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INFO RUEACHS/CHS-GRID/OCJCS
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RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT CLASS ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DIST: 07 NOVEMBER 1986
COUNTRY: VIETNAM
SUBJ: ABSENCE OF AMERICANS AT THE XUAN LOC AND TAN HIEP.
REEDUCATION CAMPS IN DONG NAI AND CHI HOA PRISON IN
HO CHI MINH CITY; CLOSURE OF THE TAN HIEP CAMP
DOI: JUNE 1975 - JANUARY 1982
SOURCE:

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TEXT: 1. FROM JUNE 1975 TO DECEMBER 1976 THERE WERE NO AMERICANS AT THE XUAN LOC REEDUCATION CAMP IN DONG NAI PROVINCE, SOUTHERN VIETNAM. THIS CAMP WAS LOCATED AT THE EASTERN EDGE OF XUAN LOC DISTRICT TOWN, ABOUT FOUR KILOMETERS (KMS) EAST OF THE XUAN LOC MARKET, NORTH OF NATIONAL HIGHWAY ONE BETWEEN CHUA CHAN MOUNTAIN AND THE HIGHWAY.

2. THE XUAN LOC REEDUCATION CAMP WAS ADMINISTERED BY AN UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE'S ARMY OF VIETNAM (PAVN) UNIT SUBORDINATE TO MILITARY REGION-7. DUE TO COMPARTMENTATION, DETAILS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THIS CAMP WERE NOT CLEAR. THE CAMP WAS DIVIDED INTO AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF BATTALIONS, DESIGNATED AS K'S, EACH WITH ABOUT 500 PRISONERS, ABOUT 20 REEDUCATION/THOUGHT REFORM CADRES AND A "K" COMMANDER WHO WAS USUALLY A PAVN SENIOR CAPTAIN. THERE WERE ABOUT 200 PAVN GUARDS AROUND THE CAMP. COMMENT: [REDACTED] UNIT CONSISTED OF ABOUT 500 JUNIOR GRADE ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (ARVN) OFFICERS, INCLUDING 1ST LIEUTENANTS AND CAPTAINS.)

3. THE XUAN LOC CAMP WAS EQUIPPED WITH TELEPHONES. THIS FACILITY WAS STILL OPERATING IN JUNE 1986. COMMENT: THE FAMILIES OF SEVERAL [REDACTED] FRIENDS [REDACTED] CONTINUED TO VISIT/SUPPORT THEIR RELATIVES AT THIS CAMP IN JUNE 1986.)

4. FROM JANUARY 1977 TO MAY 1981 THERE WERE NO AMERICANS AT THE CHI HOA PRISON IN HO CHI MINH CITY (HCMC). SEVERAL TAIWANESE-CHINESE AND FOUR KOREANS WERE DETAINED AT CHI HOA PRISON. THREE OF THE KOREANS WERE SOUTH KOREAN DIPLOMATS. THE THREE SOUTH KOREAN DIPLOMATS WERE TRANSFERRED TO AN UNKNOWN LOCATION IN LATE 1980. THE FOURTH KOREAN WAS A FORMER SOUTH KOREAN ARMY WARRANT OFFICER WHO DESERTED HIS UNIT AND MARRIED A VIETNAMESE WOMAN. THIS SOUTH KOREAN DESERTER WAS ARRESTED AND IMPRISONED AT CHI HOA IN APRIL 1975; HE WAS STILL AT CHI HOA PRISON AS OF MAY 1981.

5. CHI HOA PRISON IS LOCATED ON HOA HUNG STREET, OFF CACH MANG THANG TAM (FORMERLY LE VAN DUYET STREET). IN 1977 THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR (BNV) TURNED THIS FACILITY OVER TO THE HCMC PUBLIC SECURITY (PS) SERVICE. THE BNV CONTINUED TO USE THE CELLS IN ZONE ED FOR BNV SOURCES. THE CHIEF OF ZONE ED WAS A BNV CAPTAIN. ZONE ED HAD FOUR GUARD POSTS, ONE ON EACH FLOOR, AND EACH GUARD POST WAS MANNED BY TWO BNV NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS. THERE WERE AN ESTIMATED 200 PS GUARDS POSTED AROUND THE PRISON COMPOUND.

6. ZONE ED HELD POLITICAL PRISONERS, MOST OF WHOM HAD BEEN TRIED AND GIVEN SENTENCES OF FIVE OR MORE YEARS, LIFE IMPRISONMENT, OR THE DEATH PENALTY. THERE WERE SOME FORMER FIELD GRADE AND JUNIOR GRADE ARVN OFFICERS AND A FEW PERSONS, ARRESTED FOR ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE VIETNAM BY SEA, WITH INDEFINITE SENTENCES. CELL 12 ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF ZONE ED HELD ABOUT 40 CATHOLIC AND BUDDHIST PRIESTS. CHI HOA PRISON CONTINUED TO OPERATE IN JUNE 1986.

7. FROM JUNE 1981 TO JANUARY 1982 THERE WERE NO AMERICANS AT THE TAN HIEP REEDUCATION CAMP IN DONG NAI PROVINCE, SOUTHERN VIETNAM. THIS CAMP WAS LOCATED ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF NATIONAL HIGHWAY ONE, TRAVELING NORTHEAST FROM BIEN HOA CITY TOWARD HO NAI VILLAGE, JUST BEFORE THE INTERSECTION OF HIGHWAY ONE AND THE BIEN HOA HIGHWAY. THE TAN HIEP CAMP WAS ABOUT FIVE KMS NORTHEAST OF BIEN HOA CITY.

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B. THE TAN HIEP REEDUCATION CAMP WAS ADMINISTERED BY THE BNV. A STAFF OF ABOUT 200 BNV OFFICERS AND MEN WERE ASSIGNED TO THE CAMP. THIS CAMP EMPLOYED TELEPHONES FOR COMMUNICATIONS. IN JANUARY 1981, THE BNV WAS PREPARING TO MOVE ALL THE PRISONERS FROM TAN HIEP TO THE TONG LE CHAN REEDUCATION CAMP IN SONG BE PROVINCE. AT THAT TIME THERE WERE ABOUT 1,000 PRISONERS; ABOUT 500 EACH IN ZONES A AND B. THOSE IN ZONE A INCLUDED ABOUT 100 MEMBERS OF THE HOA HAO RELIGIOUS SECT AND APPROXIMATELY 400 CRIMINALS. ZONE B INCLUDED ABOUT 50 FORMER ARVN FIELD GRADE AND 450 JUNIOR GRADE OFFICERS. THE TAN HIEP REEDUCATION CAMP WAS CLOSED DOWN AROUND JUNE 1982. COMMENT: FRIENDS TRANSFERRED TO THE TONG LE CHAN REEDUCATION CAMP BETWEEN JANUARY AND JUNE 1982.

USCINCPAC, IPAC, WESTCOM, PACAF, PACFLT, COMSEVENTHFLT, FOSIF/WESTPAC.

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