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(D) PLACE OF BIRTH: PHU THUONG (PHUS THWONGJ)
VILLAGE, PHU VANG DISTRICT, THUA THIEN-HUE PROVINCE.
(E) CURRENT OCCUPATION: FORESTER.
(F) OCCUPATION AT TIME OF INCIDENT: SAME AS
ABOVE.

(G) BACKGROUND INFORMATION: MR. SUU IS MR.
HOA'S COUSIN.

(3) STATEMENT:

(A) IN 1977, MR. HOA WAS GATHERING INCENSE WOOD
IN THE FOREST BETWEEN BACH MA (BACHJ MAX) AND KHE SANH (KHEE
SANH). (NOTE: BACH MA MOUNTAIN AND BACH MA CAVE, NEAR GRID
COORDINATE 48Q ZC 064 923, FORM THE CENTER OF A NATIONAL
FOREST IN HUONG LOC VILLAGE (XAX HWONG LOOCJ), NAM DONG
DISTRICT, THUA THIEN-HUE PROVINCE. KHE SANH DISTRICT TOWN,
HUONG HOA DISTRICT, QUANG TRI PROVINCE, IS NEAR GRID
COORDINATE 48Q XD 851 383. SEE U.S. MAP SHEET 6342 III,
HUONG HOA, 1:50,000 SCALE, 1971 EDITION.) HE CAME ACROSS
THE SITE OF AN APPARENT BATTLE AND FOUND BONES SCATTERED
OVER A THREE METER AREA. HE SENT HIS COUSIN, MR. SUU, TO
RETRIEVE THE REMAINS BECAUSE HE BELIEVED THEY WERE AMERICAN.
MR. HOA FOUND ONE IDENTIFICATION (ID) TAG AT THE SITE, BUT
DID NOT SEE A UNIFORM, BOOTS, EQUIPMENT, OR ANY OTHER
EVIDENCE SUGGESTING THE REMAINS WERE AMERICAN.

(B) MR. HOA PRESENTED AN ID TAG WITH THE
FOLLOWING INFORMATION: LEPORE; M.R.; 2243025. A; USMC M;
LUTHERAN.

(4) WITNESS THREE:

(A) NAME: MR. NGUYEN VAN LINH (NGUYEENX VAWN
LINH).

(B) AGE: 35 YOA.

(C) CURRENT RESIDENCE AND LENGTH OF TIME THERE:
4B PHAN CHU TRINH (PHAN CHUS TRINH) STREET, HUE CITY, THUA
THIEN-HUE PROVINCE, LENGTH OF TIME UNKNOWN.

(D) CURRENT OCCUPATION: MOTORCYCLE TAXI
DRIVER.

(E) OCCUPATION AT TIME OF INCIDENT: SAME AS
ABOVE.

(F) STATEMENT:

((1)) IN 1990 OR 1991, MR. LINH PURCHASED
ONE SET OF REMAINS FOR FOUR TAEELS OF GOLD. (NOTE: ONE TAEEL
OF GOLD IS WORTH APPROXIMATELY \$500.) THE UNIDENTIFIED
INDIVIDUAL WHO SOLD HIM THE REMAINS GAVE HIM AN ID TAG AND A
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/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 002 *****/
SUBJ/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REPORT CONCERNING REMAINS
RMKS/

RATION CARD AS ALLEGED PROOF THE REMAINS WERE AMERICAN. MR.
LINH PURCHASED THE REMAINS HOPING HE COULD EXCHANGE THEM FOR
A COLLEGE EDUCATION IN AMERICA FOR HIS DAUGHTER.

((2)) MR. LINH PROVIDED THE ID TAG WITH THE

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FOLLOWING INFORMATION: LIPPE, JOSEPH; [REDACTED]; B NEG;
NONE. THE RATION CARD HAD THE SAME INFORMATION, BUT
INCLUDED TWO BLOOD TYPES, O POS AND B NEG.

