

7 February 1972

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Sighting of an American Prisoner-of-War Working for the Viet Cong in Dien Ban District, Quang Nam Province

[REDACTED]

1. About May 1969 a U.S. Marine was captured by the Viet Cong (VC) at Thanh Thuy village, Dien Ban district, Quang Nam province. The prisoner stated that he had been stationed with a U.S. Marine unit near BT080610. He claimed to have been on his way to play ball at the time of his capture. After he was captured, he was moved to an unknown VC location. The prisoner, whose American name is unknown, uses a Vietnamese name M A Y. He is a black, unmarried, born about 1950, and he speaks good Vietnamese. Further physical characteristics are as follows: A. Height - about 1.6 meters; B. Weight - about 60 kilograms; C. Hair - curly black; D. Teeth - white and regular in appearance; E. Face - long, thin, with a narrow long scar; F. Mouth - small with thin lips; G. Nose - small and straight; and a pointed chin. He appears energetic, and wears a ring on the fourth finger of the right hand. When seen in early January 1972, he was wearing gray pajamas, rubber sandals and a camouflaged jungle hat, with a similar piece of camouflaged cloth around his neck. He carried a small green colored pack on one side and a K-54 pistol on the other.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2. The VC apparently consider prisoner "MAY" trustworthy. [REDACTED], a military proselyting section cadre in VC Dien Ban district stated that sometime in 1971 the VC in Dien Ban district had captured a white American, who was moved to the VC area where "MAY" was located. The new prisoner requested "MAY" to help him to escape, but "MAY" reported this to the VC authorities in order to prevent any attempt to escape.

3. In December 1971 and early January 1972 "MAY" was seen attending a VC Dien Ban district training course held at an unknown location. "MAY" reportedly had attended a similar course once before. While some of the cadres attending the course complained about its difficulty and length--45 days--"MAY" berated them for complaining, and stated that he had previously been in training for eight months.*

* [REDACTED] Comment: This report has been coordinated with the Joint Personnel Recovery Center which states that the American cannot be identified from available data.

[REDACTED]