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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Vice Director for Collection
Management
Department Of Defense
Principal Advisor for Prisoner Of War
Missing In Action Affairs
(International Security Affairs)
Director, Vietnam, Laos And Kampuchea
Bureau Of East Asian And Pacific Affairs
Department Of State

SUBJECT : Autopsies Allegedly Performed on the Bodies of
U.S. Pilots at a Quang Ninh Province Field
Hospital in 1968 and the Capture and Killing
of a U.S. Pilot in 1969.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1. Attached as of possible interest to you is a report about autopsies allegedly performed on the bodies of U.S. pilots at a Quang Ninh Province field hospital in the former Democratic Republic of Vietnam in 1968 and the capture and killing of a U.S. pilot in 1969.

2. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Deputy Director for Operations

- CCI DCI
- DDCI
- EXEC DIR
- STATE/EAP
- DIA
- NIO/EAP
- NSA

Attachment: Report as stated

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Autopsies Allegedly Performed on the Bodies of U.S. Pilots at a Quang Ninh Province Field Hospital in 1968 and the Capture and Killing of a U.S. Pilot in 1969.

TEXT: 1. In about November 1968 the body of a U.S. pilot was taken by a Chinese ambulance to a small field hospital at Deo But, between Hon Gai and Cam Pha, in Quang Ninh Province, the former Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV). The body was taken to an open room, undressed and cut open from the neck to the loins by a team of doctors assisted by two nurses. Its organs were taken out individually, photographed and returned to the body. When the process was completed, the body was sewn up, dressed in a prisoner uniform and taken toward Cam Pha by the same ambulance.

2. The U.S. pilot was about 2 meters tall and wore that 50 centimeters broad. His chest was covered with dense dark red hair. His right leg and the back of his skull were crushed. These injuries, which were the proximate cause of death, were sustained when he landed on rocks along the coast after parachuting from his jet aircraft. He wore a one-piece overall uniform with a white eagle insignia on the collar, a big wrist watch and an eight-by-ten centimeter plate on a chain around his neck. His face was covered during the autopsy.

3. It was said at the time that a second pilot was captured alive by the Public Security forces. This pilot had parachuted into the sea, and survived. Both pilots had landed near the coast south of Route 12-B between Hon Gai and Cam Pha, not very far from the field hospital. [REDACTED] (I did not see the downing of the aircraft or the captured pilot and could offer no further details.)

4. Another body of a U.S. pilot was brought to the Deo But field hospital in early 1969, between the time of the lunar new year (Tet) and March. The body, which occupied the entire length of the rear of the ambulance, was wrapped when taken off the ambulance. This pilot reportedly had landed by parachute in an old farmer's garden in the Dong Trieu area. Because the farmer's house had been destroyed by a previous bombardment, the old man killed the pilot with his hoe by hitting him repeatedly despite the pilot's attempts to surrender. The old farmer was later reprimanded by the authorities and details of the case were printed in an issue of Nhan Dan. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] did not know the date of this issue of Nhan Dan. [REDACTED] many other U.S. casualties were taken to the Deo But field hospital over the years.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

5. The Deo But field hospital was on a dirt road, 600 meters north of Route 18-B. The junction of the dirt road and Route 18-B was about three kilometers east of the market at the foot of Deo But pass and about one-half kilometer west of Gioc Co Tien slope. The hospital had been built with Chinese aid. A large graveyard was located at Quang Manh, further to the east of Gioc Co Tien and before Cam Pha. (Comment: The pilots' bodies may have been buried in the QUANG MANH graveyard since the ambulance traveled in that direction after the autopsies.)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (Case)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]