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CITE

DIST 1 MARCH 1970

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

DOI MARCH 1969

SUBJECT CENTRAL OFFICE FOR SOUTH VIETNAM DIRECTIVE ON  
TREATMENT AND DISPOSITION OF AMERICAN PRISONERS-  
OF -WAR

Deputy TPMG  
Exec. Officer

Mgt. Sys Off  
Correlation  
MP Plans & Opers  
Scty & Inves

ACQ

VIETNAM, BIEN HOA

FIELD NO.

SOURCE

PW / ALLIED POLICE  
BRANCH

CHIEF

AR PRISONER OFF

ALLIED POLICE OFF

LTGN AFFAIRS OFF

ESPIONAGE

SECRETARY

FILE

EST. 67

DA IN 334893

Approved for Release

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IN -033981

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1.3(a)(4)

(classification)

(dissem controls)

1.3(a)(4)

1. IN EARLY MARCH 1969, THE VIET CONG SUB-REGION (SR) 2  
BORDER SECURITY BATTALION, WHICH WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR GUARDING  
THE CAMBODIAN BORDER ADJACENT TO SR-2, RECEIVED VIA SR-2 HEAD-

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(classification)

(dissem controls)

1.3(a)(4)

QUARTERS A CENTRAL OFFICE FOR SOUTH VIETNAM (COSVN) DIRECTIVE ON THE TREATMENT AND DISPOSITION OF AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR. THE DIRECTIVE, ISSUED BY COSVN'S MILITARY PROSELYTING SECTION, WAS READ TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BORDER SECURITY BATTALION BY THE BATTALION'S POLITICAL OFFICER, CAPTAIN TU P H U O N G. HE PREFACED HIS READING OF THE DIRECTIVE BY STATING THAT IT PERTAINED TO AMERICAN PRISONERS ONLY. FOLLOWING A VERBATIM READING OF THE DIRECTIVE, PHUONG RELATED SR-2 HEADQUARTERS' SPECIFIC INSTRUCTION FOR THE BORDER SECURITY BATTALION AND ADDED HIS OWN COMMENTS.

1.3(a)(4)

2. ACCORDING TO THE DIRECTIVE, A GREATER EFFORT WAS TO BE MADE DURING THE BALANCE OF 1969 AND ALL OF 1970 TO CAPTURE AMERICAN SOLDIERS. ALL CAPTURED SOLDIERS WERE TO BE TREATED VERY WELL IN PREPARATION FOR THEIR EVENTUAL RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES. THEY WERE TO BE RE-INDOCTRINATED AND TO BE SHOWN THAT COMMUNISM OFFERS A BETTER WAY OF LIFE, BECAUSE THEIR "INEVITABLE" CONVERSION TO COMMUNISM WOULD BE OF GREAT

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PSYCHOLOGICAL VALUE TO THE COMMUNIST CAUSE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THE DIRECTIVE FURTHER INSTRUCTED ALL UNITS TO BE PREPARED TO MOVE AMERICAN PRISONERS TO THE COSVN HEADQUARTERS AREA IMMEDIATELY, WHERE THEY COULD BE TREATED AND FED PROPERLY, WHERE SECURITY WAS GOOD, AND WHERE THEY COULD BE MORE EASILY RE-INDOCTRINATED. THE DIRECTIVE ALSO WARNED THAT ANY MISTREATMENT OR KILLING OF AMERICAN PRISONERS WOULD RESULT IN STRONG DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

3. PHUONG THEN RELATED THAT AN UNNAMED OFFICER FROM SR-3 HEADQUARTERS HAD VISITED SR-2 HEADQUARTERS AND THAT AN AGREEMENT WAS REACHED THAT ANY AMERICANS CAPTURED BY SR-3 WOULD BE BROUGHT TO SR-2 HEADQUARTERS. ALL PRISONERS FROM SR-2 AND SR-3 WOULD THEN BE MOVED FROM SR-2 HEADQUARTERS TO THE SR-2 BORDER SECURITY BATTALION FOR TRANSFER BY NIGHT THROUGH CAMBODIA TO THE COSVN HEADQUARTERS AREA. PHUONG REMARKED THAT HIS LISTENERS SHOULD FEEL HONORED THAT THEIR BATTALION WAS SELECTED TO DELIVER THE PRISONERS TO COSVN HEADQUARTERS, AND THAT THEY WOULD BE VERY CAREFUL WHEN MOVING THE PRISONERS. THE PRISONERS WERE TO BE GUARDED AT ALL TIMES AND WERE TO BE WELL FED WHEN THEY ARRIVED AT

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(classification)

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COSVN HEADQUARTERS. HE CONCLUDED HIS ADDRESS BY JOKINGLY REMARKING THAT AN AMERICAN SOLDIER EATS AS MUCH IN ONE DAY AS AN ENTIRE VIETNAMESE PLATOON.

4. (FIELD COMMENT: STATION HAS NO EVIDENCE THAT SUCH A POLICY HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED, BUT FURTHER INFORMATION IS BEING SOUGHT.)

5. FIELD DISSEM: STATE USMACV USAID CORDS DIR/JUSPAO MR. NICKEL ONLY) 7TH AIR FORCE USARV NAVFORV 525TH MI GP 6499 SAG OSI CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC

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