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[REDACTED]

REPORT NO. CS -311/05834-71

COUNTRY: CAMBODIA

DATE DISTR. 4 AUGUST 1971

DOI: MARCH 1970 - 17 JUNE 1971

SUBJECT: VIET CONG/NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY (VC/NVA) AND KIMER
COMMUNIST (KAC) GENERAL SITUATION IN TUK PHOS
DISTRICT OF KOMPONG CHHANG PROVINCE AREA,
INCLUDING INFORMATION ON CAPTURED AMERICAN
JOURNALIST

Missing journals

ACG:

[REDACTED]

SOURCE:

[REDACTED]

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE 1 MAY 1972

ENCLOSURE ~~424-38142~~ / DG-44.

IN THE REGION OF THE PHOM DISTRICT OF SONTRONG PROVINCE.
THE VC/NVA INSTALLATIONS ARE A MILITARY ENCAMPMENT, A HOSPITAL-
AMMUNITION DEPOT AND A REST-AND-RECREATION CAMP. THE KC
INSTALLATIONS ARE THE PROVINCE HEADQUARTERS, SECTOR
HEADQUARTERS, DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS, A PRINTING PLANT AND
A POW CAMP AT WHICH AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST IS IMPRISONED. THE
VC/NVA, ALTHOUGH NUMERICALLY INFERIOR, APPEAR TO DOMINATE THE
KC. THE VC/NVA AND KC STRICTLY CONTROL THE AREA ECONOMY AND
ENJOY UNTRoubLED, ALBEIT SOMETIMES STRAINED, RELATIONS WITH
THE LOCAL INHABITANTS. END SUMMARY.

1. VC/NVA COMPANY D44, 188 MEN UNDER AN UNKNOWN COMMANDER,
IS CAMPED AROUND THE THREE HILLS COMPRISING PHNOM KRANG
(VU 295562). ITS MISSION IS TO INTERDICT COMMUNICATION ROUTES
AND HARASS FANK TROOPS. VC/NVA ARMS INCLUDE ONE 82MM MORTAR,
TWO 60 MM MORTARS, SOME B40 ROCKET LAUNCHERS, TWO CHINESE 30
CALIBER MACHINE GUNS, AND AK47 ASSAULT RIFLES. THE TROOPS SLEEP
IN HAMMOCKS IN THE FORESTED AREA AROUND THE PHNOM AND HAVE
FOXHOLES FOR PROTECTION AGAINST ATTACK. THERE ARE THREE OR FOUR
CLOSELY GUARDED CAVES IN THE PHNOM. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] ON ONE OCCASION HE SAW ABOUT
20 JERRYCANS BEING CARRIED FROM ONE OF THE CAVES. HE DOES NOT
KNOW WHAT THEY CONTAINED.)

2. A VC/NVA AMMUNITION STORAGE AND HOSPITAL AREA
COMMANDED BY AN UNKNOWN COMMANDER IS LOCATED AT PHUM CHREAV
(VU 2315). INCLUDING PERMANENT PARTY PERSONNEL AND HOSPITAL
PATIENTS, THE NUMBER OF VC/NVA IS APPROXIMATELY 1000. ARMS
AT THE BASE INCLUDE 50 AND 82 MM MORTARS, A BAZOOKA, B40
ROCKET LAUNCHER [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
THE SITE OF A POW CAMP, WHERE SPECIALLY BROUGHT-IN KC GUARDS
WATCHED APPROXIMATELY 400 KHAMR PRISONERS. PROBABLY IN MARCH
1971, IN AN EVENT MARKED BY GREAT FESTIVITY AND ATTENDED BY LOCAL

[REDACTED]

VILLAGERS, THE POWS WERE RELEASED AND DRIVEN TO THE VICINITY OF A FANK OUTPOST. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED] WAS NOT VERY FAMILIAR WITH THIS INSTALLATION BECAUSE OF LIMITED ACCESS. FANK G-2 HAS NOT ATTEMPTED TO VERIFY THE PRISONER RELEASE IN ORDER TO CHECK [REDACTED] RELIABILITY.)

