

6-27-1995

## Unclassified Summary

San Dewayne Francisco

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ENVELOPE

CDSN = CFS984 MCN = 95180/39989 TOR = 951802329  
RTTUZYUW RUEKJCSRA48 1802329-UURU--RUANSS.  
ZNR UUUUU

HEADER

R 292329Z JUN 95  
FM JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC  
INFO RHEFJ11/J2  
RUEALGX/SAFE

R 270922Z JUN 95 ZYB

FM CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI//J2//

TO RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USDP:ISA/DPMO//  
INFO RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASH DC  
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//CA/OCS/ACS/EAP/VLC//  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//J5//

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC

RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC

RHHUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J2/J3/J30-H//

RUEKJCS/USCINCPAC LO WASHINGTON DC

RUEHBT/USDAO BANGKOK TH//PW-NIA//

RUHVAHA/CDRUSACILHI HICKAM AFB HI//TAPC-PED-H//

BT

CONTROLS

UNCLAS //N03460//

SECTION 01 OF 04

OASD DPMO	
Date Received	11 Jun 95
Watch Officer	R
Distro	Act / Info
Director	_____
Deputy Dir	_____
Chief of Staff	_____
Exec Asst	_____
Gen Counsel	_____
Pol/Plan	_____
Int/Analyze	_____
& Comm Spt	_____
Ref/Doc	_____
Ext Affairs	_____
Resource Mgmt	_____
SA-FA	_____
Tele Source	File

Francisco, J.D.

/\*\*\*\*\* THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE \*\*\*\*\*/

BODY

MSGID/GENADMIN/CDR JTF-FA/J252//

SUBJ/ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM (OHP) REPORT; MR. NGUYEN HUU NGOI//

RMKS/1. SUMMARY: ON 11 AND 12 MAY 95, AN OHP TEAM INTERVIEWED

MR. NGOI, A FORMER VNA COMBAT PHOTOGRAPHER, AT THE JOINT DOCUMENT

CENTER IN HANOI. HE TOLD INTERVIEWERS THAT ON THE MORNING OF

26 SEP 68, IN THE VICINITY OF KILOMETER 54, ROUTE 20, QUANG BINH

PROVINCE HE PHOTOGRAPHED THE BODIES OF TWO AMERICAN PILOTS WHOSE

AIRCRAFT A UNIT OF THE 280TH AAA REGIMENT SHOT DOWN THE AFTERNOON

BEFORE. MEMBERS OF THE AAA UNIT WHICH SHOT THE AIRCRAFT DOWN

AND MEMBERS OF THE "ASSAULT YOUTH" TOLD HIM THAT BOTH PILOTS

EJECTED FROM THE AIRCRAFT. VIETNAMESE FORCES CAPTURED ONE, A

FIRST LIEUTENANT, ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, BUT A ROCKET FIRED FROM SAR

AIRCRAFT KILLED HIM ALONG WITH SOME TROOPS AND "ASSAULT YOUTH."

THE SECOND PILOT, A LIEUTENANT COLONEL, LANDED IN THE MOUNTAINOUS

JUNGLE ABOUT TWO KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF THE FIRST PILOT. HE

RESISTED CAPTURE, KILLING TWO OF THE TROOPS TRYING TO CAPTURE HIM,

BEFORE VIETNAMESE FORCES KILLED HIM. WHEN MR. NGOI ARRIVED IN THE

AREA, THESE EVENTS HAD ALREADY OCCURRED. VIETNAMESE HAD HASTILY

COVERED THE BODY OF THE FIRST PILOT IN THE ROCKET EXPLOSION'S CRATER.

MR. NGOI DIRECTED THE TROOPS AND "ASSAULT YOUTH" TO UNCOVER THE BODY.

THEY UNCOVERED THE FACE OF THE 1LT AND MR. NGOI PHOTOGRAPHED IT. HE

THEN TRAVELED TO THE LOCATION OF THE SECOND BODY AND TOOK PHOTOGRAPHS

THERE. HE NEXT WENT TO THE CRASHED AIRCRAFT, WHICH LAY ABOUT TWO TO

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THREE KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF THE SECOND PILOT'S BODY, AND PHOTOGRAPHED THE AIRCRAFT. FINALLY, HE WENT TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE 37MM AAA UNIT WHICH HAD SHOT DOWN THE AIRCRAFT, AND PHOTOGRAPHED A ROLL OF FILM AND THE PILOTS' IDENTIFICATION MEDIA. HE THEN LEFT THE AREA. HE DID NOT WITNESS THE FINAL BURIAL OF EITHER BODY, BUT PRESUMES THAT VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS BURIED THEM WHERE THEY LAY. MR. NGOI ALSO PROVIDED INFORMATION ABOUT LOCAL VNA ORGANIZATION AND REPORTING PROCEDURES, AND PROVIDED THE NAMES OF SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES AS POTENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR INTERVIEW. HE SAID THAT HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO POINT OUT THE PLACES WHERE HE SAW THE BODIES IF WE TOOK HIM TO THE AREA, AND EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO ACCOMPANY A JOINT TEAM TO THE SITE. THE INFORMATION MR. NGOI PROVIDED IS CONSISTENT WITH THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS SURROUNDING PRIORITY INVESTIGATION AND SPECIAL REMAINS CASE 1329.

