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COUNTRY South Vietnam

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SUBJECT Tran Van Luc, aka Nam Luc, Chief, Policy Section, Enemy Proselyting Staff, Political Staff Department of COSVN

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1. Tran Van Luc, aka Nam Luc, born in 1927 in Bien Hoa City, Bien Hoa Province, South Vietnam (SVN), is the chief of the Policy Section, Enemy Proselyting Staff, Political Staff Department of the Central Office for South Vietnam (COSVN). Luc has been very active in the handling of all American prisoners of war (POW's) since April 1966. He was the official COSVN delegate on POW Exchange Affairs in October 1968 at the occasion of the anniversary of the establishment of the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam (NFLSV) when three American prisoners were returned.

2. Tran Van Luc is an active participant drafting COSVN policy statements and is one of the most astute men in the Political Staff Department. He is a man with a

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*Tran Van Luc
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promising political future in view of his close association with the chief of the Enemy Proselyting Staff; close friend and confidant Le Ch a n, aka Tam T r a n, chief of the Political Staff Department of COSVN; and Pham H u n g, aka Bay H o n g, the Party secretary of COSVN.

3. Luc was born into a rich South Vietnamese family with French citizenship and graduated from the Petrus Ky School in Saigon with a French baccalaureate. He began his revolutionary cadre background in September 1945 when he entered the Binh Xuyen Party and actively fought against the French. He was appointed to serve in the Binh Xuyen Party Staff Section with such leaders as Hai D u o n g, Ba C h i, and Bay V i e n until he attempted to eliminate graft and corruption in the Binh Xuyen Party. He was sentenced to death and imprisoned in the Sat Forest by Bay Vien. However, he was rescued by the Dong Nai Regiment of the Ve Quoc Doan Viet Minh. Other idealistic members of the Binh Xuyen joined Luc to form a guerrilla company. Luc was the company political officer, and 3 months later Luc and his company became Party members.

4. In 1950 Luc was transferred to Battalion 302 where he became a lifelong friend of the other political officer, Nam P h o n g, who, as of April 1970, was a colonel and political officer of the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) 9th Division. Luc concentrated on the Dau Tieng area of Eastern Nam Bo and formed Party cells among the rubber workers. He organized agents targeted against the Officers' Training School run by the French military and initiated an attack which ended in the death of all the French officers and many students. In 1954, Battalion 302 regrouped to Thanh Hoa Province, North Vietnam (NVN), and Luc was transferred to the Political Office, Eastern Nam Bo headquarters, where he worked as a political cadre until 1957. He attended a three-year course at the Intermediate and Advanced Political School, Hanoi. Upon graduation in 1960, Luc was promoted to senior captain and was assigned as the political officer of the Engineering Battalion, Division 330, NVA. In 1962, the division was split and some units were sent to Houa Phan Province, Laos, to fight with Kong L e. Luc remained in NVN as battalion political officer for the remaining units until July 1965 when he was transferred to the Cuc Nghien Cuu, General Political Department, General Headquarters of the People's Army of Vietnam. He attended the Enemy Proselyting Course, Hanoi, from August until November 1965.

5. In November 1965, Luc infiltrated SVN with Group 714 and upon reaching Bau Co (XT 245670), Tay Ninh Province, in April 1966 was assigned to B.620, COSVN Political Staff Department. In April 1966 Luc became chief of the Policy Section, Enemy Proselyting Staff.

6. In April 1968, Luc was assigned to the COSVN Forward Headquarters (Tien Phuong) in Subregion 1 (SR-1) and was in charge of 40 enemy proselyters of both company and battalion levels. In late April he himself launched and commanded a successful campaign against the Cau Vang Outpost (XT 490190) located near Trang Bang, Hau Nghia Province. Luc was recalled to COSVN in July 1968 and made the COSVN chief delegate for Prisoner Exchange Affairs. In October 1968 he directed the first return of American POW's in Tay Ninh Province. Although suffering from a severely abscessed tooth, Luc personally directed the POW return. Under his contingency plans for Viet Cong (VC)/NVN units, a dummy camp was constructed in the vicinity of the prisoner exchange and as a

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result, no VC/NVA casualties were suffered in the subsequent Allied air strikes. After May 1969, Luc spent all his time at COSVN Headquarters directing the Policy Section of the Enemy Proselyting Staff.

7. Luc is a rather distinguished-looking man, has grey-ing hair, and is tall, erect and slender. He has a nervous tic in the right corner of his mouth and always wears glasses. He is not married. Although somewhat introverted, he is quite open with his few close friends and is well liked by his comrades.

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