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N I C INTERROGATION REPORT

THIS REPORT IS THE RESULT OF THE INTERROGATION ACTIVITY CONDUCTED BY THE NATIONAL INTERROGATION CENTER (NIC) UNDER THE JOINT AGENCIES OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION (CIO) AND THE U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA) WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF DETACHMENT 6, 16 (19TH) SPECIAL ACTIVITIES GROUP (19AF).

COUNTRY : NORTH VIETNAM (NVN) NIC REPORT NO : 257/68
 SOUTH VIETNAM (SVN)
 CAMBODIA NIC CASE NO : 174/11/67

SUBJECT : Preliminary Interrogation Report DATE OF REPORT : 5/3/68
 SOURCE: [REDACTED] NO. OF PAGES : 5

DATE OF INFO : 1947 - 19 November 1967 REF: CIO Report 090/68

DATE AND PLACE : December 1967 (B)
 OF ACQUISITION : SAIGON, Vietnam

3.3(h)(2)

The purpose of this Preliminary Interrogation Report is to notify the SAIGON Intelligence Community of the arrival of a new Source at the National Interrogation Center. This Source will undergo further interrogation, to explore his potential areas of knowledgeability. Additional reports will be forwarded, if Source provides strategic information. If, on the basis of this preliminary report and future interrogation reports, any recipient should have special requirements for intelligence to be levied against this Source, he is requested to submit his questions to J-2, MACV, or to OSA, American Embassy, SAIGON.

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MAP REFERENCES:

- AMS Series L605, Sheet 111E, Scale 1/100,000, Edition 5.
- AMS Series L605, Sheet 115W, Scale 1/100,000, Edition 4.
- AMS Series L605, Sheet 118E, Scale 1/100,000, Edition 5.
- AMS Series L605, Sheet 164E, Scale 1/100,000, Edition 5.
- AMS Series L605, Sheet 172E, Scale 1/100,000, Edition 3.
- AMS Series L605, Sheet 173E Scale 1/100,000, Edition 5.

CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING OF SOURCE'S SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES:

1947 - July 1954: Source lived with his parents at his native village.

May 1956 - March 1966: Source attended primary secondary school in [redacted] completed the NVN 7th form (U.S. 9th grade). While attending school he also helped his family with farm work.

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20 March 1966: [redacted]

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20 September 1966: He left school and continued to help his family with farm work.

30 October 1966: Source and 90 other youths were ordered to report to NGOC LY Village and were then guided by the Village Unit leader to the District Unit for a pre-induction physical examination.

8 November 1966: About 50 young men from TAN YEN District, including eight from Source's village, were ordered to report to the SEN HO Railway Station in HOA BINH Village, VIET YEN District, HA BAC Province. These new draftees, including Source, boarded a six-wheeled MOLOTOVA truck at 1900 hours. The truck was camouflaged with canvas and moved down National Route 1.

12 November 1966: The trucks arrived at an NVA training camp located in a heavily forested area about one kilometer north of the SAU River in QUANG PHONG Village, QUANG TRACH District, QUANG BINH Province. Source's group joined about 350 other draftees who had previously arrived.

13 November 1966: The draftees began to set up a camp in preparation for training.

14 November 1966: Senior Captain KHANH, the Political Officer, spoke to the assembled draftees and informed them that they were part of a new battalion designated 42; this battalion would eventually reinforce Agricultural Site 5 in PHU YEN Province, SVN, which was under strength to meet the combat needs of that area. The troops of Battalion 42 were therefore to be given intensive political and military training prior to infiltration. There were about 400 men in the battalion, including veteran cadres, redraftees and new draftees; the latter made up the majority of the strength of the battalion which was organized into three companies under the leadership of Senior Captain LAI BA TRA, Battalion Commander. [redacted]

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15 November - 30 December 1966: The troops received basic military training, as well as five days of political training on the situation in SVN; they were also given practical pre-infiltration training.

1 - 31 January 1967: After completing their training the troops were issued military clothing, equipment, dried food and salt; they were then permitted to rest and all of the men were given promotions.

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1 - 2 February 1967: Senior Captain LAI BA TRA received a NFLSVN flag from a representative of SVN Military Region (MR) IV and held a pre-infiltration ceremony. He announced that the battalion had been redesignated the TRUNG DUNG Group. At 1900 hours on 2 February the group began the infiltration trip from QUANG PHONG Village, QUANG TRACH District, QUANG BINH Province. Each company travelled at a distance of 500 meters from each other. They crossed the GIANH River at QUANG TIEN Village, QUANG TRACH District, using nine boats, each of which could carry eight men.

