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COUNTRY : SOUTH VIETNAM (SVN)

SUBJECT : NVA/VC Leaflet Handwritten by
a Captured American Soldier

DATE OF REPORT : 4/11/67

DATE OF INFO : Early 1967

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DATE AND PLACE : 2 November 1967 (L-B)

OF ACQUISITION : SAIGON, Vietnam

REF: []

SOURCE: []

S U M M A R Y

Sometime during the first two months of 1967, every man in Source's division was issued a leaflet which they were to leave on the bodies of American soldiers immediately after battles. This leaflet had been handwritten by a recently captured American soldier. An unknown unit attached to Source's Division had captured him during a battle at SIM SON Mountain, HOAI AN District in BINH DINH Province. Source related the information he could recall concerning the author and the contents of the document. According to Source's political officer, the prisoner was detained at Division Headquarters for a week during which time he wrote the leaflet. He was then escorted to Region Headquarters.

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ATTACHMENTS:

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None

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1. Sometime during the first two months of 1967, Source's entire battalion was issued a leaflet by the battalion commander. They were told to leave these papers in GVN controlled areas or on the bodies of enemy soldiers after a battle. This leaflet had been handwritten by a captured American soldier and had been duplicated or mimeographed at Division Headquarters for distribution to all combatants of subordinate units. One side of the leaflet was handwritten in English with a translation written in Vietnam on the reverse side.
2. The message stated approximately the following "Since my capture, I have been very well treated. I ask you my friends to return to the United States, because this war in Vietnam is illogical." The American soldier's signature was affixed to the right-hand bottom of the paper. Source said that he could remember that the first letter was an "L" followed by a period; the next word began with the letter "A", but he could not make out the rest of the name.
3. The leaflet was issued to Source's unit just two weeks after the capture of the American soldier by an unknown unit in Source's division during a battle on SIM SON Mountain, HOAI AN District, BINH DINH Province, sometime during the first two months of 1967 (exact date unknown). From the battalion political officer, Senior Captain NGUYEN VAN DY, Source learned that the prisoner had been kept at Division Headquarters (location unknown) for one week. There he was well treated and fed such foods as eggs and milk. When asked to write the leaflet, he agreed and was only given the subject to write about. He was then escorted to Region Headquarters located somewhere in the mountains on the border of QUANG NAM and KONTUM Province.
4. From his political officer Source also learned the following about the prisoner: he was a Private First Class, a member of Company 2, Division 7, U.S. Airborne. He was a caucasian about 20 years old, tall and of medium build. Source's recollection of the man's name was limited to "L.A ----". He could recall no other data on the prisoner.
5. Source never did use this leaflet in the proposed manner. He said that since the paper was very thin, he utilized it to roll cigarettes.