

W15829 1.3(a)(4)

COUNTRY : SOUTH VIETNAM (SVN)
NORTH VIETNAM (NVN)

E E 1.3(a)(4)

SUBJECT : Evacuation of NVA/VC Casualties
and U.S. POW's from SVN to NVN

DATE OF REPORT: 5/8/67

DATE OF INFO : February 1966

NO. OF PAGES : 2

DATE AND PLACE OF ACQUISITION : 15 June 1967 (B)
SAIGON, Vietnam

REF: []

SOURCE: []

1.3(a)(4)

S U M M A R Y

High ranking VC/NVA personnel and Chinese Communist advisors who were wounded or became ill in SVN were evacuated to NVN by helicopter, at least prior to 1964 when the Allied bombing of NVN began; afterward evacuation of high ranking personnel, Chinese advisors, personnel regarded as heroes and U.S. POW's was effected by vehicle convoys which operated on an unscheduled bi-monthly basis from KONTUM Province in SVN through Laos and Cambodia to NVN.

DISTRIBUTION:

US MACV
US EMBASSY (OSA)

[]
[]
[]

ATTACHMENTS:

1.3(a)(4)

NOTICE: THIS MATERIAL CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE LAWS, TITLE 18 U.S.C., SECTIONS 793 AND 794. THE TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF WHICH IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW.

None

Approved for Release
Date September 1993

AUG 31 1967
Postal Registry No. 36142

1.3(a)(4)

1. In a daily training course for cadres on NVA/VC policy on the evacuation of wounded and dead personnel, the instructor stated that only Chinese Communist and high ranking NVA/VC officers (field grade and above) were evacuated by helicopter to NVN if they were wounded or became seriously ill, and treatment was not available in SVN. The evacuating aircraft took off from an unidentified airfield in Laos and landed at the SAO VANG Airport in THANH HOA Province (reportedly in THO XUAN District). It was also stated during the training course that a number of helicopters evacuating sick and wounded personnel landed at GIA IAM Airport in HANOI. This information was substantiated by hearsay information which Source received in early 1964 from NVN troops operating in Laos to the effect that Command-level cadres were evacuated from Laos to NVN. The instructors also stated that helicopter evacuation of sick and wounded personnel had been available prior to August 1964 when the Allied bombing of NVN began, but afterward this type of evacuation had to be effected by vehicles. Evacuation by vehicles was restricted to Chinese Communist advisors, high ranking officers and personnel who were regarded as heroes.
2. During the same training course, the instructors stated that all U.S. prisoners, whether or not they were wounded, were evacuated by vehicles to NVN because adequate prison or hospital facilities were not available in SVN.
3. According to Source's cousin, [redacted] a corporal in a transportation unit whom Source met in Cambodia in January 1966, there were two monthly convoys of eight or nine eight-wheel trucks to evacuate sick and wounded personnel from SVN to NVN; these convoys had no fixed schedule. There were four types of trucks used for medical purposes: the type equipped with litters was used for seriously wounded or ill personnel; the second type was used for personnel with light wounds or less serious illnesses; the third type was used for the transportation of medical supplies and equipment; and the fourth type was used to transport food. These vehicles travelled on a strategic road which ran parallel to the infiltration route; at some points the road deviated from the infiltration route in order to remain in Laotian territory. THAM also stated that these convoys travelled only at night to avoid air reconnaissance and that two or three of the trucks were equipped with infrared lights in order to follow the road; the other trucks had dimmed lights. The strategic route followed by these trucks passed through Laos and Cambodia to VC District 70 in KONTUM Province where VC casualties and U.S. prisoners of war were assembled for evacuation.

1.3(a)(4)

7
1.3(a)(4)