3 February - 8 April 1967: The group moved in a southwesterly direction, rested in a hamlet in QUANG BINH Province and on 4 February arrived at a bridge (coordinates XE 483548) which had been destroyed by bombing. At this point they crossed the TROC River in nine boats, each of which could carry 10 men. On 5 February they arrived at National Route 1 at a point where it crossed the railroad. There they crossed a shallow stream by a bridge located at approximately XE 672374. On 6 February the group arrived at DJE Hamlet (XE 717234) where Assault Unit 42, composed of about 600 persons was quartered. On the night of 7 February the group crossed the DAI GIANG River (XE 728157) on a floating rubber bridge. On 8 February the group arrived at Hill 1000 (sic) where they stopped at Station 10 for two days to receive additional supplies of rice, shrimp, sauce and salt. On 11 February the group began to move during the day through the jungle, across the TRUONG SON Mountain chain and into Zone 45 where Source observed a thatched house, about 6 x 10 meters in size, which was used as a repair shop for motor vehicles; four Molotova trucks, two six-wheeled trucks and two eight-wheeled truck were under repair at this time, and there were about 22 repairmen working in the shop. On the night of 16 February the group crossed a river at coordinates XD 302604 and stopped at a village of the THA KONG tribe at coordinates XD 316464. From 17 to 23 February they divided into three companies which began to move at 24 hour intervals from each other along National Route 9 southwest of Laos; they travelled at night and rested during the day. From 24 February to 7 April they travelled about 600 meters from the Vietnamese-Laotian border; they received additional rice and other supplies at stations along the route. During this period they passed through 12 stations.

8-20 April 1967: The group arrived at Station 40 in KONTUM Province where they rested for 12 days. During this time about 60 troops were ordered to transport rice from Station 7A to Station 7B, a distance of about nine kilometers; both of these stations were located on Vietnamese territory in heavy jungle and were used as rice storage supply areas for Agricultural Site 1 in KONTUM Province.

21 April-29 June 1967: The entire group assembled, and each company began to move at 200-meter intervals within Cambodian territory about one kilometer from the Cambodian-Vietnamese border. They then crossed the POKO River using two boats which could carry 24 persons each.

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30 June - 31 August 1967: The group moved in a southeasterly direction, passing National Route 19, and arrived at Commo-liaison Station CO.7 located in a thick jungle about 19 kilometers from DUC CO Post. They then crossed the IA DRANG River on two boats with a capacity of 14 men each and arrived at Commo-liaison Station 17 located in Cambodia at YA HLEO and YA LOP. The group remained there for about two months to transport rice from Station CO.7 to CO.5.

1 September - 8 October 1967: Source and eight other men contracted serious cases of malaria and were left at a dispensary [redacted]

9 - 14 October 1967: All of Regiment 33, composed of about 400 troops and the dispensary, moved to a new location in the heavy jungle at approximate coordinates BQ 246656 about 400 meters from CHU BRON, CHEO REO District, DARLAC Province. Battalion 3 moved directly to a ricefield close to EA TRAL Stream about 400 meters from DUNG Village (BQ 345610), CHEO REO District, to plant potatoes and manioc and prepare for the harvest.

15 October - 5 November 1967: After recovering from his illness, Source and 11 other men were ordered to go to a valley [redacted] where they were to transport rice, cigarettes and food sold by the Cambodians; they were to bring these commodities back to Regiment 33, and each man had to carry about 20 kilograms. 3.3(h)(2)

6 November 1967: Source was assigned the job of [redacted] 3.3(h)(2)

7 - 17 November 1967: The entire regiment moved to DUNG Hamlet and encamped about two kilometers away where they prepared to harvest the rice, manioc and potato crops to supply food for the regiment. Battalion 3 was ordered to be prepared to fight, since the U.S. troops had launched one sweep operation in the area.

17 - 19 November 1967: At about 1200 hours on 17 November U.S. troops launched a sweep operation at DUNG Village right where the encampment of the entire regiment was located. The operation was launched when all of the men were taking their mid-day rest period. Only Companies 1 and 2 of Battalion 1 were ordered to engage the U.S. troops during this sudden attack. Regimental Headquarters, Battalion 3 and four subordinate companies were ordered to withdraw through the heavy jungle to the southeast of National Route 14. One L19 reconnaissance aircraft and two F-105's appeared in time to bomb the withdrawal route. [redacted] 3.3(h)(2)

II. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE:

At about 1800 hours on 18 November 1967, the U.S. troops were still continuing their sweep operation in DUNG Village, and U.S. planes had bombed the withdrawal route. Source could not move with his unit and therefore remained at EA TRAL Stream about 400 meters from DUNG Village. He left this place at sunset and took shelter in a gun pit in the middle of a rice field about one kilometer north of the stream. At 0900 hours the next morning he moved to another rice field about one kilometer south and hid in another two-meter deep gun pit which was camouflaged with grass and rice plants. [redacted] 3.3(h)(2)

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III. PROPOSED SUBJECTS FOR FUTURE INTERROGATIONS:

On the basis of preliminary interrogation, the following topics will be the subject for further interrogations, and reports will be published as these interrogations are completed:

1. Experiences and casualties of the TRUNG DUNG Group during infiltration.
2. Dispensary of Regiment 33 located at the YA HLEO and YA LOP Rivers in Cambodia.
3. Food and rice depots of Regiment 33 located at CHU BRON, CHEO REO District, DARLAC Province.
4. Organization and activities of Regiment 33.
5. U.S. pilots captured in BAC NINH Province.
6. Detailed information on Source's experiences in Cambodia.

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