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P 120845Z MAR 91 PSN 097403P23
FM JCRC LIAISON BANGKOK TH
TO CDR JCRC BARBERS PT HI PRIORITY
BT

SECTION 01 OF 02 BANGKOK TH 10254

MINIMIZE CONSIDERED FOR MILITARY ADDRESSEES ONLY
CONFIDENTIAL 0130 MAR 91
SUBJ: CRS BELL'S COMMENTS CONCERNING THE 6 MARCH 1991
REPATRIATION IN HANOI
REF: JCRC LIAISON 080447Z MAR 91

1. REF REPORTED SIDE DISCUSSIONS WITH VNOSMP OFFICIALS IN HANOI DURING THE 6 MARCH 1991 REMAINS REPATRIATION. THE FOLLOWING ARE (b)(6) COMMENTS CONCERNING THOSE DISCUSSIONS.

2. THE REQUEST FOR BY PROVINCE LISTINGS OF CASES IN THE AREA OF CENTRAL VIETNAM FROM THANH HOA TJ KHANH HOA ARE AN INDICATION OF FUTURE SRV PLANNING EFFORTS TOWARD CR ACTIVITIES. THE VNOSMP HAS BEEN EMPHASIZING THE FOUR PROVINCES OF QUANG BINH, QUANG TRI, THUA THIEN, AND QUANG NAM AND PROBABLY FEEL THE US SIDE HAS PICKED UP ON THIS FOR NEAR TERM PLANNING PURPOSES. THEIR ADDITION OF PROVINCES BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE PREVIOUSLY EMPHASIZED AREA INDICATE THEY WANT TO GIVE US A "HEADS UP" ON WHAT THEY PROBABLY SEE AS A LOGICAL FUTURE EXPANSION. I REALIZE WE SHOULD BE CAUTIOUS IN PERMITTING OURSELVES TO BE LED BY THE VIETNAMESE, BUT IN THIS CASE THE HIGH DENSITY OF CASES, THE WEATHER PATTERNS, AND THE POLITICAL/DIPLOMATIC SENSITIVITIES OF BOTH HANOI AND SAIGON ARE, IN MY OPINION, AN INCENTIVE FOR US TO ACCOMPANY THE VIETNAMESE. I DO NOT KNOW HOW MUCH TIME AND EFFORT WILL BE REQUIRED TO RESPOND TO THEIR REQUEST FOR BY-PROVINCE LISTINGS, BUT IF THIS DOES BECOME A FACTOR OF CONSIDERATION I RECOMMEND PRIORITY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LISTINGS IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER: QUANG BINH, QUANG NAM, THUA THIEN, QUANG TRI, NGHE TINE, THANH HOA, QUANG NGAI, AND KHOANH HOA. SINCE THIS WAS THE ONLY POINT PRESENTED BY THE

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Reviewed by DPAA IAW DoDM 5400.07 and P.L. 102-190, 105 Stat. 1290, 1480-1481
Date: 31 AUG 2021
Initials: RW

QC'd by DPAA
Date: 28 JUL 2022
Initials: HK

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VNOSMP IN THE FORM OF A WRITTEN REQUEST, THEY HAVE PROBABLY INTENDED TO EMPHASIZE THE DEGREE OF IMPORTANCE PLACED BY THEM ON OBTAINING A TIMELY RESPONSE FROM US.

3. COMMENTS MADE BY THE VNOSMP CONCERNING A PERMANENT PRESENCE IN VIETNAM ARE SIMILAR TO PREVIOUS COMMENTS AND ARE PROBABLY DESIGNED TO INSURE THE ISSUE REMAINS UNDER ACTIVE US CONSIDERATION. THE FACT THAT DURING ITERATION 13 (b)(6) PROVIDED PHOTOGRAPHS OF REMAINS AND IDENTIFICATION MEDIA ASSOCIATED WITH AN UNRESOLVED CASE IN THANH HOA (PLANTS, 0093), AND THEN MADE COMMENTS IN CONJUNCTION WITH TWO OTHER CASES IN THE GENERAL AREA (0465, NAME AND BAUDER; 0375, SMITH) AT THE TIME THE REMAINS IN THE PHOTOGRAPHS WERE REPATRIATED, PROBABLY INDICATES THEY HAVE ALREADY DONE SOME PRELIMINARY WORK THEY BELIEVE CAN BE FINISHED BY THE PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE "PERMANENT PRESENCE." THEY HAVE CERTAINLY INDICATED THEIR DESIRE FOR AN ANTHROPOLOGIST TO PARTICIPATE BY STATING THEY BELIEVE NOT ONLY AN INVESTIGATOR IS REQUIRED, BUT AN "EXAMINATION SPECIALIST" AS WELL. THEY HAVE ADDED A DEGREE OF URGENCY BY INFORMING US THE REMAINS OF 0093 WERE RECOVERED IN AN UNPROFESSIONAL MANNER DUE TO THE ZEAL OF LOCAL CADRE WHO ACTED ON THEIR OWN DUE TO THE LACK OF A PROMPT RESPONSE FROM THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AFTER RECEIVING THE LOCAL REPORT. THEY HAVE AVOIDED ACCEPTING THE BLAME FOR THIS LACK OF A PROMPT RESPONSE BY SAYING THEY WERE CONCERNED THE US SIDE WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE RESULTS DUE TO A LACK OF US INVOLVEMENT (I.E., REMAINS WERE IN INSUFFICIENT QUALITY AND QUANTITY FOR IDENTIFICATION THROUGH SCIENTIFIC METHODS AND NO CHAIN OF CUSTODY COULD BE ESTABLISHED DUE TO UNILATERAL ACTION REGARDING THE RECOVERY). THEY HAVE HOWEVER, LEFT OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER EXCAVATION BY INDICATING REMAINS FROM AT LEAST TWO INDIVIDUALS WERE RECOVERED IN AN UNPROFESSIONAL MANNER FROM THE 0093 SITE. THEIR COMMENTS INDICATING THE TAIL SECTION OF THE 0465 AIRCRAFT HAS ALREADY BEEN REMOVED BY LOCAL VILLAGERS USING EXPLOSIVES MAY BE AIMED AT ELICITING A PROMPT RESPONSE FROM OUR SIDE AS TO HOW TO PROCEED IN THIS CASE LEST LOCAL AUTHORITIES PROCEED ON THEIR OWN. THE MENTION OF A SECOND INCIDENT WHICH I BELIEVE IS THE 0375 CASE AND ALREADY RESOLVED, IS A WARNING THAT AS USUAL, THE PRELIMINARY REPORTS CONCERNING THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE 0465 AIRCRAFT MAY NOT BE CORRECT DUE TO OTHER CASES IN THE GENERAL AREA. I HAVE NOT CHECKED OTHER RECORDS ON THE GENERAL AREA

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