

WORKING PAPER

8 FEBRUARY 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: PHONECON WITH PURPORTED INTERMEDIARY TO CONTACT(S) WITH INFORMATION ON LIVE PWS

1. SOURCE: COL *NAME* USAF(RET.); *DATA* STATES THAT HE IS A FORMER ATTACHE TO TAIWAN, AND HAD BEEN ALSO A FORMER AIR ATTACHE THERE. BUSINESS PHONE: *DATA* HOME: *DATA* *DATA* BUT GAVE IMPRESSION THIS IS NOT MUCH USED DESERT RETREAT; HIS FAX NUMBER (*DATA*) HE STATES THAT HE IS IN THE EXPORT IMPORT BUSINESS; HE ALSO STATES THAT HE HAS HAD A YEAR OF LANGUAGE TRAINING IN CHINESE AND LONG EXPERIENCE IN TAIWAN.

2. THE SOURCE STATES THAT AN EXPORT IMPORT ASSOCIATE, A "FRIEND" WHOM HE BELIEVES IS THE SON OF A REPUBLIC OF CHINA ARMED FORCES GENERAL OFFICER, HAD RECENTLY RETURNED TO HIS HOME VILLAGE ON THE MAINLAND. *NAME* VOLUNTEERED THAT THIS WAS TERMED THE LAO (GIA) IN CHINESE) FOR A MONTH. *NAME* IS NOT CERTAIN BUT BELIEVES THAT THE FRIEND WAS ACTUALLY PASSING THROUGH HONG KONG ON HIS WAY BACK HOME WHEN ANOTHER MAN APPROACHED HIM. IT IS *NAME* "IMPRESSION" THAT THIS SECOND MAN IS A "FRIEND" OF HIS ASSOCIATE AND HIMSELF A GENERAL OFFICER IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA. THE MAN HAD SOUGHT OUT HIS ASSOCIATE BECAUSE HE HAD SOME URANIUM-235 "COUNTERWEIGHTS" TO SELL, AND KNEW THAT WILLIAM'S ASSOCIATE HAD CONTACTS IN THE USG WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN BUYING THE U-235. THE COUNTERWEIGHTS WERE MOSTLY IN BANGKOK, WITH TWO OF THEM IN HONG KONG; THEY MAY HAVE BEEN PROCURED FROM THAI, VIETNAMESE, LAO OR CAMBODIAN SOURCES-- *NAME* DID NOT KNOW WHERE.

3. BACKGROUND NOTE: COL *NAME* HAD PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED THE PROPOSED SALE OF THE U-235 COUNTERWEIGHTS OR BOBWEIGHTS TO THE USG. LT NANKO, DTFM, HAD INFORMED *NAME* THAT THERE WAS NO VALUE IN THEM.

4. HOWEVER AS THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE THIRD MAN AND *NAME*'S BUSINESS ASSOCIATE WAS CONCLUDING, THE MAN INDICATED THAT HE HAD SOMETHING ADDITIONAL TO OFFER, FOR FREE. HE THEN PROFFERED TO THE ASSOCIATE A LIST OF FIVE DOG TAG TRACINGS ((WHICH THE ASSOCIATE HAS APPARENTLY FAXED TO *NAME* IN THE US-- *NAME* HAS A FAX COPY WHICH IS DIFFICULT TO READ)). THE MAN THEN STATED TO *NAME*'S ASSOCIATE THAT HE ALSO HAD INFORMATION ABOUT LIVE PWS, KNEW THAT TWO WERE STILL ALIVE. HE GAVE NO FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE LIVE PWS, AND *NAME* WAS UNAWARE OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO THE DOG TAG NAMES.

