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Orala History Report of Interview with Mr. Nguyen

San Dewayne Francisco

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ENVELOPE
CDSN = CS984  NCM = 95180/39989  TUR = 95180/3229
TIJUJUH/USG/CS/MAA MAB3229-UBRJU--RIJAE.

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THREE KILOMETERS SOUTH EAST OF THE SECOND PILOT'S BODY, AND PHOTOGRAPHED THE AIRCRAFT. FINALLY, HE WENT TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE 27TH AAA UNIT WHICH HAD SHUT DOWN THE AIRCRAFT, AND PHOTOGRAPHED A ROLL OF FILM AND THE PILOT'S INDENTIFICATION MEDIA. HE THEN LEFT THE AREA. HE DID NOT WITNESS THE FINAL BURIAL OF EITHER BODY, BUT PRE-

SURE THAT VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS BURIED THEM WHERE THEY LAY. HR. NGOI ALSO PROVIDED INFORMATION ABOUT LOCAL VNA ORGANIZATION AND REPORTING PROCEDURES, AND PROVIDED THE NAMES OF SOME OF HIS COWORKERS 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 HR. NGOI PROVIDED IS CONSISTENT WITH THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE SOUTH SURROUNDING THE PILOT'S LOCATION IN THE AREA.

2. DETAILS OF INTERVIEW:
A. ON 11 AND 12 MAY 95, JTF-FA AND VNAHS INVESTIGATORS INTER-

VIEWED MR. NGUYEN HUU NGOI (NGUYEN HUU NGOI) AT THE JOINT DUC-

MENTS CENTER, HANOI. PARTICIPANTS WERE:

1) MR. JAMES M. COYLE, GH-13, DOD, FIELD RESEARCH DIRECTOR
2) SGT STEPHEN K. THOMPSON, 2D TWIN OPIF, DOD, FIELD RESEARCH DIRECTOR
3) SGT PHAM TANG (MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE), VNAHS

B. PURPOSE OF INTERVIEW:
1) TO GATHER INFORMATION FROM THE VNA XUONG MOUNTAIN PHOTOGRAPHER WHO WAS BEHEADED BY THE VIETNAMESE MILITARY. THE PURPOSE OF THE INTERVIEW WAS TO DETERMINE THE SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND INFORMATION ON THE INCIDENTS OF INTEREST TO THE JOINT FORCES.

C. SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

1) MR. NGUYEN HUU NGOI (NGUYEN HUU NGOI), AKA NGOI NGOI, AKA NGOI NGOI (AKA 'NAME'S'), WHO WAS KILLED BY THE VIETNAMESE MILITARY ON 30 AUG 95.
2) MR. NGUYEN HUU NGOI (NGUYEN HUU NGOI), WHO WAS KILLED ON 30 AUG 95.

D. STATEMENT:
1) FOR THE YEARS HE WORKED FOR THE VNA, HR. NGOI IS A LIFETIME RESIDENT OF YEN BAY VILLAGE. HE LIVED IN THE VILLAGE IN 1959 TO ATTEND THE CENTRAL PRESS SCHOOL (TRANG BANG CHI TRANG BANG) IN HANOI, FROM WHICH HE WAS GRADUATED IN 1960.

E. COMMENTS:
1) MR. NGOI REMAINED IN THE PROVINCE UNTIL EARLY 1971, WHEN HE RETURNED TO WORK IN HANOI. IN 1974 HE LEFT THE VNA AND WORKED FOR THE THANG HOA PROVINCE LIBRARY AND ART ASSOCIATION (NGUYEN HUU NGOI NGUYEN HUU NGOI). WHERE HE REMAINS EMPLOYED TODAY.

2) THE SPECIA L BRANCH AGENCY FOR THE SOUTH OF REGION 4 WAS
LOST IN A RUNNER IN SEN BANG, HA-VIET, NOI TRACH DISTRICT (48Q ZR 405 401, IN WHAT IS NOW HOI TRACH VILLAGE). THE BRANCH WAS COMPOSED OF THREE CELLS (TOOK); THE QUANG BINH - VINH LINH CELL, THE GROUP 559 CELL, AND THE "VANGNHU" CELL. (NOTE: YOUR TYPING PROOFING, IN MR. NGUO'S PROFESSIONALISM. INTERVIEWS ASKED MR. NGUO TO CLARIFY THIS POINT. HE EXPLAINED THAT REPORTERS FROM THE "VANGNHU" CELL SOMETIMES ACCOMPANIED TROOPS INTO ACTION. THIS DIVISION WAS THEORETICAL. IN PRACTICE, THE SAME THREE REPORTERS DROPOUT BOTH THE GROUP 559 AND "VANGNHU" CELLS..."

