

Ch23CW13 AXEMAN 151-1

SOURCE: SC

PRESENT LOCATION: Copenhagen Denmark

CLAIM: To have seen 40-50 U.S PWs in a prison camp in 1977 in an area south of Yen Bai and West of Nghia Lo while riding in a vehicle with the head of the province hospitals and the daughter of the assistant director of the Nghia Lo hospital.

STATUS OF ANALYSIS: Source was interviewed by AN from Mildenhall, England in April 85. The source's sketch and verbal description places the camp at Lien Trai II (Son La) of the prison system run by the PAVN Doan 776. Reporting from former inmates held at this prison system indicate that no Americans were detained in Lien Trai II. Former inmates indicate that the only American in the system was NAME who was a low echelon member of the staff of Lien Trai I. Information on hand allows for sufficient cause to evaluate the account SC presented in April 1985 as a fabrication. However, SC has indicated a reluctance to candidly discuss his knowledge about U.S. PWs except in the U.S., ostensibly because he believes it would be more secure in the U.S.

OTHER FACTORS:

1. SC has given no indication of military service though he would have been of prime military age at the time of the war. Says that he

was a song writer and member of a song and dance troupe during the height of the war.

2. Claims to have been in refugee camp in Hong Kong in 1979-80. (Msg out to USDLO Hong Kong to locate his refugee file). No record of his having come forward with PW/MIA info while a refugee.

3. SC claims that he was riding in a vehicle in the Son La area for "fun" (as reported by interviewer). Although his sketches reveal a knowledge of the area and the location of Lien Trai II (Son La) his reasons for being in this remote area are implausible.

4. SC has voiced from the beginning an obsession with security. Although perhaps not applicable in this case, experience with individuals who have provided fabricated information, shows a pattern of concern for "security" lest other Vietnamese or the host government discover their reporting on the PW issue.

5. SC obsession for security coupled with his abruptly ending calling short meetings, refusing rides offered by the interviewer, refusing to come to the embassy for meetings and insisting on certain meeting times may represent a passive-aggressive attempt to control the meetings which may indicate at best a difficult and uncooperative source

and at worst a trained intelligence operative who tries to insure his complete control over all contacts and attempts to obfuscate and evade at will.

6. SC has corresponded with Le Thi Anh in response to an ad in a magazine seeking information about U.S. PW/MIAs. Also, as noted above, SC has from the start implied that he was reluctant to provide full details of his knowledge about U.S. PW/MIAs except in the U.S. To not make the effort to bring him here could be exploited by potential oportunists as failure to follow up on SC's sighting information.

7. SC speaks only Vietnamese and Chinese. The DAO has no Vietnamese/Chinese language capability.

8. Experience has shown that the debriefings are best carried out in an environment in which DIA can minimize source control over meetings. Overseas debriefing increases the possibility of an embarrassing incident on foreign soil and reduces USG control over the debriefing schedule.

RECOMMENDATION: Although DC-2 has sufficient information to judge SC story as told at this point is a fabrication, re-interview and polygraph of this source be should accomplished to insure that we do not

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Leave any stone unturned that might provide additional confirmatory information as to the nature of his claims, whether true or fabricated. Suggest either AN AN DATA to speak with SC and obtain his written agreement for interviews and polygraph examinations in the U.S. Use of a trained and knowledgeable DC-2 interviewer will greatly enhance our ability to respond immediately to any possible questions SC may have. Subsequently, SC would be brought to the U.S. for the interviews and polygraph. The DIA representative would explain to SC that his stay in the U.S. would be solely for the period necessary to complete the interviews and polygraph.

AN