## 2. DETAILS OF INTERVIEW:

A. ON 11 AND 12 MAY 95, JTF-FA AND VNOSHP INVESTIGATORS INTERVIEWED MR. NGUYEN HUU NGOI (NGUYEENX HWUX NGOOI) AT THE JOINT DOCUMENTS CENTER, HANOI. PARTICIPANTS WERE:

- (1) MR. JAMES M. COYLE, GM-13, DOD, FIELD RESEARCH DIRECTOR
- (2) SFC STEPHEN F. THOMPSON, DET TWO OHP COORDINATOR
- (3) LTC PHAM TRO (MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE), VNOSHP

B. PURPOSE OF INTERVIEW: DET TWO RESEARCH OF PHOTOGRAPHS AT THE VNA REVEALED THAT A PHOTOGRAPHER BEARING THE NAME HUU NGOI HAD TAKEN PHOTOGRAPHS WHICH ANALYSTS ASSOCIATED WITH PRIORITY AND SPECIAL REMAINS CASE 1329. INTERVIEWERS SOUGHT WHATEVER INFORMATION MR. NGOI COULD PROVIDE CONCERNING THIS OR ANY OTHER U.S. LOSS INCIDENT OF WHICH HE HAD KNOWLEDGE.

## C. SOURCE DATA:

- (1) NAME: NGUYEN HUU NGOI (NGUYEENX HWUX NGOOI), AKA HUU NGOI, AKA (PEN NAME) CHU HONG MA (CHU HOONGF MAX)
- (2) AGE: 62 (DOB 6 APR 33)
- (3) CURRENT RESIDENCE: YEN BAY (YEEN BAYS) VILLAGE, TRIEU YEN (TRIEUJ YEEN) DISTRICT, THANH HOA (P)
- (4) CURRENT OCCUPATION: PHOTOGRAPHER (THANH HOA LITERATURE AND ART ASSOCIATION)
- (5) WARTIME OCCUPATION: PHOTOGRAPHER (VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY)

## D. STATEMENT:

(1) EXCEPT FOR THE YEARS HE WORKED FOR THE VNA, MR. NGOI IS A LIFETIME RESIDENT OF YEN BAY VILLAGE. HE LEFT THE VILLAGE IN 1959 TO ATTEND THE CENTRAL PRESS SCHOOL (TRUONGF BAOS CHIS TRUNG WONG) IN HANOI, FROM WHICH HE WAS GRADUATED IN 1960. UPON GRADUATION HE WENT TO WORK FOR THE VNA, WHICH SENT HIM TO WORK IN HUNG YEN PROVINCE.

(2) WITH THE OUTBREAK OF THE AIR WAR IN THE SUMMER OF 1964, VNA SENT MR. NGOI TO WORK IN QUANG BINH PROVINCE, WHERE THEY HAD ESTABLISHED A BRANCH OFFICE KNOWN AS THE SPECIAL BRANCH AGENCY FOR THE SOUTH OF REGION 4 (PHAN XAX DAWCJ BIETJ NAM KHU 4). MR. NGOI REMAINED IN QUANG BINH PROVINCE UNTIL EARLY 1971, WHEN HE RETURNED TO WORK IN HANOI. IN 1974 HE LEFT VNA AND WENT TO WORK FOR THE THANH HOA PROVINCE LITERATURE AND ART ASSOCIATION (HOCJ VAWN HOCJ NGHREJ THUAATJ THANH HOAS), WHERE HE REMAINS EMPLOYED TODAY.

