

[REDACTED]
1.3(a)(4)

[REDACTED]
28 AUGUST 1971

8P-80

REPORT CLASS [REDACTED] 1.3(a)(4)

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

DOI MAY 1970 - MARCH 1971

SUBJECT TRANSFER OF AMERICAN PRISONER OF WAR FROM SOUTH VIETNAM

ACQ VIETNAM, [REDACTED] 1.3(a)(4)

SOURCE AN AMERICAN OBSERVER FROM THE DEBRIEFING OF RALLIER
HOANG BAO, AKA TRAN DIEP LANG. BAO WAS BORN IN 1938
IN THE PHU LAM AREA OF CHOLON, SOUTH VIETNAM, AND HAD

[REDACTED] 1.3(a)(4)
[REDACTED]

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SIX YEARS OF FORMAL EDUCATION. SINCE MAY 1970 BAO WAS A COMMITTEE MEMBER OF THE VIET CONG (VC) DUC TRONG DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS MILITARY STAFF UNTIL HE RALLIED IN APRIL 1971. HE JOINED THE VC IN JULY 1964 AND AFTER THREE MONTHS TRAINING WAS ASSIGNED TO THE D500 BATTALION OF VC MILITARY REGION 6 WHICH OPERATED IN LAM DONG, TUYEN DUC, AND BINH THUAN PROVINCES. HE WAS TRANSFERRED FROM TUYEN DUC TO THE VC 810TH LOCAL FORCE BATTALION IN MID-1967 AND IN MAY 1969 HE WAS ASSIGNED TO THE DUC TRONG DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS UNIT. BAO WAS COOPERATIVE DURING DEBRIEFINGS BUT HIS REPORTING RELIABILITY HAS NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED. THIS BIOGRAPHIC DATA IS THE RESULT OF PRELIMINARY DEBRIEFINGS AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

1. AN AMERICAN CONVOY CONSISTING OF FIVE OR SIX VEHICLES WAS AMBUSHED ABOUT 28 MAY 1970 ON HIGHWAY QL20 (VICINITY BP230690) BY A 13 MAN VIET CONG (VC) ELEMENT. IN THE FIREFIGHT ONE AMERICAN WAS WOUNDED IN THE RIGHT LEG. HE WAS CAPTURED BY THE VC ELEMENT WHICH TOOK HIM TO THE 810TH BATTALION HEADQUARTERS WHERE HE WAS GIVEN MEDICAL TREATMENT BY NURSE PHAN TRI H U Y E N PRIOR TO BEING INTERROGATED. [REDACTED]

1.3(a)(4)

SHORTLY AFTER HIS CAPTURE, THE PRISONER OF WAR (POW) WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE MILITARY SECTION OF THE TUYEN DUC PROVINCE VC COMMITTEE BY HOANG B A O AND SIX VC GUARDS. THE POW WAS TURNED OVER TO FIRST LIEUTENANT DINH D A N, A 27 YEAR OLD NORTH VIETNAMESE WHO CAME SOUTH IN 1964. DAN WAS THE CHIEF (BINH DICH VAN) OF THE ENEMY MILITARY TRANSPORTATION SECTION OF THE POLITICAL CADRE/PROPAGANDA SECTION OF THE TUYEN DUC PROVINCE MILITARY STAFF SECTION. (FIELD COMMENT: THE PRISONER PROBABLY WAS SP4 KEITH ALBERT WHO WAS CAPTURED IN THIS AREA ON 21 MAY 1970.)

2. THE AMERICAN POW WAS SEEN DAILY BY BAO UNTIL HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE CENTRAL OFFICE FOR SOUTH VIETNAM (COSVN) IN LATE NOVEMBER 1970. THE POW WAS CONSIDERED TO HAVE SURRENDERED BECAUSE HE HAD THROWN UP HIS HANDS AND RUN TOWARD THE VC POSITION. THE POW WAS NOT TIED WHILE UNDER DETENTION. THE POW TOLD BAO THAT HE WAS 21 YEARS OLD, WAS A SERGEANT, AND HAD TWO SISTERS, ONE OLDER AND ONE YOUNGER, AND A BROTHER WHO WAS ALSO SERVING IN SOUTH VIETNAM. THE POW SAID THAT HE WAS A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE AND PLANNED TO ENTER COLLEGE WHERE HE WANTED TO MAJOR IN ENGINEERING. HE SAID HIS NICKNAME WAS "MOCK". HE DID NOT HAVE NAME TAG ON HIS CLOTHES OR OTHER IDENTIFYING DATA TO CONFIRM HIS NAME OR RANK. HE WAS A WHITE MALE, ABOUT 5 FEET TWO INCHES TALL, WEIGHT ABOUT 150, THIN BUILD, BROWN HAIR, A BROWN BEARD, DARK COMPLEXION.

