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COUNTRY : NORTH VIETNAM (NVN)
SOUTH VIETNAM (SVN)

SUBJECT : Sighting of United States
Prisoners in HOA BINH Pro-
vince, NVN, and THUA THIEN
Province, SVN

DATE OF INFO : December 1965, mid-November 1966 REF:

DATE AND PLACE OF ACQUISITION : 15 December 1967 (P)
SAIGON, Vietnam

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SUMMARY

The first occasion on which Source saw a captured U.S. serviceman was in December 1965 in HOA BINH Province, NVN. According to the inhabitants of the village in which Source viewed the prisoner, he was a United States pilot who had parachuted from his plane and had hidden in the forest in LUONG SON District. Source again saw captured Americans in mid-November 1966, in THUA THIEN Province, SVN. One of the Viet Cong (VC) guarding the prisoners said that they were in charge of a radio and had been captured in PHU VANG District, THUA THIEN; one American was a lieutenant, and the other, a master sergeant.

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ATTACHMENTS:

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None

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Approved for Release
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1. As Source was travelling to join Training Group 32 in RONG TAM Hamlet, IAM SON Village, LUONG SON District, HOA BINH Province, NVN, in December 1965, he saw a U.S. prisoner being transported by truck passing RONG VONG Hamlet on National Route 6 in the direction of HANOI. The prisoner was about 30 years old, had a large build and red hair. He wore a light green uniform and his arms were tied in front of him. The prisoner sat in the front seat of a command-car, next to the driver, while two soldiers sat in the rear. Another car followed the prisoner's vehicle in which sat four soldiers armed with AK rifles. According to the villagers, this prisoner was a pilot who had been captured in the forest at LUONG SON District, HOA BINH Province. He had hidden for two days before he was found and had probably parachuted out of his plane and landed in the woods.
2. In mid-November 1966, as Source and two comrades were hunting in the area of DONG CHUON, PHU LOC District, THUA THIEN Province, SVN, they saw two U.S. prisoners of war (POWs) accompanied by three Viet Cong (VC) soldiers travelling to an unknown destination. One prisoner was about 30 years old and had a large build and curly red hair. His trousers were wet to the knees which indicated that he had waded across a stream. His arms were bound behind him with nylon string, and he looked worried. The second prisoner was approximately of the same age and build. The three VC soldiers were dressed in short, khaki uniforms and were armed with one K50 machine pistol and 2 K44 rifles. Each VC soldier carried a woman's belt which contained enough rice to last for three days. Replying to Source's inquiry, one of the VC guards said that one of the prisoners was a lieutenant, and the other a Master Sergeant; they were in charge of a radio and were captured at PHU VANG District, THUA THIEN Province.

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