- (3) THE SPECIAL BRANCH AGENCY FOR THE SOUTH OF REGION 4 WAS

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LOCATED IN A BUNKER IN SEN BANG HAMLET, BO TRACH DISTRICT (48Q XE 605 401, IN WHAT IS NOW HOA TRACH VILLAGE). THE BRANCH DIRECTOR WAS MR. MAI THANH HAI (MAI THANH HAI). THE BRANCH WAS COMPOSED OF THREE CELLS (TOOR); THE QUANG BINH - VINH LINH CELL, THE GROUP 559 CELL, AND THE "VANGUARD" CELL. (NOTE: TOOR TIEEN PHONG, IN MR. NGOI'S PRONUNCIATION. INTERVIEWERS ASKED MR. NGOI TO CLARIFY THIS POINT. HE EXPLAINED THAT REPORTERS FROM THE "VANGUARD" CELL SOMETIMES ACCOMPANIED TROOPS INTO ACTION). THIS DIVISION WAS THEORETICAL. IN PRACTICE, THE SAME THREE REPORTERS FORMED BOTH THE GROUP 559 AND "VANGUARD" CELLS. THESE THREE MEN WERE THE CELL CHIEF MR. LAI VAN THANH (LAI VAWN THANH) AKA LAM THANH (LAAM THANH), WHO IS NOW THE DEPUTY OFFICE DIRECTOR OF VNA; MR. TAI LAM (TAI LAAM), WHO IS NOW DECEASED; AND MR. NGUYEN VAN SOAN (NGUYENX VAWN SOANJ). MR. NGOI WAS PART OF THE QUANG BINH-VINH LINH CELL, WHOSE OTHER MEMBERS WERE MR. BUI HOANG CHUNG (BUI HOANGF CHUNG, PREVIOUSLY INTERVIEWED BY THE DET TWO) AND MR. DUONG DUC QUANG (ZWONG DWCS QUANG), NOW DIRECTOR OF THE PRESS DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. MR. NGOI WORKED THROUGHOUT QUANG BINH PROVINCE AND THE VINH LINH SPECIAL ZONE, BUT NEVER ENTERED LAOS OR SOUTHERN VIETNAM. THE FURTHEST SOUTH HE EVER TRAVELED DURING THE WAR WAS THE SOUTH BANK OF THE BEN HAI RIVER. HE OCCASIONALLY WORKED WITH FOREIGN AND OTHER DOMESTIC REPORTERS. ONE OF THE FOREIGN REPORTERS HE REMEMBERED WAS WILFERD BURCHETT.

(4) THE MISSION OF THE BRANCH AGENCY WAS TO PREPARE MATERIALS CONCERNING THE DEFENSE OF THE HOMETLAND FOR THE USE OF NATIONAL PRESS ORGANS. THE BRANCH AGENCY DID NOT CONTRIBUTE THEIR WORK TO LOCAL PUBLICATIONS. MR. NGOI AND OTHER PHOTOGRAPHER/REPORTERS PREPARED COMBAT PHOTOGRAPHS, RECORDS OF SERIOUS CRIMES THE ENEMY COMMITTED, AND WARTIME CONSTRUCTION. WHEN VIETNAMESE FORCES SHOT DOWN, KILLED OR CAPTURED AMERICAN PILOTS, PHOTOGRAPHERS WERE SUPPOSED TO PHOTOGRAPH THE CAPTIVE OR HIS BODY, THE WRECKAGE OF HIS AIRCRAFT, AND HIS //

/\*\*\*\*\* BEGINNING OF SECTION 002 \*\*\*\*\*/  
RHKS/

IDENTIFICATION MEDIA, IF AVAILABLE. THEY WERE TO DO SO AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, THEN LEAVE THE AREA. REPORTERS/PHOTOGRAPHERS DID NOT DEVELOP OR PROCESS THEIR OWN FILM. THERE WERE OTHER PERSONS IN THE BRANCH AGENCY WHO DID THAT. MR. NGOI'S BRANCH TRANSMITTED THE PHOTOGRAPHS TO HANOI ELECTRONICALLY. MR. NGOI NOTED THAT THE SEN BANG BUNKER CONTAINED GOOD EQUIPMENT, A.K.A. THAT WAS NECESSARY TO TRANSMIT NEWS TO HANOI QUICKLY. (COMMENT: WHEN ASKED, MR. NGOI NOTED THAT HE DID WRITE NEWS ARTICLES, BUT IT WAS CLEAR FROM HIS PRESENTATION THAT HE CONSIDERS HIMSELF PRIMARILY A PHOTOGRAPHER. IN FACT, HE SOMETIMES BROKE AWAY FROM THE INTERVIEW TO PHOTOGRAPH THE INTERVIEWERS).

(5) MR. NGOI TOLD INTERVIEWERS THAT WHILE HE TOOK MANY WARTIME PHOTOGRAPHS, THE INCIDENTS HE PHOTOGRAPHED OR OTHERWISE OBSERVED TOOK PLACE SO LONG AGO THAT HE CANNOT REMEMBER THEM CLEARLY. HE ONLY FELT PREPARED TO DISCUSS ONE INCIDENT, INVOLVING THE BODIES OF TWO AMERICAN PILOTS HE HAD PHOTOGRAPHED NEAR ROUTE 20. WHEN INTERVIEWERS ASKED, TOWARD THE END OF THE INTERVIEW, IF HE HAD KEPT A WARTIME DIARY, MR. NGOI POINTED TO PHOTOGRAPHS INTERVIEWERS HAD JUST SHOWN

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HIM AND SAID PROUDLY, "THIS IS MY DIARY."