5. THE DOG TAGS READ OFF THE FAX COPY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

KNECHT, L. V.  
*DATA* USMC  
0  
PRESH

MONHOLEAND, BILLY W.  
US *DATA*  
0 *DATA*  
HOLINESS

ROUTINE ZYUW RUEKJCS0488 0412341  
R 101633Z FEB 89  
FM DIA WASHINGTON DC//DAH-3//  
TO AIT TAIPEI TW  
INFO USDAO HONG KONG HK  
USDAO MANILA RP  
USDAO BANGKOK TH

AIT PASS TO MR. ANDRY, TECH SECTION FROM LIEUTENANT SHUGHART  
DAH-3-10220-89  
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR DEBRIEFING OF SOURCE OF PURPORTED INFORMATION ON U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR

1. THIS IS DIA MESSAGE 0011-89, FORWARDING AN INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION REQUEST FROM DIA'S PRISONER OF WAR SHOP (DIA/PW-MIA).  
2. BUCK, ON 7 FEBRUARY COL *NAME* USAF (RET) (AND DATT TO TAIWAN DURING YOUR TENURE AS AATRA), REPORTED TO PW-MIA OFFICERS THAT A CHINESE COLLEAGUE IN THE EXPORT IMPORT BUSINESS HAD RECEIVED PURPORTED INFORMATION ON LIVE PW'S FROM ANOTHER CHINESE BUSINESS ASSOCIATE DURING A BUSINESS MEETING. COL *NAME* BELIEVES THE MEETING, FOCUSING ON A PROPOSED SALE OF URANIUM-235 COUNTERWEIGHTS TO THE USG, TOOK PLACE IN HONG KONG RECENTLY. AS AN ADD-ON TO THE MEETING, THE THIRD MAN REPORTEDLY INDICATED THAT HE HAD INFORMATION ON LIVE U.S. PW'S, POSSIBLY TWO. AT THE SAME TIME HE ALSO PROVIDED A LIST OF FIVE DOG TAGS. NO FURTHER INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED ON THE TWO PW'S; NO RELATIONSHIP WAS DRAWN TO THE LIST (NOTE: DOG TAG INFORMATION IS TYPICAL OF AN ORGANIZED VIETNAMESE MISINFORMATION PROGRAM, LISTING INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE RETURNED TO THE U.S. ALIVE; SOURCES MAY BE APPRISED OF THIS FACT, REGARDLESS OF THEIR STORY COVERING THE LIST).

3. ALTHOUGH COL *NAME* STATED THAT HE WAS UNWILLING TO BREACH CONFIDENTIALITY AND IDENTIFY HIS EXPORT IMPORT COLLEAGUE-- AND INDICATED THAT THIS COLLEAGUE WAS PROTECTING THE THIRD MAN--HE ASSERTED THAT PERHAPS A MEETING COULD BE SET UP BETWEEN HIS COLLEAGUE AND MEMBERS OF AIT/TAIPEI IN WHICH THE IDENTITIES AND THEIR INFORMATION COULD BE BETWEEN PROTECTED (NOTE: THE URANIUM COUNTERWEIGHTS OFFERED--THE MAJORITY OF WHICH ARE REPORTEDLY IN BANGKOK--WERE DEEMED TO BE VALUELESS; A SIMILAR BUT AT THIS JUNCTURE UNRELATED OFFER WAS PROPOSED RECENTLY IN THE PHILIPPINES). COL *NAME* IS COMING TO TAIPEI AND HUA-LIEN BETWEEN 12-19 FEBRUARY. HE IS WILLING TO ASSIST IN SETTING UP A MEETING. HE STATED HE WAS A FORMER ATTACHE AND A CLOSE ACQUAINTANCE YOURS. PW-MIA HAS ASKED *NAME* TO CONTACT AIT DURING HIS STAY IN TAIWAN. HE WILL BE STAYING EITHER IN AN APARTMENT IN TAIPEI AT TELEPHONE NUMBER *DATA*, OR IN HUA-LIEN AT THE CITC HOTEL.