4. MATERIAL EVIDENCE:

A. REMAINS #1 EXAMINATION: THE REMAINS CONSISTED OF A
NEARLY COMPLETE SKELETON AND HUNDREDS OF SMALL PIECES OF
BROKEN BONE (NO TEETH). THE BONES WERE SMALL AND ALL
FEATURES WERE CONSISTENT WITH A 40-PLUS-YEAR-OLD INDIGENOUS
MONGOLOID FEMALE. ONE OF THE SKULL FRAGMENTS HAD WHAT
APPEARED TO BE TWO BLUE INK LINES. MARKING OF SKULLS FOR
BONE "SAMPLES," IS A COMMON FINDING IN REMAINS TURNED OVER
BY BONE DEALERS. THE RIT PHOTOGRAPHED THE REMAINS AND
RETURNED THEM TO THE VIETNAMESE CITIZENS.

B. REMAINS #2 EXAMINATION: THE REMAINS CONSISTED OF A
NEARLY COMPLETE SKELETON, HUNDREDS OF SMALL PIECES OF BROKEN
BONE, AND 30 TEETH. ALL DENTAL AND SKELETAL FEATURES,
INCLUDING THE PRESENCE OF STRAIGHT, BLACK HEAD HAIR, WERE
CONSISTENT WITH A 50-PLUS-YEAR-OLD INDIGENOUS MONGOLOID
MALE. THE TEETH WERE SHOVEL SHAPED AND HEAVILY WORN (STRONG
MONGOLOID FEATURES). THE RIT PHOTOGRAPHED THE REMAINS AND
RETURNED THEM TO THE VIETNAMESE CITIZEN.

5. SITE SURVEY RESULTS: N/A.

6. PERTINENT LOCATION OR DATA CHANGES: N/A.

7. AREAS OR CASE FILE INFORMATION NOT INVESTIGATED: N/A.

8. ANALYST COMMENTS

A. WITNESS STATEMENTS:

(1) WITNESSES ONE AND TWO: MR. HOA POSSIBLY FOUND
THE REMAINS AS HE DESCRIBED. HOWEVER, THE SCENARIO OF
FINDING REMAINS WHILE GATHERING INCENSE WOOD IS THE SCENARIO
REMAINS TRADERS MOST COMMONLY USE. IN ADDITION, HUE CITY
CONTAINS A LARGE CONCENTRATION OF REMAINS TRADERS. THE FACT
THAT THE WITNESSES CAME TO HUE TO PRESENT THE REMAINS,
RATHER THAN IN DAK LAK PROVINCE WHERE THEY LIVE, SUPPORTS
THE BELIEF THEY ARE REMAINS TRADERS.

(2) WITNESS THREE: MR. LINH WAS CLEARLY
DISAPPOINTED WHEN THE RIT INFORMED HIM THE REMAINS WERE NOT
AMERICAN. WHEN THE TEAM INFORMED HIM OF THIS, HE SAID HE
HAD PURCHASED THE REMAINS TO TRADE FOR AN AMERICAN EDUCATION
FOR HIS DAUGHTER.

B. CANVASSING RESULTS: N/A.

C. INCIDENT LOCATION SURVEY: N/A.

D. ANALYTICAL CONCLUSION:

(1) WITNESSES ONE AND TWO ARE PROBABLY REMAINS
TRADERS. THE REMAINS THEY PRESENTED WERE NOT AMERICAN AND,
THEREFORE, DO NOT CORRELATE TO ANY CASE INVOLVING
UNACCOUNTED-FOR AMERICANS.

(2) WITNESS THREE IS THE VICTIM OF A REMAINS
TRADER. THE REMAINS HE PRESENTED WERE NOT AMERICAN AND,
THEREFORE, DO NOT CORRELATE TO ANY CASE INVOLVING
UNACCOUNTED-FOR AMERICANS.

(3) THE TEAM CHECKED THE IDENTIFICATION DATA ON THE

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(b)(6)

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TWO ID TAGS AND THE RATION CARD AGAINST THE BRIGHT LIGHT DATABASE OF UNACCOUNTED-FOR INDIVIDUALS AND THE DATABASE OF SOUTHEAST ASIA CASUALTIES. NONE OF THE DATA MATCHED ANY ENTRY IN THESE DATABASES.