(6) THE VNA BUNKER WAS ADJACENT TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE 280TH AIR DEFENSE REGIMENT, SO REPORTERS LEARNED RIGHT AWAY WHEN THE 280TH HAD SHOT DOWN AN AIRCRAFT. ON THE AFTERNOON OF 25 SEP 68 THE AGENCY RECEIVED WORD FROM THE 280TH THAT ONE OF ITS SUBORDINATE UNITS HAD SHOT DOWN AN AIRCRAFT IN THE VICINITY OF KM 54, ROUTE 20. THE 280TH ACTUALLY SENT VNA TWO MESSAGES, ONE PROVIDING THE INITIAL INFORMATION, AND A SECOND PROVIDING THE LOCATION OF THE CRASH. MR. HAI TOLD MR. NGOI TO GO TO THE SCENE TO RECORD THE INCIDENT. MR. NGOI DOES NOT KNOW IF MR. HAI HAD ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THE PILOTS OR THEIR FATE. IF HE DID, HE DID NOT PROVIDE IT TO MR. NGOI.

(7) MR. NGOI DEPARTED FOR THE SCENE ON HIS BICYCLE. HE ARRIVED AT BINH TRAM 14 HEADQUARTERS, ON THE SOUTH BANK OF THE XUAN SON FERRY (48Q XE 396 477) AT ABOUT 2000. HE SPENT THE NIGHT THERE, AND ASKED FOR TRANSPORTATION TO THE INCIDENT LOCATION. (COMMENT: MR. NGOI EMPHASIZED TO INTERVIEWERS THAT HE DID NOT HAVE TO SEEK PERMISSION FROM BT 14 TO TRAVEL TO THE SCENE. HE JUST NEEDED A RIDE). THE NEXT MORNING BT 14 PROVIDED HIM WITH A VEHICLE AND DRIVER, AND HE HEADED DOWN ROUTE 20. AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNIT WHICH SHOT DOWN THE AIRCRAFT MR. NGOI OBTAINED GUIDES WHO LED HIM TO THE SITE, WHICH LAY AN ADDITIONAL 20 KILOMETERS DOWN ROUTE 20 FROM THE UNIT HEADQUARTERS. (COMMENT: MR. NGOI WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE A DESIGNATION FOR THIS UNIT. HE SAID ONLY THAT THE UNIT WAS A SUBORDINATE BATTALION OF THE 280TH REGIMENT. HE EARLIER SPECULATED THAT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE 14TH (NGUYEN-VIET-XUAN) BATTALION, BUT HE COULD NOT BE SURE).

(8) AT THE SCENE, TROOPS OF THE UNIT WHICH HAD SHOT DOWN THE AIRCRAFT AND MEMBERS OF THE "ASSAULT YOUTH" (THANH NIEEN XUNG PHONG) LED MR. NGOI TO THE PLACE WHERE THEY HAD COVERED THE BODY OF A PILOT, AND TOLD HIM ABOUT THE INCIDENT. MR. NGOI REMEMBERS NEITHER THEIR NAMES, OR HOW MANY OF THEM THERE WERE. (COMMENT: AT THIS POINT MR. NGOI ALSO NOTED THAT IN THE ROUTE 20 AREA AT THIS TIME, THE ONLY PEOPLE ONE WOULD SEE WERE TROOPS AND ASSAULT YOUTH. ALL THE LOCAL PEOPLE HAD LEFT THE AREA). THE TROOPS TOLD HIM THAT TWO PILOTS HAD EJECTED FROM THE AIRCRAFT, AND HAD LANDED ABOUT TWO KILOMETERS APART. ONE PILOT, A FIRST LIEUTENANT, HAD LANDED VERY CLOSE TO THE ROAD, AND THE VIETNAMESE CAPTURED HIM ALMOST IMMEDIATELY. HE HAD BEEN WOUNDED IN ONE LEG (NFI). HIS CAPTORS WERE TREATING THE PILOT'S WOUNDS AND PREPARING HIM FOR EVACUATION TO THE NORTH WHEN SAR AIRCRAFT ATTACKED THE AREA. A ROCKET FROM ONE OF THE AIRCRAFT STRUCK THE SPOT WHERE VIETNAMESE WERE TREATING THE CAPTURED PILOT, KILLING HIM AND A NUMBER OF TROOPS AND ASSAULT YOUTH. WHEN THE SAR AIRCRAFT LEFT, SURVIVING TROOPS AND ASSAULT YOUTH COVERED THE PILOT'S BODY IN THE CRATER LEFT BY THE ROCKET THAT HAD KILLED HIM. THEY SHOWED MR. NGOI THE BURIAL SITE, WHICH WAS ONLY ABOUT 15 METERS FROM THE "RIGHT" (I.E.; WESTERN) SIDE OF ROUTE 20. (COMMENT: INTERVIEWERS ASKED MR. NGOI THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE BURIAL SITE TO THE KM 54 MARKER OF ROUTE 20. MR. NGOI SAID THAT THERE WERE NO MARKERS, HE SIMPLY TOOK THE WORD OF HIS GUIDES THAT THE LOCATION THEY WERE AT WAS KM 54). MR. NGOI ASKED THEM TO UNCOVER THE BODY SO HE COULD PHOTOGRAPH IT. THEY UNCOVERED THE FACE ONLY AND RINSED IT WITH WATER. MR. NGOI THEN

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PHOTOGRAPHED IT. MR. NGOI SAID THAT THE FACE WAS THAT OF A YOUNG CAUCASIAN. HE COULD NOT TELL THE NATURE OR EXTENT OF HIS INJURIES BECAUSE THE BODY REMAINED COVERED. MR. NGOI ASSUMED THAT THE ROCKET CAUSED EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO THE BODY, WHICH WAS NO LONGER INTACT, AND THAT CONSEQUENTLY THE TROOPS AND ASSAULT YOUTH HAD BEEN RELUCTANT TO DISINTER IT COMPLETELY.

