



## UNCLASSIFIED

PENTAGON  
OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE

((TEXT)) ((ALAKHVERDOV)) A FEW DAYS AGO, ALMOST THE ENTIRE WORLD WAS STIRRED BY GENERAL KALUGIN'S STATEMENT THAT DURING THE 1970'S KGB BODIES INTERROGATED U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR IN VIETNAM AND BY HIS REMARKS CONCERNING WHETHER THERE COULD STILL BE AMERICAN PRISONERS IN OUR COUNTRY. SEVERAL TELEVISION COMPANIES BROADCAST INTERVIEWS WITH THE RETIRED CHEKIST, BUT ONLY REPORTS OF THE FORMER GENERAL'S WORDS REACHED HIS HOMETLAND. I AGREE THAT LIVE APPEARANCES ARE NOT ALWAYS NECESSARY, BUT SOMETIMES ISSUES ARE SO IMPORTANT THAT THEY CAUSE OFFICIAL REACTION FROM GOVERNMENTS. HERE, TOO, THE GOVERNMENTS AND OFFICIAL ORGANIZATIONS OF SEVERAL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING RUSSIA, REACTED TO KALUGIN'S WORDS. THE PROBLEM ITSELF IS, GENERALLY SPEAKING, AN UNEXPECTED ONE AND OUGHT TO BE INVESTIGATED, ESPECIALLY IF ONE BEARS IN MIND THAT OLEG KALUGIN HIDES FROM NO ONE AND WILLINGLY REPLIES TO JOURNALISTS' QUESTIONS. THEREFORE, I ASKED HIM TO VOICE HIS POINT OF VIEW WITHOUT INTERMEDIARIES. HE IMMEDIATELY AND COURTEOUSLY AGREED.

((KALUGIN)) IN THE SECOND HALF OF LAST YEAR, QUITE UNEXPECTEDLY, THERE WAS TALK TO THE EFFECT THAT HUNDREDS OR THOUSANDS OF AMERICAN POWS WERE ALLEGEDLY IN VIETNAM, AND EVEN IN THE SOVIET UNION. THE WESTERN, ESPECIALLY AMERICAN, PRESS CONTACTED ME, AND ASKED ME WHETHER THIS WAS TRUE. I SAID IT WAS COMPLETE NONSENSE. THERE ARE NOT BE ANY AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR FROM VIETNAM IN THE SOVIET UNION. AS FAR AS VIETNAM IS CONCERNED, I CANNOT SPEAK FOR THE VIETNAMESE, BUT I THINK THERE IS NO REASON WHY POWS WOULD BE HELD THERE UNTIL NOW.

JUST BEFORE THE NEW YEAR, A U.S. JOURNALIST AGAIN ASKED ME THIS QUESTION. ONCE AGAIN I REPEATED WHAT I HAD SAID EARLIER: IN THE 1970'S KGB OFFICIALS SUBORDINATE TO ME USED TO GO TO HANOI TO INTERROGATE CAPTURED U.S. SERVICEMEN. THE FIRST TIME, AROUND 1973 OR 1974, THE VIETNAMESE DID NOT GIVE US ACCESS TO THOSE AMERICANS. OUR RELATIONS AT THAT TIME WERE NOT THAT GOOD. WE DID NOT GET ANY SENSIBLE INFORMATION THEN. IT SEEMED AS THOUGH THAT WAS THE END OF THAT. HOWEVER, SEVERAL YEARS LATER, DURING A SECOND VISIT BY COLONEL OLEG NICHIPORENKO, ONE OF MY OFFICIALS, WE DID GET ACCESS TO THE AMERICANS. ON THAT OCCASION SEVERAL PEOPLE WERE INTERROGATED FROM A SELECTION OFFERED BY THE VIETNAMESE.

((ALAKHVERDOV)) APPROXIMATELY HOW MANY?

((KALUGIN)) I RECALL THREE PEOPLE. I EVEN ASKED NICHIPORENKO, BECAUSE THIS ALL HAPPENED QUITE A LONG TIME AGO AND I CAN NOT REMEMBER THE EXACT YEAR. I SAID EITHER 1976 OR 1978. I LATER CORRECTED THIS TO 1978, BECAUSE THAT YEAR AN OFFICIAL AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED ON COOPERATION BETWEEN THE VIETNAMESE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND THE SOVIET KGB. NATURALLY, THEY GRANTED US THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUAINT OURSELVES WITH EVERYTHING THEY HAD. I TOOK 1978 AS THE YEAR IN WHICH THIS WAS FORMALLY POSSIBLE.

