

Ch-23 CU 11 Fisherman 132-1



DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

SC

Vietnamese refugee SC told both JCRC and Orderly Departure Program (ODP) interviewers in Thailand that he observed a group of foreigners accompanied by armed guards in Dong Nai Province sometime in 1983. Dong Nai is a province east of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

SC provided brief, and contradictory accounts of the incident to the ODP and JCRC interviewers. SC told the ODP interviewer that he had observed armed guards escorting a group comprised of several Vietnamese and an unspecified number of American inmates from a reeducation camp at some unknown location in Dong Nai Province. But the following day SC told a JCRC interviewer that the group was solely comprised of four or five foreigners. During the JCRC interview, SC speculated that the group was returning from a work detail and that the sighting had taken place near a reeducation camp.

SC was either unable or unwilling to be more specific regarding either the date or the location of the incident. Finally, he provided conflicting details to the interviewers concerning his purpose for being in Dong Nai Province and the identity of the persons accompanying him at the time.

The PW/MIA Division has identified all reeducation camps in Dong Nai Province, and has received reports on each of these facilities from former inmates, former residents of Dong Nai Province, and foreign visitors to some of the reeducation camps in this province. To date, the PW/MIA Division has not received any information that could corroborate SC story. In fact, the reverse is true. SC asserted that the escorts he observed were not members of the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) or the Public Security Service (PSS) of the Ministry of Interior; and, in describing their casual civilian attire and U.S. arms, SC clearly implied that the escorts were local irregulars or militia. In fact, circa August 1978 all reeducation and other confinement facilities were transferred to the control of the PSS, with the possible exception that PAVN may have retained control over some PAVN military offenders. In either event, guards at any confinement facility would be uniformed members of the PAVN or the PSS.

DC-2 contacted SC in the U.S. by telephone on 14 June 1985. He was unable to expand on information previously provided. SC was still unable to describe where the sighting had taken place or how he traveled to and from the fishing spot. DC-2 did determine that SC is ethnically Chinese, speaks limited Vietnamese, and speaks a rural Chinese Cantonese which includes Vietnamese words at random. He appeared to have no concept of space and time. He was also unable to describe the individuals whom he reported as having seen only at a great distance.

DC-2 concludes that SC may have seen a group of individuals at considerable distance who approached him while he was fishing with casual acquaintances in a restricted area during January 1983. Their approach caused he and his friendsto flee as a Vietnamese leading the group was armed. There is nothing to suggest that the group SC saw included anyone other than Vietnamese. His initial report that these individuals were American prison inmates was clearly his personal speculation.