3. A FORESTED AREA IMMEDIATELY SOUTH OF PHUM AM LEANG (VN 2894), LOCATED IN KOMPONG SPEU PROVINCE WITHIN A KILOMETER OF THE KOMPONG CHHNANG PROVINCE LINE, IS THE SITE OF A VC/RVA REST-AND-RECREATION AREA WHICH ACCOMMODATES APPROXIMATELY 333 SOLDIERS AT A TIME. IT IS INFORMALLY SET UP BECAUSE OF ITS NON-STRATEGIC VALUE.

4. THE KC KOMPONG CHHNANG PROVINCE HEADQUARTERS IS LOCATED IN A COTTAGE COMPLEX SITUATED ABOUT 500-600 METERS NORTH OF A LINE DRAWN BETWEEN THE TWO SECTIONS OF TANG TALAT (VU 312257), WHICH IS LAID OUT ON AN EAST-WEST AXIS. EACH SECTION OF THE VILLAGE, SEPARATED FROM THE OTHER BY 60-70 METERS, CONSISTS OF TEN HOUSES. A PATH AND A STREAM (STUNG SRE BAK) PASS BETWEEN THE TWO SECTIONS. THE COTTAGE COMPLEX IS LAID OUT IN A ROUGHLY NORTH-SOUTH RECTANGLE, WITH FOUR COTTAGES LAID OUT IN A DIAMOND PATTERN IN THE CENTER.

5. THE SOUTHERNMOST COTTAGE IS THE HOME AND OFFICE OF NON SUON, THE KC CHIEF OF KOMPONG CHHNANG PROVINCE. NON SUON IS AGED AROUND 50, IS TALL BY CAMBODIAN STANDARDS AND SLENDER, HAS GRAYING HAIR AND A VERY DARK COMPLEXION, AND IS SOFT SPOKEN. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] NON SUON WAS A MEMBER OF THE KHMER VIET MINH, AN ORGANIZATION OF CAMBODIANS WORKING WITH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND HANOI BETWEEN 1952 AND 1954 AND STAYED IN THE CAMBODIA VIL POCHENTONG AIRPORT, IMMEDIATELY BEGINNING TO FOMENT REVOLUTION AGAINST THE NEW GOVERNMENT. IN 1956-57 HE DROPPED HIS MILITARY STANCE TO BECOME EDITOR OF THE ANTI-SIHANOUK, COMMUNIST-FINANCED PINOM PENH NEWSPAPER [REDACTED]

RELEASED AT L O N SOL'S REQUEST IN 1970. HE LEFT PHNOM PENH TO BECOME ONE OF THE CHIEFS OF THE KHMER COMMUNIST PARTY. AS SUCH, HE ALSO WEARS THE HATS OF UNDERSECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE PARTY AND CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATION FOR THE KC SOUTHWEST MILITARY REGION, WHICH CORRESPONDS GEOGRAPHICALLY TO THE FANK 2ND MILITARY REGION (TAKEO, KOMPOT, KOMPONG SPEU AND KOK KONG PROVINCES). THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, WHICH ACTS AS THE LINK BETWEEN THE KC AND VC/NVA, MOVES ITS PERIODIC MEETING SITES FOR SECURITY REASONS. [REDACTED] COMMENT: SEE CS-311/05608-7. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON KC PARTY PERSONALITIES. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] NON SUON IS AGED AROUND 60, IS A NATIVE OF KOMPOT AND HAS HIS HEADQUARTERS NEAR PHNOM TAUCH (VT 5955), [REDACTED] A NO-MAN'S LAND IN THE THMAT PONG REGION OF KOMPONG SPEU PROVINCE. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, HE LIMPS FROM A THIGH WOUND INCURRED IN A 1970 ATTACK ON A FANK POST AT PURSAT. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] NON SUON DOES NOT LIMP. [REDACTED] NON SUON IS A "SICK LION" WITH 600 HALF-ARMED, UNRELIABLE KC TROOPS UNDER HIS COMMAND. [REDACTED]

6. THE OTHER THREE COTTAGES ARE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES. TWO RICE STORAGE GRANARIES ARE SITUATED WITHIN THE COMPLEX TO THE NORTHWEST AND SOUTHEAST OF THE COTTAGES. TRENCHES ARE SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE COMPLEX FOR PROTECTION AGAINST ATTACK. APPROXIMATELY 283 TROOPS ARE STATIONED WITHIN THE COMPLEX. OF THESE, 153 ARE VC/NVA AND VIETNAMESE CAMBODIANS BELONGING TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES, DOUBLING AS SOLDIERS IN TIME OF NEED. MOST SLEEP IN HIDEOUTS BENEATH THE TREES THAT COVER THE COMPLEX. ARMS INCLUDE ONE 82 MM MORTAR, TWO 60 MM MORTARS, ONE

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50 CALIBER MACHINE GUN, AK-47 ASSAULT RIFLES AND OTHER RIFLES.

