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1.3(a)(4)

COUNTRY : NORTH VIETNAM (NVN)
SUBJECT : Change in Food Ration Policy
Towards Prisoners of War
DATE OF INFO : October 1965
DATE AND PLACE OF ACQUISITION : SAIGON, Vietnam

DATE OF REPORT: 22/12/67

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S U M M A R Y

Before October 1965, all captured prisoners of war, including United States pilots, and all soldiers who surrendered were given a daily ration of NVN 1.20 piasters for food, the same as that issued to NVN regular cadres and soldiers. However, this privilege roused the anger of NVN local force and militia troops who reasoned that captured Americans were receiving special allowances while people who fought for NVN led a miserable existence. In order to placate them, the NVN Government then reduced the official ration allowed prisoners to 0.35 NVN piasters, that allowed captured commandos.

BRIEF SUMMARY:
US MACV
US EMBASSY (GSA)

ATTACHMENTS:

None

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Approved for Release
Date September 1993

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1. Before October 1965, all captured prisoners of war, including United States pilots, and all soldiers who surrendered were given a daily ration of NVN 1.20 piasters for food ; this ration was the same as that issued to NVN cadres and soldiers before their infiltration of SVN. On the other hand, captured commandos received a daily ration of only NVN 0.35 piasters. After October 1965, the NVN Government made public by radio broadcast and official letters sent to the military regions that the official food ration allowed prisoners of war would now be the same as that of captured commandos, NVN 0.35 piasters.
2. The government apparently changed its policy because of the strong reaction encountered from militia and local forces who were angered by the fact that captured Allied pilots received special privileges while they themselves were fighting for NVN and led a miserable existence.

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