

18 January 1966

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Crash of C-47, B-929, 14 January 1966

1. On 14 January 1966, at approximately 0800 hours local, an Air America C-47 aircraft, B-929, enroute from Saigon to VI Thanh in the Mekong Delta and transporting a load of ammunition under USOM Contract, 1092, was shot down by the Viet Cong twenty miles southwest of Can Tho. The crew consisted of three Air America employees. The pilot, Captain William R. Pruner (U.S. citizen) and the co-pilot, Y. H. Chang (Chinese) were killed by the Viet Cong after crash landing; the Air Freight Specialist, Nguyen Van Thai (Vietnamese) was taken captive by the attacking Viet Cong forces.
2. The pilot reported on radio to an Air America Beech aircraft that the left engine had been hit and that he had been wounded in the right arm and left leg; he turned the aircraft controls over to the co-pilot, and after crash landing the pilot reported the crew to be safe.
3. During rescue attempts, an Air America 204B was precluded from landing to pick up the downed C-47 crew when the 204B crew saw Viet Cong exiting the C-47 and throwing grenades at the chopper. The 204B co-pilot, Captain Daniel F. Janik was hit in the arm and hand during this landing attempt.
4. A ground rescue party, under heavy Viet Cong fire reached the scene and held the area long enough for two Air America 204B's to recover the bodies of the two deceased pilots. The aircraft was then destroyed by the ground party.

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APPROVED FOR  
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14-Sep-2009

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