(9) THE TROOPS AND ASSAULT YOUTH THEN TOOK MR. NGOI TO SEE THE BODY OF THE SECOND PILOT, WHOM THEY SAID WAS A LIEUTENANT COLONEL. THIS BODY LAY APPROXIMATELY TWO KILOMETERS "AS THE BIRD FLIES" NORTHWEST OF THE FIRST PILOT'S BODY, IN MOUNTAINOUS JUNGLE. THE VEGETATION WAS SO THICK THAT THE PARTY HAD TO CUT SOME OF IT DOWN TO ADMIT SUFFICIENT LIGHT FOR MR. NGOI TO TAKE HIS PICTURES. MR. NGOI'S GUIDES TOLD HIM THAT AFTER THE FIRST PILOT HAD BEEN CAPTURED, THE LOCAL FORCES WERE VERY ANXIOUS TO CAPTURE THE SECOND PILOT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE IT WAS CLEAR TO THEM THAT HE HAD A RADIO AND WAS CALLING IN SAR AIRCRAFT. THE TROOPS FOUND HIM, SURROUNDED HIS POSITION AND MOVED TO CAPTURE HIM. THE PILOT SHOT AT HIS WOULD-BE CAPTORS, KILLING TWO OF THEM. THE TROOPS THEN SHOT AND KILLED THE PILOT. WHEN MR. NGOI ARRIVED AT THE SCENE HE SAW THAT THE PILOT'S BODY WAS LYING ON ITS BACK, THAT THERE WAS NEARLY-FRESH BLOOD ON ITS LIPS, AND THAT THE LOCAL TROOPS HAD TAKEN THE PILOT'S BOOTS, REVEALING WHITE SOCKS. MR. NGOI TOOK A COUPLE OF QUICK PHOTOGRAPHS, THEN LEFT TO LOOK AT THE AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE. HE DID NOT OBSERVE ANYONE BURY THE SECOND BODY BUT ASSUMES THAT VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS DID SO. HE TOLD INTERVIEWERS THAT HE THOUGHT VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS WOULD HAVE BURIED THE BODY ON THE SPOT BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY DIFFICULT TO MOVE IT CLOSER TO THE ROAD.

(10) MR. NGOI'S GUIDES THEN TOOK HIM TO SEE THE CRASHED AIRCRAFT WHICH LAY ABOUT TWO TO THREE KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF THE SECOND PILOT'S BODY. MR. NGOI TOOK ONE OR TWO PHOTOS OF THE WRECKAGE. HE THEN RETURNED TO THE ROAD WHERE HE GOT BACK INTO HIS VEHICLE AND RETURNED TO THE UNIT HEADQUARTERS. (COMMENT: MR. NGOI NOTED THAT THERE WAS A LARGE AMOUNT OF UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE AT THE CRASH SITE, //

/\*\*\*\*\* BEGINNING OF SECTION 003 \*\*\*\*\*/

RKMS/  
PARTICULARLY "GUAVA" CBUS (BOM BI OOR), WHICH CAUSED HIM TO SPEND EVEN LESS TIME AT THE SITE THAN THE LITTLE HE WOULD HAVE SPENT HAD THERE BEEN LESS DANGER. ONE OF THE INTERVIEWERS VISITED THIS CRASH SITE IN 1989 AND CAN CONFIRM THAT 21 YEARS AFTER THE INCIDENT THERE WERE STILL LARGE NUMBERS OF UNEXPLODED CBUS UNITS THERE). AT THE UNIT HEADQUARTERS, MR. NGOI FINISHED HIS ROLL OF FILM BY PHOTOGRAPHING THE IDENTIFICATION MEDIA WHICH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS TOOK FROM THE TWO BODIES. HE ALSO REMEMBERED TAKING A PHOTOGRAPH OF A LARGE ROLL OF FILM. HIS MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, MR. NGOI THEN RETURNED TO SEN BANG. HE ESTIMATES THAT HE WAS AT THE INCIDENT LOCATION FOR TWO TO THREE HOURS. HE ORIGINALLY NOTED THAT HE GOT THERE AT ABOUT 1000, BUT THEN CHANGED IT TO 0800. (COMMENT: INTERVIEWERS THINK THAT DESPITE HIS PROVISION OF ESTIMATES, MR. NGOI IS NOT CERTAIN OF EITHER THE TIME OF HIS ARRIVAL OR THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF TIME HE SPENT AT THE SCENE).

