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 NSC WASHDC PRIORITY SECSTATE WASHDC//EAP-VLC// PRIORITY  
 AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY  
 SECDEF WASHDC//JASD-ISA/PW-MIA// PRIORITY  
 USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3// PRIORITY  
 DIA WASHINGTON DC//PW-MIA// PRIORITY  
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 06 BANGKOK TH 05597

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 0057 FEB 91  
 MINIMIZE CONSIDERED FOR MILITARY ADDRESSEES  
 SUBJ: SUMMARY REPORT OF 13TH SERIES OF JOINT  
 INVESTIGATIONS IN VIETNAM, 21 JAN - 7 FEB 91 (U)

1. ~~(S)~~ TWO US TEAM CONTINGENTS CONSISTING OF 14 PERSONNEL ARRIVED BY USAF C-130 IN DA NANG CITY QUANG NAM PROVINCE, ON 21 JANUARY 1991. BOTH TEAMS DEPLANED IN DA NANG AND PROCEEDED TO THEIR OPERATIONAL AREAS ON THE DAY OF ARRIVAL IN COUNTRY. THE TEAMS CONDUCTED INVESTIGATIONS UNTIL 7 FEBRUARY 1991, THEN RETURNED FROM DA NANG DIRECT TO BANGKOK. THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY REPORT OF BOTH TEAMS' ACTIVITIES IN VIETNAM.

2. ~~(S)~~ TEAM ONE CONDUCTED OPERATIONS IN BOTH THUA THIEN - HUE AND QUANG NAM - DA NANG PROVINCES. THE US CONTINGENT OF TEAM ONE WAS COMPRISED OF MR. [REDACTED] (TEAM CHIEF), CPT [REDACTED] (ASSISTANT TEAM CHIEF), SMSGT [REDACTED] AND SFC [REDACTED] (TEAM ANALYSTS), SFC [REDACTED] AND SSG [REDACTED] (SEARCH AND RECOVERY SPECIALISTS), AND HMC [REDACTED] (TEAM MEDIC). THE VN TEAM CONTINGENT WAS COMPRISED OF MR HO XUAN DICH (TEAM CHIEF), MR PHAM TEO (ASSISTANT TEAM CHIEF), SR COL TRAN BIEN (RESEARCH SPECIALIST), MR PHAM CONG KHDI,

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MR DUONG VAN NGOC, MR PHAM DUNG, MR DO XUAN THANG (SPECIALISTS), AND MR DO XUAN THANG (RESEARCH SPECILIST).

3. (U) THUA THIEN - HUE PROVINCE:

- A. (C) CASE 0703 (AROBLESKI, WALTER F.): THE JOINT TEAM TRAVELED TO A LUOI DISTRICT WHERE WITNESSES GUIDED THE TEAM TO A CRASH SITE WHERE WRECKAGE CONSISTENT WITH THE REFNO 0703 CASE HAS FOUND. WITNESSES RESIDING IN THE AREA INDICATED THAT SUBSEQUENT TO THE INCIDENT THEY FOUND THE BODY OF AN AMERICAN ON THE GROUND. THE PRESENCE OF THE BODY WAS REPORTED TO PAVN PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO A NEARBY MILITARY STATION. THE PAVN PERSONNEL REMOVED A WATCH FROM THE BODY. THE CURRENT WHEREABOUTS OF THE PAVN WHO APPROACHED THE BODY IS UNKNOWN. THE DISPOSITION OF THE BODY IS UNKNOWN DUE TO THE AREA HAVING BEEN EVACUATED DUE TO FIGHTING AT THE TIME. NO REMAINS, GRAVE SITE, PERSONAL EFFECTS, OR CONTEMPORARY RECORDS WERE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE TEAM.

(b) (3)

- B. (C) CASE [REDACTED] IN A LUOI DISTRICT THE TEAM INTERVIEWED WITNESSES WHO PROVIDED TESTIMONY CONSISTENT WITH THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN US RECORDS. ONE WITNESS REPORTED HAVING KILLED THE PILOT WHO, ACCORDING TO THE WITNESS, WAS WOUNDED AND CRAWLING ON THE GROUND BUT STILL CONTINUED TO RESIST WITH A HANDGUN. THE WITNESS POINTED OUT A GENERAL LOCATION FOR THE BURIAL SITE, BUT DUE TO THE TIME LAPSE, NO SINGLE SPECIFIC LOCATION COULD BE DETERMINED. THE GENERAL GRAVE SITE AREA WAS SURVEYED BY THE JOINT TEAM. NO CONTEMPORARY RECORDS OR PERSONAL EFFECTS WERE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE TEAM.