4. REQUEST THAT YOU AND/OR AN AIT OFFICER(S) MEET WITH COL *NAME*'S COLLEAGUE AND ESTABLISH THE FULL EXTENT OF HIS KNOWLEDGE RELATING TO THE REPORT OF LIVE U.S. PW'S. AS COL *NAME* UNDERSTANDS, WE MUST PURSUE THE REPORT BACK TO ITS ORIGINAL SOURCE(S) TO ASSESS ITS VALIDITY DIRECTLY, ON A PRIORITY BASIS. PW-MIA WOULD LIKE YOU TO ASK THE COLLEAGUE TO DESCRIBE THE MANNER BY WHICH HE CAME UPON THIS INFORMATION AND PROVIDE THE COMPLETE IDENTITIES AND CONTACT INFORMATION ON ALL THE PLAYERS INVOLVED. PLEASE HAVE ALL PARTICIPANTS DESCRIBE THEIR RELATIONSHIPS TO JOHN MEAD, ARTHUR SUCHESK AND MORDECHAI MINTZER. PURSUE THE BASIC INTERROGATORIES IN DETAIL; THE REPORT SUGGESTS LEADS TO OTHER VENUES, POSSIBLY WITH THE INFO ADDRESSES TO THIS MESSAGE (NOTE: WHILE AT THIS JUNCTURE WE HAVE EVERY HOPE THAT THE INFORMATION OFFERED DERIVES FROM SINCERE SOURCES, IT CALLS TO MIND OTHER RECENT OCCASIONS IN WHICH INTERMEDIARIES INTRODUCED OR BROKERED SECOND-, THIRD- AND FOURTH-HAND SOURCES WHO THEN SPIN WEBS OF INTRIGUE WHICH DO IN FACT NOT PROVIDE PW INTELLIGENCE BUT MANIFEST INDICATIONS OF OTHER LESS THAN SALUTARY MOTIVES).

5. REQUEST YOU INFORM US AT DIA/DAH-3 OF ANY PW OR MIA INFORMATION RESULTING FROM THE INTERVIEW(S). I WILL WORK WITH PW-MIA ON YOUR BEHALF. THANKS AGAIN FOR YOUR HELP, RUSTY.

89 FEB 10 20 05

8835 ACTION DIA/SPEC(10)

(4)

8835

8

DANIELS, WILLIE, JR.  
US DATA  
A POS DATA  
PENTECOSTAL

JOHNSTON, KENNETH L.  
AF DATA  
O POS  
BAPTIST

LERRON OR LEREON OR LEARON, OSVALDO  
RA DATA  
A POS DATA  
CATHOLIC

NOTE: FROM THE DIA DATABASE, IF ANY OF THESE INDIVIDUALS SERVED IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, THEY RETURNED TO THE U.S. ALIVE. COL DATA ALSO NOTED THAT THE SHAPE OF THE DOG TAGS DID NOT SEEM APPROPRIATE TO THE PERIOD IN WHICH THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN "AF" SERVICE NUMBERS--THERE WAS NO NOTCH IN THE TAGS. HE THOUGHT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOMETHING PHONY ABOUT THEM.

6. R/O INDICATED TO COL DATA THAT THIS OFFICE WAS VERY INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING UP ON THE CLAIMED LIVE PW INFORMATION. TO A QUERY DATA RESPONDED THAT HE WAS NOT YET READY TO REVEAL THE NAME OF HIS ASSOCIATE, SINCE HIS INFORMATION HAD BEEN GIVEN TO DATA IN CONFIDENCE. HE SIMILARLY IMPLIED THAT HIS ASSOCIATE WAS KEEPING THE THIRD MAN'S NAME IN CONFIDENCE AS WELL.

