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PAGE 0001

MSGNO 180 (PCXX) *04/21/87* *21:10:29.0.4*
ZCZC 02:09:10Z (PC)
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ZNY SSSSS
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FM JCS WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEADWD/OCSA WASHINGTON DC
RUENAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC
RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC
RUEAMCC/CMC CC WASHINGTON DC
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RUEABOA/HQ AFOSI BOLLING AFB DC
RUEALGX/SAFE
<> R <><>212044Z APR 87<><>
FM CIA
TO RUETIAA/DIRNSA
RUEHC/DEPT OF STATE//FOR INR
RUEKJCS/DIA
RUEATRS/TREASURY DEPT
RUEADWW/WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

RUHQHQA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
RUHHHMA/CDRWESTCOM FT SHAFTER HI
RUHQHQA/COMIPAC HONOLULU HI
RHHMBRA/CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI
RUHVAAA/CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
RUAJMAB/FOFIF/WESTPAC
RUHGOAA/COMSEVENTHFLT

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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 C O N F I D E N T I A L-

DIST: 21 APRIL 1987

COUNTRY: VIETNAM

SUBJ: ABSENCE OF AMERICANS AND DESCRIPTION OF K4 SUBCAMP OF
THE LAO CAI REEDUCATION CAMP IN HOANG LIEN SON AND
SUBCAMP K4 OF THE TAN LAP REEDUCATION CAMP IN VINH
PHU, NORTHERN VIETNAM

DOI: JUNE 1978 - FEBRUARY 1982

SOURCE:

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TEXT: 1. FROM JUNE TO OCTOBER 1978, THERE WERE NO AMERICANS AT SUBCAMP-K4 OF THE LAO CAI REEDUCATION CAMP IN HOANG LIEN SON PROVINCE, NORTHERN VIETNAM. THE LAO CAI CAMP HEADQUARTERS WAS LOCATED ABOUT FIVE KILOMETERS (KMS) SOUTHWEST OF THE PHO LU TRAIN STATION AND ABOUT 30 KMS EAST OF THE CHINESE BORDER. K4 SUBCAMP WAS SITUATED ABOUT TWO KMS EAST OF THE LAO CAI CAMP HEADQUARTERS IN HOANG LIEN SON. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED] HAD HIS DIRECTIONS MIXED UP. THE ABOVE DIRECTIONS HAVE BEEN CORRECTED.)

2. THE LAO CAI REEDUCATION CAMP HEADQUARTERS WAS BUILT BY THE FRENCH BEFORE 1954. AFTER THE DEFEAT OF THE FRENCH, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE USED THIS FACILITY TO DETAIN POLITICAL PRISONERS WHO WORKED FOR THE FRENCH. AFTER 30 APRIL 1975, THE NORTH USED THIS FACILITY TO DETAIN PRISONERS FROM THE SOUTH. SUBCAMP K4 WAS BUILT BY AND USED FOR DETENTION OF NORTH VIETNAMESE CRIMINALS.

3. THE LAO CAI REEDUCATION CAMP AND ITS SUBCAMP WERE ADMINISTERED BY THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR (BNV). BNV SENIOR CAPTAIN BUI ((CHIEU)) WAS LAO CAI REEDUCATION CAMP COMMANDER. THE K4 SUBCAMP COMMANDER WAS A BNV SENIOR LIEUTENANT WHOSE NAME IS NOT RECALLED.

