

Memorandum for Record

6 January 1982

SUBJECT: Report of Interview - SC

1. On 5 January 1982 the undersigned interviewed SD by telephone concerning his claimed hearsay knowledge of U.S. prisoners of war in Hanoi in the 1978 timeframe. During a previous interview with SSC also of Philadelphia, PA, AN was informed of SC PW/MIA information by SSC and was furnished SC telephone number.

2. Results of the 5 January interview, conducted entirely in Vietnamese, are as follows:

a. SC a Vietnamese refugee of Chinese extraction, was born in Hanoi, Vietnam on SD. He claims to have grown up in Hanoi. The family residence in Hanoi was at SD. SC attended grades 1-3 at the Chinese Elementary School on Luong Ngoc Quyen St. He attended grades 4-6 at a war-time "dispersed school" in Bac Ninh, 29 kms northeast of Hanoi. He completed his studies in 1968 or 1969. He then worked in the family business in Hanoi, which involved the production and sale of foodstuffs, until 1975. In that year he commenced an 18-month training program at a government-run technical school on Bach Mai St., where he became qualified as a cook. He then became a cook at the Trang Tien Restaurant near a state-run hotel on the street bearing the same name as the restaurant. He continued to work at this restaurant until he was expelled from Vietnam as an Overseas Chinese in April 1979. He claimed to have travelled by small fishing boat SD. The escape was organized by a NAME a Hanoi businessman who is now resettled in the United Kingdom. SC stated that the escape was not sponsored by the Vietnamese Public Security Service.

b. SC is a bachelor. He stated that he had never served in the Vietnamese military establishment because ethnic Chinese are exempt from military service. He then added that in fact Chinese are prohibited from such service, and that such individuals are not involved in Vietnamese politics and are content to engage in business to make a living. SC stated that his parents and certain other immediate family members are currently living in China. He himself resettled in Philadelphia about one year ago. He lives with an older and a younger brother. SC is a student of English at what he termed the "NSC." He indicated that he had met SSC. SC also referred to SSC since arriving in the U.S. SC had come to the U.S. with a friend of SC. SC stated that initially he did not consider his PW/MIA information significant enough to report, but decided to do so at the encouragement of SSC.

c. Mr SC claims to possess hearsay information concerning the presence of U.S. prisoners of war in Hanoi in 1978. SC stated that while he was a student at the cooking school in 1975 he met and became a close friend of a female student named Name. Her younger sister, Name had a boyfriend named Name, whose father was an NVA-Major. SC stated that he was introduced to Name and chatted with him often. SSC home was located on Ly Nam De St. SSC

SSD near the intersection of Ly Nam De and Phan Dinh Phung Streets. SC claimed to have occasionally visited SSC at the latter's home. During one conversation with SSC, the topic of news reports on the release of PW's was broached. According to SC, SSC stated that not all U.S. PWs had been released. The SRV had kept a number of important prisoners to use as hostages to acquire war reparations or attain other SRV objectives. SC didn't know whether this was speculation on SSC's part or whether SSC actually had knowledge. When pressed for the full name and military assignment of SSC's father, SC made a vague comment to the effect that the NVA Major had retired and was at home. SC terminated this line of questioning by saying that he did not have any further knowledge about the NVA major.

d. On one occasion when SC visited SSC at the latter's home, SSC pointed out the location where the U.S. PW's were being held. During the interview with the undersigned, SC initially said the location was inside the Citadel somewhere between the East Gate (WJ 8821 2585) and the intersection of Phan Dinh Phung and Ly Nam De Streets (WJ 8832 2643). SC later altered his description of the location to a group of buildings outside the Citadel on Ly Nam De Street between the two points previously mentioned, i.e., the approximate location of 17 Ly Nam De Street (former Citadel PW Camp where U.S. prisoners were detained during the Vietnam War). According to SC, this group of buildings was surrounded by a high wall topped by barbed wire; no guards were visible. The wall was a reddish brick color. Initially SC stated that there were guards at the gate; he later said there were guards in guard towers; and finally said that there were no guards visible, but heard from Name that there were guards inside the wall. SC's changes in his story resulted from attempts by the interviewer to obtain a more detailed description of SC's observation. SC claimed to have walked past the compound allegedly containing U.S. PWs on a number of occasions; he refused to provide a more specific estimate. He recalled that the compound appeared no different from other military facilities on that street. SC stated that he never saw the prisoners, nor did he ever hear them speak. He had no idea how many there were, nor how long they had been held. SC indicated that he knew of no one else in the refugee stream who knows of the presence of U.S. PWs in Hanoi in the 1978 timeframe. In addition, he claimed not to know where in Vietnam the U.S. prisoners had been held during the Vietnam War.

3. During the interview the undersigned noted a significant degree of evasiveness of the part of Mr. SC. Moreover, in certain instances he changed his story when asked for details, and gave the impression that he was "ad-libbing" and perhaps making up portions of his story as he went along. It is recommended that no further contact be made with Mr. SC, and that an evaluation of this information be made.

AN

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