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COUNTRY : NORTH VIETNAM (NVN)
SUBJECT : Capture and Treatment of U.S. Prisoners in NVN
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SUMMARY

Although U.S. troops blockaded the NVN coast and used long-range cannon to fire at coastal zones, especially in the demilitarized zone, and although VC/NVA forces were continually bombarded, their soldiers captured many U.S. prisoners in the battle of GIO LINH. Many high-ranking pilots from well-to do families were captured. Their relatives wrote the NVN authorities promising compensation if the people would treat their children correctly. The NVN Government considered that the U.S. prisoners were precious captives and spent a large amount of money to feed them. All prisoners from the GIO LINH battle were sent to the AU PHI Agricultural Site where they met prisoners from the French army who had requested to remain in the north when the French withdrew from NVN.

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None

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1. In March 1967, Source overheard the following conversation between the commander of Battalion 5, Regiment 24, and the political officer, NINH. NINH worried about the U.S. troops blockading the coast and using long-range cannon to fire at coastal zones controlled by the VC, especially in the demilitarized zone, but was proud of the fact that although VC/NVA forces were continually bombarded, the soldiers captured many U.S. prisoners in the battle of GIO LINH. Moreover, in the north, the number of U.S. pilots captured was increasing. NINH thought that the U.S. Government would go into a "tailspin" because of the number of pilots captured who were high-ranking officers and who came from well-to do families. Some American families wrote to the NVN authorities promising to pay compensation for roads and bridges destroyed of the NVN regime would protect the American fliers. U.S. prisoners were considered to be precious captives and the NVN Government spent a large amount of money to feed them. Their food ration was about three times that of a NVN field grade officer's ration which was about two NVN piasters a day.
2. All prisoners from the GIO LINH battle were centralized in SON TAY Province and sent to the AU PHI (Afro-European) Agricultural Site. There they made friends with French prisoners who remained in NVN after the French withdrawal. The French prisoners were from the French army and had requested to remain in the north. A large number of them were married to NVN women and earned their living by planting tea, coffee, and tobacco, and by raising animals at the agricultural site. The AU PHI Agricultural Site was located near KIM DAI Village, TUNG THIEN District, about eight kilometers southwest of SON TAY City.

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