7. FIVE VEHICLES WERE ALLOTTED TO THE COMPLEX: THREE LAND ROVERS AND TWO HONDA MOTOR BIKES. TWO OF THE LAND ROVERS WERE ON A TRAIL SOUTHEAST OF TANG TALAT TRANSPORTING RICE TO THE COTTAGE COMPLEX IN JUNE 1970 WHEN A C-119 TRANSPORT PLANE STRAFED THEM, KILLING THREE MEN AND DESTROYING TWO OF THE LAND ROVERS. THE THIRD LAND ROVER IS NOW KEPT BENEATH A STILTED BUILDING IN WAT TANG PHLOCH (VU 320237).

8. THE HEADQUARTERS FOR SECTOR 10, ONE OF THE NUMEROUS SECTIONS INTO WHICH THE KC HAVE ADMINISTRATIVELY DIVIDED CAMBODIA, IS LOCATED AT PHUM MOUNG (VU 253241). THE CHIEF OF SECTOR 10, WHICH COMPRISES TUK PHOS, ROLEA PEIR, KOMPONG LENG AND BABAUR DISTRICTS, IS 32 YEAR OLD U T H, WHO LEFT THE CAMBODIAN ARMED FORCES WHEN SHIHANOUK WAS OVERTHROWN. THE SECTOR HEADQUARTERS IS HOUSED IN THE ABANDONED BARRACKS OF A ONE-TIME MILITARY POST IN THE 100-HOUSE VILLAGE. THE 150 MEN AND WOMEN ASSIGNED TO PHUM MOUNG ARE DIVIDED INTO FOUR SECTIONS: PROPAGANDA, ECONOMIC, AND SUPPLY AND TRANSPORTATION, EACH WITH ABOUT 50 PEOPLE, AND COMMUNICATION AND LIAISON, 4 PEOPLE. THE INSTALLATION HAS NO VEHICLES, BUT IS ARMED WITH U.S. M1A1 CARBINES, U.S. M1 GARAND RIFLES, ENGLISH ENFIELD RIFLES, FRENCH MAS 36 RIFLES AND THOMPSON SUBMACHINE GUNS.

9. THE CHIEF OF TUK PHOS DISTRICT, A KC NAMED P A T H, HAS HIS HEADQUARTERS AT WAT VIVHEA BETNEAS (VU 270225). THE HEADQUARTERS IS LOCATED IN TWO BUILDINGS SITUATED TO THE WEST OF AND ACROSS A STREAM FROM THE PAGODA ITSELF. THE LARGER BUILDING IS THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF AND HIS STAFF, AND HIS HOME, WHICH HE SHARES WITH HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN. THE OTHER BUILDING IS THE HEADQUARTERS FOR THE WOMEN ASSIGNED TO THE INSTALLATION. THE OTHERS LIVE AND WORK IN A SMALLER, CORRUGATED IRON-TOPPED HOUSE. THE WOMEN OUTNUMBER THE MEN, THE TASKS OF ALL BEING MOSTLY ADMINISTRATIVE. THE HEADQUARTERS HAS NO VEHICLES AND IS ALLOTTED ABOUT 10 MAS 36

AND INFILTRATION ATTEMPTS.