9. SEARCH AND RECOVERY SPECIALIST COMMENTS: N/A.

10. TEAM LEADER COMMENTS:

A. WITNESS RELIABILITY:

(1) WITNESS ONE'S ACCOUNT OF HIS DISCOVERY OF THE REMAINS IS NOT CREDIBLE. HIS ACCOUNT OF SCATTERED REMAINS IS NOT SUPPORTED BY THE ANTHROPOLOGIST'S CONCLUSION THAT THE REMAINS WERE PROBABLY REMOVED FROM A COFFIN. WITNESS TWO REMAINED SILENT DURING THE INTERVIEW EXCEPT TO ANSWER QUESTIONS CONCERNING HIS BIOGRAPHICAL DATA. CONCUR WITH ANALYST'S CONCLUSIONS THAT THESE TWO MEN ARE REMAINS TRADERS.

(2) WITNESS THREE WAS CREDIBLE.

B. ANALYTICAL CONCLUSIONS:

(1) THE REMAINS AND IDENTIFICATION MEDIA PRESENTED TO THE TEAM DO NOT CORRELATE TO ANY UNACCOUNTED-FOR AMERICANS.

(2) CONCUR WITH ANALYST COMMENTS.

C. HOST GOVERNMENT COOPERATION/SUPPORT: HOST GOVERNMENT COOPERATION AND SUPPORT DURING THE TEAM'S WORK IN HUE CITY WAS GOOD.

D. DETACHMENT COMMANDER'S COMMENTS; NONE.//

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----- END OF MESSAGE TEXT -----

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ENVELOPE

CDSN = CFS420 MCN = 96251/10665 TOR = 962510933
PTTUZYUW RUEKJCS3023 2510934-UUUU--RUEALGX.
ZNR UUUUU

HEADER

P 031936Z SEP 96
FM CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI
TO: SAFE

ZEM

CONTROLS

UNCLAS

BODY

SUBJ: (MEC) SUBJ/DETAILED REPORT OF INVESTIGATION FOR PRIORITY CASE
1820//

//NOTICE// AUTOMATED MESSAGE ERROR CORRECTION

----- ORIGINAL MESSAGE TEXT -----

CDSN = CFS420 MCN = 96251/10665 TOR = 962510933
PTTUZYUW RUEKJCS3023 2510934-UUUU--RUEALGX.
ZNR UUUUU

P 070934Z SEP 96

FM DIA WASHINGTON DC

INFO RUEALGX/SAFE

P 031936Z SEP 96 ZFD

FM CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI

INFO AIG NINE SIX ZERO

RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASH DC

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//CA/OCS/ACS//

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC (b)(3)

RHEMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J32//

RUEKJCS/USCINCPAC LO WASHINGTON DC

RUEHHI/AMEMBASSY HANOI//CJTFFA DET TWO//

BT

UNCLAS //N03000//

SECTION 01 OF 05

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

MSGID/GENADMIN/CJTF-FA/-/AUG//

SUBJ/DETAILED REPORT OF INVESTIGATION FOR PRIORITY CASE
1820//

REF: A. CDR JTF-FA, HONOLULU, HI, 161503Z AUG 96
B. CDR JTF-FA, HONOLULU, HI, 031758Z AUG 95
C. CDR JTF-FA, HONOLULU, HI, 221123Z NOV 94
D. CDR JTF-FA, HONOLULU, HI, 090812Z NOV 94
E. CDR JTF-FA, HONOLULU, HI, 140702Z OCT 94
F. CDR JTF-FA, HONOLULU, HI, 050902Z AUG 94
G. CDR JTF-FA, HONOLULU, HI, 191822Z JUL 94
H. CDR JTF-FA, HONOLULU, HI, 061122Z APR 94
I. JTF-FA, DET TWO, LETTER, 9 JAN 94
J. CDR JTF-FA, HONOLULU, HI, 221112Z NOV 93
K. CJTFFA, DET ONE, BANGKOK, TH, 261012, JUL 93

OASD DPMO	
Date Received	9 Sep 96
Watch Officer	R
Distro	Act / Info
Director	___
Deputy Dir	___
Chief of Staff	___
Exec Asst	___
Gen Counsel	___
Pol/Plns	___
Res/Analyst	___
Jt Comm Spt	___
Rel/DOC	___
Ext Affairs	___
Resource Mgmt	___
RA-SA	___

Clery, P.M. 1820
Leonor, L.E.
Potts, Larry F.
Walker, Bruce C.

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