

[REDACTED]

COUNTRY **COMBATTANTS SOUTH VIETNAM**
DATE **1 JULY 1973**
SUBJECT **REPORTS RELATING TO SIGHTING OF THREE U.S. MILITARY PRISONERS OF WAR IN TRUY VENG PROVINCE, CAMBODIA**

ACQ
SOURCE

[REDACTED]

REFERENCES CITE D-624-31220, 3 DECEMBER 1974

1. THE INFORMATION REPORTED BELOW WAS PROVIDED BY SOURCE IN RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONS POSED IN THE REFERENCED DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY COLLECTION REQUIREMENT. THE QUESTIONS RELATE TO A REPORT ON THE SIGHTING OF THREE U.S. MILITARY PRISONERS OF WAR IN TRUY VENG PROVINCE, CAMBODIA, ISSUED AS FIR-317/D0077-73, IN AUGUST 1973 (ATTACHMENT):

Q. WHY DID SOURCE CONTACT REFUGEE? WAS REFUGEE AN ACQUAINTANCE OF SOURCE, OR DID SOURCE JUST MEET REFUGEE BY CHANCE? IF MEETING WAS BY CHANCE, PROVIDE APPROPRIATE DETAILS (E.G., CIRCUMSTANCES OF MEETING, DURATION OF MEETING). UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES DID SOURCE OBTAIN INFORMATION ON THREE CAUCASIANS FROM REFUGEE (I.E., DID SOURCE SOLICIT INFORMATION OR DID REFUGEE VOLUNTEER IT?)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
12/10/00 October 1978

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Q. THE SUBJECT WAS TOLD AND SHE WAS TOLD THAT SHE
WAS NOT TO TALK TO ANYONE ABOUT THE MATTER.

Q. COULD YOU TELL THE INFORMATION SOURCE WAS TOLD BY THE
SUBJECT AND WERE REFUGEE IN KONGKONG EARLY VC, SOME OF WHICH TO
THE VC'S.

Q. WHEN AND WHERE IN SOUTH VIETNAM WAS CONTACT MADE WITH
REFUGEE AND SUBJECT WAS ASKED TO ASSIST AT DURING (IF SO, CAN
THESE INDIVIDUALS BE CONTACTED)?

A. THE CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE IN A CABIN IN THE CITY
HARLET IN THE IV, LONG KONG DISTRICT, THE LONG PROVINCE. SOME
OTHER PEOPLE WERE PRESENT, BUT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT, IF NOT
IMPOSSIBLE, TO CONTACT THEM AT THIS TIME.

Q. WHEN WAS REFUGEE IN KONGKONG EARLY NUMBER? WHAT WAS SHE
DOING THERE?

A. WAS TRANSFERRING INFORMATION FOR THE VC IN KONGKONG
EARLY NUMBER ABOUT 2-3 DAYS PRIOR TO HER MEETING WITH SUBJECT.

Q. DID REFUGEE SPECIFICALLY STATE THAT SHE HAD SEEN THREE
U.S. CAUCASIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL IN KONGKONG EARLY NUMBER, CAMBODIA,
DURING PERIOD 6-11 JULY 1973 OR DID REFUGEE JUST HEAR ABOUT SUCH
INFORMATION?

A. SAID SHE SAW FORMS, BUT DID NOT SPECIFY THEY WERE
AMERICANS. SHE REFERRED TO THEM AS "FOREIGNERS."

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Q. IF REFUGEE JUST HEARD THE INFORMATION, OBTAIN APPROPRIATE DETAILS (WHEN, WHERE, AND FROM WHOM SHE ACQUIRED THE INFORMATION).

A. NOT APPLICABLE.

Q. IF REFUGEE SAID SHE SAW THREE CAUCASIANS, WHAT WERE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH SHE SAW THEM? HOW MANY OTHERS ALSO SAW CAUCASIANS?

A. POW'S WERE OBSERVED PASSING BY IN A SAMPAN ON SONG BE (LITTLE RIVER). THEY WERE OBSERVED BY 7-8 PERSONS IN ADDITION TO [REDACTED] THEY WERE PRESENT WHEN SHE RELATED THE INFORMATION TO SOURCE.

Q. THE SOURCE DID NOT PROVIDE ANY DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION ABOUT THREE CAUCASIANS (E.G., PHYSICAL APPEARANCE, DRESS, EQUIPMENT) WAS THIS BECAUSE SHE NEVER SAW THEM AND ONLY HEARD ABOUT CAUCASIANS, OR WAS IT BECAUSE SOURCE NEVER ASKED REFUGEE TO DESCRIBE CAUCASIANS?

