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GROUP 1
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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

DATE DISTR. /Q JUNE 1971

COUNTRY NORTH VIETNAM
DOI 1965-JUNE 1967
SUBJECT PRELIMINARY DEBRIEFING SITE FOR CAPTURED U.S. PILOTS IN VINH PHU PROVINCE AND PRESENCE OF SOVIET AND COMMUNIST CHINESE PERSONNEL AT THE SITE

ACQ VIETNAM, SAIGON /30 APRIL 1971 [REDACTED]

SOURCE [REDACTED]

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STATE	NSA	ARMY	NAVY	AIR	NIA	CEA	(See Field Organization on End page)
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1. A PRELIMINARY DEBRIEFING POINT FOR U.S. PILOTS SHOT DOWN OVER VINH PHU PROVINCE, NORTH VIETNAM /NVN/, WAS LOCATED AT THE LAN THAO SUPERPHOSPHATE PLANT /VJ301566/ NEAR THACH SON VILLAGE, LAN THAO DISTRICT, VINH PHU PROVINCE. TWO U.S. PILOTS WERE TAKEN TO THE DEBRIEFING POINT ON ONE OCCASION IN 1965; EIGHT, IN 1966; AND AN UNKNOWN NUMBER, IN 1967. THE PRISONERS WERE ESCORTED TO THE SITE BY PERSONNEL OF THE ARMED PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES /APSF/, AND STUDENTS FROM A NEARBY SCHOOL SERVED AS PERIMETER GUARDS. EACH TIME PRISONERS WERE BROUGHT TO THE SITE THEY RODE IN AN OPEN CAR OF CHINESE ORIGIN RESEMBLING AN AMERICAN JEEP. SOME OF THE ESCORT GUARDS RODE IN A LEAD CAR AND OTHERS RODE IN TWO CARS FOLLOWING THE PRISONERS. UPON THEIR ARRIVAL AT THE PLANT, THE GUARDS LINED UP, FORMING A CORRIDOR THROUGH WHICH THE PILOTS ENTERED THE BUILDING. AT THIS POINT A SOVIET, A CHINESE AND A VIETNAMESE GREETED THE PILOTS AND LED THEM INTO THE BUILDING. THE PILOTS USUALLY REMAINED IN THE BUILDING FOR SEVERAL HOURS. WHEN THEY EMERGED THEY HAD CHANGED FROM UNIFORMS INTO CIVILIAN CLOTHING.

[REDACTED] SAID [REDACTED] [REDACTED] HAD TOLD HIM THE FOREIGNERS WERE SOVIET AND COMMUNIST CHINESE. SOVIET PERSONNEL HAD BEEN STATIONED AT THE PLANT SINCE ITS CONSTRUCTION IN 1963, BUT IN 1963 THE NUMBER OF SOVIETS WAS REDUCED TO THREE OR FOUR, AND IT REMAINED AT THAT LEVEL AS OF JUNE 1967. ABOUT 20 COMMUNIST CHINESE PERSONNEL ARRIVED AT THE PLANT IN 1966 AND THERE WERE STILL ABOUT 20 THERE AS OF JUNE 1967. AS FAR AS [REDACTED] KNEW, THE SOVIET AND COMMUNIST CHINESE PERSONNEL GOT ALONG WELL...

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2. AFTER SHAKING HANDS WITH THE SOVIET AND CHINESE, THE PRISONERS WERE LED TO A DIFFERENT VEHICLE FROM THE ONE WHICH BROUGHT THEM TO THE SITE. THEY WERE ESCORTED FROM THE PLANT BY A DIFFERENT SET OF GUARDS WHO WORE YELLOW AND WHITE UNIFORMS AND WERE ARMED WITH RIFLES AND PISTOLS. [redacted] DID NOT KNOW THE DESTINATION OF THE PRISONERS.

3. ABOUT 30 STUDENTS FROM THE LAM THAO SECOND-LEVEL SCHOOL WERE SELECTED BY THE SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT, DAO KHAC T R U N G, FOR GUARD DUTY AT THE SUPERPHOSPHATE PLANT. EACH STUDENT WAS CAREFULLY SCREENED AND THEN TRAINED IN THE PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING U.S. PRISONERS. A PAMPHLET ENTITLED "POLICY ON TREATMENT OF AMERICAN PRISONERS" /CHINH SACH DOI XU TU BINH MY/ WAS USED AS A TRAINING DOCUMENT, AND STUDENTS WERE GIVEN SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS ON THE RECEPTION OF THE PRISONERS AT THE DEBRIEFING SITE. ONE OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE STUDENT GUARDS WAS TO DISARM ANY VILLAGERS WITH WEAPONS BEFORE ALLOWING THEM CLOSE TO THE AMERICANS. AS LONG AS NO PHYSICAL CONTACT WAS MADE WITH THE AMERICANS, THE VILLAGERS WERE PERMITTED TO APPROACH THE PILOTS AND MAKE ANY REMARK SUITABLE TO THE OCCASION.

4. [redacted] DISSEM: STATZ USMACV 7TH AIR FORCE NAVFCMV CINCPC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC /ALSO SUBM PHNOM PENH VIENTIANE

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