REQUESTS PRESENTED TO THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT IN MAY 1993. A JOINT U.S./VIETNAM TEAM INTERVIEWED MR. NHIUAN ON 8 JUL 93. DURING THE INTERVIEW, MR. NHIUAN IDENTIFIED SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS WITH KNOWLEDGE OF AN F-105 CRASH AND THE PILOT'S BURIAL IN HA TNHI PROVINCE. REFERENCE B IS THE REPORT OF INTERVIEW FOR FOUR OF THESE INDIVIDUALS. THE FOLLOWING REPORT CONTAINS STATEMENTS FROM ANOTHER RELATED WITNESS, NGUYEN THIEU NHU.

3. DETAILS OF INTERVIEW:
A. PARTICIPANTS:
   (1) U.S. CONTINGENT.
      (A) MR. K. GARY FLANIGAN, JTF-FA CASUALTY RESOLUTION SPECIALIST.
      (B) SGT JAMES G. D. COLE, JTF-FA ANALYST/LINGUIST.
   (2) VIETNAMESE CONTINGENT.
      (A) COLONEL LE KY, MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE REPRESENTATIVE.
      (B) MR. NGUYEN DUY THANH, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR REPRESENTATIVE.
B. PURPOSE OF INTERVIEW: REF A INDICATED SEVERAL HA TNHI PROVINCE RESIDENTS KNEW ABOUT AN F-105 CRASH AND THE PILOT'S BURIAL. THE JOINT ORAL HISTORY TEAM SET OUT TO OBTAIN THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC INFORMATION:
   (1) COMPLETE INCIDENT DETAILS
   (2) PILOT'S BURIAL LOCATION
   (3) REPORTING PROCEDURES RELATED TO THE INCIDENT
   (4) ABILITY TO LEAD A JOINT TEAM TO THE SITE
C. WITNESS INTERVIEW:
   (1) WITNESS.
      (A) BIOGRAPHICAL DATA. MR. NGUYEN THIEU NHU (NGUYEN THIEU NHU), 56 YRS, WAS BORN IN SON TRUNG (SON TRONG) VILLAGE, BUONG SON (HO NGON) DISTRICT, HA TNHI PROVINCE. FROM 1962 TO 1965, HE TAUGHT SECONDARY SCHOOL IN SON TRUNG VILLAGE. IN 1965, MR. NHU JOINED THE PEOPLE'S ARMY OF VIETNAM AT BORDER DEFENSE POST 93. MR. NHU WAS A SQUAD LEADER AND ORGANIZATION COMMANDEER WITH THE NAME OF SERGEANT. HE RETIRED 1990 AS A LIEUTENANT COLONEL, AND CURRENTLY LIVES IN TAY SON (TAO SON) DISTRICT, DONG MY (DO LONG) VILLAGE, SON TRONG (SON TRONG) DISTRICT, THAI BINH PROVINCE.
      (B) WITNESS RELIABILITY. THROUGH OLD AND RATHER FRAIL, MR. NHU'S RECALL OF THE INCIDENT WAS GOOD. CONCERNING THE EVENTS HE PARTICIPATED IN, WE ASSESS HIS RELIABILITY TO BE HIGH. HOWEVER, SINCE HE NEVER VISITED THE CRASH OR BURIAL LOCATIONS, HIS USEFULNESS IN LOCATING THE PILOT'S REMAINS IS LIMITED.
   (C) STATEMENT.
      1. BDP 93 WAS IN HA TNHI PROVINCE ON ROUTE 8 NEAR THE LAOS BORDER. THE TROOP (TROI), KHE KHE (KHE KHE), AND NUOC SOT (NUOC SOOTS) BRIDGES, ALSO ON ROUTE 8, WERE NEAR THE BDP. VERY FEW, IF ANY, CIVILIANS LIVED NEAR THE BDP DURING MR. NHU'S TIME THERE. THE POST HAD TWO LARGE ANTIAIRCRAFT ARTILLERY
AAA PIECES, SEVERAL MEDIUM AAA PIECES 1, AND APPROXIMATELY 30
AK-47 TYPE ASSAULT RIFLES FOR BORDER SECURITY AND AIR DEFENSE.

2. BEGINNING IN FEBRUARY 1965, U.S. AIRCRAFT BEGAN OPERATING FREQUENTLY IN THE AIRSPACE OVER BDP 93. THESE
AIRCRAFT PRIMARILY ATTACKED TARGETS ON THE LAOS SIDE OF THE
BORDER. UNTIL THIS TIME, BDP 93 AAA DEFENSES HAD NEVER FIRED
ON U.S. AIRCRAFT. ON 17, 20, AND 21 APR 65, U.S. AIR ACTIVITY
IN THE FLIGHT CORRIDOR OVER BDP 93 INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY.
THE POST'S AAA BATTERIES ENGAGED U.S. AIRCRAFT ON THOSE THREE
DAYS AND SHOT DOWN SEVERAL PLANES. ON 17 APR 65, THE BDP DOWNED
A LOW-FLYING F-105D AS IT HEADED WEST TOWARD THE LAOS BORDER, WITH
THE POST'S OBSERVATION TOWER AS ITS TARGET. THE AIRCRAFT CRASHED IN
A HEAVILY FORESTED AREA APPROXIMATELY 800 METERS (AS THE CROW FLIES)
SOUTH OF BDP 93, EXPLODED, AND BURNED FIERCELY.