A. THEY WERE DESCRIBED AS "BIG, STRONG MEN WITH LONG HAIR." NONE WORE MUSTACHES. NO FURTHER DESCRIPTION WAS MADE.

Q. IS SOURCE SURE THAT REFUGEE SAID SHE SAW THE CAUCASIANS IN 1973?

A. YES.

Q. REGARDLESS OF WHETHER REFUGEE'S INFORMATION IS FIRST-HAND OR HEARSAY, WHAT MADE HER THINK THE THREE CAUCASIANS WERE CAPTURED U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL? WERE CAUCASIANS BOUND OR GUARDED? COULD CAUCASIANS HAVE BEEN "VISITORS" OR "COLLABORATORS" EITHER

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

LIVING OR PASSING THROUGH THE AREA?

A. THE POW'S WERE UNDER GUARD AND WERE ON THEIR WAY TO A TEMPORARY CAMP.

Q. WHAT IS NAME OF REFUGEE SOURCE TALKED TO? WHAT WERE REFUGEE'S PLANS AFTER TALKING TO SOURCE? DID REFUGEE PLAN TO PASS HER INFORMATION TO ANYONE ELSE (E.G., U.S. OR GVN AUTHORITIES)? WHERE IS REFUGEE AT THE PRESENT TIME?

A. [REDACTED] PLANS NOT KNOWN. WHEREABOUTS NOT KNOWN AT THIS TIME.

Q. DID REFUGEE GIVE ANY OTHER INFORMATION TO SOURCE OTHER THAN POW INFORMATION? DOES SOURCE HAVE ANY REASON TO SUSPECT OR DOUBT POW INFORMATION PROVIDED BY REFUGEE IN LIGHT OF ANY OTHER NON-POW INFORMATION REFUGEE MIGHT HAVE GIVEN SOURCE?

A. NO. NEGATIVE INFORMATION.

Q. DID SOURCE SPECIFICALLY GO TO KOMPONG BAREY HAMLET AS A FOLLOW-UP TO INFORMATION HE OBTAINED FROM REFUGEE, OR WAS HE THERE ON OTHER BUSINESS AND COINCIDENTALLY HEARD ABOUT THE POW'S?

A. SOURCE DID NOT VISIT KOMPONG BAREY HAMLET.

Q. WHEN DID SOURCE ARRIVE IN KOMPONG BAREY HAMLET? ON WHAT DAY DID COMMO-LIAISON CADRE PROVIDE SOURCE WITH INFORMATION? WHEN DID SOURCE LEAVE HAMLET?

A. SEE ANSWER TO PRECEDING QUESTION.

Q. WHY DID SOURCE CONTACT VC COMMO-LIAISON CADRE? WAS CADRE AN ACQUAINTANCE OF SOURCE, OR DID SOURCE JUST MEET HIM BY

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

CHANCE? IF MEETING WAS BY CHANCE, PROVIDE APPROPRIATE DETAILS (E.G., CIRCUMSTANCES OF MEETING, DURATION OF MEETING). UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES DID SOURCE OBTAIN INFORMATION ON THREE CAUCASIANS FROM CADRE (I.E., DID THE SOURCE SOLICIT INFORMATION OR DID CADRE VOLUNTEER IT)?

A. IT WAS A CHANCE MEETING IN THE TIEN LU OPEN MARKET AN HOUR OR TWO AFTER SOURCE TALKED WITH [REDACTED] THE VC COMMO-LIAISON CADRE ASKED SOURCE IF HE HAD HEARD ABOUT THE POW'S.

Q. DID VC COMMO-LIAISON CADRE SPECIFICALLY STATE THAT HE HAD SEEN THREE U.S. CAUCASIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL IN KOMPONG BAREY HAMLET, CAMBODIA, DURING PERIOD 8-11 JULY 1973, OR DID VC COMMO-LIAISON CADRE JUST HEAR SUCH INFORMATION?

A. HE SAID HE HAD PERSONALLY OBSERVED THEM.

Q. IF CADRE JUST HEARD ABOUT INFORMATION, OBTAIN APPROPRIATE DETAILS (WHEN, WHERE, AND FROM WHOM HE ACQUIRED INFORMATION).

A. NOT APPLICABLE.

Q. IF CADRE SAID HE SAW THREE CAUCASIANS, WHAT WERE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH HE SAW THEM? HOW MANY OTHERS ALSO SAW CAUCASIANS?

A. THE CADRE SAID HE PERSONALLY OBSERVED PRISONERS, BUT DID NOT PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION.

Q. SOURCE DID NOT PROVIDE ANY DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ABOUT THREE CAUCASIANS. WAS THIS BECAUSE CADRE NEVER SAW THEM AND ONLY HEARD ABOUT THEM, OR WAS IT BECAUSE SOURCE NEVER ASKED CADRE TO DESCRIBE THE CAUCASIANS?