- C. (C) CASE 1402 (MCDONNELL, JOHN T.): WITNESSES PROVIDED TESTIMONY WHICH IS CONSISTENT WITH THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN US RECORDS. WITNESSES PROVIDED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION INDICATING THE PILOT WAS WOUNDED WHILE RESISTING CAPTURE BY FORCES OF THE PAVN 4TH REGIMENT. WHILE BEING EVACUATED TO MILITARY REGION FOUR, THE PILOT DIED DUE TO INJURIES AND WAS BURIED ALONG THE TRAIL. A WITNESS GUIDED THE TEAM TO THE REPORTED BURIAL SITE IN THE MOUNTAINS SOUTH OF HUE. THE TEAM CONDUCTED A JOINT

REPRODUCED AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE

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EXCAVATION OF THE REPORTED BURIAL SITE, BUT NO  
REMAINS OR PERSONAL EFFECTS WERE RECOVERED. LOCAL  
OFFICIALS OPINED THAT IF THE REMAINS WERE NOT WASHED  
AWAY BY FLASH FLOODS, THEY WERE RECOVERED BY REMAINS  
TRADERS. NO CONTEMPORARY DOCUMENTS WERE MADE  
AVAILABLE TO THE TEAM.

- D. ~~(C)~~ CASE 1660 (PLASSMEYER, BERNARD H.):  
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MINIMIZE CONSIDERED FOR MILITARY ADDRESSEES  
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WITNESSES IN A LUOI DISTRICT GUIDED THE TEAM TO A CRASH SITE WHERE SMALL PIECES OF WRECKAGE CONSISTENT WITH THE REFNO 1660 CASE WERE OBSERVED. ITEMS INDICATING THE PILOT REMAINED IN OR NEAR THE AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING PART OF AN OXYGEN MASK AND PART OF A SURVIVAL MAP, WERE ALSO RECOVERED. THE SITE INDICATED SIGNS OF HAVING BEEN HEAVILY SCAVENGED, AND NO REMAINS OR IDENTIFICATION MEDIA WERE OBTAINED. NO WITNESSES INDICATED KNOWLEDGE OF THE FATE OF THE PILOT OR ANY GRAVE SITES. NO CONTEMPORARY DOCUMENTS WERE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE TEAM.

- E. ~~(S)~~ CASE 0093 (PLANTS, THOMAS L.): THE US TEAM CONTINGENT WAS PROVIDED PHOTOGRAPHS CONCERNING THIS CASE BY THE VNJSMP. THE PHOTOGRAPHS DEPICTED PARTIAL HUMAN SKELETAL REMAINS AND A DAMAGED DOG TAG OF REFNO 0093-1-04 (PLANTS, THOMAS L.). ACCORDING TO THE VNJSMP THE REMAINS AND DOG TAG WERE RECOVERED IN THE SAM SON AREA OF THANH HOA PROVINCE DURING SEPTEMBER 1990. FIELD ANALYSIS INDICATED THE REMAINS ARE POSSIBLY ASSOCIATED WITH AN ACTIVE CASE. THE VNJSMP PLEDGED TO FOLLOWUP THE REPORT AND TO GAIN CUSTODY OF THE REMAINS FOR EXAMINATION BY THE JOINT FORENSIC TEAM.

- F. ~~(S)~~ CASE 1936 (LEONOR, LEONARDO C.): THE US TEAM CONTINGENT WAS PROVIDED IDENTIFICATION DATA CONCERNING THIS CASE BY THE VNJSMP. VN TEAM CHIEF, MR. HO XUAN DICH, PRODUCED A SLIP OF PAPER BEARING THE NAME AND SERIAL NUMBER OF REFNO 1936-0-02 (LEONOR, LEONARDO C.). THE WRITING WAS NOT CLEAR AND MR. DICH HAD RECORDED THE SURNAME AS BEGINNING WITH THE LETTER "C" VICE "L". ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WRITTEN ON THE PAPER INDICATED THE SOURCE OF THE INFORMATION WAS A MR. DUONG NGOC SON (SONN) WHO RESIDES IN HANOI. MR. DICH ACTED SURPRISED TO LEARN THE IDENTIFICATION DATA CORRELATED TO AN ACTIVE CASE, AND PLEDGED TO

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FOLLOWUP THE REPORT PROMPTLY.

-G. ~~(C)~~ WHILE CONDUCTING SCHEDULED CASE INVESTIGATIONS, THE INFORMATION SEEKING ELEMENT OF THE VN TEAM CONTINGENT (SR COL TRAN BIEN) ARRANGED INTERVIEWS WITH CADRE FORMERLY ASSIGNED TO THE REGIMENTAL LEVEL. THE US CONTINGENT DIVIDED INTO TWO ELEMENTS, WHICH FACILITATED THE INTERVIEW PROCESS. THE WITNESSES PROVIDED LIMITED INFORMATION CONCERNING TWO GROUND INCIDENTS, THREE CRASH INCIDENTS, AND ONE INCIDENT INVOLVING A CARGO SHIP. THE WITNESSES ALSO PROVIDED INFORMATION CONCERNING WARTIME POW EVACUATION ROUTES AND PAVN FACILITIES. THIS INFORMATION IS CURRENTLY BEING ANALYZED.

