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THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: SIGHTINGS OF U.S. ARMY HELICOPTER CRASH SITE AND TWO GRAVES IN SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM QUANG NAM - DA NANG PROVINCE

1. ACCORDING TO TWO VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WHO HAD LIVED IN THE DA NANG AREA, IN JUNE 1975 A CRASHED HELICOPTER, MARKED "U.S. ARMY" ON THE SIDES TOWARD THE TAIL END OF THE AIRCRAFT, WAS OBSERVED IN THE MOUNTAINOUS AREA CALLED VUNG BUN (UNLOCATED) IN THE VICINITY OF LA NGA VILLAGE (15-38N, 108-15E), GIANG DISTRICT (8IC), SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (SRV) QUANG NAM - DA NANG PROVINCE. THEY ALSO SAW TWO GRAVE SITES ABOUT TWO METERS FROM THE MOUNTAIN TRAIL IN VUNG BUN. THESE OBSERVATIONS WERE MADE WHILE COLLECTING FIRE WOOD. KATU MONTAGNARDS WHO LIVED IN THE LOCALITY CLAIMED THE GRAVES WERE FOR TWO AMERICAN CREW MEMBERS KILLED IN THE CRASH AND BURIED BY KATU LOCALS.

2. IN OCTOBER 1980 THE SAME FORMER DA NANG RESIDENTS RETURNED HOPING TO STRIP ALUMINUM FROM THE HELICOPTER TO SELL, AS THEY HAD NOT THOUGHT TO DO SO THE FIRST TIME. HOWEVER, THEY DISCOVERED, TO THEIR CHAGRIN, THAT ALL THAT WAS LEFT OF THE HELICOPTER WAS THE STEEL FRAME. THE GRAVE SITES WERE COVERED WITH HIGH GRASS. COMMENT: THE AREA AROUND LA NGA VILLAGE IS REMOTE AND MOUNTAINOUS AND THE KATU RESIDENTS DID NOT VOLUNTEER INFORMATION TO THE SRV AUTHORITIES UNLESS PRESSED. IN OCTOBER 1980 THE KATU PEOPLE SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO SRV CADRE IN THE AREA ASKING FOR INFORMATION ON AMERICAN PERSONNEL. ACCORDINGLY, THEY HAD NOT TOLD ABOUT NOR SHOWN THE CRASH AND GRAVE SITES TO ANY AUTHORITIES.)

3. TO TRAVEL TO THE CRASH SITE THE FORMER DA NANG RESIDENTS HEADED NORTH FROM DA NANG TO NAM O (16-07N-108-04E), A DISTANCE ESTIMATED AT FIVE KILOMETERS. FROM NAM O THEY PADDLED A CANOE FOR FOUR HOURS TO THE TRUONG DINH (16-07N-108-04E) FORESTRY FARM AND THEN WALKED FROM TRUONG DINH TO KHE DAO (16-08N, 106-57E), WHICH TOOK TWO TO TWO AND ONE-HALF HOURS. THE TRIP FROM KHE DAO TO LA NGA VILLAGE ALONG THE MOUNTAIN TRAIL TAKES FIVE HOURS BY FOOT. FROM LA NGA TO VUNG BUN THE TRAIL IS VERY TORTUOUS AND TAKES ABOUT SIX HOURS BY FOOT.

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