A. SOURCE DID NOT ASK QUESTIONS.

Q. HOW DID VC COMMO-LIAISON CADRE LEARN THAT CAUCASIANS WERE BEING TRANSFERRED FROM KANDAL PROVINCE, CAMBODIA, TO AN UNIDENTIFIED LOCATION NEAR LOC NINH, SOUTH VIETNAM?

A. SOURCE DID NOT KNOW.

Q. HOW DID COMMO-LIAISON CADRE OBTAIN INFORMATION THAT CAUCASIANS WERE AIRMEN WHO HAD BEEN DOWNED SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH IN EARLY JULY 1973 AND THAT THEY WOULD BE HELD NEAR LOC NINH FOR EXCHANGE AT SOME UNSPECIFIED DATE?

A. SOURCE DID NOT RECALL.

Q. WHEN CAUCASIANS PASSED THROUGH KOMPONG BAREY HAMLET, WAS THEIR PRESENCE WELL KNOWN? WERE CAUCASIANS PUT ON DISPLAY IN VILLAGE OR WAS AN EFFORT MADE TO PREVENT VILLAGERS FROM KNOWING THAT CAUCASIANS WERE THERE?

A. POW'S PRESENCE WAS WELL KNOWN. THERE WAS NO ATTEMPT TO HIDE THEM; HOWEVER, THEY WERE NOT PUT ON DISPLAY.

Q. IS SOURCE SURE THAT VC COMMO-LIAISON CADRE SAID HE SAW CAUCASIANS IN 1973?

A. YES.

Q. REGARDLESS OF WHETHER VC COMMO-LIAISON CADRE'S INFORMATION IS FIRST-HAND OR HEARSAY, WHAT MADE HIM THINK THREE CAUCASIANS

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

WERE CAPTURED U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL? WERE CAUCASIANS BOUND OR GUARDED? BESIDE "ONE-PIECE FLIGHT SUITS" WHAT ELSE WERE THEY WEARING (E.G., HELMETS, BOOTS, SIDE ARMS)? COULD CAUCASIANS HAVE BEEN "VISITORS" OR COLLABORATORS" EITHER LIVING OR PASSING THROUGH THE AREA?

A. YES.

Q. WHAT IS NAME OF VC COMMO-LIAISON CADRE SOURCE TALKED TO? DID SOURCE EVER SEE HIM AGAIN AFTER CADRE PASSED POW INFORMATION? CAN SOURCE RECONTACT VC COMMO-LIAISON CADRE?

A. [REDACTED] RECONTACT WOULD BE DIFFICULT AT THIS TIME. HIS WHEREABOUTS ARE NOT KNOWN.

Q. DID VC COMMO-LIAISON CADRE GIVE ANY INFORMATION TO SOURCE OTHER THAN POW INFORMATION? DOES SOURCE HAVE ANY REASON TO SUSPECT DOUBT POW INFORMATION PROVIDED BY VC CADRE IN LIGHT OF ANY OTHER NON-POW INFORMATION CADRE MIGHT HAVE PROVIDED TO SOURCE?

A. NONE.

2. [REDACTED] COMMENT: IN ADDITION TO SPECIFIC ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS ABOVE, SOURCE SAID HE TALKED TO [REDACTED] [REDACTED] IN HONG NGU DISTRICT 15 DAYS AFTER [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] TOLD HIM OF THE POW'S. SOURCE HAS KNOWN [REDACTED] SINCE 1971. HE MET [REDACTED] AT THE HONG NGU CATHEDRAL AND WAS INFORMED THAT THREE FOREIGN POW'S HAD RECENTLY BEEN SENT FROM LAOS THROUGH KOMPONG CHAM

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

TO A POW CAMP ON SONG BE (LITTLE RIVER). SOURCE HAD LAST VISITED THE TIEN LU OPEN MARKET ONE MONTH PRIOR TO HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH [REDACTED]

3. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THERE IS NO INDICATION HERE THAT A POW CAMP EXISTED IN THE AREA MENTIONED IN THE REPORT, ALTHOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE A TEMPORARY CAMP WAS SET UP AT THE TIME TO HANDLE THESE POW'S. SOURCE HAS IN NO WAY DEMONSTRATED THE SLIGHTEST DEGREE OF VENALITY AND CONSISTENTLY REPORTS ACCURATELY INFORMATION HE OBTAINS FROM SUBSOURCES. IT IS, THEREFORE, UNLIKELY HIS INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CASHING IN ON THE INFORMATION OR THAT THE SOURCE HIMSELF FABRICATED ANY PORTION OF THE REPORT.

4. [REDACTED] DISSEM: NONE.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]