE KR CAMP ARE FED SMALL AMOUNTS OF RICE AND ROASTED CORN, AND THEY ARE GENERALLY HUNGRY. MANY PRISONERS ESCAPE SINCE THERE ARE FEW GUARDS AND, SINCE THEY ARRIVED BY FOOT, THEY ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE ROAD AND CAN MAKE THEIR WAY HOME AGAIN.

3. THE M'NONG AND ETHNIC CAMBODIAN PRISONERS ARE TREATED EQUALLY SINCE THE GUARDS ARE M'NONG AND CAMBODIAN KR RATHER THAN NORTH VIETNAMESE. THE PRISONERS ARE INTERROGATED FOR THEIR BIOGRAPHIC DATA, AND THEY ARE GIVEN INDOCTRINATION ON THE KR. SOME OF THE PRISONERS HAVE BEEN RELEASED SO THEY COULD JOIN THE KR.

4. THE PRISONERS ARE QUARTERED ACCORDING TO THE NATURE OF THEIR "OFFENSE." THE KR HAS JURISDICTION OVER PRISONERS GUILTY OF "LIGHT OFFENSES", WHO ARE IN THE MAJORITY. THE CRITERIA FOR CLASSIFYING AN OFFENSE AS "LIGHT" ARE THAT THE PERSON HAD NOT KNOWINGLY HARASSED OR DISCRIMINATED AGAINST A KR. ALL FORMER ROYAL POLICE, CAMBODIAN OFFICIALS, TEACHERS, PHYSICIANS AND OTHERS WHO HAD DISPLEASED THE KR ARE USUALLY EXECUTED

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[REDACTED] CHARGED WITH A "HEAVY
 OFFENSE." [REDACTED] COMMENT [REDACTED] CONCERNING THE ARREST
 AND TREATMENT OF CAMBODIAN OFFICIALS. A "HEAVY OFFENSE" IS
 DEFINED AS A CRIME AGAINST AN NVA RULE OR A SERIOUS VIOLATION
 OF THE KR RULES AND FALLS WITHIN NVA JURISDICTION. "HEAVY
 OFFENSE" PRISONERS ARE PLACED ON THE NVA SIDE OF THE CAMP,
 ARE INTERROGATED EXTENSIVELY /SOMETIMES FOR AS LONG AS A MONTH/
 AND THEN NORMALLY ARE EXECUTED. OCCASIONALLY PRISONERS ARE
 RECLASSIFIED TO THE "LIGHT OFFENSE" SIDE OR DRAFTED INTO THE
 ARMY.

B. [REDACTED] DISSEM STATE, USMACV, 7TH AIR FORCE, USARV,
 NAVFORV, 323TH MI GP, 1821 FAS, OSI, CINCPAC, PACFLT, PACAF,
 ARPAC [REDACTED] VIENTIANE/.

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