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

SUBJECT : Sighting of U.S. Prisoners of War  
in QUANG BINH, KONTUM, and HAIPHONG

DATE OF REPORT : 7/2/68

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DANANG, Vietnam

REF:

SOURCE:

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SUMMARY

While Source's infiltration Group travelled to SVN in 1967, Source viewed a U.S. Prisoner of war who had been captured in KONTUM Province, SVN, in a clash with the VC there. The prisoner was being sent to HANOI. In 1965, Source saw the body of a pilot whose plane was shot down near the LAI VU Bridge, HAIPHONG Municipality, NVN and crashed into the sea. The body was clothed in a flying suit, but had no rank or insignia. During the November - December 1966 period, Source heard that a jet aircraft had been shot down off the NAM TRIEU estuary. The pilot, a First Lieutenant, was taken to HAIPHONG City where he was badly beaten by the local residents as he was escorted through the city streets.

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Approved for Release  
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1. While Source's infiltration group stopped in QUANG BINH Province, NVN, Source learned that a United States prisoner of war (POW) was being detained in an area near his unit's quarters. When Source and his friends requested to be allowed to see the prisoner, guards advised them that they would be permitted, but that they were not to make any trouble for the prisoner.
2. Source then talked to an interpreter who told him that the prisoner was a Senior Sergeant who was captured in a clash with the VC in KONTUM Province, SVN. According to the interpreter, there were about 10 U.S. Commandos who were lifted by helicopter to an area in KONTUM Province where they fought to the end with the VC. All were killed except the captured Senior Sergeant who was wounded on the left hand. Another guard told Source that the POW had been captured in a recent battle.
3. When Source finally saw the POW, he noticed that the prisoner's left hand was bandaged. His feet were swollen and sore he was being detained in the camp instead of continuing his journey to HANOI. The prisoner wore black pajamas, was over 30 years of age, was very tall and had a large build, a pronounced nose, and brown hair. Later, Source learned from the interpreter that the prisoner had four children.
4. On 17 November 1965, Source saw one AD6 aircraft fall into the sea off the VAN UC River, HAIPHONG Municipality, NVN. The AD6 was one of a group of aircraft attacking the LAI VU Bridge, HAIPHONG. Shortly after the aircraft was shot down by NVN defenders, Source saw a U.S. helicopter searching for the pilot; however, it departed without having accomplished its mission. On 18 November the pilot's body was washed ashore near the mouth of the VAN UC River. The body was clothed in a light-orange flying suit. Source did not see any insignia or badges on the flying suit. When the suit was removed from the body, Source saw that the pilot had been wounded twice, once in the chest under the left arm, and once in the right leg. The chest wound had been bandaged.
5. During the November 1966 period, Source heard from his father, from local residents, and over the HAIPHONG City radio station that a jet aircraft had been shot down at sea off the NAM TRIEU estuary. One NVN patrol boat and two militia boats were sent out to capture the pilot. The pilot was taken but one of the boats was sunk and the other two heavily damaged; 10 men were killed.
6. The pilot, a First Lieutenant, was taken to HAIPHONG City where he was badly beaten by the local residents as he was escorted through the city streets. After a short time, security agents were dispatched to protect the prisoner from the people.

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