(11) BACK AT THE VNA BRANCH BUNKER, MR. NGOI TURNED IN THE ROLL OF FILM HE HAD SHOT AND HIS PHOTO LOG (A SHEET OF PAPER ON WHICH HE EXPLAINED WHAT APPEARED IN EACH FRAME HE HAD SHOT ON THAT ROLL) AND HEADED OUT FOR HIS NEXT ASSIGNMENT. HE NEVER SAW THE FINISHED PHOTOGRAPHS. (INTERVIEWERS SHOWED THEM TO HIM LATER IN THE INTERVIEW). MR. NGOI DOES NOT REMEMBER EXACTLY HOW MANY PHOTOGRAPHS WERE ON THE ROLL, BUT ESTIMATED THAT THERE WERE "TEN OR MORE".

(12) MR. NGOI STATED THAT HE NEVER RETURNED TO THE ROUTE 20 AREA. NEVERTHELESS, DESPITE THE PASSAGE OF 27 YEARS, HE THINKS HE WOULD BE ABLE TO POINT OUT THE CRASH AND BURIAL SITES TO A JOINT TEAM. HE EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO DO SO IF WE GIVE HIM THE OPPORTUNITY. HE IS ALSO WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN FURTHER INTERVIEWS.

### 3. COMMENTS:

A. CORRELATIONS: THE INFORMATION MR. NGOI PROVIDED CORRELATES WITH CASE 1329, BASED ON DATE, LOCATION, AND THE PRESENCE OF TWO PILOTS. IN ADDITION TO THE ATTRIBUTION BY VNA OF TWO PHOTOGRAPHS OF REFNO 1329 TO MR. NGOI, MR. NGOI HIMSELF IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZED THE TWO PHOTOGRAPHS OF THAT BODY AS HIS OWN PRODUCT. MR. NGOI FURTHER STATED, BEFORE HAVING SEEN THE PHOTOGRAPHS, THAT THE TROOPS HAD REMOVED THE SECOND PILOT'S BOOTS, DISPLAYING WHITE SOCKS. THE INTERVIEWERS CONFIRMED THIS IN ONE OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS. (b)(3)

### B. POTENTIAL LEADS:

(1) MR. HAI THANH HAI (HAI THANH HAI), FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE VNA SPECIAL BRANCH AGENCY FOR THE SOUTH OF REGION 4. MR. HAI MAY HAVE WITNESSED U.S. LOSSES IN QUANG BINH PROVINCE, AND MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THE NAMES OF OTHER WITNESSES. MR. NGOI SUGGESTED THAT INTERVIEWERS MIGHT BE ABLE TO LOCATE HIM THROUGH VNA.

(2) MR. LAI VAN THANH (LAI VAN THANH) AKA LAM THANH (LAM THANH), FORMER CHIEF OF THE "GROUP 559" AND "VANGUARD" CELLS OF THE VNA SPECIAL BRANCH AGENCY FOR THE SOUTH OF REGION 4. MR. THANH IS NOW THE DEPUTY OFFICE DIRECTOR (PHOS VAN PHONG) OF VNA.

(3) MR. NGUYEN VAN SOAN (NGUYEN VAN SOAN), FORMER MEMBER OF THE "GROUP 559" AND "VANGUARD" CELLS OF THE VNA SPECIAL BRANCH AGENCY FOR THE SOUTH OF REGION 4. MR. NGOI SUGGESTED THAT INTERVIEWERS MIGHT BE ABLE TO LOCATE HIM THROUGH VNA.

(4) MR. BUI HOANG CHUNG (BUI HOANG CHUNG), FORMER MEMBER OF THE QUANG BINH-VINH LINH CELL OF THE VNA SPECIAL BRANCH AGENCY FOR THE SOUTH OF REGION 4. THE DET TWO RESEARCH HISTORIAN INTERVIEWED MR. CHUNG ON 8 APR 95.

(5) DUONG DUC QUANG (ZWONG DUC QUANG), FORMER MEMBER OF THE QUANG BINH-VINH LINH CELL OF THE VNA SPECIAL BRANCH AGENCY FOR THE SOUTH OF REGION 4. MR. QUANG IS NOW DIRECTOR OF THE PRESS DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (VUJ TRWONG VUJ BAOS CHIS THUR TWONGS).

### C. INTERVIEWER COMMENTS:

(1) MR. NGOI PROVIDED HIS INFORMATION IN A STRAIGHTFORWARD MANNER, ANSWERING EVERY QUESTION INTERVIEWERS POSED TO HIM WITHOUT HESITATION AND, IT APPEARED, TO THE LIMIT OF HIS ABILITY. HE OFTEN AMPLIFIED HIS ANSWERS WITH UNSOLICITED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. INTERVIEWERS REGARD HIM AS RELIABLE AND HIS INFORMATION AS CREDIBLE.