ACCOMPANIED TROOPS INTO ACTION. THIS DIVISION WAS THEORETICAL. IN PRACTICE, THE SAME THREE REPORTERS DROPOUT BOTH THE GROUP 559 AND "VANGNHU" CELLS..."

THE MISSION OF THE BRANCH AGENCY WAS TO PREPARE MATERIALS CONCERNING THE DEFENSE OF THE HOMELAND FOR THE USE OF NATIONAL PRESS ORGANISMS. THE BRANCH AGENCY DID NOT CONTRIBUTE THEIR WORK TO LOCAL PUBLICATIONS. MR. NGUO AND OTHER PHOTOGRAPHERS REPORTED COMBAT PHOTOGRAPHS. REPORTS OF SERIOUS CRIMES THE BROKER CONTAINED BOTH AMERICAN PILOTS, PHOTOGRAPHERS WERE SUPPOSED TO PHOTOGRAPH THE Captive OR HIS BODY, THE WRECKAGE OF HIS AIRCRAFT, AND HIS..."

BEGINNING OF SECTION 002

REAS.

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 FILMS. THERE WERE OTHER PERSONS IN THE BRANCH AGENCY WHO DID THAT. MR. NGO'S BRANCH TRANSMITTED THE PHOTOGRAPHS TO HANOI QUICKLY. (COMMENT: WHEN ASKED, MR. NGO NOTED THAT HE DID WRITE NEWS ARTICLES, BUT IT WAS CLEAR FROM HIS PRESENTATION THAT HE CONSIDERED HIMSELF PRIMARILY A PHOTOGRAPHER. IN FACT, HE SOMETIMES BROKE AWAY FROM THE INTERVIEW TO PHOTOGRAPH THE INTERVIEWERS.)

MS. NGO TOLD INTERVIEWERS THAT WHILE HE TOOK MANY WAR-TIME PHOTOGRAPHS, THE INCIDENTS HE PHOTOGRAPHED OR OTHERWISE OBSERVED TOOK PLACE SO LONG IN THAT HE CANNOT REMEMBER THEM CLEARLY. HE ONLY FELT PREPARED TO HAND ELECTRONICALLY WHAT BECAME THE BODIES OF TWO AMERICAN PILOTS. HE PHOTOGRAPHED NEAR ROUTE 20..."
PHOTOGRAPHED IT. MR. NGÔI SAID THAT THE FACE WAS THAT OF A YOUNG CAUCASIAN. HE COULD NOT TELL THE NATURE OR EXTENT OF HIS INJURIES BECAUSE THE BODY HAD BEEN COVERED. MR. NGÔI ASSURED THAT THE ROCKET CAUSED EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO THE BODY, WHICH WAS NO LONGER INTACT, AND THAT CONSEQUENTLY THE TROOPS AND ASSAULT TEAM HAD BEEN RESISTANT TO DISINTER IT COMPLETELY.

(9) THE TROOPS AND ASSAULT TEAM THEN TOOK MR. NGÔI TO SEE THE BODY OF THE SECOND PILOT, WHOSE NAME THEY SAID WAS A LIEUTENANT COLONEL. THIS BODY LAY APPROXIMATELY TWO KILOMETERS "AS THE BIRD FLIES" NORTHWEST OF THE FIRST PILOT'S BODY, IN MOUNTAIN JUNGLE. THE VILLAGERS THERE REFUSED TO ALLOW MR. NGÔI TO SEE THE BODIES. 

