



Intelligence Information Cable

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IN 752670

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DISTR: J3-5 J5-1 SECDEF-7 ISA-5 SA-1 CITE TDCS 314/03656-72

CSA-1 CNO-8 CSAF-4 CMC-4 DIA-20

(057) FILE-1 DIST 26 NOVEMBER 1972

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

DOI FEBRUARY 1972

SUBJECT SIGHTING OF THREE U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR IN AN XUYEN PROVINCE, SOUTH VIETNAM

60
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ACQ

SOURCE

[REDACTED]

1. IN LATE FEBRUARY 1972 THREE U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR

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Encl 4, S-48, 1062/DB-4

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(classification) (Dissem controls)

(POWS) WERE SEEN AT A VIET CONG (VC) MILITARY REGION 3 (MR-3) POW CAMP NEAR WQ385847 IN DAM DOI DISTRICT, AN XUYEN PROVINCE, SOUTH VIETNAM. TWO OF THE PRISONERS WERE CAUCASIAN; THE OTHER WAS A NEGRO. ONE OF THE CAUCASIANS WAS ABOUT 1.70 METERS TALL AND HAD A SLENDER BUILD. HE HAD BROWN HAIR, A MOUSTACHE, AND A CROOKED NOSE. THE SECOND CAUCASIAN WAS ABOUT 1.72 METERS TALL, WITH RED HAIR, A STRAIGHT NOSE, A GAUNT FACE AND A RUDDY COMPLEXION. THE NEGRO WAS ABOUT 1.68 METERS TALL AND HAD A HAGGARD APPEARANCE. ALL THREE WERE DRESSED IN VIETNAMESE-TYPE PAJAMAS; NONE WAS TIED OR BLINDFOLDED.

[REDACTED] WAS SHOWN THE JOINT PERSONNEL RECOVERY CENTER (JPRC) ALBUM OF MISSING AND CAPTURED PERSONNEL IN SEA BUT HE COULD NOT IDENTIFY ANY OF THE MEN.

2. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED], THE THREE PRISONERS, TOGETHER WITH ONE OTHER WERE CAPTURED IN 1962^(SIC) IN AN UNIDENTIFIED GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM (GVN) CONTROLLED AREA IN AN XUYEN PROVINCE. THE FOURTH PRISONER, ALSO A NEGRO, WAS LIBERATED BY THE VC TWO MONTHS AFTER CAPTURE. THE REMAINING THREE HAD BEEN HELD AT THE CAMP SINCE THEN. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SAID THEY HAD NOT BEEN SENT TO NORTH VIETNAM BECAUSE ALLIED

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(dissem controls)

AIRSTRIKES MADE TRAVEL TOO DANGEROUS.

3. THE POW CAMP WAS DEFENDED BY A PLATOON OF 20 ARMED SECURITY PERSONNEL FROM THE MR-3 SECURITY SECTION. [REDACTED] A CHECKPOINT LOCATED ABOUT 100 METERS FROM THE CAMP'S ENTRANCE WHICH IN TURN WAS ABOUT 20 MINUTES FROM THE CAI HOC STREAM BY ROWBOAT. THREE MEN ALWAYS STOOD GUARD AT THE CHECKPOINT WHILE OTHER GUARDS TOOK TURNS PATROLLING THE SURROUNDING AREA. TRAVEL TO AND FROM THE CAMP WAS LIMITED TO WATERWAYS SINCE IT WAS SITUATED IN A SWAMPY AREA. [REDACTED] THE POW FACILITIES WERE CONSTRUCTED ON STILTS AND WERE CONNECTED BY SMALL WOODEN WALKWAYS. NO OTHER SECURITY MEASURES WERE SEEN BUT [REDACTED] ASSUMED THE CAMP WAS SURROUNDED BY MINE FIELDS AND BOOBY TRAPS. HE BELIEVED THE ONLY WAY INTO THE SITE WAS BY JUST ONE OF THE NUMEROUS CANALS THAT INTERSECTED THE AREA.

4. [REDACTED] WAS TOLD THAT IF THE SITUATION WARRANTED, THE POW'S WOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER LOCATION. HE SAID THAT [REDACTED] FREQUENTLY VISITED AN AREA NEAR TAN AN VILLAGE, NAM CAN DISTRICT (NEAR WQ165735) WHERE SOME NEWLY-CONSTRUCTED HOUSES WERE SEEN. ON THE BASIS OF [REDACTED] VISITS TO THE AREA, [REDACTED] BELIEVED THAT IT WAS THE ALTERNATE POW CAMP.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NO [REDACTED]

(classification) (dissem controls)

5. [REDACTED]: THE ABOVE INFORMATION WAS COORDINATED WITH THE JOINT PERSONNEL RECOVERY CENTER (JPRC). THE JPRC COMMENTED: "THE INFORMATION IN THE REPORT IS EXTREMELY PROBABLE. NUMEROUS REPORTS OF U.S. POW'S IN THE DAM DOI AREA OF AN XUYEN PROVINCE HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY THIS OFFICE. THE CAMP DESCRIPTION PROVIDED BY SOURCE IS TYPICAL OF POW CAMPS BUILT IN SWAMP AREAS."

6. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

NO [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

7. FIELD DISSEM: EMBASSY USMACV JPRC 7TH AIR FORCE

AVALORV 525TH MI GP 7602ND AIG OSI AT SAIGON: SENT TO CINCPAC

ARPAC PACFLT PACAF

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[REDACTED]

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