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OP-80

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REPORT NO. [REDACTED] 1.3(a)(4)

COUNTRY South Vietnam DATE 28 October 1971

DATE June - November 1970

SUBJECT Capture of American Prisoner of War by the Viet Cong near Dalet City

ACQ Vietnam, Saigon

SOURCE Debriefing by an experienced American interrogator at the National Interrogation Center of Major Tran Xuan Q u y, Deputy Regiment Commander, Tuyen Duc Provincial Unit, Viet Cong (VC) Military Region (MR) 6, who was captured on 23 July 1971 in Lam Dong Province. Although Q u y appeared to be of above average intelligence and was cooperative during his debriefing, his reporting reliability has not been established. He obtained the information about the American prisoner of war from reports he read while he was commander of all VC units in Tuyen Duc Province:

1. In mid-June 1970, Company C-2, 310th Infantry Battalion, submitted a report to the Viet Cong (VC) Tuyen Duc Provincial Unit, to which Company C-2 was subordinate, on the company's capture of an American prisoner of war (POW). On about 12 June 1970, Company C-2 ambushed an American military truck along Highway 20 about 12 kilometers south of Dalet City. When the VC began firing, all of the personnel in the truck jumped out and made their escape, except for the driver, who was captured. A South Vietnamese military post nearby heard the VC firing and began a support fire. As a result the VC withdrew from the area with the American POW, leaving the truck undamaged. The report described the American POW as an Army Private First class, a Caucasian, with a light complexion and blonde hair, tall and thin. (Field Comment: The name of the POW was also given in the report but Tran Xuan Q u y could not recall it. However, other available information suggests that this was probably

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PFC Keith Albert.) The POW was not injured during the ambush and was in good physical condition.

2. Subsequent reports were submitted to the Tuyen Duc Provincial Unit on the American POW until his departure from the area. A few days after his capture, Company C-2 sent him to the 810th Battalion's Headquarters in the Ta Luc Forest area, where he remained until November 1970. At that time he was sent to the Central Office for South Vietnam (COSVN) by way of the 45th Communication and Liaison Station in Phuoc Long Province, South Vietnam. For about a month prior to his departure for COSVN, the POW was taken on training walks with heavy loads to condition him for the trip. Tran Xuan Quy emphasized that during the period the POW was in Tuyen Duc Province, he was treated properly and humanely. He was given proper clothing and food, and an interpreter was assigned to him. (Field Comment: Quy read no further reports on the POW after his departure for COSVN.)

3. (Field Comment: Additional biographic data on Tran Xuan Quy, alias Tran Vinh Coc, Tran Xuan Phuong, Tran Xuan Ngoc, and Muoi A. He was born in 1918 at Khon Loc Village, An Nhon District, Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam. He joined the Viet Minh in 1945, and fought in the resistance against the French, rising to the rank of company commander in Ninh Thuan Province by 1953. In September 1954, he regrouped to North Vietnam where he held various military assignments, rising to the rank of Senior Captain by late 1962. At that time he underwent pre-infiltration training and began infiltration of South Vietnam in late July 1963. He arrived in South Vietnam at the end of 1963 and was assigned to MR-6 Headquarters as an assistant for training. In late 1965 he took over command of the VC Ninh Thuan Provincial Unit but returned to MR-6 Headquarters as chief of training in late 1966. In March 1968 he took over command of the Dalat City Unit and in October 1969 he assumed the position he held at the time of his capture. In August 1970 he was promoted to Major. Quy has been a Party member since 1947 and was a member of the Tuyen Duc Provincial Party Committee.)

4. Field Dissem: State USMACV USAID CORUS 7th Air Force USARV NAVFORV 1021 FAS 525th MI GP OSI CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC.