

SUBJ/JPAC REPORT 09-XXX: INTERVIEW OF MR. JASPER PAGE CONCERNING EVENTS SURROUNDING CASE 0180.

AKNLDG/COMMENTS IN THIS REPORT ARE NOT INTENDED TO PROVIDE FINAL ANALYTICAL CONCLUSIONS.

REF/A/DOC/FOLDER FOR REFNO 0180-04 (JASPER N. PAGE).

REF/B/DOC/1:50,000 SCALE MAP.

REF/C/DOC/1:50,000 SCALE MAP

NARR/REFERENCES.

A. REF A IS THE ORIGINAL RECORD JACKET FOR CASE 0180-02-04 (JASPER PAGE), ALSO KNOWN AS REFNO 0180-02-04.

B. REF B IS MAP DATA: NAME: XA BINH BA; SHEET: 6430 III; SERIES: L7014; EDITION: 3; SCALE: 1:50,000; DATUM: INDIAN DATUM 1960.

C. REF C IS MAP DATA: NAME: XA XUAN LOC; SHEET: 6430 IV; SERIES: L7014; EDITION: 3; SCALE: 1:50,000; DATUM: INDIAN DATUM 1960. RMKS/1. SUMMARY: ON 30 JULY 2008, A JPAC ANALYST TRAVELED TO THE HOME OF MR. JASPER PAGE (REFNO 0180-04) TO HEAR HIS ACCOUNT OF EVENTS SURROUNDING THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS OF THREE US. AIR FORCE PERSONNEL ASSOCIATED WITH CASE 0180, AN INCIDENT FROM WHICH HE IS THE SOLE AMERICAN SURVIVOR. MR. PAGE CLEARLY RECALLED MANY DETAILS OF HIS ORDEAL IN VIETNAM DURING THE FALL OF 1965.

2. CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: CASE 0180 INVOLVES THE 31 OCTOBER 1965 INCIDENT OF FOUR U.S. AIR FORCE PERSONNEL WHO WERE PASSENGERS IN A TRUCK RETURNING TO HO CHI MINH CITY (FORMERLY SAIGON) FROM VUNG TAU ALONG ROUTE 15. LOCAL COMMUNIST FORCES CAPTURED THE FOUR AIRMEN AFTER STOPPING THE TRUCK APPROXIMATELY FIFTEEN KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF LONG THANH AND TWO KILOMETERS SOUTH-SOUTHWEST OF THAM THIEN HAMLET, DONG NAI PROVINCE, IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES (GC) 48P YS 224 805. ON 2 NOVEMBER 1965, TWO AIRMEN ATTEMPTED AN ESCAPE; ONE WAS SUCCESSFUL IN HIS ATTEMPT, BUT THE OTHER WAS NOT. THE AIRMAN WHO ESCAPED ARRIVED AT AN ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF (SOUTH) VIETNAM SPECIAL FORCES CAMP ON 4 NOVEMBER. HE REPORTED THAT SHORTLY AFTER HIS ESCAPE HE HEARD SEVERAL GUN SHOTS. THE NAMES OF THE THREE OTHER U.S. SERVICEMEN APPEARED ON THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT'S (PRG) DIED-IN-CAPTIVITY LIST PROVIDED TO U.S. AUTHORITIES IN JANUARY 1973.

3. BACKGROUND: ON 30 JULY 2008, AT THE REQUEST OF MS. DIANE MOORE, THE DAUGHTER OF REFNO 0180-02-03, A JPAC ANALYST TRAVELED TO THE HOME OF MR. JASPER PAGE AT 24445 SPEER ROAD, CALHAN, COLORADO, 80808, TO HEAR HIS ACCOUNT OF EVENTS CONCERNING CASE 0180. ARRIVING AT THE PAGE RESIDENCE LATE IN THE AFTERNOON, THE JPAC ANALYST WAS MET AT THE DOOR BY MS. DIANE MOORE. PRESENT WAS MR. JASPER PAGE, HIS WIFE, OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PAGE FAMILY, AND SOME PAGE FAMILY FRIENDS. MR. PAGE PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF HIS 1965 ORDEAL IN VIETNAM.

