

S Gravenzande
etherlands

Ch 23 CV 9 U MINH 100

90

Dear Mrs Anh:

We saw the Ad for sometime and should have written to you sooner.

We are former soldiers in the ARVN. We want to make clear to you and the League that we want to help the men still held in captivity in Vietnam because they were our allies. We don't do this for reward of any kind, although \$500 is a very big sum for us. We therefore ask you never to discuss reward with us.

We swear on the honor of our nation that the information we are giving is the truth. All we sincerely hope is that the US Government and the League find some way to follow up and save the lives of the Americans still in captivity. This is not hearsay. This is eyewitness.

"The exact day I do not remember, but it was in August 1978, three friends of mine named *NAMES* (they are still in Vietnam, so please keep confidential) came and asked us to join them in a special mission down in the Ca Mau peninsula. According to *NAMES*, the mission was to find out the whereabouts of a number of Americans POWs reportedly being moved to the Vinh Châu area. (Vinh Châu is a district of Minh Hai province formerly named Ca Mau). The order for the mission was given to us by our Military Commander for Region I (formerly Region IV under the former régime) (Note of translator: both the Military commander and the Region I are Commander and Region for the Resistance Movement in S. Vietnam). The name of our Military Commander was *NAMES*.

When we arrived in the area, about 5 or 6 Km by bird flight East of Vinh Châu, we met a Cambodian woman (NOT: this Cambodian woman is a native of the area, like the Indians are natives in the US). She warned us not to go farther and not to enter the thick palm forest known as "Dam La T'oi Troi (the Palm Forest of Darkness so named because the palm leaves were so thick that sunrays never could penetrate them and reach the ground which is always dark). "The Communists would kill you if you did, she told us. We asked why, and she told us what we have been looking for, that the Communists forbade people to come near because they have moved the American POWs in there. We sneaked into the palm forest and we saw very distinctly a number of Americans there. They were busy building jungle prison camps under the watchful eyes of the guards.

Our hearts were filled with pity and sorrow at their sight. They were gaunt, skeletal sad looking men due to years of captivity and mistreatment. Mrs Anh, you know how the Communists treat their own prisoners so you can understand how they treat those American prisoners. Even we Vietnamese POWs were being moved constantly to avoid recognition and detection by their friends and families. The US government should not believe what the Communists say, that they have already released all POWs.

Mrs Anh, all what we want is convince the US government that their men are still there so that they can find some way to save them. If they disregard our information, I feel truly sorry for the men. If there are additional details you want to ask, please write or phone us at our address. Should we move to another address, we shall let you know.

Do not publish this letter in the newspapers; as you know Communists have eyes and ears everywhere. We need to protect the men whose names were mentioned in this letter.

Our phone number is: *SD* You can call either *56* or *NAMES*

Signed *sc*

0583

70