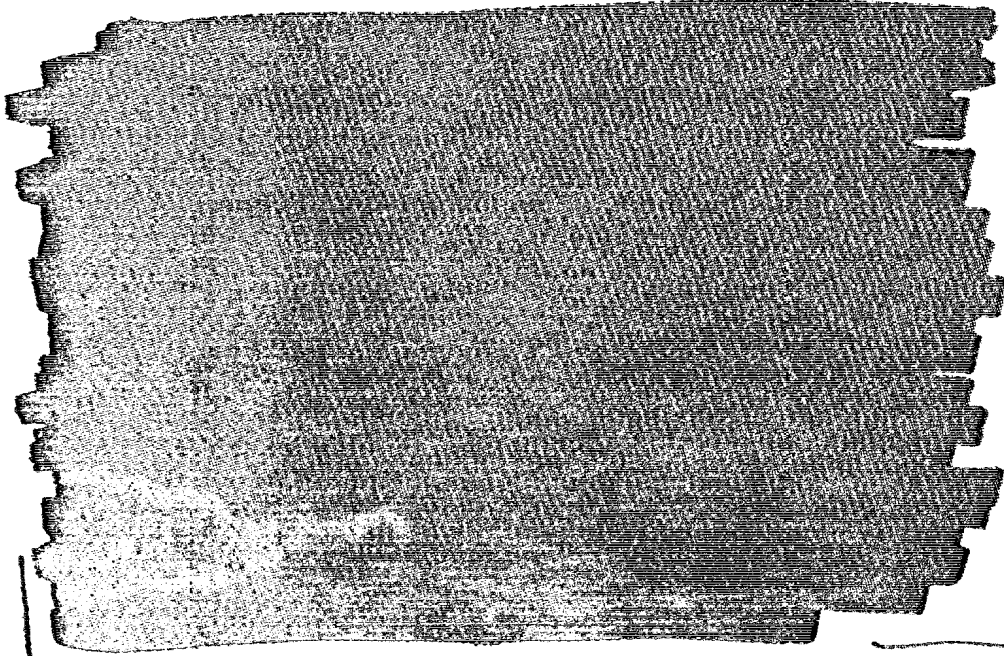
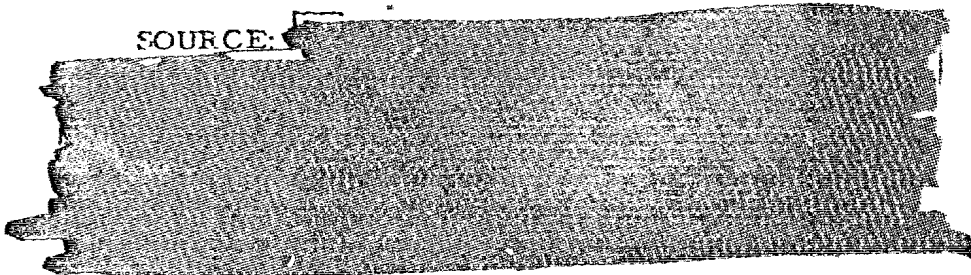


9 November 1971

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Possible Cooperation of American Prisoners-of-War  
with the Viet Cong in Quang Da Special Zone

SOURCE:



\*\*\*\*\*



[REDACTED]

1. According to [REDACTED] a former cadre of the VC QDSZ Transportation Section, in April 1970 three American POW's, a captain, a staff sergeant and an enlisted man, were sent to work in the office of the QDSZ Current Affairs Committee near AT923420, in the mountain area of Son Phuc Village, GVN Duc Duc District, GVN Quang Nam Province. \* Initially the VC cadres were forbidden to talk with the American POW's, but later the Americans, who could speak some Vietnamese became friendly with several cadres in the area. The three POW's, whose names are unknown, were described as follows:

A. The captain was white, about 26 or 28 years old, 1.8 meters tall, and had bulging eyes, blonde hair, a moustache and hairy forearms. He was single and was a former college student. He was captured in 1968 by the VC while on an operation in Binh Duong Village, Thanh Binh District, Quang Tin Province. He was detained one year by an unidentified section of VC TD-5 for thought reform. He then reportedly agreed to work for the VC. \*\*

B. The staff sergeant was white, about 25 years old, 1.6 meters tall, and fat, with a protruding stomach. He had brown hair, a moustache and was sunburned. He was single and had a sister who is a college teacher. He was captured by guerrillas during an operation near the Que

\* Comment: VC QDSZ includes Danang and most of GVN Quang Nam Province. VC MR-5 covers the area of South Vietnam generally included between GVN Quang Nam Province on the north and Darlac and Khanh Hoa Provinces on the south.