4. INTERVIEW:

A. MR. PAGE (THEN STAFF SERGEANT ((SSGT)), SSGT SAMUEL ADAMS, SSGT CHARLES G. DUSING, AND TECHINICAL SERGEANT (TSGT) THOMAS MOORE, ALL MEMBERS OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE, HAD TRAVELED TO VUNG TAU FROM HO CHI MINH CITY ON SATURDAY 30 OCTOBER 1965 AND WERE EXPECTING TO RIDE A HELICOPTER BACK TO HO CHI MINH CITY THE FOLLOWING DAY. THE HELICOPTER DID NOT SHOW UP AS ANTICIPATED ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON SO TSGT MOORE HAD SSGT ADAMS CONTACT TAN SON NHAT AIR BASE [NOTE: TAN SON NHAT IS SOMETIMES ALSO SPELLED TAN SON NHUT]. SSGT ADAMS LEARNED THE HELICOPTER HAD BEEN DIVERTED FOR ANOTHER MISSION AND WOULD NOT BE PICKING THEM UP SO THE GROUP LOOKED FOR ALTERNATE TRANSPORTATION. THAT SAME DAY THEY WERE ABLE TO CONVINCE A VIETNAMESE DRIVER TO LET THEM RIDE IN HIS VAN ON HIS WAY BACK TO HO CHI MINH CITY.

B. THE FOUR AMERICANS AND THE DRIVER LEFT VUNG TAU IN A FORD ECONOLINE VAN HEADING FOR HO CHI MINH CITY. THE DRIVER HAD ASSURED THE AIRMEN THAT HE THOUGHT THE ROADS WERE SAFE TO TRAVEL ON AND THE TRIP SHOULD TAKE TWO TO THREE HOURS. ALSO, EACH OF THE AMERICANS CARRIED A PISTOL. ALONG THE WAY

THEY STOPPED AT SEVERAL CHECK POINTS AT BRIDGES MANNED BY SOUTH VIETNAMESE POLICEMEN.

C. AT A POINT THAT MR. PAGE BELIEVED WAS APPROXIMATELY HALF-WAY BETWEEN VUNG TAU AND HO CHI MINH CITY MEMBERS OF A LOCAL VIETCONG (VC) UNIT STOPPED THE VAN. THE VC QUICKLY DISCOVERED THEIR PRESENCE AND OPENED THE VAN'S REAR DOORS. SEVERAL VC POINTED THEIR WEAPONS AT THE FOUR AND THEY WERE IMMEDIATELY CAPTURED WITHOUT A STRUGGLE. THE VC BOUND AND BLINDFOLDED THE FOUR AMERICANS AND THEN PUT THEM BACK INTO THE VAN. MR. PAGE WAS ABLE TO WORK HIS BLINDFOLD UP A BIT SO HE COULD SEE A LITTLE. THE VAN DROVE A SHORT DISTANCE AND THEN PULLED OFF THE ROAD.

D. THE VC DIVIDED THEM INTO TWO GROUPS AND THEY ALL MOVED AWAY FROM THE HIGHWAY IN A NORTHWESTERLY DIRECTION WITH ADAMS AND PAGE IN THE FRONT AND MOORE AND DUSING BEHIND THEM. THE VC JERKED AND SLAPPED THE AMERICANS AROUND, BUT DID NOTHING MORE VIOLENT, MR. PAGE BELIEVED THERE WERE 14 VC AT THE CAPTURE POINT AND SEVEN OF THEM REMAINED AT THE ROAD WHILE THE OTHERS LED THEM AWAY.

E. AS THEY WALKED THEY SAW A GROUP OF "REGULAR" SOLDIERS. MR. PAGE ESTIMATED THERE COULD HAVE BEEN AS MANY AS 200 MEN IN THIS GROUP AND THEY ALL WORE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY UNIFORMS. AFTER ABOUT ONE HOUR WHEN THEY WERE WELL HIDDEN BY THE JUNGLE'S CANOPY THEY STOPPED. THE VC TOOK THE AMERICANS' BOOTS, GAVE THEM SOME WATER AND CIGARETTES, AND SEARCHED THROUGH THEIR "AWOL" (OVERNIGHT) BAGS. AT SOME POINT THE OTHER SEVEN VC WHO HAD STAYED BACK AT THE CAPTURE POINT REJOINED THE GROUP. NEAR SUNDOWN THE GROUP CONTINUED WALKING FOR ABOUT ANOTHER HOUR OR SO.

