

DATE AND TIME TRANSMISSION

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SUBJECT OF MESSAGE  
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USE OF INMATE LABOR FROM REEDUCATION CAMP IN THANH HOA PROVINCE

CLASSIFICATION/CONTROLS

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NUMBER OF PAGES

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# Intelligence Information Report

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PAGE 1 OF 4 PAGES

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REPORT NO. [Redacted]

DATE DISTR. 19 AUGUST 1982

REPORT CLASS ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ [Redacted]

COUNTRY Vietnam

SUBJECT Use of Inmate Laborers for Agricultural Development Projects from the Thanh Phong-Thanh Lam Reeducation Camp in Thanh Hoa Province and the Phu Lu Reeducation Camp in Lao Cai Province; Camp Layouts and Division of Inmates (DOI: 1977-January 1981)

SOURCE [Redacted]

SUMMARY: As of late 1980, inmates of the Thanh Phong-Thanh Lam Reeducation Camp in Thanh Hoa Province had undertaken the task of clearing 5,000 hectares of land pursuant to a Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV) plan to develop Nhu Xuan district agriculturally. The camp's population of 3,600 provided free labor for planting crops and trees and building houses as part of the reeducation process. Similarly, between 1977 and 1979 inmates of the Phu Lu Reeducation Camp in Lao Cai Province worked to develop 200 hectares of the Hong Thang State Farm 104, adjacent to the camp. Details on the physical layout and types of prisoners for both camps are provided. End summary.

## THANH PHONG-THANH LAM REEDUCATION CAMP

1. As of late 1980, the Thanh Phong-Thanh Lam Reeducation Camp was tasked with clearing 5,000 hectares of land to grow staple food, planting ~~timber~~ and constructing housing for future workers in Nhu Xuan District, Thanh Hoa Province. This responsibility was

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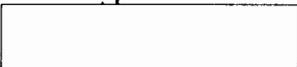
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assigned in response to a Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV) government plan to develop Nhu Xuan District into an agriculture and forestry economic zone.

[redacted] of the camp, informed inmates during a political education session in late 1980 that former Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) personnel and other inmates were expected to contribute their efforts toward the economic project. They were told to bear in mind that their labor, hardships and sacrifice would be part of the SRV humanitarian policy of reeducation to redeem them from their past mistakes. [redacted] said if they worked diligently and became politically enlightened, their citizenship rights would be restored. [redacted] comment: [redacted] also noted that another economic zone called Bai Chanh State Farm was located 17 kilometers south of Thanh Lam Village. Five thousand young workers reportedly cleared land to convert 5,000 hectares into a tea and coffee plantation. This area is inhabited by Tai ethnic minorities .)

2. [redacted] was placed in charge of overall formulation of plans for land-clearing, irrigation and housing construction. Assigned to assist [redacted] were ARVN field grade and subaltern officers. The principal tasks were to cut down trees, build workers' living quarters, make bricks and tiles and grow rice, potatoes and tapioca.

3. The Thanh Phong-Thanh Lam Reeducation Camp, also known as Central Reeducation Camp Number One, was located in Thanh Phong and Thanh Lam Villages, Nhu Xuan District, Thanh Hoa Province, SRV. The camp occupied an area of about 20 square kilometers (km), including farmland developed by inmates. The camp consisted of five compounds known as K1 through K5. Compounds K1 and K3 were located in Thanh Phong Village, while K2, K4 and K5 were in Thanh Lam Village. In January 1981, the prison population was about 3,600 inmates: 2,000 ARVN, 310 Special Forces personnel and 1,300 criminal offenders. They were held in the five compounds in the following manner:

- A. K1: 210 Special Forces personnel and 100 criminals
- B. K2: 500 ARVN and 200 criminals
- C. K3: 800 criminals
- D. K4: 100 Special Forces inmates, 1,000 ARVN officers, including [redacted] and another brigadier general. There also were about 200 criminal offenders.
- E. K5: 500 ARVN officers and about 200 criminals.

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4. As of late January 1981, the Thanh Phong-Thanh Lam Reeducation Camp director was Public Security Lieutenant Colonel Nguyen Van ((Thuy)). Lieutenant Colonel Oanh was also in charge of reeducation sessions and cadre and inmate management policies. Other deputy directors were heads of planning, security, prisoners education, rear services and security guard committees and chiefs of each of the five compounds. Each compound had about 120 management personnel and security guards. Inmates were organized into 50-man work teams and each work team had five work cells.

PHU LU REEDUCATION CAMP

5. Between 1977 and February 1979, about 200 hectares of Phu Lu District, Lao Cai Province, SRV, had been cleared and planted by inmates of Phu Lu Reeducation Camp. This work was performed following an early 1977 directive by the camp director, Public Security Major Nguyen Dinh ((Chieu)), that ARVN personnel and other inmates were to provide free labor toward the development of the adjacent Hong Thang State Farm 104. Also in 1977, the camp population was increased by 1,500 ARVN officers.

6. SRV leaders had decided to convert 4,000 hectares of Phu Lu District wild land and forest into tea, fruit and tree plantations. As of early 1979, tea and pineapple had been planted on 100 hectares and Bo De (banyan) trees had been planted on another 100 hectares to be used as raw material for paper mills and match-making factories.

7. In February 1979, the Phu Lu Reeducation Camp consisted of five compounds known as K1 through K5. K1 had about 120 management personnel and K2 through K5 each had about 60-70 management personnel. The layout was as follows:

A. K1, the central compound, housed the prison main administrative personnel and about 1,300 inmates comprised of 1,000 ARVN and 300 criminals. It consisted of 11 buildings surrounded by six-meter high concrete walls topped with high voltage electric fences.

B. K2 was located about five km southwest of K1. It held female inmates and was surrounded by bamboo walls and barbed wire fences, as were K3, K4 and K5.

C. K3 was about three km north of K1 and housed 500 ARVN officers and 200 criminals.

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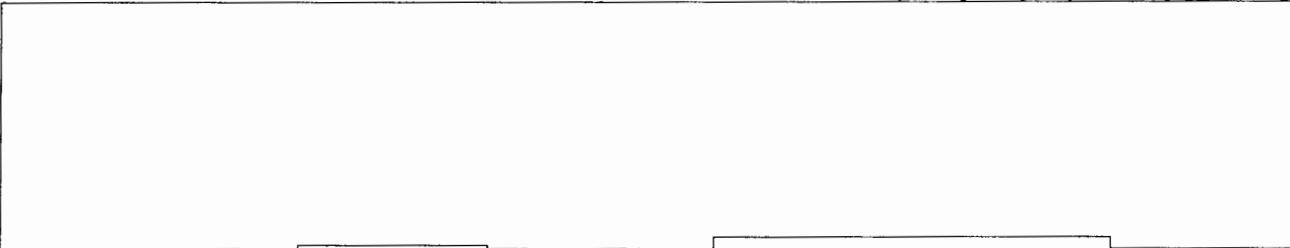
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D. K4 was located two km east of K1. It housed 250 Special Forces personnel and 500 criminals.

E. K5 was located southeast of K1 and it held about 200 political prisoners from the north, including members of the Vietnamese Nationalist Party (Vietnam Quoc Dan Dang/VNQDD), Dai Viet Party and Catholic clergy and laymen from Phat Diem, Nghe An and Ninh Binh. Many VNQDD and Dai Viet Party inmates had been imprisoned since 1945; however, the majority were captured following the communist takeover of Hanoi in 1954.



9. Acq: [redacted] (July 1982). [redacted]

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