(10) MR. NGÔI'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 AIRCRAFT. THE TROOPS FOUND HIM, SURPRISED HIS POSITION AND MOVED TO CAPTURE HIM. THE PILOT SHOT AT HIS POSITION AND KILLED TWO OF THEM. THE TROOPS THEN SHOT AND KILLED THE PILOT. WHEN MR. NGÔI ARRIVED AT THE SCENE HE SAW THAT THE PILOT'S BODY WAS LYING ON ITS BACK, THAT THERE WAS HEAVY-BLOOD ON ITS LIPS, AND THAT THE LOCAL TROOPS HAD TAKEN THE PILOT'S BOOTS, REVEALING WHITE SUCKS. MR. NGÔI TOOK A FEW QUICK PHOTOGRAPHS, THEN LEFT TO LOOK AT THE AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE. HE DID NOT OBSERVE ANYONE BUT THE SECOND BODY BUT ASSURES THAT VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS DID SO. HE TOLD INTERVIEWERS THAT HE THOUGHT VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS WOULD HAVE BURIED THE BODY IN THE SPOT BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY DIFFICULT TO MOVE IT CLOSER TO THE ROAD.

(11) MR. NGÔI'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. NGÔI TOOK ONE OR TWO PHOTOS OF THE WRECKAGE. HE THEN RETURNED TO THE ROAD WHERE HE REACHED THE SECOND PILOT'S BODY AND RETURNED TO THE UNIT HEADQUARTERS. (COMMENT: MR. NGÔI NOTED THAT THERE WAS A LARGE AMOUNT OF UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE AT THE CRASH SITE.}

****** BEGINNING OF SECTION 003 **********

PHOTOGRAPHS, PARTICULARLY "GUAVA" GRASS (BON #1 (018)), 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 CBU UNITS THERE. AT THE UNIT HEADQUARTERS, MR. NGÔI FINISHED HIS ROLL OF FILM BY PHOTOGRAPHING THE INTERROGATION ROOM WHICH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS TOOK TO THE TWO BODIES. HE ALSO REMEMBERED TAKING A PHOTOGRAPH OF A LARGE ROLL OF FILM. HIS MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, MR. NGÔI THEN RETURNED TO SEN BANG. HE ESTIMATES THAT HE WAS AT THE INCIDENT LOCATION FOR TWO TO THREE HOURS AT O800. (COMMENT: INTERVIEWERS THINK THAT DESPITE HIS PROVISION OF ESTIMATES, MR. NGÔI IS NOT CERTAIN OF EITHER THE TIME OF HIS AERIAL OR THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF TIME HE SPENT AT THE SCENE)

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U.S. / VIETNAM RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATION TEAM INTERVIEW WITH MR. NGOI ON 11 AND 12 MAY 95. THE FIRST PARAGRAPH OF EACH LETTER EXPLAINS MR. NGOI'S MEDICAL PROBLEMS AND REQUESTS U.S. HELP TO HELP HIM RECOVER THE SUBJECT PARAGRAPHS REPEATS DETAILS OF CASE 1329. APPLICABLE EXTRACTS OF THE LETTERS FOLLOWS.

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

(a) "RETURNING TO THE EP-4C THAT CRASHED AT KILOMETER MARKER 54, ROUTE 20, ON 24 NOV 94, I ARRIVED ON THE SCENE TO TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS (THE LIEUTENANT WHO PARAchUTED OUT HAD BROKEN HIS RIGHT LEG, THEN RESCUE AIRCRAFT CAME AND HAD THE LIEUTENANT WITH ROCKETS) SO THE VOLUNTEER YOUTH (THANH HIEP NGOI) BURIED THE LIEUTENANT THERE APPROXIMATELY 25 TO 30 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 NAM E... (END TRANSLATION)

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

(a) "I'M SENDING YOU A SKETCH OF THE GRAVES OF THE TWO AMERICAN EP-4C CREW MEMBERS WHO WERE SHOT DOWN ON 25 NOV 68 AT KILOMETER MARKER 54 IN NO TRACE DISTRICT, QUANG BINH PROVINCE."

(b) "BASED ON THIS SKETCH, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO DETERMINE 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 NAM E (SIC) BECAUSE MR. NAM E 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: DESIRE 2 WILL FORWARD A COPY OF BOTH LETTERS, INCLUDING THE SKETCH MAP, TO HQ JTF-FA, 52.//

ADMIN

/38396

NANN
Case 1329 (Francisco, San D. and
VCft)

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 VNOISP DURING THE 7-9 NOV 90