F. THEY CAME TO A BOOBY TRAPPED GATE, WHICH THE VC CLEARED AS THEY WALKED UP AN INCLINE INTO A "STAGING CAMP." THE CAMP HAD A PICNIC TABLE AT WHICH THE AMERICANS ALL SAT ON ONE SIDE. THE CAPTORS GAVE THE AMERICANS MORE WATER AND CIGARETTES. MR. PAGE FELT THE VC WERE STILL TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WITH THE AMERICANS. ONE OF THE VIETNAMESE WAS PLAYING WITH PAGE'S SINGLE ACTION PISTOL AND FIRED A SHOT. MR. PAGE TOOK THIS AS AN INDICATOR THAT THEY WERE IN AN AREA FRIENDLY TO THE VC AS THEY WERE NOT OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED WITH MAKING NOISE.

G. THE VC HAD DUG TRENCHES IN THIS CAMP FOR THEIR DEFENSE. OVER THESE TRENCHES WERE RACKS WITH A POLE ON EACH OF THE FOUR CORNERS. THE AMERICANS WERE PLACED ON TOP OF THESE RACKS, TIGHTLY TIED TOGETHER, AND THE TWO ON THE ENDS WERE FURTHER TIED TO THESE POSTS. TWO GUARDS AT A TIME, ONE ON EACH SIDE, KEPT WATCH OVER THEM THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT. THE VIETNAMESE ROTATED GUARDS THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT TO MAINTAIN THEIR VIGILANCE.

H. ON MONDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 1965, THE SECOND DAY OF THEIR CAPTIVITY, THE VC FED THE AMERICANS RICE AND TEA FOR BREAKFAST BEFORE CONTINUING THEIR JOURNEY. THE FOUR AIRMEN TRIED TO TALK TO EACH OTHER FROM TIME TO TIME BUT THEIR GUARDS WOULD NOT ALLOW MUCH COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THEM. THEY TRIED TO KEEP TRACK OF THE DIRECTION IN WHICH THEY WERE MOVING BY LOOKING AT THE SUN AND MR. PAGE BELIEVED THEY WERE CONTINUING TO MOVE IN A NORTHWESTERLY DIRECTION. AS THEY CONTINUED THEIR MARCH SSGT DUSING WAS STARTING TO SHOW SIGNS THAT HE WAS SLOWING DOWN. DUSING WAS THE OLDEST OF THE FOUR AND THE OTHERS PRETENDED HE HAD DEVELOPED A FEVER AND THE VIETNAMESE GAVE HIM SOME ASPIRIN. AS THEY KEPT MOVING IN A NORTHWESTERLY DIRECTION, SOME WOOD CUTTERS CAME OUT ON THE TRAIL AND THE VC SHOWED OFF THEIR AMERICAN PRISONERS. MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN PULLED AT THE HAIR ON THEIR ARMS AND CHESTS AND A FEW OF THEM SLAPPED THEM AROUND. IN AN ATTEMPT TO GAIN SOME SYMPATHY FROM THEIR CAPTORS, DURING THIS STOP EITHER TSGT MOORE OR SSGT ADAMS TOOK OUT HIS BILLFOLD AND SHOWED THE VIETNAMESE PICTURES OF THEIR CHILDREN. SOMETIME IN THE AFTERNOON THEY STOPPED AT ANOTHER "STAGING CAMP" AND WERE FED RICE AND FISH THAT WERE LIKE SMALL SHRIMP. THE VIETNAMESE SECURED THE FOUR TO TREES AND TOOK THEIR BOOTS OFF. THEY HAD MR. PAGE TAKE OFF HIS SHIRT TOO. AS THEY SAT TIED TO THE TREE, VIETNAMESE WOULD WALK BY AND KICK THEM. THE AIRMEN KEPT THEIR LEGS

TOGETHER TO KEEP FROM GETTING KICKED IN THE GROIN. AFTER A WHILE, THE VIETNAMESE SHOWED THEM A COUPLE OF PRINTED PAMPHLETS WITH THE NAMES OF TWO AMERICAN SERVICEMEN WHO HAD ALLEGEDLY MADE SOME SORT OF CONFESSION. MR. PAGE COULD NOT REMEMBER THE NAMES OF THESE TWO AMERICANS; HOWEVER, WHEN ASKED IF THE TWO NAMES WERE MCCLURE AND SMITH, MR. PAGE AGREED THAT WAS PROBABLY CORRECT. THE VIETNAMESE WERE CURIOUS TO KNOW WHAT THE FOUR AMERICANS THOUGHT OF THE INFORMATION IN THE PAMPHLETS.