10. FIELD COMMENT: THERE FOLLOWS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, [REDACTED] ON THE PRINTING PLANT DESCRIBED IN CS-311/05614-71.) THE FULL VILLAGE NAME IS PHUM TANG SYA, AND MORE ACCURATE COORDINATES ARE VU 263224. THE TRUCKS AT THE SITE ARE GMC AND NUMBER TWO, NOT THREE; THERE IS ONE BULLDOZER, NOT TWO. THE TRUCKS ARE USED TO TRANSPORT RICE TO AREA INSTALLATIONS AND AMMUNITION TO AREA VC/NVA CAMPS TWO OR THREE TIMES MONTHLY. WHILE RICE IS PURCHASED OR REQUISITIONED LOCALLY, AMMUNITION IS BROUGHT IN FROM NORTHEASTERN CAMBODIA ACROSS ROUTE 6 (AROUND WU 1351) AND ROUTE 5 (AROUND VU 6740). THE BULLDOZER IS USED TO CLEAR PERIODICALLY THE PATH LEADING FROM TANG SYA. ABOUT 1000 ISSUES OF THE NEWSPAPER "KONG TAP RUMDOS PRACHEACHON PADIWATH" ("ARMY OF LIBERATION OF THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTION"), PRINTED HALF IN KHMER AND HALF IN VIETNAMESE, ARE PRINTED THREE TIMES MONTHLY AND CARRIED BY VEHICLE TO KRASANG DOH LAEUNG (VU 250209) AND PHUM MOUNG FOR FURTHER DISTRIBUTION THROUGHOUT THE AREA.

11. A KC POW CAMP IS LOCATED AT WAT KRASANG DOH LAEUNG, WHICH IS LOCATED IN THE 50-HOUSE VILLAGE OF THE SAME NAME. BEFORE JUNE 1971 SOME 500 PRISONERS GUARDED BY ABOUT 50 GUARDS WERE QUARTERED IN A WIRE-SURROUNDED PORTION OF THE VILLAGE AND IN THE PAGODA ITSELF. TURNING THE EVENT INTO A GALA AFFAIR, PROBABLY FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES, THE KC IN JUNE RELEASED THE PRISONERS HELD IN THE VILLAGE, DRIVING THEM TO THE VICINITY OF A FANK OUTPOST NEAR TMEK SDOK ACH RONEAS (VU 4932). THE APPROXIMATELY 100 PRISONERS STILL HELD IN THE PAGODA ARE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE HELD IN KHMER SOLDIERS. THE POWS, WHILE CLOSELY WATCHED BY GUARDS, ARE WELL TREATED, ARE NOT LOCKED UP BY THE GUARDS, THE POWS RECEIVE RICE AND OCCASIONAL VEGETABLES FOR THE PRISONERS PERIODICALLY. THE POWS RECEIVE FOOD DONATIONS MADE BY THE VILLAGERS TO THE BQNZES (BUDDHIST MONKS) IN THE

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[REDACTED]

PAGODA. THEY SLEEP IN THE BOWZE DORMITORY. THE KC GUARD FORCE, WHICH WORKS IN SHIFTS AROUND THE CLOCK, IS REINFORCED AT KC REQUEST BY VILLAGERS, WHO ALSO PATROL THE AREA DAY AND NIGHT. WHILE THE KC HAVE THOMPSON AND CHINESE SUBMACHINE GUNS AND U.S. CARBINES, THE VILLAGERS HAVE ONLY FIVE RIFLES. THE KC COMMANDER AT KRASANG DOH LAEUNG IS I A HOS (ALIAS).

12. AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST IS THE ONLY NON-KHMER PRISONER AT THE KRASANG PAGODA. HE IS IN HIS TWENTIES, TALL, WITH HAIR SHADED BETWEEN BLOND AND BROWN, HAS A SMALL MUSTACHE AND WEARS GLASSES. HE WAS CAPTURED ON ROUTE 4 PROBABLY IN FEBRUARY OR MARCH 1971, AND WAS SLIGHTLY WOUNDED IN THE LEFT FOREARM. AT TIME OF CAPTURE HE WAS WEARING A LONG-SLEEVED, STRIPED-RED AND DARK BLUE OR BLACK SHIRT, BLACK TIE AND LIGHTWEIGHT GREEN-STREAKED-WITH-BLACK TROUSERS SOMEWHAT RESEMBLING CAMOUFLAGE PATTERN. HE ALSO HAS WHITE AND YELLOW SHIRTS AND DARK GRAY TROUSERS. SELECTED FOR PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT. HE ALSO DAILY RECEIVES A CHICKEN WHICH HE SHARES WITH A KHMER COLONEL. [REDACTED]

COMMENT: THE ABOVE INFORMATION PARALLELS THAT CONTAINED IN

[REDACTED] SEEMING DISCREPANCIES ARE PROBABLY DUE TO DIFFERENT FOCUS OF QUESTIONING, TRANSLATOR ERROR OR [REDACTED] INCONSISTENCIES.)

