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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Status: [STAT]  
 Report Number: FBIS-EAS-91-236 UDC Number:

Headline: Hanoi Reports on Controversial MIA Cases

Source Line: BK0912130991 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT  
 9 Dec 91

## FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE:

1. [Radio report on some controversial MIA cases]
2. [Text] Recently, part of the American public has raised doubt about some discrepancy cases in the process of seeking American servicemen unaccounted for from the Vietnam War, including the case of Major Pilot John Robertson. Robertson's aircraft was shot down by Vietnam's MiG fighter on September 16th, 1966 over (? Truong Thon) hamlet, Cong Hoa village, Chi Linh District, Hai Hung Province, some 70 kilometers northeast of Hanoi.
3. The U.S. has proposed a joint excavation at the crash site. A joint Vietnamese-American searching team started excavating that site on November 18th and it is about to finish on December 11th. A group of foreign correspondents representing the American TV network CBS, the Voice of America [VOA], BOSTON GLOBE newspaper, British news agency REUTER, (?NHK) Television Company of Japan, etc. and journalists representing Vietnam's mass media have come to the area to cover the joint operation there.
4. Our radio correspondent had interviewed several members of the joint searching team and local witnesses.
5. Mr. Pham Tao, head of the Vietnamese excavating group at Cong Hoa village, said: Vietnam has made thorough preparations for joint excavations. Local people have agreed to have their fruit trees cut down and gardens razed. Each day, more than 30 local people are involved in the excavating work, not to mention a great number of militiamen, soldiers, and policemen engaged in the round-the-clock protection of the site.
6. American members of the joint team as well as foreign journalists think highly of the good preparations and cooperation provided by the Vietnamese side, especially the local people.
7. Work is going on well and some Americans keep singing while digging. Doctor Sarah Collins, a physical anthropologist of the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory who is now in Vietnam for the eighth time, highly appreciates the cooperation from the Vietnamese side.

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8. [Begin Doctor Sarah Collins recording] We appreciate the cooperation provided by the local people; I think that the work has gone very well. Mr. Dich, who is the head of the Vietnamese Office for Seeking Missing Personnel, and Mr. Thieu, one of his deputies, have been working with us and they are working very hard and they made good preparations for the site. So, I think the work is going on and we hope to be done. [end recording]

9. On the outcome of the joint excavation, Mr. Ho Xuan Dich, director of Vietnam Office for Seeking Missing Personnel, said evidence obtained at the crash site proved that Robertson was already dead. The seeking of missing American servicemen [words indistinct] searching for their remains. He said:

10. [Begin Ho Xuan Dich recording speaking in Vietnamese fading into English translation] In the process of excavating, we have found proof such as pilot's helmet, pieces of aircraft wreckage, some bones and teeth proving that the pilot is dead. The U.S. has agreed with us and what should be done now is to continue searching for his remains. [end recording]

11. The excavating site now is a garden and used to be the house of Mr. Nguyen Van Can, 80 years old. Robertson's crashed plane destroyed the seven-room thatched house. During the war, two of his sons were killed in action and still unaccounted for. Yet, he is willing to let the joint searching team to dig his garden and allows his younger son to join the excavation work. Asked to comment on this, he said:

12. [Begin recording by Nguyen Van Can's son speaking in Vietnamese fading into English translation] This is in the interest of the whole nation, which is not confined to a single household at all. Gain and loss are common practice during the war. [end recording]

13. So far, Vietnam has returned to the U.S. side 438 sets of remains of American servicemen, not to mention 59 cases considered as impossible-to-get remains. Vietnam has allowed the establishment of the American Missing in Action Office in Hanoi. Excavations and investigations have been carried out in more than 30 provinces throughout the country involving more than 600,000 Vietnamese workhands and Vietnam is doing all it can to help solve this humanitarian issue as soon as possible.

14. Where has the MIA issue originated from? There is no doubt about that; and what is the U.S. attitude toward 300,000 Vietnamese still unaccounted for from the war?

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