\* Comment: According to the Joint Personnel Recovery Center (JPRC) this description matches that of SP4 Gustav Mehrer, (also known as Gus Maddox), who went AWOL from his unit on 25 December 1968 to avoid a court martial for repeated use of marijuana. His unit was in Southern Thang Binh District at the time. He has a brother who is a major and has tried to pass himself off as an officer in the past.

[REDACTED]

Son Mountains in Phu Huong Village, Que Son District, Quang Tin Province. He was detained for thought reform by an MR-5 agency for a few months and afterwards reportedly agreed to work for the VC. \*

C. The enlisted man was black, about 25 years old, 1.8 meters tall, and fat. He had bulging eyes, facial acne, and had several upper front teeth missing. He was captured at approximately the same location as the captain in 1968. He also received thought reform for a few months while detained by a VC MR-5 agency. He then went to work for the VC. \*\* The black POW claimed to have seen several other American POW's detained by MR-5. \*\*\*

2. While undergoing thought reform the POW's were indoctrinated on the political policies of the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam (NFLSVN) and the activities of the U. S. "Progressive" Movement. They were also taught some Vietnamese language. Upon completing the indoctrination those POW's willing to work for the VC were sent to various VC MR-5 provinces; the others went to North Vietnam.

[REDACTED] Comment: According to JPRC, the description of this man resembles that of Corporal Dennis Hammond, captured in Dien Ban District on 8 February 1968 while trying to reinforce a Combined Action Platoon (CAP) unit that was being overrun. He has helped write, and has signed, several pieces of propaganda for the VC.

[REDACTED] Comment: According to JPRC this man closely resembles Sergeant Joe S. Burch, an AWOL marine, who is also missing front teeth. He was last seen in June 1968 when he returned to Danang for rest and recreation. It is possible that he had gone as far south as Quang Tin Province in an attempt to reach an area that was on limits and in which it would be easier to hide out.

\*\* [REDACTED] Comment: All three POW's were captured in VC Quang Nam Province, which includes GVN Quang Tin Province and part of GVN Quang Nam Province. See CS 311/01613/71 for a report on an MR-5 thought reform camp located on the border of GVN Quang Tin and Quang Ngai Provinces.

3

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

3. In May 1970 the changing military situation forced the VC QDSZ Current Affairs Committee to move from near AT923420 in Son Phuc Village, GVN Duc Duc District, to near ZC120443 in the mountains of GVN Thuong Duc District. The three American POW's also moved and worked in the new location. The captain worked closely with Current Affairs Committee members and seldom talked to other VC cadres. In early 1971 the captain was transferred to an unidentified MR-5 agency, leaving the two enlisted men POW's at the QDSZ echelon. These two were then assigned to the QDSZ military proselyting section to write leaflets and letters urging the U.S. troops to stop their military activities and desert. The two POW's also interrogated captured U.S. troops, recorded propaganda speeches for broadcast, and taught English to the QDSZ cadres. Each American POW received a food allowance of VN\$150 (U.S. \$0.54) which is three times that of a QDSZ cadre. They also were given canned U.S. field rations obtained in GVN markets, and were issued rubber sandals and VC black and U.S. olive green uniforms.

4. The black POW appeared to have more freedom of movement than the others; he occasionally accompanied VC transportation cadres to the Phu Thuan market near AT878511 in Loc Quy Village or to Xuyen Phu Village, (GVN Duc Duc District), where they obtained rice for the Committee. The black POW told [REDACTED] that he did not want to return to the U.S. until peace came, and that he had written two letters to friends in the U.S. between January and June 1971 to encourage U.S. youth to continue their anti-war demonstrations. These letters were mailed through the VC postal system via Hanoi.

5. In March 1971 [REDACTED] saw one American POW who had been captured by the VC in Dai Loc District and brought to the Committee location. The white staff sergeant interrogated the new POW for a few days; he was later sent to an unknown location. In April 1971 the VC launched a strong attack on Ai Nghia Town (Dai Loc District Headquarters). \* Prior to this attack:

[REDACTED] Comment: The POW who interrogated the new POW and the new POW may have helped make the advance plans for the attack.

[REDACTED] Comment: This attack actually occurred on 2 May and resulted in 103 enemy killed in action (KIA) and 5 enemy POW's. GVN forces suffered 15 KIA and 53 wounded in action.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

these POW's were seen meeting with QDSZ military cadres near AT872531 in Phu Binh Hamlet, Loc Quy Village, GVN Duc Duc District. The military cadres included Fnu Ngoc, Commander of the Q91 Local Force (LF) Sapper Unit; Fnu Quy, Commander of the 140th Transportation Battalion of Front 4; Fnu Khoi, Deputy Commander of the 38th Regiment; Fnu Sinh, a member of the 38th Regiment, who interpreted for the two POW's. \*

[REDACTED] Comment: Other reporting shows a Fnu Ngoc was a member of the Q91 Unit in March 1969.