

S E C R E T--

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SUBJECT: POSTING OF A FORMER NORTH VIETNAMESE INTERROGATOR OF U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR AS A SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM OFFICIAL ABROAD.

1. IN FEBRUARY/MARCH 1981, [REDACTED]

SOCIALIST

[REDACTED] STATED THAT A FORMER INTERROGATOR OF U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR IS THE CURRENT DIRECTOR OF THE SRV VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY (VNA) IN PARIS. HE IS A FIELD GRADE CQB OFFICER NAMED TRAN NGOC KHA. DURING AN UNKNOWN PERIOD DURING THE VIETNAM WAR, KHA HAD HEADED THE CQB "INFORMATION OFFICE" (PHONG THONG TIN) WHICH WAS INVOLVED IN THE INTERROGATION OF DOWNED U.S. PILOTS IN THE NORTHERN SRV. [REDACTED] HAD WORKED IN KHA'S CQB "INFORMATION OFFICE" AS AN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE INTERPRETER FOR CQB OFFICERS WHO INTERROGATED U.S. PILOTS, AND HAD PERFORMED THIS FUNCTION WITH THE CQB FROM 1965 TO ABOUT 1972.

[REDACTED] A, WHO ALSO HAD INTERROGATED SOME U.S. PILOTS. IN ADDITION, [REDACTED] HAD TRANSLATED UNSPECIFIED ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DOCUMENTS AND HAD PREPARED UNSPECIFIED REPORTS FOR THE CQB "INFORMATION OFFICE." FOLLOWING THE COMMUNIST TAKEOVER OF SOUTH VIETNAM IN APRIL 1975, [REDACTED] REQUESTED AND RECEIVED A TRANSFER FROM THE CQB TO THE SRV MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) DIPLOMATIC CORPS SERVICE DEPARTMENT (CUC PHUC VU NGOAI GIAO DOAN).

2. [REDACTED] COMMENT: NO U.S. POW'S WERE SEEN OR HEARD OF SINCE THE JANUARY 1973 PARIS CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT REPATRIATION IN MARCH.)

3. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE CQB IS ALSO KNOWN AS THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT (CUC NGHIEN CUU/CNC) OF THE MND GENERAL STAFF DEPARTMENT. THE CQB "INFORMATION OFFICE" IS BELIEVED TO BE IDENTICAL WITH THE CNC RESEARCH OFFICE WHICH WAS INVOLVED IN THE INTERROGATION OF U.S. PILOTS DOWNED IN THE NORTHERN SRV IN THE 1960'S. TRAN NGOC KHA, BORN 8 MAY 1928 IN HANOI, HAD SERVED AS VNA DIRECTOR IN PARIS FROM 8 AUGUST 1962 TO 11 JANUARY 1968. DURING THIS PERIOD, HE STATED IN MID-1966 THAT HE HAD INTERVIEWED A NUMBER OF U.S. POW'S IN NORTH VIETNAM, HAD MAILED LETTERS IN PARIS FROM U.S. POW'S TO THEIR RELATIVES IN THE U.S. AND THAT HE WAS A BETTER CHANNEL FOR U.S. GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS WITH HANOI THAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CHIEF OF MISSION MAI VAN BO ON U.S. POW MATTERS. KHA RETURNED TO PARIS IN JUNE 1980 AS THE NEW VNA DIRECTOR, WHERE HE WAS IDENTIFIED [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AS A CNC MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OFFICER.)

REPORT CLASS S E C R E T--

RVW 210CTUL [REDACTED] BY RECORDED REPORTING OFFICER. ALL PORTIONS CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF OVERALL DOCUMENT.

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