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Action Officer

CITE []

Secretary

DIST 23 NOVEMBER 1971

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

File

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DOI OCTOBER 1971

Destroy

SUBJECT VIET CONG RACH GIA PROVINCE POLICY ON THE HANDLING OF
 U.S. AND VIETNAMESE PRISONERS

ACQ VIETNAM, CAN THO []

FIELD NO. []

SOURCE []

Approved for Release
 Date August 1993

IN 475942

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1.3(a)(4)

(classification)

(dissem controls)

1.3(a)(4)

1. [] THE VIET CONG (VC) AT PROVINCE LEVEL USUALLY MAINTAINS TWO TYPES OF PRISON CAMPS, ONE FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS AND ONE FOR PRISONERS OF WAR (POW). THE POW CAMP FOR VC RACH GIA PROVINCE, WHICH WAS IN OPERATION SINCE 1965, WAS CONTROLLED BY THE PROVINCE MILITARY AFFAIRS SECTION AND WAS USED TO HOLD ALL TYPES OF VIETNAMESE PRISONERS REGARDLESS OF THEIR RANK. (FIELD COMMENT: VC RACH GIA PROVINCE INCLUDES MOST OF GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM /GVN/ KIEN GIANG AND PORTIONS OF CHAU DOC AND CHUONG THIEN PROVINCES.) IN MID-MAY 1971, THE CAMP WAS DISBANDED AND ALL PRISONERS WERE TO BE FORWARDED TO VC MILITARY REGION 3 (MR-3) OR DETAINED AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL, DEPENDING ON THEIR RANK. THE 40 PRISONERS HELD AT THE TIME THE CAMP CLOSED WERE GRANTED AMNESTY ON 19 MAY 1971, HO CHI MINH' BIRTHDAY. SINCE THAT TIME, NO PRISONERS

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HAVE BEEN HELD AT THE PROVINCE LEVEL FOR MORE THAN THREE DAYS WITHOUT SPECIFIC APPROVAL FROM (VC) MR-3 HEADQUARTERS.

2. SINCE THE CAMP WAS DISBANDED A MOBILE CADRE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN FORMED TO GO TO THE VARIOUS DISTRICTS TO PROCESS PRISONERS AND TO ESCORT ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (ARVN) OFFICERS TO THE PROVINCE AND, AFTER THREE DAYS OF PROCESSING, TO THE REGION HEADQUARTERS. AS OF OCTOBER 1971 THE POLICY IS TO DETAIN GVN MILITARY PERSONNEL BELOW OFFICER LEVEL AT THE DISTRICT EXCEPT FOR SPECIAL CASES WHICH ARE REFERRED TO EITHER THE PROVINCE OR THE MR FOR HANDLING. ALL OFFICER PRISONERS MUST BE FORWARDED TO THE PROVINCE WITHIN 48 HOURS, WHERE THEY MAY BE HELD FOR 72 HOURS BEFORE BEING SENT TO REGION. IF THE PROVINCE WISHES TO KEEP A PRISONER LONGER THAN 72 HOURS IT MUST HAVE A GOOD REASON AND REQUEST THE EXTENSION FROM THE REGION SECURITY SECTION. ALL LEVELS ARE UNDER EXPLICIT INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE REGION HEADQUARTERS THAT ANY CAPTURED AMERICANS ARE TO BE SENT TO THE REGION HEADQUARTERS BY THE MOST EXPEDITIOUS MANNER POSSIBLE.

3. WHEN A GVN PRISONER IS CAPTURED A DOSSIER IS PREPARED CONTAINING ALL BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, HIS COMPLETE PERSONAL HISTORY, INCLUDING HIS ACTIONS AGAINST THE REVOLUTION AND HIS ATTITUDE

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FOLLOWING HIS CAPTURE. IF THE PRISONER IS NOT SENT TO A HIGHER LEVEL, THE DOSSIER IS SENT TO THE CURRENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE NEXT ECHELON FOR A DECISION AS TO HIS DISPOSITION. IN MOST INSTANCES THE PRISONER IS SENT BEFORE THE PEOPLE'S COURT, WHERE HE MAY BE SENTENCED TO DEATH, SENT TO PRISON, RE-EDUCATED, OR RELEASED. WHERE THE PRISONER IS KNOWN TO HAVE COMMITTED MANY CRIMES AGAINST THE VC, HE WILL BE SENTENCED TO A SECRET EXECUTION BY THE CURRENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND NOT GO BEFORE THE COURT. THE SOLE PURPOSE OF THE COURT IS TO GIVE PEOPLE THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE IS FULL JUSTICE IN THE REVOLUTION, BUT IT IS ONLY A FACADE SINCE ACTUAL PUNISHMENT IS RENDERED THROUGH THE PARTY MECHANISM. IN RACH GIA PROVINCE, TWO KEY FIGURES MAKING THESE DECISIONS ARE HAI C A N, A POLITICAL OFFICER, AND HAI T H I E T, AN OFFICER IN THE SECURITY SECTION OF THE VC RACH GIA PROVINCE PARTY COMMITTEE.

4. FIELD DISSEM: STATE USMACV USIAD CORDS 7TH AIR FORCE
 USARV NAVFORV 525TH MI GP 1021 FAS OSI CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC

DAPM 1//DAMI B, DAMO B, SAOSA 2, 1/FILE 1

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