

DIST: J3-1 J5-1 SACSA-3 SAMAA-1 SECDEF-7 J1-1 GC-1  
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ROUTINE

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CITE

DIST 22 MARCH 1965

COUNTRY NORTH VIETNAM/SOUTH VIETNAM/UNITED STATES  
DOI 1965 AND 1966  
SUBJECT NORTH VIETNAMESE POLICY TOWARD UNITED STATES  
PRISONERS OF WAR.

DEPT. TPMG  
Exec. Officer  
Admin - Mgt  
Correction  
MP & Plans  
Scty & Invest

501-08(6)

File: ~~502-02-3~~

ACQ VIETNAM, SAIGON

SOURCE

DA IN 118503

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Approved for Release  
Date August 1993

1.3(a)(4)

(classification) (dissem controls)

1. NORTH VIETNAM (NVN) POLICY FOR THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR (POWS) STIPULATED THAT ALL UNITED STATES (U.S.) PERSONNEL WHO WERE CAPTURED IN A SPECIFIED AREA WERE TO BE TAKEN TO REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS. ONLY REGIMENTAL CADRES WERE AUTHORIZED TO INTERROGATE U.S. POWS. THE CAPTURING UNIT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LIVES OF THE PRISONERS FROM THE TIME THEY WERE CAPTURED UNTIL THEY WERE DELIVERED TO A HIGHER AUTHORITY. THE UNIT USUALLY ASSIGNED MEMBERS OF A LABOR YOUTH GROUP TO ACCOMPANY THE POWS IN ORDER TO PROTECT THEM FROM THE PEOPLE, MILITIA, AND GUERRILLAS, BECAUSE IN SOME AREAS THE PEOPLE WOULD ATTEMPT TO BEAT AMERICANS. THE COMMAND SECTIONS OF BATTALIONS AND REGIMENTS TOOK CARE OF FEEDING U.S. CAPTIVIES. RATIONS USUALLY CONSISTED OF CANNED FOOD WHICH HAD BEEN SEIZED IN BATTLE. CAPTIVES DID NOT REMAIN WITH A BATTALION OR REGIMENT FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME.

2. U.S. PILOTS, AS WELL AS OTHER PRISONERS, RECEIVED GOOD TREATMENT. THEY COULD BE TAUGHT THE VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE, AND WERE PERMITTED TO HOLD POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS, IF THEY WISHED. THEY WERE GIVEN A SPECIAL DIET, AND WERE PROVIDED WITH CLEAN LIVING QUARTERS AND A RESTRICTED RECREATIONAL AREA. ALL U.S. POWS WERE EVENTUALLY TAKEN TO HANOI TO ENSURE THEIR SAFETY AND

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1st INDICATION OF THIS! 0000

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(classification) (dissem controls)

AN ADEQUATE DIET. PRISONERS WHO WERE CAPTURED IN SOUTH VIETNAM WENT PART OF THE WAY ON FOOT, BUT THOSE CAPTURED IN NVN COULD GO TO HANOI BY TRUCK OR TRAIN.

3. FIELD DISSEM: STATE USAID JUSPAO USMACV USARV NAVFORV 7TH AIR FORCE DIST 50/OSI 525TH MIG CINCPAC ARPAC PACAF PACFLT.

1.3(a)(4)

ACTION: CIA (ARMY ACS1)  
DISTR : OCOFSA, DCSOPS, GSA  
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ADDED DISTR: TPMG  
(PER MRS. SMITH)

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