



JOINT MILITARY RESOLUTION CENTER

LIAISON OFFICE
AMERICAN EMBASSY
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27 AUG 1980

CH23CW14 GARWOOD 173B

FROM: JCRC-LNB

Reference: S80-011
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SUBJ: Refugee Report, Caucasian at Yen Bai

TO: Commander, JCRC
Barbers Point, HI 96862

SC, a 33 year old native of SD was interviewed at SD on 20 July 80. He stated that he had been an ARVN 2nd Lt at Phuoc Long and was captured in December 1974 at Dong Xoai. He was taken to Yen Bai prison camp where he arrived in January 1975. Shortly after his arrival, SC began to see a caucasian male at the camp almost daily. The caucasian was not a prisoner there but appeared to be a member of the camp staff, taking care of the generator and assisting the propaganda team that came to show movies at the camp. Initially SC saw the caucasian at Lien Trai I, which was the headquarters for all the prison camps at Yen Bai and is located just across the river from the town. SC eventual destination was a camp about 6 or 7 km down a dirt road from there but SC did not know the designation of that camp. Among SC duties in the camp was to go to the warehouse and pick up rations. The caucasian had a house right next to this warehouse and was in the area every day. This was one kilometer from SC camp in a village called Viet Cuong. SC saw the caucasian from within one meter and at one time the caucasian gave SC a cigarette. Although they exchanged words, SC never engaged the caucasian in conversation. From other prisoners who had been there longer, SC learned that the caucasian had been an American prisoner who cooperated with his communist captors and didn't dare return to the U.S. for fear he would be killed. The caucasian spoke Vietnamese with a northern accent. SC saw the caucasian performing repairs on a Russian built "Molotova" sedan on several occasions. The caucasian was said to have a girlfriend in Hanoi whom he rarely visited. The caucasian was also sometimes seen carrying a pet monkey with him. SC described the caucasian as tall, medium build, of unknown age (but not old), and sometimes wore NVA uniform clothes mixed with civilian clothes to include an NVA helmet. The other cadre called him *Nome*. The last time SC saw the caucasian was in February 1978 when SC was released from Yen Bai camp. SC was shown all available photos and sketches of Robert Garwood but SC did not recognize any of them as definitely being the same man he saw at Yen Bai. Other than Viet Cuong village, the only other place name SC could remember was Dong Phu where he went on a work detail to collect material to build houses.

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JCRC Liaison Officer