

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: BURIAL OF AN AMERICAN PILOT NEAR HAI NHUAN VILLAGE,
HUONG DIEN DISTRICT, BINH TRI THIEN PROVINCE, AND RESCUE
OF ANOTHER AMERICAN PILOT AT SEA.

1. BETWEEN JUNE AND AUGUST 1968, THE BURNT WRECKAGE OF A U.S. AIRCRAFT WAS LOCATED ABOUT ONE TO 1.5 KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF HAI NHUAN VILLAGE (NOW RENAMED PHONG HAI VILLAGE), HUONG DIEN DISTRICT (ROUGHLY 16-38N, 107-29E), THUA THIEN (NOW PART OF TRI THIEN PROVINCE). ACCORDING TO AN EYEWITNESS WHO WAS ELEVEN YEARS OLD AT THE TIME, THE REMAINS OF THE AMERICAN PILOT WERE GATHERED AND BURIED IN A NEARBY SAND DUNE BY A CROWD OF HAI NHUAN VILLAGERS. SINCE THE 1975 TAKEOVER SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (SRV) AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT MADE INQUIRIES ABOUT AMERICANS MISSING IN ACTION IN HUONG DIEN DISTRICT. LOCAL FISHERMEN DID NOT REPORT THE CRASH AND GRAVESITE TO THE SRV AUTHORITIES BECAUSE THEY WERE AFRAID OF BEING ACCUSED OF HELPING THE ENEMY. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE [REDACTED] WHO OBSERVED THE CRASHED U.S. AIRCRAFT DID NOT SEE THE REMAINS OF THE AMERICAN PILOT BUT HE DID SEE THE GRAVE WHEN HE ARRIVED AT THE SITE ON THE DAY OF THE CRASH. ADULTS AND CHILDREN AT THE SCENE SAID THAT THEY HAD FINISHED GATHERING THE BURNED REMAINS OF THE PILOT AND BURIED THEM ABOUT 15 MINUTES PRIOR TO HIS ARRIVAL. THE DEBRIEFEE LEFT THE HAI NHUAN VILLAGE AREA FROM 1971 TO JANUARY 1982, WHEN HE RETURNED TO THE AREA OF DIEN HAI VILLAGE, LOCATED ABOUT TWO KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF THE CRASH SITE. BETWEEN THAT TIME AND MAY 1982, HE WAS ABLE TO DETERMINE THAT THE REMAINS HAD NOT BEEN EXHUMED.) (b)(1)

2. EARLIER THE DAY OF THE CRASH, ABOUT TWO KILOMETERS OFFSHORE, ANOTHER AMERICAN PILOT WHO HAD PARACHUTED INTO THE WATER WAS RESCUED. WHEN THE PILOT WAS PULLED ABOARD THE FISHING BOAT HE WAS IN A STATE OF SEMI-CONSCIOUSNESS. ABOUT FIVE MINUTES AFTER THE PILOT HAD LANDED, FIVE HELICOPTERS CIRCLED ABOVE THE BOAT. AFTER ANOTHER TEN MINUTES, A U.S. SHIP APPROACHED AND REMOVED THE INJURED PILOT. THE HELICOPTERS THEN DEPARTED. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE REFUGEE SOURCE OBSERVED THIS WHILE FISHING WITH RELATIVES.)

3. THREE DAYS LATER THE SAME U.S. SHIP SPOTTED THE FISHING BOAT WHICH REACHED THE PILOT AND INVITED THE CREW ABOARD TO BE

[REDACTED]

THANKED BY THE SURVIVING PILOT. THE VIETNAMESE CREW WAS AWARDED 10,000 SOUTH VIETNAMESE PIASTERS (ABOUT U.S. \$85 AT THAT TIME) AND GIVEN POLAROID PICTURES TAKEN WITH THE PILOT. WHEN THE INJURED PILOT HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE U.S. SHIP, A VIETNAMESE INTERPRETER ASKED THE FISHING PARTY WHETHER THEY HAD SEEN A SECOND AMERICAN PILOT PRACHUTE DOWN. HOWEVER, WHEN THE PARTY WAS INVITED ABOARD THE U.S. SHIP, THIS MATTER WAS NOT RAISED.

4. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE FISHING CREW CONSISTED OF [REDACTED]

WHEN THE PARTY WAS ABOARD THE U.S. SHIP, THE INJURED PILOT PROPOSED TO THE FATHER THAT HE SEND [REDACTED] TO THE U.S. FOR SCHOOLING AND THE PILOT WOULD SERVE AS HIS GUARDIAN. THE OFFER WAS DECLINED. [REDACTED] DOES NOT REMEMBER THE PILOT'S NAME AND HE DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER THE DEAD PILOT AND THE SURVIVING PILOT FLEW THE SAME AIRCRAFT.)

5. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED] OF SUBJECT INFORMATION IS [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

REPORT CLASS ~~S E C R E T~~ - [REDACTED]

DECL: OADR DRV [REDACTED] ALL PORTIONS CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF OVERALL DOCUMENT.

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