3. BAO SAID THAT ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE BY RADIO THROUGH VC MILITARY REGION (MR) HEADQUARTERS TO TRANSFER THE POW TO COSVN HEADQUARTERS. (SOURCE COMMENT: MR-6 HEADQUARTERS WAS LOCATED TWO DAYS WALK FROM PHAN THIET CITY.) THE POW, ESCORTED BY LIEUTENANT DAN AND SIX GUARDS, WAS TO DEPART LAM DONG PROVINCE IN NOVEMBER AND PROCEED TO THE DONG NAI THUONG RIVER AND FROM THERE TO HIGHWAY 14, WHICH WOULD BE FOLLOWED TO THE CAMBODIAN BORDER. AT THE BORDER THE GROUP WAS TO BE MET BY AN ESCORT WHICH WOULD ASSIST IT IN REACHING COSVN HEADQUARTERS. PRIOR TO DEPARTING, THE POW MADE A TAPE CONCERNING HIS TREATMENT IN THE CAMP, AND GIVING HIS VIEWS ON THE WAR. THE GROUP LEFT IN EARLY NOVEMBER 1970. PRIOR TO DEPARTURE THE POW WAS ISSUED AN EXTRA SET OF LARGE SIZE BLACK PAJAMAS, A PAIR OF HO CHI MINH SANDALS, A VC HELMET, A BACK PACK FOR CARRYING RICE, A HAMMOCK, A PONCHO, CIGARETTES, A MOSQUITO NET AND ONE PAIR OF SOCKS.

4. ABOUT ONE WEEK AFTER DEPARTURE, THE GROUP SENT WORD TO THE TUYEN DUC VC COMMITTEE THAT THE ROUTE HAD BEEN BLOCKED BY AN

ALLIED OPERATION AND REQUESTED INSTRUCTIONS. ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE THROUGH VC MR-6 FOR AN ESCORT TO GUIDE THE GROUP TO HIGHWAY 14. AN ARVN MAJOR, LO VAN E, WHO HAD BEEN ATTENDING THE COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE IN DALAT, TUYEN DUC PROVINCE, HAD BEEN CAPTURED IN NOVEMBER 1970 AND HE WAS SENT ALONG TO JOIN THE GROUP GOING TO CAMBODIA. (FIELD COMMENT: ARVN MAJOR LO VAN E WAS CAPTURED 15 NOVEMBER 1970 IN AN AMBUSH ON HIGHWAY QL 20.) THE TUYEN DUC PROVINCE VC COMMITTEE RECEIVED WORD IN FEBRUARY 1971 THAT THE POWS AND ESCORT PARTY HAD REACHED COSVN SAFELY.

5. LIEUTENANT DAN AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ESCORT PARTY RETURNED TO TUYEN DUC PROVINCE IN LATE MARCH 1971 AND REPORTED THAT THE POWS HAD BEEN IN GOOD HEALTH WHEN DELIVERED TO COSVN. DAN SAID THAT THE AMERICAN POW HAD APPEARED TO BECOME HEALTHIER AS THE TRAIL BECAME MORE DIFFICULT AND HAD AT TIMES CARRIED THE PACKS OF THE GUARD FORCE.

6. DAN HAD HEARD THAT PLANES AS WELL AS VEHICLES WERE AVAILABLE TO COSVN IF SECURITY PERMITTED AND IF THE POW WAS OF SUFFICIENT IMPORTANCE. HE SAID THAT ALL PRISONERS WERE TAKEN TO NORTH VIETNAM FOR INTERNMENT.

7. FIELD DISSEM: STATE USMACV USAID CORDS DIR/JUSPAO
(GR. BATTEY ONLY) 7TH AIR FORCE USARV NAVFORV 1021 FAS 525TH MI GP
OSI CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC [REDACTED]