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FOR NMCC/MC
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CITE

DIST 11 FEBRUARY 1969

510-100-12

501-08 (8)

COUNTRY NORTH VIETNAM
DOI AS OF 31 JANUARY 1969

SUBJECT 1. LOCATION OF AMERICAN PRISONER OF WAR COMPOUND
IN HANOI CENTRAL
2. NORTH VIETNAMESE TREATMENT OF AMERICAN PRISONERS
OF WAR

ACQ LAOS, VIENTIANE

SOURCE

[REDACTED]

1.3(a)(4)

EXEMPTED FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

1. THERE IS A BUILDING HOUSING AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR APPROXIMATELY 600 METERS NORTHWEST OF THE WESTERN END OF THE DOUMER BRIDGE. THIS BUILDING IS THE THIRD BUILDING NORTH FROM THE CORNER FACING THE RED RIVER ESTUARY AND IS

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(classification) (dissem controls)

OPPOSITE THE POINT AT WHICH THE TRAMWAY TRACKS CURVE FROM A NORTH TO NORTHWESTERLY DIRECTION. /FIELD COMMENT: USING U.S. ARMY MAP OF HANOI NUMBER 50920 1-65, ALSO CALLED SIRA MAP NUMBER 537 DATED JUNE 1964, THIS BUILDING WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY 200 METERS SOUTHWEST OF THE INSTALLATION MARKED NUMBER "204", WHICH IS DESCRIBED AS "EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE".

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DESCRIBED AN INCIDENT IN WHICH SAW A HAND WAVE FROM THIS BUILDING AND A PIECE OF PAPER BEING THROWN FROM AN UPPER STORY. THE BUILDING IS OF STONE AND MASONRY CONSTRUCTION, THREE STORIES HIGH AND ITS FRONTAL DIMENSIONS ON THE STREET ARE APPROXIMATELY 85 METERS.

2. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE RUMORS IN HANOI OF AMERICAN PRISONER (SIC) OF WAR COMPOUNDS AT HOA BINH AND XONAPLO/ NOTHING IN KNOWN OF THESE INSTALLATIONS AND THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAVE NEVER DISCUSSED THEM. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WILL NOT, OF COURSE, ADMIT THAT AMERICAN PRISONERS DO NOT RECEIVE ADEQUATE FOOD AND MEDICAL FACILITIES. THEY STRESS, IN ALL DISCUSSIONS ON THE

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(classification)

(dissem controls)

SUBJECT, THAT THE AMERICAN PRISONERS RECEIVE THE SAME RATIONS AS VIETNAMESE OFFICERS AND THAT THEY ARE WELL TAKEN CARE OF. THEIR DIET IN GENERAL CONSISTS OF RICE WITH SOME FISH AND MEAT. THIS IS DIFFERENT FROM AMERICAN FOOD AND IT IS NATURAL TO EXPECT THAT THE PRISONERS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO DYSENTERY AND OTHER AILMENTS RESULTING FROM THE STRANGE DIET. WESTERN DIPLOMATS FREQUENTLY HEAR OF CASES OF BERI BERI AND VITAMIN DEFICIENCIES AMONG THE PRISONERS. THESE STORIES ARE NOT CONFIRMED, HOWEVER.

3. NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS ALSO STRESS, WHEN TALKING ABOUT THE STATUS OF PRISONERS, THAT THEY ARE EXTREMELY SHORT OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND THAT THE PRISONERS CAN NOT EXPECT TO RECEIVE ANYTHING BETTER THAN THE PEOPLE IN GENERAL. IT IS THOUGHT THAT COMMON ITEMS SUCH AS VITAMINS, PENICILLIN AND OTHER MEDICINES ARE IN EXTREMELY SHORT SUPPLY. THERE ARE NO SPECIAL HOSPITALS DESIGNATED FOR PRISONERS. NORMAL TREATMENT IS MADE AT LOCAL INFIRMARIES OR SMALL DISPENSARIES THAT MAY BE ATTACHED TO THE COMPOUND. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT EMERGENCY CASES ARE TREATED AT ONE OF THE THREE LARGE HOSPITALS IN HANOI, COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS THE "MAIN HOSPITAL", "THE RUSSIAN HOSPITAL", OR THE "EAST

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(classification) (dissem controls)

GERMAN HOSPITAL". THE DOCTORS AT THESE HOSPITALS ARE NOT EXCLUSIVELY OF THE NATIONALITY INDICATED. SOVIET AND EAST GERMAN DOCTORS MIGHT BE FOUND AT THE MAIN NORTH VIETNAMESE HOSPITAL AND VICE-VERSA.

4. DECEASED PRISONERS OF WAR ARE USUALLY BURIED AT THE COMPOUND WHERE THEY DIE. THE TYPE OF GRAVES REGISTRATION SYSTEM EMPLOYED IS NOT KNOWN BUT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE KEEP FAIRLY GOOD RECORDS AND IT MIGHT BE ASSUMED THAT ALL DEATHS ARE RECORDED, ALONG WITH THE LOCATION OF THE GRAVE. FREQUENTLY TWO OR THREE PRISONERS MIGHT BE PLACED IN THE SAME GRAVE.

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GRAVES OF FOREIGN SOLDIERS ARE NOT MAINTAINED AND ARE FREQUENTLY OBLITERATED BY LOCAL INHABITANTS IN NORTH VIETNAM.)

5. FIELD DISSEM - STATE ARMY AIR USMACV 7TH AIR FORCE CINGPAC PACFLT ARPAC PACAF

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ACTION: CIA (ARMY ACSI)
DISTR: DCSOPS OSA
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