4. SUBCAMP K4 CONSISTED OF FOUR SEPARATE ZONES EACH DIVIDED INTO TWO LABOR UNITS. THERE WERE ABOUT 30 BNV OFFICERS AND MEN AT K4. EACH ZONE WAS SEPARATED FROM THE NEXT BY A BAMBOO FENCE. THE ZONES WERE ABOUT FIVE METERS APART. THE THOUGHT REFORM INSTRUCTOR FOR LABOR UNIT FOUR WAS BNV CORPORAL ((CHUT)), WELL KNOWN FOR BEATING THE PRISONERS; BNV THOUGHT REFORM INSTRUCTOR/SERGEANT ((GIOI)) SUPERVISED THE BRICK MAKING UNIT; BNV CORPORAL ((HAI)), AKA HAI DIEN, WAS ALSO KNOWN TO BEAT HIS PRISONERS. HAI SUPERVISED THE FARM UNIT. THERE WERE ABOUT 200 ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (ARVN) JUNIOR GRADE OFFICERS AT K4. ALL OF THEM HAD TRANSFERRED FROM CAMP-6 OF INTERCAMP-1 IN HOANG LIEN SON. MOST OF THEM WERE FROM FORMER ARVN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, MILITARY SECURITY, PSY-WARFARE AND SPECIAL POLICE UNITS. THERE WERE ARVN FIELD GRADE OFFICERS AT SUBCAMP K1 OF THE LAO CAI REEDUCATION CAMP. DURING THE CHINESE ATTACKS AGAINST NORTH VIETNAM IN 1979, CHINESE ARTILLERY LEVELED THE LAO CAI CAMP HEADQUARTERS AND SUBCAMP K4. THEREAFTER NORTH VIETNAM ABANDONED THE LAO CAI REEDUCATION CAMP. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THIS INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED BY [REDACTED] TAN LAP REEDUCATION CAMP IN VINH PHU.

5. FROM OCTOBER 1978 TO 27 FEBRUARY 1982 THERE WERE NO AMERICANS AT SUBCAMP K4 OF THE TAN LAP REEDUCATION CAMP IN VINH PHU PROVINCE, NORTHERN VIETNAM. THIS CAMP WAS LOCATED ABOUT 20 KMS NORTHEAST OF THE AM THUONG RAILROAD STATION AND TWO KMS FROM THE BEN NGOC LANDING IN SONG THAO DISTRICT, VINH PHU. THIS CAMP WAS BUILT BY NORTH VIETNAMESE CRIMINAL PRISONERS SOMETIME BEFORE 1975.

6. THE TAN LAP, AKA K5, REEDUCATION CAMP WAS ADMINISTERED BY THE BNV. BNV MAJOR BUI ((CHIEU)) WAS CAMP COMMANDER. [REDACTED] COMMENT: CHIEU WAS FORMERLY A SENIOR CAPTAIN AND DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE LAO CAI REEDUCATION CAMP IN HOANG LIEN SON. HE WAS PROMOTED AND TRANSFERRED TO TAN LAP, VINH PHU. THE CHIEF OF SUBCAMP K4 WAS BNV

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---CAPTAIN CAO BA ((DAU))--- THE K4 DEPUTY COMMANDER WAS BNV SENIOR LIEUTENANT (FNU) ((HUNG)), AKA HUNG GIA. THOUGHT REFORM OFFICERS AT K4 INCLUDED BNV ASPIRANT ((THUC)) AND ASPIRANT ((SON)), AKA GA RI TO. THERE WERE ABOUT 40 BNV OFFICERS AND MEN AT K4.

7. THERE WERE ABOUT 345 ARVN JUNIOR GRADE OFFICERS AT K4. THE PRISONERS WERE ORGANIZED INTO 12 LABOR UNITS WITH ABOUT 30 INMATES PER UNIT. UNIT ONE, THE CARPENTRY UNIT WAS SUPERVISED BY BNV SERGEANT (SGT) ((TIEN)), A THOUGHT REFORM INSTRUCTOR; UNIT TWO, A FARM UNIT, WAS SUPERVISED BY BNV SGT/THOUGHT REFORM INSTRUCTOR ((DUC)); BNV SGT HAI, ALSO A THOUGHT REFORM INSTRUCTOR, SUPERVISED FARM UNITS THREE AND FOUR; BNV SGT NGUYEN VAN ((LE)) SUPERVISED UNIT FIVE, A GREEN VEGETABLE GROWING UNIT AS WELL AS UNIT SIX, THE TEA COLLECTION AND DRYING UNIT; BNV SGT ((THANH)) SUPERVISED UNIT SEVEN, BRICK MAKING, AND UNIT NINE, THE FORESTRY PRODUCTION UNIT; BNV SGT ((THUC)), A THOUGHT REFORM INSTRUCTOR, SUPERVISED UNIT EIGHT, A FARM UNIT; UNIT 10 WAS SUPERVISED BY BNV K4 REAR SERVICES SGTS ((KHAI)) AND ((TOAN)) - THIS UNIT WAS THE K4 MESSHALL; UNIT 11, ANOTHER GREEN VEGETABLE CROP PRODUCTION UNIT, WAS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF BNV

