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COUNTRY : SOUTH VIETNAM (SVN)

SUBJECT : Captured Vietnamese and American Soldiers in BINH DINH Province, 1965. DATE OF REPORT: 15/7/67

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SOURCE:

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SUMMARY

On the five occasions that Source observed prisoners being conducted through his hamlet and village, the prisoners wore combat uniforms, were barefoot and bare-headed, and carried belts containing about five cans of rice and cooking pots. On the occasion that Source saw a captured American, he observed that the American wore a white plastic helmet, black leather boots, and that his arms were not tied. The Vietnamese prisoners were tied together and walked in single file, guarded by the VC. Source believed that the BINH DINH Province Unit's prisoner-of-war camp was located in NGHIA DIEM and BINH SON Hamlets, AN NGHIA Village, HOAI AN District, BINH DINH Province, SVN. Source believed that his

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ATTACHMENTS:

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Approved for Release 1993
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AUG 30 1967

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training cell station was lying right on the commo-liaison route which was why the prisoners passed through and sometimes rested there.

MAP REFERENCES:

AMS Series L701, Sheet 6753-I, Scale 1/50,000, Edition 1.
AMS Series L701, Sheet 6753-II, Scale 1/50,000, Edition 1.

1. Source saw captured American and Vietnamese prisoners being conducted through BINH DINH Province on five different occasions. The first of these happened around December 1964, when he saw seven VC soldiers, equipped with submachine guns and rifles, conducting about 40 GVN prisoners. Although Source did not know where these prisoners were captured, he saw them coming from the east of CAT SON Village, crossing his own area of THACH BAN Hamlet (BR 799629), CAT SON Village, and continuing in a northwest direction. The majority of prisoners were wearing combat clothes, but had neither head coverings nor shoes. No rank or insignia was visible on their uniforms. Each prisoner carried a belt containing about five cans of rice and a cooking pot. The prisoners were divided into three groups, consisting of 12 or 13 prisoners. The first group was led by two VC; three VC were stationed between the first and second groups; and two VC brought up the rear of the third group. The prisoners' arms were tied and they walked in single file.
2. In April 1965, Source saw about nine VC soldiers equipped with submachine guns and rifles conducting about 50 GVN prisoners from CAT KHANH Village to the northwest of CAT SON Village. A VC cadre told Source that the prisoners were captured during the battle of Nhong Pass by the QUYET CHIEN Regiment, SAO VANG Division, in which GVN Infantry Division 22 engaged the 20 QUYET CHIEN Regiment. The prisoners remained in CAT SON Village for 10 minutes during which Source observed that each one carried a belt containing five cans of rice. They wore combat uniform, but had no shoes or headgear. Some of the prisoners wore a red unit insignia with two black mountains on it; he did not see the insignia of their military rank. The prisoners walked in single file, the wrist of the man in front being tied to the man behind him. Guards were stationed at 10-prisoner intervals along the chain of captives.
3. In May 1965, Source saw five VC, carrying rifles and machineguns, conducting about 15 GVN prisoners from THUAN NINH Hamlet, BINH TAN Village, BINH KHE District, to the northwest of CAT SON Village. They passed by Source's station at 2000 hours and were wearing combat uniforms, and were bareheaded and barefooted. No insignias were visible on their uniforms, but it was said that the prisoners were GVN Main and Regional Force soldiers.
4. In about August 1965, Source saw a VC squad conducting about 60 GVN prisoners from the direction of MY TAI Village, PHU MY District, to the northwest of CAT SON Village, PHU CAT District. The prisoners were wearing combat uniforms with neither shoes nor hats, and were carrying rice and cooking pots. They had a red insignia with two black mountains across it on their left arms. Source learned from a cadre that the prisoners were captured during an engagement on National Route 1, MY NIEP Village (BR 896627), PHU MY District.
5. Again in August 1965, Source saw five VC leading about 10 GVN prisoners and one United States prisoner from BINH THUAN and BINH TAN Villages, BINH KHE District, and heading northwest of CAT SON Village. The prisoners passed Source's station at about 1700 hours. Source observed that they wore combat uniforms; the GVN prisoners were shoeless and bareheaded, while the American wore a white plastic helmet and black

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leather boots. He had a black insignia on his uniform, but Source did not recognize it. The GVN prisoners carried rice and cooking pots. The American's hands were not tied, and he did not carry anything. He was tall, had a round face and a reddish complexion.

