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COUNTRY : NORTH VIETNAM (NVN)

SUBJECT : US POW In NVN

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DATE AND PLACE OF ACQUISITION : 28 June 1967 (K - E)
SAIGON, Vietnam

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SOURCE

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S U M M A R Y

A US pilot was seen in HA TINH Province, NVN, in early 1966. He was in good health and was well-treated. Security consisted of three militia guards. One of these walked in front of the house where the prisoner was held. Two others sat in the house with the prisoner. Source did not know where the man came from or where he was going. High-ranking cadres were supposed to take custody of him from the militia.

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Approved for Release
Date September 1993

None

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1. One American was seen in early 1966 (during the first six months; exact date unknown), in HA TINH Village, KY ANH District, HA TINH Province. Source believed that the man was a pilot, because he was supposed to have parachuted after his plane had been shot down over HA TINH Province. The man was described as tall, approximately 1.80 meters, slender, not muscular, in good health, with white skin, and dark hair. He wore no glasses, wore black shoes and what appeared to be a new, khaki-green colored uniform. The man wasn't injured. He had no rank on his sleeve. There were no observed insignia on his shoulder, or on his uniform. The collar was not observed. The prisoner had a blank expression; he had no belongings with him. Letters, which Source thought to be the man's name, were visible over one of the pockets.
2. Source and five or six other North Vietnamese watched the prisoner for 10-15 minutes. The man's presence in the village had not been publicized; the few people watching him were doing so out of curiosity. The guards gave no instructions to the visitors concerning their behavior. Source did not know where the prisoner had come from or where he was going, but he believed the man would be taken to HANOI. When seen, the prisoner was sitting in a thatch house belonging to a villager. There were no vehicles outside the house. The man was comfortable and not tied to the chair. Three militiamen were with him. One, carrying a K44 rifle, was marching back and forth in front of the house. The other two were sitting in the house near the POW. Their weapons were not visible. They were resting and talking with each other. The militiamen appeared to treat the man well and did not touch him or speak roughly to him. They spoke to him in Vietnamese and offered him water and a cigarette; He accepted both. The militia wore no rank on their dark-colored uniforms. There didn't seem to be any other personnel in the party with the militia, who told Source they had just captured the man and were holding him until high-ranking cadres came to take custody of him. Villagers were not talking with the prisoner. Source believed that the reason was their inability to speak English (no additional information available.)