MY STATEMENT FOR SOME REASON LED TO AN UNEXPECTED EXPLOSION OF INTEREST IN AMERICA. PEOPLE TELEPHONED FROM THE U.S. SENATE. THEY ASKED ME TO SPEAK AT CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS. I AM FLYING TO THE UNITED STATES FOR COMPLETELY DIFFERENT REASONS, BUT I WILL BE MET AT THE AIRPORT BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE U.S. CONGRESS. THEY WANT TO QUESTION ME ABOUT THIS. I CANNOT TELL THEM ANYTHING NEW. THE PROBLEM SEEMS TO BE CAUSED BY DIFFERENCES REGARDING THE YEAR IN WHICH THE SECOND MEETING TOOK PLACE. I ASSERTED IT WAS SOMEWHERE AROUND 1978, ALTHOUGH I DO NOT MAKE THAT CLAIM THAT WITH 100 PERCENT CERTAINTY. THAT IS WHY I SAID TO ASK OLEG NICHIPORENKO. HE WILL REMEMBER PRECISELY.

THIS MATTER IS OF INTEREST FROM THE HUMANITARIAN POINT OF VIEW. IT DOES NOT IMPINGE ON PROFESSIONAL HONOR OR ANY IDEOLOGICAL OR POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE, WHOSE RELATIVES STILL NURTURE TO THIS DAY SOME SORT OF HOPE THAT PERHAPS THEY ARE STILL ALIVE AND LIVING SOMEWHERE. IN THE SAME WAY, SOME OF OUR MOTHERS AND WIVES DID NOT SEE THEIR SONS AND HUSBANDS RETURN FROM AFGHANISTAN. TODAY A COLOSSAL CAMPAIGN IS UNDER WAY TO FIND THESE PEOPLE.

NO ONE FROM THE KGB COMMITTED ANY CRIME HERE. IT WAS THE COLD

\*AIR FORCE MESSAGE\*

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WAR. WE INTERROGATED THEM OR CROSS-EXAMINED THEM -- WHAT YOU WILL -- WITHOUT USING ANY PREJUDICIAL MEANS. WE MERELY TRIED TO PERSUADE THEM, SO TO SPEAK, TO COOPERATE WITH US AND TALK TO US. IT HAS ALREADY BEEN ADMITTED OFFICIALLY BY KGB INTELLIGENCE THAT ONE AMERICAN FROM THE CIA WAS INTERROGATED. NICHIPORENKO HAS ADMITTED TODAY ON AMERICAN TELEVISION THAT HE DID INDEED INTERROGATE ONE AMERICAN. THIS WAS ALLEGEDLY IN 1973 OR 1974. IN ACTUAL FACT, HE DID NOT INTERROGATE ANYONE THEN, BECAUSE THE VIETNAMESE DID NOT GIVE US ACCESS TO THOSE PEOPLE. THEY GAVE US ACCESS AT A MUCH LATER STAGE, WHICH IS WHAT I HAVE ASSERTED AND ASSERT NOW. THIS WHOLE EPISODE ENDED BY 1978.

AS FAR AS I KNOW, THE AMERICANS WHO WERE CAPTURED IN VIETNAM RETURNED HOME. AS FAR AS I KNOW, ALTHOUGH THE VIETNAMESE KNOW BETTER, NO ONE IS LEFT THERE. IT IS ANOTHER MATTER THAT THE VIETNAMESE ARE NOW DENYING THE VERY FACT THAT THERE WAS ANY CONTACT. THIS IS STUPID, BECAUSE THE SOVIET SIDE HAS ALREADY ADMITTED OFFICIALLY THAT THERE WAS A ONE-TIME CONTACT. ULTIMATELY, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS THAT PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES KNOW THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN THE SOVIET UNION. AS FAR AS THERE BEING POWS IN VIETNAM IS CONCERNED, I ASSUMED THAT THEY HAD ALL LEFT BY 1978.

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\*AIR FORCE MESSAGE\*

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