(2) DESPITE MR. NGOI'S EVIDENT CREDIBILITY WITH REGARD TO

ENVELOPE

CDSN = CFS084 MCN = 96011/03444 TOR = 960110243  
RTTUZYUW RUEKJCS8967 0110203- -RUEALGX.  
ZNR

HEADER

R 110203Z JAN 96  
FM JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC  
INFO RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS FM  
RHEFJ11/J2  
RUEALGX/SAFE

R 110922Z JAN 96 EYB  
FM CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI//J2//  
TO RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USDP:ISA/DPMO//  
INFO RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASH DC  
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//CA/OCS/ACS/EAP/VLC//  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//J5//  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC  
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC  
RHEMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J2/J3/J30-M//  
RUEKJCS/USCINCPAC LO WASHINGTON DC  
RUEHBT/USDAO BANGKOK TH//PW-MIA//  
RUHVAAA/CDRUSACILHI HICKAM AFB HI//TAPC-PED-H//  
BT

CONTROLS  
//N03460//

BODY

MSGID/GENADMIN/CDR JTF-FA/J252//  
SUBJ/JTF-FA REPORT VN95-043 (LETTER): MR. NGUYEN HUU NGOI  
PROVIDES INFORMATION ON CASE 1329//  
REF/A/RMG/CDR JTF-FA/210922ZJAN95//  
AMPN/REF IS THE ORAL HISTORY REPORT OF INTERVIEW WITH MR. NGUYEN HUU  
NGOI. DURING THIS INTERVIEW, MR. NGOI PROVIDED INFORMATION CORRELA-  
TING WITH CASE 1329.//  
RMKS/1. SUMMARY: IN TWO LETTERS DATED 22 OCT 95 AND 2 NOV 95, MR.  
NGUYEN HUU NGOI PROVIDED DETAILS ON THE BURIAL LOCATIONS OF THE TWO  
CREW MEMBERS IN CASE 1329. THE INFORMATION IS THE SAME HE PROVIDED  
TO A JOINT ORAL HISTORY TEAM ON 11 AND 12 MAY 95. THE SECOND LETTER  
INCLUDED AN ANNOTATED SKETCH MAP OF THE BURIAL LOCATION.  
2. DETAILS:

A. SOURCE INFORMATION:

- (1) NAME: MR. NGUYEN HUU NGOI (HMUX NNGOOI)
- (2) AGE: 62 YOA
- (3) CURRENT OCCUPATION: PHOTOGRAPHER (THANH HOA

LITERATURE AND ART ASSOCIATION)

- (4) CURRENT RESIDENCE: YEN BAI (YEEN BAI)

VILLAGE, THIEU YEN DISTRICT, THANH HOA PROVINCE.

- (5) WARTIME OCCUPATION: PHOTOGRAPHER WITH THE

VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY.

- (6) WITNESS CREDIBILITY: GOOD

B. LETTER INFORMATION: MR. NGOI ADDRESSED THE TWO LETTERS TO  
MR. JAMES COYLE AND SFC STEPHEN THOMPSON, WHO CONDUCTED A JOINT

PAGE:0012

OASD DPMO	
Date Received	12 JAN 96
Watch Officer	R
Distro	Act / Info
Director	
Deputy Dir	
Chief of Staff	
Exec Asst	
Gen Counsel	
Pol/Plns	
Res/Analyst	
Jt Comm Spt	
Ref/DOC	
Ext Affairs	
Resource Mgmt	
RA-SA	
Tech Source File	
Francisco, S.D. 1329	
NAME	

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U.S./VNMSP RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATION TEAM INTERVIEW WITH MR. NGOI  
ON 11 AND 12 MAY 95. THE FIRST PARA OF EACH LETTER EXPLAINS MR.  
NGOI'S MEDICAL PROBLEMS AND REQUESTS U.S. AID TO HELP HIM RECOVER.  
THE SUBSEQUENT PARAGRAPHS REITERATE DETAILS OF CASE 1329. APPLICABLE  
EXTRACTS OF THE LETTERS FOLLOW.

(1) 22 OCT 95 LETTER: (BEGIN TRANSLATION)

(A) "RETURNING TO THE RF-4C THAT CRASHED AT KILOMETER  
MARKER 54, ROUTE 20, ON 26 NOV 68, I ARRIVED ON THE SCENE TO TAKE  
PHOTOGRAPHS (THE LIEUTENANT WHO PARACHUTED OUT HAD BROKEN HIS RIGHT  
LEG, THEN RESCUE AIRCRAFT CAME AND HIT THE LIEUTENANT WITH ROCKETS).  
SO THE VOLUNTEER YOUTH (THANH MIEM XUNG PHONG) BURIED THE LIEUTENANT  
THERE APPROXIMATELY 15 TO 20 METERS WEST OF KILOMETER MARKER 54.  
SINCE I HAD FINISHED MY PHOTOGRAPHY MISSION, I HAD TO GO AND WORK AT  
A DIFFERENT LOCATION (THAT'S ALL I KNOW)."