3. AFTER THE CRASH, MEMBERS OF MR. NHU'S UNIT WENT TO SECURE THE CRASH SITE. SINCE HE WAS ON 24-HOUR WATCH,
MR. NHU HIMSELF DID NOT GO TO THE SITE. ALONG WITH BURNED
WRECKAGE, THE BDP 93 MEMBERS FOUND A SEVERED HUMAN ARM AND A
SMALL AMOUNT OF FLESH. AS FAR AS MR. NHU KNEW, NO ONE FOUND
ANY PERSONAL EFFECTS AT THE CRASH SITE. A BURIAL TEAM PUT THE
REMAINS INTO A PLASTIC (NI LTONG) BAG AND BURIED THEM BACKSIDE
ROUTE 8, NEAR THE CRASH SITE. MR. NHU BELIEVED THE BURIAL TEAM
MAY HAVE WRAPPED THE REMAINS IN PARACHUTE MATERIAL BEFORE
INSERTING THEM IN THE BAG FOR BURIAL. WHEN THE INTERVIEWER
ASKED IF THE BURIAL TEAM DUG A HOLE IN THE GROUND, MR. NHU
REMITTED THAT HE DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE BURIAL. HE SAID THAT IT WAS STANDARD VIETNAMESE CEMETERY PRACTICE TO
Leaves A DIRT MOUND ON TOP OF GRAVES. HE DID NOT KNOW IF THE
BURIAL TEAM OTHERWISE MARKED THE GRAVE. WHEN THE INTERVIEWER

***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 002 *****

REP/RE:
ASKED IF HE COULD LEAD A TEAM TO THE CRASH AND BURIAL
SITES, MR. NHU REPLIED THAT HE WAS ONLY VAGUELY FAMILIAR WITH
THE EXACT LOCATIONS, EVEN DURING THE WAR.

4. MR. NHU DID NOT KNOW THE PARTICULARS OF
HOW BDP 93 REPORTED THE AIRCRAFT SHOT-DOWN AND BURIAL. AT THE
TIME OF THE INCIDENT, LE BA KH (LEE BAS BHN - SEE REFERENCE B)
WAS THE BDP 93 COMMANDER AND WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR INITIATING
REPORTING. ACCORDING TO MR. NHU, THE LITERAL REPORTING
SEQUENCE WOULD HAVE BEEN FROM BDP 93 THROUGH THE HA TINH
PROVINCE ARMY SECURITY COMMAND POST AND ULTIMATELY TO
THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S ARMED PUBLIC SECURITY HEADQUARTERS.
TO GATHER INFORMATION FOR PROPAGANDA AND AWARDS AND DECORATIONS,
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND HA TINH PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVES VISITED BDP
93 AFTER THE INCIDENT.

5. DURING THE INTERVIEW, MR. NHU SHOWED THE
INTERVIEW TEAM A SCRAP BOOK CONTAINING WAR MEMORIAL PHOTOGRAPHS AND
NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS HE HAD COLLECTED. (ONE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE
FROM VANGUARD NEWSPAPER, DATED 15 OCT 65, BRIEFLY DESCRIBED HOW

BNP 93 MEMBERS SHOT DOWN U.S. AIRCRAFT (NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT NOT
SPECIFIED) ON 20 AND 21 APR 65 (SEE REF C). THE PHOTOGRAPH
ACCOMPANYING THE ARTICLE DESCRIBES SEVERAL UNIDENTIFIED SOLDIERS, ONE
AIMING AN INDISSINGUISHABLE TYPE GUN, TOWARDS MR. NHU SAID THE
ARTICLE WAS ABOUT HIS UNIT, SINGLED OUT FOR DISTINCTION DURING THAT
PERIOD.

6. MATERIAL EVIDENCE: AN ARTICLE FROM VANGUARD NEWSPAPER,
DESCRIBING BDP 93'S 20 AND 21 APR 65 CONFLICT ACTION, RESULTING
IN U.S. AIRCRAFT LOSSES (SENT SEPARATELY).

INTERVIEWER'S REMARKS:
A. CORRELATIONS: THE WITNESS'S STATEMENTS CORRELATE TO
CASE 0074 BASED ON DATE, AIRCRAFT TYPE, CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS,
AND GEOGRAPHIC AREA.

B. POTENTIAL LEADS: NONE.

C. COMMENTS: THE WITNESS'S STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE CASE
0074 GENERALLY COINCIDE WITH THE INFORMATION OBTAINED IN THE
INTERVIEWS REPORTED IN REFERENCE B. THE WITNESS, BY HIS OWN
ADMISSION, PROBABLY CANNOT LEAD A TEAM TO THE SITE WHERE A TEAM
OF BORDERS DEFENSE SOLDIERS BURIED PARTIAL REMAINS. //
ADMIN
BT
#7915

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