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RAN 6D
W 22971
JAN 3 1969
WASH. OFFICE

COUNTRY : NORTH VIETNAM (NVN)

[Redacted]

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SUBJECT : U.S. Pilot Prisoners on Parade in HANOI

[Redacted]

DATE OF REPORT: 8/1/69

DATE OF INFO : February 1967

NO. OF PAGES : 2

DATE AND PLACE OF ACQUISITION : October 1968 (J) SAIGON, Vietnam

REF: [Redacted]

SOURCE: [Redacted]

1.3(a)(4)

S U M M A R Y

At 0600 hours on a day in February 1967, a parade of U.S. pilot prisoners was announced throughout HANOI by public loudspeaker. Many people gathered to see the parade. At 0730 hours a group of 53 U.S. prisoners left HOA LO Prison and marched through various streets of HANOI. They were bound in pairs but appeared in good health. The spectators were warned by loudspeaker not to abuse the prisoners but some persons shouted at them.

DISTRIBUTION:
DE MACY
US EMBASSY (CSA)

[Redacted]

ATTACHMENTS:

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None

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Approved for Release
Date September 1993

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1. About 0600 hours on a day in February 1967, the NVN government announced by public loudspeakers that a parade of captured U.S. pilots would occur in HANOI. The people were encouraged to gather and view the captured pilots but were warned to abstain from all violence and to observe international rules for prisoners of war. By 0700 hours large crowds had gathered and at 0730 hours the gate of HOA LO Prison (a former French Prison) opened and 53 U.S. pilot prisoners, formed in a column of twos, marched out. The prisoners ranked from 1st Lieutenant to Major (announced by loudspeaker) and were dressed in white clothes with stripes. Each prisoner had a number from 1 to 53 on his back. The prisoners were bound to each other in pairs by a 40 centimeter chain (left hand to right hand). The route of the march followed HOA LO, TRAN HUNG DAO, LY THUONG KIET, TRANG THI and HANG BAI Streets. Ten of the prisoners were Negro. The prisoners appeared to be in good health and walked with their eyes on the ground. They were guarded by two Armed Public Security squads armed with AK 47s.
2. The NVN government had constantly instilled hatred for the U.S. by various means of propaganda so there were some people in the crowds who demonstrated against the pilots by shouting "down with the Americans" and who wanted the pilots killed. Others, however, had more sympathy for the pilots and discussed their large stature, never having seen men that large.

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