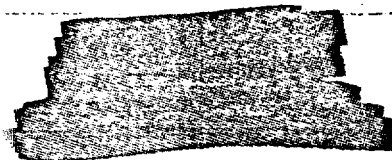


3-080

CS 317/09021/73



21 February 1973

COUNTRY: SOUTH VIETNAM

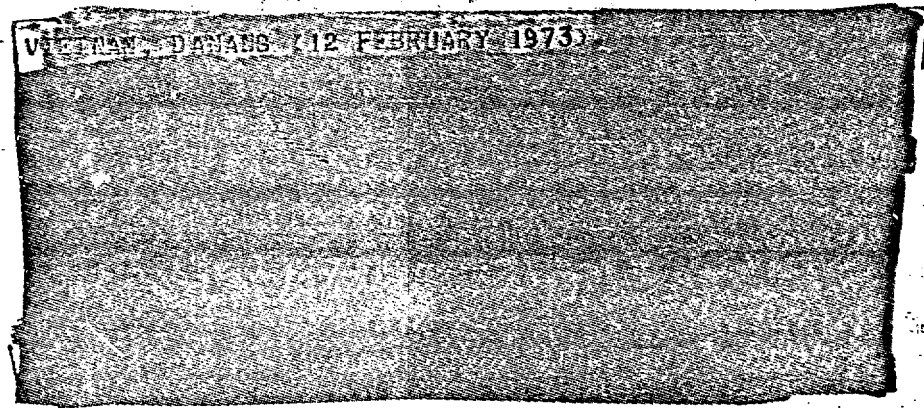
DOI: 12 FEBRUARY 1973

SUBJECT: DISCOVERY OF BODIES OF POSSIBLY 12 U.S. PRISONERS
OF WAR IN VC DUY XUYEN DISTRICT, VC QUANG DA
SPECIAL ZONE

ACQ:

VIETNAM, DANANG (12 FEBRUARY 1973)

SOURCE:



1. ON 12 FEBRUARY 1973, WHILE AT THE ALTERNATE HEAD-
QUARTERS OF THE VIET CONG. (VC) DUY XUYEN DISTRICT COMMITTEE
OF THE VC QUANG DA SPECIAL ZONE (QDSZ) AT APPROXIMATELY
AT99E492, IN THAT DISTRICT, COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN NGUYEN VAN

1542 108 12 00 C

10 April 73

from the [redacted] not apparent likely that this member (28) of US PWs were in the [redacted] since 1971.

15° 45'
105° 00'

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

Date 20 AUG 1978



[REDACTED]

P U O N G, AKA NGUYEN D U O N G, RECEIVED A VERBAL REPORT FROM CADRE OF XUYEN KHUONG VILLAGE NEARBY THAT LOCAL FARMERS IN THAT VILLAGE HAD REPORTED THE DISCOVERY OF 12 BODIES BELIEVED TO BE U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR. DUONG AND A NUMBER OF HIS STAFF THEN PROCEEDED TO THE SITE, WHERE A BAMBOO BRIDGE CROSSES THE VINH TRINH RIVER IN WESTERN DUY XUYEN DISTRICT. THERE THEY OBSERVED 12 BODIES IN SHALLOW OPEN GRAVES ALONG THE RIVER BANK. THEY APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN STABBED OR BAYONETED TO DEATH SOME DAYS EARLIER BECAUSE OF THE HORRIBLE STENCH. THEY APPEARED TO BE CAUCASIANS BECAUSE OF THEIR FEATURES AND LARGE SIZE. THEY WERE WEARING GREEN UNIFORMS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN, THE MATERIAL OF WHICH HAD BEEN SLASHED. NEITHER THE VC XUYEN KHUONG VILLAGE CADRE NOR THE LOCAL FARMERS CLAIMED PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF THE INCIDENT, AND THE FARMERS ALLEGED THAT THEY DISCOVERED THE BODIES AS THEY WERE AND THAT THEY DID NOT TAMPER WITH THEM. THEY BELIEVED THAT THE BODIES MAY HAVE BEEN FULLY BURIED AT ONE TIME, BUT THAT THE RAINS OR A RISE IN THE RIVER LEVEL MAY HAVE WASHED AWAY A PART OF THE SOIL COVERING THE BODIES. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE VC QDSZ INCLUDES DANANG AND MOST OF GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM

[REDACTED]

(GVN) QUANG NAM PROVINCE. VC DUY XUYEN DISTRICT INCLUDES
GVN DUY XUYEN AND PARTS OF GVN HIEU NHON AND DUC DUC DISTRICTS.)