6. Source estimated that the BINH DINH Province unit's prisoner-of-war camp might be located at BR 689699, in NGHIA DIEN and BINH SON Hamlets, AN NGHIA Village, HOAI AN District. Source believed that his station was lying right on the VC commo-liaison line which is why the VC conducted their prisoners through his hamlet and village, and sometimes rested there. Source also overheard VC cadres telling each other that if they went toward the northwest, they would have to travel only 12 kilometers to reach their destination, but if they went around the mountain, their trip would be difficult and dangerous, and its length would be 20 to 25 kilometers.
7. The VC usually allowed the prisoners to eat, smoke and wash their hands during their rest stops in THACH BAN Hamlet. VC guards and prisoners did not talk to each other, but Source noticed that the prisoners occasionally laughed and talked to each other.

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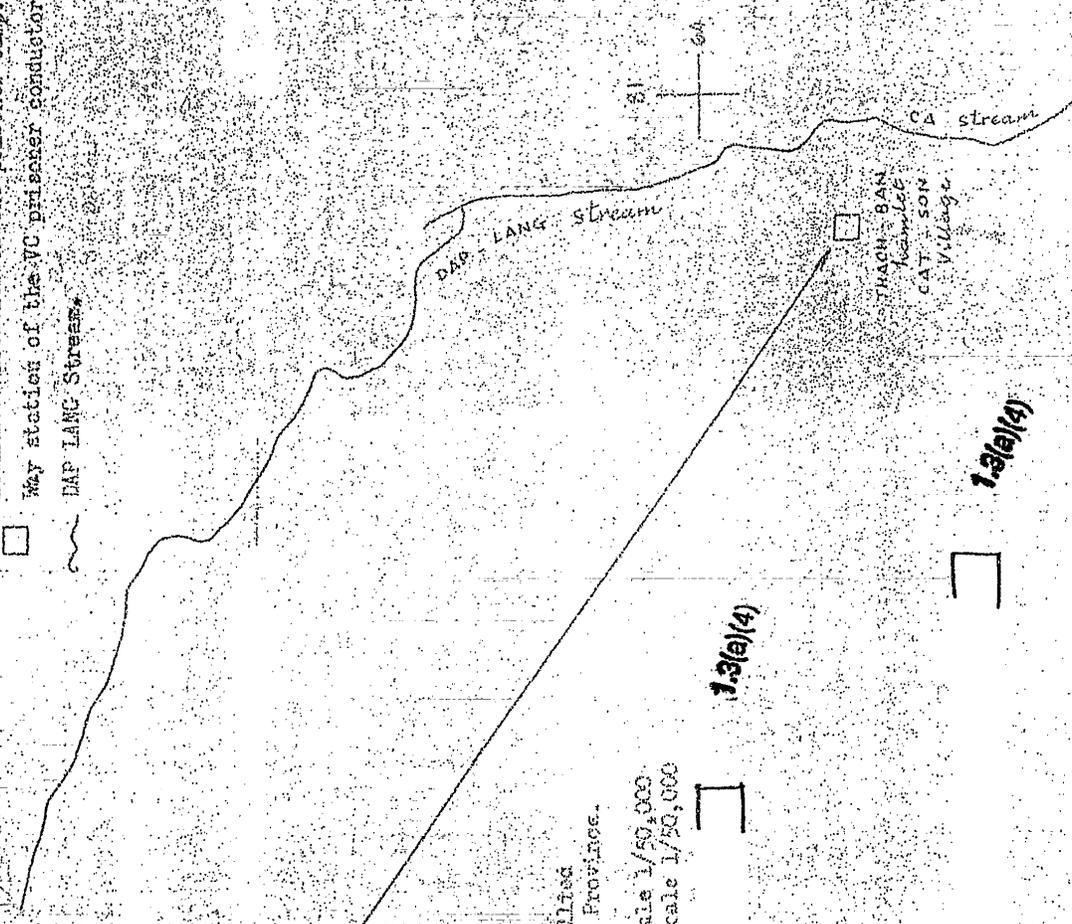
Nguyen Dien Phai
AN SOUTH
10/23/68

ATTACHMENT 1

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Estimated location of the prisoner camp
Way station of the VC prisoner conductors
DAP LANG Stream

Estimated location of the prisoner camp
Way station of the VC prisoner conductors
DAP LANG Stream



Outlay of the estimated location of RVN and Allied
prisoner camp, in REAI AN District, BINH BINH Province.

Ref: Map 67 531 type 1701, Edition 1 AFS, Scale 1/50,000
" 67 531 type 1701, Edition 2 AFS, Scale 1/50,000

Attachment - Interrogation Report

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