4. (U) QUANG NAM - DANANG PROVINCE:

-A. ~~(C)~~ CASE 0547 (HAMILTON, ROGER D.): IN THANG BINH AND TIEN PHUOC DISTRICTS THE TEAM INTERVIEWED WITNESSES WHO REPORTED THE CAPTURE OF A CAUCASIAN AMERICAN IN BINH LAM VILLAGE DURING APRIL 1967. THE AMERICAN WAS REPORTEDLY WOUNDED BY A HAND GRENADE PRIOR TO BEING CAPTURED BY ELEMENTS OF THE PAVN 31ST REGT. THE AMERICAN HAS REPORTEDLY EVACUATED BY THE PAVN FORCES ALONG THIS NORMAL RECOVERY ROUTE TO CAU NGAN. THE TEAM ALSO RECEIVED A REPORT OF THREE GRAVES IN THE CAU NGAN AREA WHICH POSSIBLY CONTAINED JS REMAINS. THE TEAM JOINTLY EXCAVATED THE THREE GRAVES AND RECOVERED PARTIAL SKELETAL REMAINS FROM TWO OF THE GRAVES. THE VNDSMP INDICATED THEY WOULD REPATRIATE THE REMAINS IN THE NORMAL MANNER. A MEMBER OF THE PROVINCE LEVEL INFORMATION SEEKING TEAM DID HOWEVER PRESENT THE RESULTS OF A LOCAL RECORDS SEARCH, WHICH YIELDED SOME LIMITED INFORMATION WHICH, BASED ON DATE AND LOCATION, CAN BE CORRELATED WITH THIS INCIDENT.

-B. ~~(C)~~ CASE 0678 (ASHLOCK, SANTOS): IN THANG BINH AND TIEN PHUOC DISTRICTS THE TEAM INTERVIEWED WITNESSES WHO PROVIDED TESTIMONY CONCERNING AN INCIDENT CONSISTENT WITH INFORMATION CONTAINED IN US FILES CONCERNING THIS CASE. THE WITNESSES REPORTED THAT BOTH PERSONNEL IN THIS INCIDENT WAS WOUNDED AND BT

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INVESTIGATIONS IN VIETNAM, 21 JAN - 7 FEB 91 (U)  
EVACUATED ALONG THE SAME ROUTE NORMALLY USED BY  
RECOVERY GROUPS FOR PAVY PERSONNEL. ACCORDING TO  
THE WITNESSES, ONE BLACK AMERICAN DIED AND WAS  
BURIED ON THE TRAIL. REFNO 06781-02 (SANTOS) WAS  
EVACUATED TO HOSPITAL GK 38 OF THE 2D DIVISION WHERE  
HE WAS TREATED FOR HIS WOUNDS, PRIOR TO BEING  
RELEASED. THE TEAM PROCEEDED TO THE AREA WHERE  
WITNESSES REPORTED THE BURIAL OF THE BLACK AMERICAN  
OCCURRED AND JOINTLY EXCAVATED THE SITE. PARTIAL  
HUMAN REMAINS, INCLUDING A MANDIBLE WITH TEETH, WERE  
RECOVERED. THE REMAINS WERE PLACED IN THE CUSTODY  
OF THE VNOSMP WHO INDICATED THE REMAINS WOULD BE  
REPATRIATED IN THE NORMAL MANNER. NO PERSONAL  
EFFECTS OR CONTEMPORARY RECORDS WERE MADE AVAILABLE  
TO THE TEAM.

-C. ~~TO~~ CASE 1598 (WHEELER, EUGENE L.): THE TEAM  
RECEIVED A PRELIMINARY REPORT FROM THE PROVINCE TASK  
TEAM INDICATING THE PREVIOUS REPORT CONCERNING THE  
ALLEGED RECOVERY OF THE REMAINS OF A US PILOT,  
ALONG WITH A DOG TAG BEARING THE NAME "WHEELER," WAS  
ERRONEOUS. THE PROVINCE TASK TEAM REPORTED IN THE  
MOST RECENT VERSION THAT THE DOG TAG ACTUALLY  
CONTAINED THE LETTERS "WEE," WHICH LED THEM TO  
BELIEVE THE REMAINS OF MAJ WHEELER HAD ALREADY BEEN  
RECOVERED. THE PROVINCE LEVEL TEAM PROVIDED MORE  
RECENT INFORMATION INDICATING THE PILOT OF A US OV-  
10 AIRCRAFT WAS KILLED WHILE RESISTING CAPTURE BY  
MEMBERS OF THE TRUNG SON MILITARY GROUP. THE BODY  
OF THE PILOT WAS REPORTEDLY BURIED IN NA LAU  
VILLAGE, NEAR THE LAO BORDER, AND THE TREK INTO THE  
GRAVE SITE WAS ESTIMATED AS REQUIRING EIGHT DAYS.  
WITH LESS THAN THE REQUIRED TIME REMAINING, THE US  
CONTINGENT AGREED TO REMAIN IN COUNTRY UNTIL THE  
MISSION WAS ACCOMPLISHED, AND VISA EXTENSIONS WERE  
GRANTED. SINCE THE PROVINCE TASK TEAM DESCRIBED THE  
ROUTE INTO THE SITE AS BEING EXTREMELY DANGEROUS DUE  
TO THE MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN AND RECENT RAINS, THE US  
TEAM REQUESTED HELICOPTER SUPPORT, BUT WERE INFORMED

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