FIR-317/09073-73

COUNTRY

DOI MID-APRIL 1971

SUBJECT SIGHTING OF A DEAD U.S. PILOT IN SHUOL DISTRICT, KRATIE

PROVINCE, CAMBODIA

SOURCE

ACO

1. AT ABOUT BORD HOURS ONE DAY IN MID-APRIL 1971.



SAW A U.S. UHIA HELICOPTER CRASH IN FLAMES NEAR XUSS3447

IN SNUOL DISTRICY. KRATIE PROVINCE, CAMBODIA. LATER THE SAME

DAY, FERSONNEL OF THE VIET CONG (VC) 5TH DIVISION WHO WERE STATIONED

IN THE AREA TOLU

THAT THE PILOT GOT OUT OF THE HELICOPTER AND ""

YRIED TO EVADE CAPTURE BUT WAS CAUGHT IN A NEARBY STREAM. IMMEDIATELY

AFTER THE CRASH

SAW A U.S. OVIØ FLYING OVER THE CRASH SITE

AND SOMEONE IN THE OVIØ WAS SPEAKING IN ENGLISH OVER A LOUDSPEAKER.

SAID THAT THE DVIC WAS TRYING TO HELP THE DOWNED PILOT. PERSONNEL FROM THE 5TH DIVISION SAID THAT THE DOWNED UHIA HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN CARRYING ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC (ARVN) TROOPS INTO SNUOL DISTRICT FOR AN OPERATION AGAINST THE 5TH DIVISION. THEY SAID THAT ALL OTHER PERSONNEL ABOARD THE UHIA WERE KILLED IN THE CRASH.

2. THE SAME PERSONNEL OF THE 5TH DIVISION SAID THAT A U.S.

"COBRA" HELICOPTER WAS SHOT DOWN ON THE SAME DAY NEAR THE UH1A

HELICOPTER. THO DAYS LATER. WENT TO SEE THE WRECKAGE OF

BOTH AIRCRAFT. THE WRECKAGE OF THE "COBRA" WAS LOCATED NEAR

MUS45442. HE ALSO FOUND THE BODY OF WHAT HE BELIEVED TO DE THE

MUS45442. HE ALSO FOUND THE BODY OF WHAT HE BELIEVED TO DE THE

PILOT OF THE "COBRA" AT ABOUT MUS48442. SAID THE MAN APPEARED



TO HAVE BEEN DEAD FOR TWO DAYS. HE WAS A CAUCASIAN, ABOUT 30 YEARS DED, ABOUT 1.75 HEYERS TALL AND WEIGHED ABOUT 70-KILOS. HE HAD A THIN BUILD, A LONG FACE, AND BLONDISH HAIR. HE WAS DRESSED IN A KHAKI UNIFORM, HAD A PISTOL HOLSTER AND A GOLD WEDDING RING.

SAID THAT OTHER PERSONNEL IN THE AREA HAD ALSO GONE TO LOOK

AT IT FUT NO ATTEMPT HAD BEEN MADE TO BURY THE BODY SINCE AN

OPERATION HAS TAKING PLACE AT THE TIME AND NO ONE HAD TIME TO DO SO.

DID NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BODY.

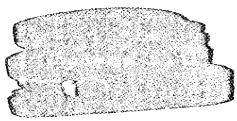
THE UNABLE TO MAKE AN IDENTIFICATION.)

REPORT BY THE JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER (JCRC):

A UHIR HELICOPTER CRASHED AT XU488458 ON 17 MARCH 1971.

THE CO-PILOT CK1 JAMES H. HESTAND, USA (JCRC NR. 1911) WAS CAPTURED AT THE CRASH SITE AND RETURNED TO U.S. CONTROL ON 12 FEB 73.

HESTAND REPORTED THAT HE SAW THE PILOT AND ONE CREHMAN EVADING IN THE VICINITY OF THE CRASH SITE. SINCE NEITHER HAS REPORTED IN THE POW CAMP SYSTEM, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT BOTH WERE KILLED. HESTAND REPORTED THAT A SECOND CREHMAN HAS KILLED ON 17 MARCH 71; HIS BODY WAS



FOUND IN THE VICINITY OF CRASH SITE BUT WAS NOT REMOVED. AN AMOUNT COURSE GUNSHIP WAS HIT BY SHALL ARMS FIRE AND CRASHED AT XU488458. THE INDIVIDUAL REPORTED IS IDENTIFIED AS ILT LAWRENCE E. LILLY, USA (JCRC NR. 5541), WHO WAS CO-PILOT. THE PILOT WAS RECOVERED BUT INTENSE GROUND FIRE FORCED THE RESCUE AIRCRAFT TO LEAVE LILLY ON GROUND. A VIETNAMESE ARMY (ARVN) GROUND RESCUE TEAM REPORTED THAT LILLY WAS KILLED 50-100 METERS FROM THE WRECKAGE. THE ARVN TEAM WAS ELIMINATED WHILE ATTEMPTING TO SECURE THE SITE. ALTHOUGH THE REPORT PLACES BOTH CRASHES IN THE VICINITY OF XU5544, BOTH CRASHES OCCURRED AT SAME COORDINATE LISTED ABOVE.)

5. DISSEMI DEFENSE ATTACHE FOR JCRC REPRESENTATIVE
IN SAIGON: SENT TO CINCPAC (FOR CINCPAC AND POLAD ONLY) USSAG
AND VIENTIANE (FOR JCRC REPRESENTATIVE ONLY)

