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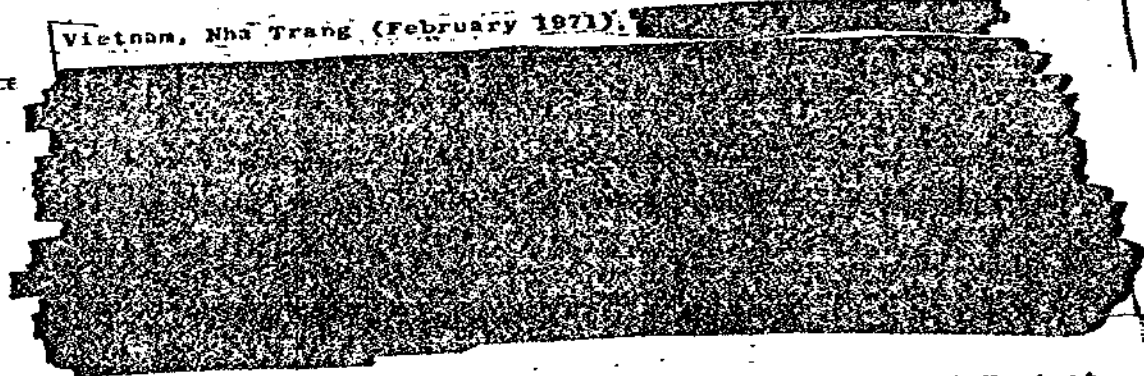
REPORT NO. CS-311/01655-71
 DATE DISTR. 4 March 1971

COUNTRY Cambodia
 DOI May - December 1970
 SUBJECT North Vietnamese Army/Viet Cong Use of Cambodian Army Prisoners for Transport Work in Kratie Province

2-1954

ACQ Vietnam, Nha Trang (February 1971).

SOURCE



1. While detained as Cambodian Army prisoners of war at Kantuot (XU 279775) by the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) Viet Cong (VC) Force in Kratie Province from June to December 1970, [redacted] assigned duties primarily as transport workers. [redacted] moved from Kantuot to Chuor Kroch (XU 252743) and back whenever transport labor was needed in either area. [redacted] had detention facilities, and the latter location was occasionally referred to as Kantuot II. There were approximately 60 prisoners of war in these detention facilities, all of whom were used as transport workers when needed.

2. In July 1970 a [redacted] was assigned to a small transport labor gang which travelled by land rover to Kratie City, on the Mekong River. The gang boarded a river boat which travelled south approximately four hours to Chhlong City (XU 0855). There the boat

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[REDACTED]

was boarded by a small number of NVA/VC troops. The labor gang was used to load the vessel with rice, salt, and other material such as motorcycles and bicycles. Two of the NVA/VC soldiers were dressed in civilian clothes and, at the approach of other boat traffic, they gave a signal with a white flag. [REDACTED] Comment: This signal was designated by the Lon Nol Government to indicate commercial boat traffic.) After the boat returned to Kratie City, the troops disembarked and the food and material were unloaded. Later, a truck convoy moved the troops, labor gang and material to Kantuot. The labor gang was left at Kantuot, but the trucks continued on to Antung Vien (XU 301779) and Themi (XU 353814). These trucks, as well as all other motor vehicles observed [REDACTED] moved only in the early evening or at night.

3. There was daily truck traffic consisting of roughly 20 vehicles, ranging in size from two-and-a-half-ton trucks down to one-quarter ton trucks, which came from Themi to Kantuot or Kratie City to pick up supplies. Transport labor gangs were frequently sent to Themi to load trucks. In October, [REDACTED] was assigned to such a detail at Themi. He observed "many" Khmer Rouge and NVA/VC troops in the area. The cart track from Kantuot to Themi had been widened to accommodate trucks. Another Cambodian prisoner of war on the labor gang said the road had been widened up to Stung Treng Province. In the vicinity of Themi, the sounds of moving trucks could be heard nightly.

4. While escaping, [REDACTED] observed that in Kratie Province nearly all the trails had signs of enemy foot traffic, and tire marks of NVA/VC vehicles on roads were much in evidence. As they passed from Kratie Province to Mondolkiri Province, in late 1970 and early 1971, these signs of enemy activity appeared infrequently and, finally, at the eastern border of Mondolkiri Province and South Vietnam, the trails showed few signs of recent use by either foot or vehicular traffic.

5. During their 7-month detention, [REDACTED] came in contact from time to time with the civilian population of Kantuot, Chuc Kroch, Antung Vien and Themi. The people generally indicated that they favored the return of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and the defeat of the Lon Nol Government. They willingly supported the Khmer Rouge and VC/NVA troops in the area and many young people, including four Buddhist monks, joined the Khmer Rouge military forces.

6. Field Dissem: State, USMACV, 7th Air Force, USARV, NAVFORV, 625th MI GP, 1021 FAS, OSI, CINCPAC, PACFLT, PACAF, ARPAC

[REDACTED]