13. ALTHOUGH INFERIOR IN NUMBER, THE VC/NVA APPEAR TO RULE THE ROOST. ORDERS CUSTOMARILY ORIGINATE WITH THE VC/NVA IN ACTIVITIES IN WHICH BOTH VC/NVA AND KC PARTICIPATE. AT COMMAND LEVEL, FOR EXAMPLE, NON SUON, WHO SPEAKS VIETNAMESE, DOES NOT RECEIVE MOST INCOMING MESSAGES; THE UNNAMED NON-KHMER SPEAKING VC/NVA RANKING OFFICER AT IANG TALAT DOES. ALSO, THE

BY THE VC/NVA. AT A LOWER LEVEL, A VC/NVA SOLDIER ONCE TOOK A CHINESE SUBMACHINE GUN FROM A KC SOLDIER BECAUSE IT WAS BETTER THAN HIS OWN WEAPON. ALSO, IN THE TRANSPORTATION OF AMMUNITION THE MANUAL LABOR WAS LEFT TO THE KC.

14. ALTHOUGH MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL POPULATION ACTIVELY SUPPORT THE VC/NVA AND KC, THE VILLAGERS ARE GENERALLY PASSIVELY ANTI-COMMUNIST. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN ASKED TO PROVIDE CERTAIN FOOD ITEMS BY VC/NVA OR KC SOLDIERS, MOST VILLAGERS IN KRASANG DOH LAEUNG ADOPT A "THERE IT IS, GET IT YOURSELF" ATTITUDE. A MORE EXTREME EXAMPLE IS ALIENATION CAUSED BY OVERLY HARSH AND UNFAIR COMMUNIST PUNISHMENT. THE WIFE OF A FANK SOLDIER LIVING IN KOMPONG CHHANG RECENTLY VISITED RELATIVES IN THE AREA. WHEN THE COMMUNISTS LEARNED OF THIS, THEY ARRESTED AND SHOT THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY FOR COLLABORATION WITH THE ENEMY.

15. IN THE ECONOMIC REALM, THE VC/NVA AND KC PROHIBIT THE TRANSPORTATION OR SALE OF LOCAL GOODS OUTSIDE THE AREA UNDER THEIR CONTROL. PERMANENT CONTROL POINTS ARE SET UP AT SUCH STRATEGIC LOCATIONS AS CROSSROADS TO ENFORCE THE RULING, BUT VILLAGERS OFTEN BYPASS THESE TO SELL GOODS OUTSIDE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE IMPORTATION OF GOODS IS ENCOURAGED. ALTHOUGH THE POLICY IS PROBABLY ESTABLISHED AT A HIGHER ECHELON, ORDERS FOR THESE GOODS CONTROLS IN THE AREA ORIGINATE AT THE PROVINCE CHIEF LEVEL AND ARE TRANSMITTED TO THE DISTRICT LEADERS.

16. STRICT PRICE CONTROLS ARE IN EFFECT IN THE AREA, WITH FOLLOWING PRICES IN EFFECT:

- A. 60 RIELS PER 20 LITERS OF RICE.
- B. 20 RIELS PER KILO OF PORK
- C. 23 RIELS PER KILO OF BEEF
- D. 12 RIELS PER KILO OF FISH
- E. 12 RIELS PER HEAD OF CHICKEN
- F. 5 RIELS PER KILO OF SALT.

VILLAGERS ARE REQUIRED TO GIVE 45 LITERS OF RICE PER MONTH AND 10,000 RIELS YEARLY, WITH THE MONEY BEING COLLECTED

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[REDACTED]

ERRATICALLY ACCORDING TO NEED. THE POOREST INHABITANTS ARE
TAXED 20 LITERS OF RICE MONTHLY AND 1,000 RIELS A YEAR.

18. FIELD DISSEM: STATE DEFATT CINCPAC PACFLT ARPAC PACAF

[REDACTED]