2. DUONG THEN ORDERED THE VC CADRE PRESENT TO MOVE THE
12 BODIES TO A HIGHER AREA AND REBURY THEM COMPLETELY. WHEN
THIS WAS ACCOMPLISHED, DUONG CAUTIONED ALL THOSE PRESENT TO
KEEP THE MATTER A SECRET. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE LOCATION OF
THE NEW GRAVE SITE COULD NOT BE GIVEN PRECISELY. IT APPEARS
THAT THERE ARE 100-METER LONG LEVEES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE
RIVER NEAR THE BAMBOO BRIDGE. THE ORIGINAL SHALLOW GRAVES
WERE PROBABLY ON THE RIVER BANK BETWEEN THE LEVEE AND THE
RIVER, AND THE NEW SITE WOULD PROBABLY BE ON THE OTHER SIDE
OF THE LEVEE. HOWEVER, WHICH SIDE OF THE RIVER IS INVOLVED
IS UNKNOWN.)

3. THE VC XUYEN KHUONG VILLAGE CADRE ALSO MENTIONED
THAT DURING 12 FEBRUARY A NUMBER OF PRISONERS OF WAR PASSED
THROUGH THEIR VILLAGE, INCLUDING 16 WHO APPEARED TO BE
AMERICANS, SOME OF WHOM HAD TO CARRIED. THE PRISONERS
REPORTEDLY INCLUDED ONE U.S. MARINE FIRST LIEUTENANT AND
FOUR MARINE SERGEANTS. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] MENTIONS 28 AMERICAN PRISONERS DETAINED IN WESTERN

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

DUY XUYEN DISTRICT AS OF 9 FEBRUARY, PREPARATORY TO BEING
MOVED OUT FOR EVENTUAL RELEASE. THE REPORT THAT ONLY 16
CAUCASIANS WERE OBSERVED ON 12 FEBRUARY COULD INDICATE THAT
THE 12 BODIES MAY HAVE BEEN THOSE IN THE GROUP OF THE 28
AMERICANS.)

4. [REDACTED] DISSEM: ENBASSY, MACV, CORDS, USARV, NAVFORV, JCRC
7602ND AIG, OSI AT SAIGON. CONSULATE (MR. BROWN ONLY), CORDS
(MR. JONES ONLY), SG-2 FRAC (LTC RAINEY ONLY), AT DANANG.
SENT TO CINCPAC, PACFLT, PACAF, ARPAC, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIAL

NO FOREIGN DISSEM

EVALUATION
CONTINUATION OF CS 317/09021/73

most of South Vietnam during the latter two or three years of U.S. involvement. There is no evidence that could substantiate 16 remaining U.S. PWs in MR I.

4. (C/NFD) As stated in this report, the same source had previously reported (in report CS-314/01144-73, [redacted], dated 13 Feb 73) that he had been told that 28 U.S. PWs were being held in the same area as of 9 Feb 73. That report was evaluated as either fabricated or containing misconstrued information that might relate to the Feb 73 release of 27 Americans at Loc Ninh in MR III. The fact that the 12 bodies and 16 PWs alleged in this report equal the total of 28 U.S. PWs supposedly sighted according to the previous report is considered either purely coincidental or a deliberate attempt by the source to introduce apparent validity into fabricated information.

5. (U) This evaluation will be placed in the DI-6A4 evaluation files, but the report will be removed from the DI-6A4 data base. The originating agency will be utilized for future retrieval.

CONFIDENTIAL

NO FOREIGN DISSEM