I. THE VC THEN BLINDFOLDED THE FOUR AGAIN AND BROUGHT IN AN INTERPRETER TO SPEAK WITH THEM. HE ASKED THEM WHAT SORT OF JOBS THEY DID, WHERE THEY HAD BEEN, AND WHETHER OR NOT THEY BELIEVED IN THE WAR EFFORT. THEY TRIED TO GET THEM TO SIGN THE PAMPHLETS MENTIONED ABOVE, BUT THEY ALL REFUSED. A LITTLE WHILE LATER, MR. PAGE FELT A SHARP PAIN ON HIS UPPER BACK. HE BELIEVED ONE OF THE VIETNAMESE POKED HIM WITH A HOT BAYONET BECAUSE AFTER HIS RETURN HE NOTICED AN ARROWHEAD SHAPED MARK WHERE HE HAD FELT THE PAIN.

J. THE NEXT MORNING, TUESDAY, 2 NOVEMBER 1965, THEY STARTED MOVING AGAIN. THE VC HAD BEEN TYING UP THE AMERICANS SO TIGHTLY THAT THE CIRCULATION IN THEIR ARMS WAS POOR. SO ON THIS MORNING MR. PAGE FLEXED HIS BICEPS WHEN HIS ROPES WERE BEING RE-BOUND. THIS LEFT SOME SLACK IN THE ROPES AND RESULTED IN MUCH LESS DISCOMFORT. AS THEY HAD BEEN DOING, THE VC AGAIN TIED THE AMERICANS IN TWO'S WITH ABOUT A ONE-FOOT SPACE BETWEEN THEM. AROUND NOON THEY CAME ACROSS A STREAM AND THE VC ALLOWED THE FOUR AMERICANS TO GET IN THE WATER AND WASH UP. THE VC STOPPED THEM FROM DRINKING DIRECTLY FROM THE STREAM, BUT THEY DID BUILD A FIRE AND BOILED WATER WHICH THEY THEN GAVE TO THE FOUR. A FEW WOMEN WERE WITH THE GROUP AND THEY WERE MAINLY USED FOR CARRYING SUPPLIES. CONTINUING THEIR MARCH, THEY LATER CAME TO A SECOND STREAM THAT WAS ABOUT 10 OR 12 FEET WIDE AND ONE FOOT DEEP. A LOG HAD BEEN PLACED ACROSS THE STREAM TO EASE MOVEMENT. THE TRAIL THEY HAD BEEN USING LOOKED AS IF IT WAS USED ON A REGULAR BASIS.

K. ACCORDING TO MR. PAGE, HE AND SAM ADAMS WALKED ONE-FOOT APART FROM EACH OTHER WITH SAM IN THE FRONT OF HIM. ONE VIETNAMESE MAN WALKED IN FRONT OF THE GROUP. HE WAS FOLLOWED BY A SECOND GUARD WHO HELD THE ROPE IN FRONT OF ADAMS, WHO WAS TRAILED BY PAGE. A THIRD VC GUARD WALKED BEHIND AND HELD THE END OF THE ROPE. AS THEY WALKED MR. PAGE BEGAN GRABBING BRANCHES AND THEN RELEASING THEM SO THEY WOULD FLY BACK IN THE FACE OF THE MAN IN THE REAR WHO THEN BEGAN INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF SPACE BETWEEN THEM. AT THE SAME TIME HE CONTINUED TO TRY TO WORK HIS ROPES LOOSE.

L. AS THEY CAME TO A SLIGHT INCLINE AND A CURVE IN THE TRAIL, IT BEGAN TO RAIN HEAVILY. THE MAN HOLDING THE ROPE IN FRONT OF ADAMS, THE ONE MR. PAGE REFERRED TO AS THE "RING LEADER," STEPPED OFF THE TRAIL AND DROPPED THE ROPE ATTACHED TO ADAMS AND PAGE, APPARENTLY TO PUT ON A PONCHO WHICH EACH OF THE VIETNAMESE CARRIED ON THEIR BELTS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE POINT MAN WALKED BACK TOWARDS THE REST OF THE GROUP AND STOOD ONLY A FEW FEET FROM THE "RING LEADER" WHO HAD BY NOW PLACED HIS RIFLE AGAINST A TREE. ONE OF THE VC CARRIED A .30 CALIBER M1 CARBINE, A WEAPON WITH WHICH MR. PAGE SAID HE HAD QUALIFIED EXPERT MANY YEARS EARLIER. HE WAS UNFAMILIAR WITH THE WEAPONS CARRIED BY THE OTHER TWO. THE GUARDS NOW ALL STOOD TOGETHER AS THEY PUT THEIR RAINGEAR ON. THE OTHER TWO AMERICANS, DUSING AND MOORE, WERE STILL A WAYS BEHIND THE FIRST GROUP.

