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18 April 1973

REPORT CLASS ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~WARNING~~ ~~NOFORN~~ ~~SECRET~~ ~~INTelligence~~

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COUNTRY NORTH VIETNAM

DOI AUGUST 1966

SUBJECT SIGHTING OF DEAD U.S. PILOT IN HOA BINH PROVINCE,
NORTH VIETNAM

REQ
SOURCE

SANITIZED COPY

Content UNCLASSIFIED

per 058315

date 15 JUN 1976

1. IN MID AUGUST 1966 AT ABOUT 1400 HOURS, I

OBSERVED SEVERAL U.S. JET AIRCRAFT FLY OVER TU SON VILLAGE, ^{20-40N 105-34E} KIM BOI DISTRICT, HOA BINH PROVINCE, NORTH VIETNAM (NVN) AT A VERY LOW ALTITUDE. ABOUT 20 MINUTES LATER, THE AIRCRAFT LEFT THE AREA AND FLEW EAST WITHOUT BOMBING ANY TARGETS. ABOUT TWO HOURS LATER, THE LOCAL PEOPLE TOLD THAT A U.S. JET AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN BY MILITIAMEN OF THU PHONG VILLAGE, LOCATED ADJACENT TO TU SON VILLAGE.

2. TOOK HIS BIKE ALONG ROUTE 12B TO THE INTERSECTION - ABOUT TEN KILOMETERS FROM HOA BINH CITY - WITH ROUTE 12A. LOCAL RESIDENTS THERE TOLD HIM THAT A U.S. F.105 JET AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN BY MILITIAMEN ARMED ONLY WITH RIFLES AND POSITIONED ON A HILL ABOUT ONE KILOMETER FROM ROUTE 12B. THEY SAID THAT A TRAIL OF SMOKE CAME FROM THE AIRCRAFT AS IT CONTINUED TO FLY STRAIGHT INTO A CHAIN OF MOUNTAINS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF ROUTE 12B, CRASHED ABOUT 50 METERS FROM THE PEAK OF THE MOUNTAIN, AND BURST INTO FLAMES. WHEN ARRIVED AT THE INTERSECTION, MILITIAMEN HAD ALREADY BROUGHT SOME DEBRIS DOWN FROM THE WRECKAGE. THE PILOT'S BODY WAS BURNED BEYOND RECOGNITION AND ONLY THE MAIN PART OF HIS BODY WAS FOUND NEAR THE CRASH SITE. HIS REMAINS WERE TAKEN ON A PLANK TO AN OPEN SPACE WHERE HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE HAD GATHERED.

3. TWO DAYS LATER, I RETURNED TO THE CRASH SITE AND NOTICED THAT A SIGN HAD BEEN PUT UP NEAR THE AIRCRAFT DEBRIS, WHICH READ "THANH TIEN CUA XA THU PHONG" ("ACHIEVEMENT OF THU PHONG VILLAGE"). ABOUT FIVE MONTHS LATER, AS I PASSED THE SAME AREA, HE OBSERVED THAT MUCH OF THE DEBRIS STILL REMAINED BUT WAS ALMOST COMPLETELY COVERED BY DENSE FOLIAGE.

4. (FIELD COMMENT: THE FOLLOWING IS THE JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER (JCRC) EVALUATION OF THE REPORT: JCRC RECORDS INDICATE THIS REPORT PROBABLY DESCRIBES THE DOWNING OF COLONEL WILLIAM H. NELSON, USAF (JCRC ACC NO. 922). COLONEL NELSON WAS MISSING IN ACTION ON 20 JULY 1966 AT 1535 HOURS NEAR WH364961 (2046/10521), APPROXIMATELY 7-10 MILES FROM THU SON VILLAGE. DESCRIPTION OF DATE, TIME, NUMBER OF PLANES, DIRECTION OF FLIGHT, DETAILS OF DOWNING AND LOCATION OF INCIDENT ARE QUITE ACCURATE.)

5.

[REDACTED]

6. FIELD DISSEMI DEFENSE ATTACHE FOR JCRC REPRESENTATIVE IN SAIGON: SENT TO CINCPAC (FOR CINCPAC AND POLAD ONLY) USSAG AND VIENTIANE (FOR JCRC REPRESENTATIVE ONLY).

REPORT CLASS ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ [REDACTED]
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