Intelligence Information Report

[redacted]

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THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

[redacted]

REPORT NO. CS-311/00772-71

DATE DISTR. 28 JANUARY, 1971

COUNTRY NORTH VIETNAM/SOUTH VIETNAM

DATE MAY 1967 - MID-JUNE 1969

SUBJECT SIGHTINGS OF AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN LAOS AND IN NORTH VIETNAM

REQ

SOURCE VIETNAM, SAIGON /5 JANUARY 1971/

[redacted]

CAMP LOG #: N-37777

REPORT LOG #: 1632

STATE	DIA	ARMY	NAVY	AIR	NSA	(For Field Distribution see final paragraph)

APPROVED FOR RELEASE Date 20 AUG 1979

#66

1:50,000 Coord: ✓

1:250,000 Coord: ✓

UTM Card: ✓

INFO Card: ✓

SIGHTINGS

CAMPS - SON TAY - 2 UG COMPLEXES

BAC CAN MTN. AREA

THAI NGUYEN AREA

Encl 251 (S-47/601/D04H)

Dir #251

[redacted]

1. IN MID-JUNE 1969, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY /NVA/ 4TH INFANTRY BATTALION WHILE INFILTRATING SOUTH VIETNAM /SVN/ PASSED 15 AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR /POWS/ GOING NORTH ON THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL IN LAOS. [redacted] OBSERVED THE POWS FOR ABOUT FOUR OR FIVE MINUTES WHEN THEY PASSED WITHIN TWO METERS OF HIM. HE WAS POSITIVE ABOUT THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN PRISONERS BECAUSE HE COUNTED THEM AS THEY PASSED. ALL THE POWS WERE DRESSED IN NVA OFFICER UNIFORMS AND WORE ROUND THAI-MEO TYPE HATS. EACH PRISONER HAD SOME TYPE OF SMALL NVA BACKPACK. THE HANDS OF THE POWS WERE NOT TIED AND THEY WERE ALLOWED TO MOVE ABOUT FREELY. ALL THE POWS HAD VERY HEAVY BEARDS AND THEY ALL LOOKED STRONG AND HEALTHY. NONE WAS BANDAGED, NOR DID THEY HAVE ANY VISIBLE WOUNDS OR INJURIES. THE POWS WERE GUARDED BY ONE SQUAD OF ARMED COMMO-LIAISON CADRES CONSISTING OF FIVE OR SIX MEN, EACH ARMED WITH AN AK-47 RIFLE. THE COMMO-LIAISON CADRES WERE ALL NORTH VIETNAMESE, AND THEY INFORMED [redacted] THAT THE AMERICAN POWS WERE CAPTURED ON THE BATTLEFIELDS OF SOUTH VIETNAM AND WERE BEING TAKEN TO HANOI.

2. BEFORE [redacted] JOINED THE NVA IN DECEMBER 1968 HE CAME IN CONTACT WITH AMERICAN POWS ON TWO DIFFERENT OCCASIONS. IN MAY 1967 HE WENT TO HANOI FOR ONE MONTH AND, DURING HIS STAY, HE OBSERVED AMERICAN POWS ON EXHIBITION IN THE CENTRAL MARKET PLACE FOR EVERYONE TO SEE. DURING THE SAME VISIT TO HANOI [redacted] OBSERVED A GROUP OF A DOZEN AMERICAN PRISONERS WORKING WITH A GROUP OF NORTH VIETNAMESE LABORERS REPAIRING DAMAGED ROADS AND BRIDGES ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY. ONE AMERICAN SPOKE VIETNAMESE WITH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE LABORERS.

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3. WHILE LIVING IN HIS VILLAGE IN 1968, [redacted] RECEIVED INFORMATION ON AMERICAN POWS FROM THE INHABITANTS OF HIS VILLAGE. A NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE WENT TO SON TAY TO WORK AS CONSTRUCTION LABORERS AND, WHEN THEY RETURNED, THESE LABORERS SPOKE OF TWO LARGE POW CAMPS LOCATED IN THAT AREA. THE CAMPS WERE OF AN UNDERGROUND BUNKER TYPE COMPLEX, WITH THE ROOFS AT GROUND LEVEL, AND WERE CAMOUFLAGED.

4. IN 1968, A FAMILY FROM [redacted] VILLAGE IN NORTH VIETNAM MOVED TO THE CITY OF BAC CAN, AND WHEN THEY RETURNED THEY SPOKE OF A POW CAMP LOCATED IN THE MOUNTAINS IN THE BAC CAN AREA. SIMILAR INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED FROM OTHER INHABITANTS OF [redacted] VILLAGE WHO HAD BEEN TO THAI NGUYEN PROVINCE AND, WHEN THEY RETURNED, HAD INDICATED THAT THERE WAS A POW CAMP LOCATED NEAR THE CITY OF THAI NGUYEN. [redacted] COMMENT--THE SOURCE COULD NOT EXPAND ON ANY OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION NOR GIVE SPECIFIC NAMES OF PERSONS FROM WHOM HE ACQUIRED THE INFORMATION./

5. FIELD DISSEM--STATE, USMACV, USAID, CORDS, DIR/JUSPAO /MR. MICHEL ONLY/, 7TH AIR FORCE, USARV, NAVFORV, 525TH MI GP, 6499 SAG, OSI, CINCPAC, PACFLT, PACAF, ARPAC [redacted]

[redacted]