M. WHILE THE GUARDS' ATTENTION WAS FOCUSED ELSEWHERE, MR. PAGE MOVED CLOSER TO ADAMS AND SAID, "SAM, WE CAN MAKE A BREAK FOR IT." SAM IN TURN ASKED, "WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?" PAGE SAID HE HAD HIS ROPES LOOSE AND THAT HE COULD GIVE ADAMS ALL THE SLACK AND ADDED, "WE CAN TAKE THEM." PAGE TOLD ADAMS TO GO FOR THE GUARD CLOSEST TO HIM AND THAT HE WOULD HANDLE THE OTHER TWO. ADAMS AGREED AND TOLD PAGE TO LET HIM KNOW WHEN HE WAS READY. MR. PAGE DESCRIBED SAM ADAMS AS A HAPPY-GO-LUCKY GUY, BUT ONE WHO WOULD NOT BACK DOWN FROM ANYONE. PAGE TAPPED ADAMS ON THE SHOULDER AND SAID, "OK." HE THEN CHARGED ONE OF GUARDS AND SLAPPED HIM HARD WITH AN OPEN HAND KNOCKING HIM

DOWN. PAGE QUICKLY MOVED ON TO THE GUARD WITH THE CARBINE, GRABBED IT, SWUNG THE GUARD AROUND AND ENDED UP WITH THE WEAPON. AS PAGE LOOKED BACK TOWARDS ADAMS, HE HOPED TO SEE HIM IN CONTROL OF THE THIRD GUARD, BUT APPARENTLY HE HAD FALLEN INTO THE BUSHES. ONE OF THE GUARDS POINTED HIS RIFLE IN THE DIRECTION OF ADAMS AND FIRED A SHOT. PAGE TRIED TO SHOOT ONE OF THE GUARDS, BUT THE CARBINE DIDN'T DISCHARGE. HE PULLED THE CARBINE'S BOLT BACK EJECTING ONE ROUND, RELEASED THE BOLT LOADING ANOTHER, AND PULLED THE TRIGGER AGAIN, BUT THE CARBINE STILL WOULD NOT FIRE. AS PAGE CONTINUED TO FIRE HIS WEAPON, A GUARD TURNED TO ADAMS AGAIN. HE HEARD ADAMS SAY, "NO, NO," JUST BEFORE THE GUARD FIRED AT HIM AGAIN. MR. PAGE WAS CONVINCED THAT THIS SECOND SHOT PROBABLY KILLED ADAMS.

N. MR. PAGE REALIZED THE VC WOULD RECOVER VERY QUICKLY. HE RAN FIVE OR SIX STEPS UP THE TRAIL AND THEN TURNED OFF TO THE LEFT INTO THE BRUSH. HE RAN AS QUICKLY AS HE COULD, FELL A FEW TIMES, AND THEN HEARD LOTS OF SHOOTING IN HIS DIRECTION. DUE TO THE THICK VEGETATION AND THE STEAM COMING OFF THE HOT JUNGLE BECAUSE OF THE RAIN, HE WAS QUICKLY OUT OF SITE OF THE VIETNAMESE, BUT HE CONTINUED TO GET AS FAR AWAY FROM HIS CAPTORS AS QUICKLY AS HE COULD.

O. AS HE MOVED IN A NORTHWESTERLY DIRECTION HE CAME TO A ROAD BED ABOUT FIFTY-YARDS FROM HIS ESCAPE POINT THAT HE DESCRIBED AS A "RAILROAD GRADE." THE ROAD HAD NO TRACKS AND WAS ELEVATED ABOUT SIX TO EIGHT-FEET ABOVE THE JUNGLE FLOOR. HE SCRAMBLED UP ON TOP OF THE ROAD AND SAW NOTHING ON THE OTHER SIDE BUT TALL GRASS AND A COW PATH RUNNING PARALLEL TO THE ROAD. HE RAN IN A SOUTHWESTERLY DIRECTION DOWN THE COW PATH ABOUT TWENTY-FIVE OR THIRTY YARDS AND THEN JUMPED INTO THE GRASS PUSHING IT BACK UP BEHIND HIM TO CONCEAL HIS MOVEMENT.