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MSGNO 181 (PCXX) *04/21/87* *21:10:29.2.3*
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ZNY SSSSS
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INFO RUEADWD/OCSA WASHINGTON DC
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TO RUETIAA/DIRNSA
RUEHC/DEPT OF STATE//FOR INR
RUEKJCS/DIA
RUEATRS/TREASURY DEPT
RUEADWW/WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM
[REDACTED]
RUHQHQA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
RUHHHMA/CDRWESTCOM FT SHAFTER HI
RUHQHQA/COMIPAC HONOLULU HI
RHHMBRA/CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI
RUHVAAA/CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
RUAJMAB/FOSIF/WESTPAC
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S E C R / E T [REDACTED]
EZ2:
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<> <><>CITE [REDACTED]
SERIAL: [REDACTED]
PASS: NSA FOR ZKZK OO DLS DE (FOR NSOC).

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.
SGT/THOUGHT REFORM INSTRUCTOR ((THANG)); BNV REAR SERVICES FEMALE 2ND
LIEUTENANT ((VINH)) SUPERVISED UNIT 12, THE GUEST RECEPTION AND
TRANSPORTATION UNIT. EACH UNIT CONSISTED OF THREE CELLS WITH ABOUT
10 PRISONERS PER CELL.

8. AFTER COMPLETION OF DAILY WORK DUTIES, THE PRISONERS
FORMED UP INTO TWO ROWS AND ROLL CALL WAS TAKEN. THE PRISONERS FILED
INTO THEIR ROOMS AND IN THE EVENINGS THE BNV GUARDS LOCKED THE
PRISONERS' DOORS. DURING THE NIGHT THE GUARDS MOVED ABOUT THE CAMP
CLOSE TO PRISONER BUILDINGS IN ORDER TO MONITOR THEIR ACTIVITIES

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CAREFULLY. EACH WEEK THE PRISONERS WERE REQUIRED TO HOLD SELF CRITICISM SESSIONS. THE FOOD PRODUCTS GROWN AT THE CAMP WERE USED BY THE CAMP STAFF AND PRISONERS. THE BNV STAFF SEEMED TO EAT ALL OF THE DECENT FOOD AND LEAVE THE OLD WITHERED FOOD FOR THE INMATES. THIS CAMP WAS EQUIPPED WITH TELEPHONES. THERE WERE ALSO BICYCLES AND JEEPS AVAILABLE TO CARRY CORRESPONDENCE/PERSONNEL AROUND.

9. THERE WERE THREE BUDDHIST CHAPLAINS AT THE K4: CHAPLAINS ((CHAU)), ((TRI)) AND ((HAI)). CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN NGUYEN VAN ((THUONG)) WAS IN UNIT 11; HE WAS RELEASED FROM REEDUCATION ON 27 FEBRUARY 1982. THERE WERE THREE ARVN MAJORS: ((NGHIA)) FROM OFFICE TWO IN II CORPS; ((THINH)), AN ARMY DOCTOR; AND ((QUANG)) FROM THE 9TH ARVN INFANTRY DIVISION.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

DATA

DISSEM: [REDACTED] SENT TO DATA, USCINCPAC, IPAC, WESTCOM, PACAF, PACFLT, COMSEVENTHFLT, FOSIF/WESTPAC.

CONFIDENTIAL

DECL: OADR BY RECORDED REPORTING OFFICER. ALL PORTIONS CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF OVERALL DOCUMENT.

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