(B) "AS FOR NAME (SIC), WHEN I  
ARRIVED HE WAS DEAD (AS DEPICTED IN THE PHOTOGRAPH YOU SHOWED ME THAT  
DAY IN THE OFFICE). I DETERMINE FOR YOUR CLARIFICATION THAT TWO  
KILOMETERS FROM ROUTE 20 KILOMETER MARKER 54 TO THE RIGHT (FROM KUON  
SON (XUAN SOWN) UP) IS THE AIRCRAFT CRASH LOCATION, WHERE THE  
VOLUNTEER YOUTH BURIED THE LIEUTENANT COLONEL 20 TO 25 METERS FROM  
THE AIRCRAFT ON THE LEFT-HAND SIDE. (I CALL TO YOUR ATTENTION THAT  
IN NAME AREA THERE WERE STILL MANY UNEXPLODED  
CLUSTER-BOMB UNITS.) I FEEL CONFIDENT THIS (SITE) IS STILL UNDIS-  
TURBED BECAUSE THIS WAS A FORESTED AREA WITHOUT LOCAL INHABITANTS,  
SO PEOPLE DIDN'T DARE COME."  
(END TRANSLATION)

(2) 2 NOV 95 LETTER: (BEGIN TRANSLATION)

(A) "I'M SENDING YOU A SKETCH OF THE GRAVES OF THE TWO  
AMERICAN RF-4C CREW MEMBERS WHO WERE SHOT DOWN ON 25 NOV 68 AT KILO-  
METER MARKER 54 IN BO TRACH DISTRICT, QUANG BINH PROVINCE."

(B) "BASED ON THIS SKETCH, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO DETER-  
MINE THE AIRCRAFT CRASH LOCATION EASIER THAN BY JUST USING KILOMETER  
MARKER 54. AS FOR THE LIEUTENANT'S GRAVE, IT WAS 15 TO 20 METERS TO  
THE RIGHT-HAND SIDE OF ROUTE 20 KILOMETER MARKER 54. DUE TO THE TIME  
ELAPSED, THE LIEUTENANT'S GRAVE LOCATION WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT TO  
ASCERTAIN THAN NAME (SIC) (BECAUSE MR. NAME GRAVE IS  
ON THE RIGHT-HAND SIDE OF THE AIRCRAFT, APPROXIMATELY 20 TO 25 METERS  
FROM ROUTE 20."  
(END TRANSLATION)

3. MATERIAL EVIDENCE: NONE

4. COMMENTS: DET 2 WILL FORWARD A COPY OF BOTH LETTERS,  
INCLUDING THE SKETCH MAP, TO HQ JTF-FA, J2.//

ADMIN

BT

#8967

NNNN

COMPLETED

Case 1329 (Francisco, San D. and

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION:

- In August 1989, a joint team investigated this case in Thuong Trach Village, Bo Trach District, Quang Binh Province.
  - The team visited a crash site and recovered an identification number which was correlated to the number one engine of the Case 1329 aircraft. No remains were found.
  - The team was unable to locate any witnesses to the incident or obtain any other information concerning the fate of the aircrew.
- The team obtained a limited hearsay report that an American pilot was buried at the 55 kilometer point of Route 20.
- The team also obtained a limited hearsay report that the remains of seven U.S. pilots lost in the Ban Karai Pass area were recovered during the 1970's.

U.S. COMMENTS:

- This is a Category 3 case requiring further joint efforts.
- Although the joint team located the wreckage of the aircraft involved in this incident, they did not interview any eyewitnesses to the loss incident.

U.S. COMMENTS ON RESULTS OF JOINT INVESTIGATIONS  
PASSED TO THE VNOSMP DURING THE 7-9 NOV 90

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MIA  
FRANCISCO, SAN, LTJ, USAF  
25 NOVEMBER 1968

USAF

DIA : PW  
USAF INTEL : MIA  
USAF CASUALTY : MIA

EVIDENCE SUPPORTING PW STATUS:

1. GOOD CHUTE.
2. VISUAL CONTACT
3. VOICE CONTACT
4. PARACHUTE OBSERVED TO BE WITHIN 700 METERS OF AN ENEMY ENCAMPMENT.
5. CHUTE DISAPPEARED BY THE MORNING AFTER INCIDENT WHILE VOICE CONTACT WAS RE-ESTABLISHED WITH *them*
6. FBIS BROADCAST, 26 NOVEMBER 1968, REFERENCED THE CAPTURE OF PILOTS FITTING THE DESCRIPTION OF THIS INCIDENT.
7. FRANCISCO WAS WITH *MIA* USAF, WHOSE INCIDENT COMES UP *later*
8. AF INTELLIGENCE DID NOT HOLD THE FBIS REFERENCED IN ITEM 6 ABOVE. WE HAVE PROVIDED IT TO THEM.

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