NAME DID INDICATE THAT HE WAS TRAVELLING BACK TO TAIWAN FROM SUNDAY NEXT TO THE SUNDAY FOLLOWING TO BUY MARBLE PRODUCTS. HE STATED THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO INTRODUCE HIS ASSOCIATE TO SOMEONE AT THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF TAIPEI. AS A FORMER ATTACHE AND AIR ATTACHE, HE HAD A FRIEND STILL THERE, "BUCK" ANDRY, FIRST NAME UNKNOWN. R/O ASSURED HIM THAT CONFIDENTIALITIES WOULD BE PROTECTED, BUT THAT THE USG HAD TO PURSUE THE INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE FULLEST. HE STATED THAT HE WAS READY TO HELP US IN THAT, BUT THAT HE WAS CERTAINLY NO "BO GRITZ". CONTACT ADDRESS IN TAIPEI WOULD BE AN APARTMENT, PHONE NO: DATA AT HUA LIEN HE WOULD STAY AT THE CITC HOTEL.

FM DIA WASHINGTON DC//PW-MIA//

TO: AIT TAIPEI TW

INFO: USDLO HONG KONG HK

USDAO BANGKOK TH

USDAO MANILA RP

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR FOLLOW-UP ON PW LEAD

REF: A. AIT MSG 160830Z FEB 1989(U;NOTAL)

B. DISCUSSION OF PW/MIA CONTACT IN PW-MIA OFFICE( NOTAL)

PLEASE PASS TO MR. ANDRY

1. BUCK, PER YOUR REQUEST, WE ARE FORWARDING NOTES MADE ON OUR REF B DISCUSSION OF SC 'S QUERY OF YOU, PART OF WHICH INVOLVED A POSSIBLE OFFER OF INFORMATION ON U.S. MIAS. AS BACKGROUND I WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE THAT REF A REPORTED AN EXCELLENT INTERVIEW IN WHICH YOU CONTINUED TO PURSUE THE PW INFO OFFERED WHILE STRESSING THE USG POLICY OF HUMANITARIANISM IN WHICH IT IS ACCEPTED. DURING THAT INTERVIEW MR. SC ACTED AS AN INTERMEDIARY FOR A HONG KONG TRADING COLLEAGUE WHO STATED HE HAD INFORMATION ON QUOTE TWO AMERICAN MIAS IN THE MOUNTAINS OF VIETNAM, (BUT) NOT UNDER GOVERNMENTAL CONTROL UNQUOTE. THE HONG KONG COLLEAGUE WISHED TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS, STATED THAT HE COULD NOT PROVIDE PHOTOS (TOO DANGEROUS), BUT THAT QUOTE HE COULD PROVIDE SIGNATURES OF THE ALLEGED MIAS IF THERE IS ANY INTEREST UNQUOTE. THIS COLLEAGUE EXPECTED THAT THERE MIGHT BE A SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION AFTER THE SIGNATURES WERE VERIFIED. APPARENTLY THIS COLLEAGUE IS AN EARLY SUB-SOURCE OF THE FIVE DOG TAG NAMES PROVIDED BOTH TO YOU AND THE RETIRED AIR FORCE OFFICER CITED IN REFS. IN DISCUSSION WE AGREED THAT A TWO STEP APPROACH MAY BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF ACQUIRING WHATEVER PW INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE..

2. PW-MIA REQUESTS THAT IN THE NEXT STEP YOU ASK MR. SC TO PROVIDE THE SIGNATURES OFFERED SO THAT WE CAN IDENTIFY THE MIAS REPORTED. WE OF COURSE ARE INTERESTED IN ALL PW INFORMATION HE CAN PROVIDE. YOU STRESSED TO MR. SC IN REF A THAT REQUESTS FOR ANONYMITY AND MONEY ON THE SUB-SOURCE'S PART REFLECTED NEGATIVELY ON CREDIBILITY. ADDITIONALLY THE LIST OF DOG TAGS PROVIDED ALL CONCERN SERVICEMAN WHO, IF THEY ACTUALLY WENT TO SOUTHEAST ASIA, RETURNED TO THE U.S. YOU MAY APPRISE MR. SC OF THAT, AND HE MAY PASS IT ON TO