P. AS HE MOVED AWAY FROM THE ROAD GRADE THE JUNGLE BECAME THICKER. HE SAT DOWN NEXT TO A LARGE FALLEN TREE AND LOOKED AT THE CARBINE TO TRY TO FIGURE OUT WHY IT DID NOT FIRE. HE REALIZED THAT HE HAD NEVER TURNED THE CARBINE'S SAFETY SWITCH TO THE OFF POSITION. ABOUT THIS TIME HE HEARD A LOT OF SHOOTING AND DECIDED THAT THE GROUP WITH SSGT DUSING AND TSGT MOORE HAD LIKELY CAUGHT UP WITH THE FIRST GROUP. IT WAS MR. PAGE'S OPINION THE VC HAD PROBABLY KILLED THE OTHER TWO AMERICANS IN RETALIATION FOR HIS ESCAPE. MR. PAGE FIGURED THAT AT THIS POINT HE HAD MOVED ABOUT 100-YARDS FROM HIS ESCAPE LOCATION. HE PUT SOME MUD ON HIS SKIN AS CAMOUFLAGE AND STAYED PUT FOR ABOUT TWO-HOURS BEFORE MOVING AGAIN. AS HE GOT BACK UP ON THE RAIL ROAD GRADE AND STARTED MOVING SLOWLY IN A SOUTHWESTERLY DIRECTION.

Q. HE CAME ACROSS A SLOUGH AND THOUGHT THAT AT ONE POINT THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A TRESTLE ACROSS IT. HE MOVED DOWN IN TO THE SLOUGH AND THEN WADED THROUGH THE WATER TWELVE TO FIFTEEN-FEET TO THE OTHER SIDE. MR. PAGE CROSSED FIVE SUCH SLOUGHS ON THIS NIGHT. UNLIKE THE FIRST FOUR SLOUGHS THE WATER IN THE FIFTH SLOUGH-TYPE DEPRESSION WAS RUNNING SO HE FIGURED HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FOLLOW IT AND HOPED IT WOULD TAKE HIM IN THE DIRECTION HE NEEDED TO GO. THE WATER WAS KNEE DEEP AND SINCE IT WAS RUNNING HE COULD MOVE WITHOUT MAKING MUCH NOISE. STILL DECIDING WHICH WAY HE SHOULD GO MR. PAGE GOT OUT OF THE WATER AND UP ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PATH HE HAD BEEN FOLLOWING.

R. MR. PAGE FOLLOWED THE PATH HE HAD BEEN ON ABOUT FIFTY-YARDS AND CAME TO A CLEARING THAT WAS CIRCULAR SHAPED WITH HEAD-HIGH GRASS AND WEEDS. HE ESTIMATED THE FIELD WAS ABOUT 300-YARDS ACROSS. HE WENT BACK TO THE WATER, PRAYED A BIT, AND FINALLY DECIDED TO FOLLOW THE STREAM, WHICH HE DID FOR MOST OF THE NIGHT. HE EVENTUALLY GOT OUT OF THE WATER NEAR A DEEP POOL. HE WAS VERY COLD FROM ALL THE TIME HE SPENT IN THE WATER SO HE CLEARED A GRASSY AREA AND STARTED JUMPING UP AND DOWN TO WARM UP. HE CONTINUED TO ALTERNATE BETWEEN JUMPING UP AND DOWN AND RESTING UNTIL HE WAS RELATIVELY WARM. HE SLEPT A LITTLE BIT AND EVENTUALLY WOKE TO THE SOUND OF CROWING ROOSTERS.

S. IN THE EARLY HOURS OF WEDNESDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 1965, HE WORKED HIS WAY AROUND THE DEEP POOL OF WATER AND GOT BACK INTO THE STREAM AS IT MADE A SHARP TURN. HE FOLLOWED THIS STREAM FOR SEVERAL HOURS AND AROUND LUNCH TIME CAME

TO AN AREA WHICH HAD FEWER TREES ALONG THE BANK. HE CLIMBED UP OUT OF THE WATER ON THE RIGHT BANK AND DISCOVERED HE WAS IN A RUBBER PLANTATION. HE SAW TWO CHILDREN DIPPING WATER OUT OF THE STREAM BY A FOOT-BRIDGE NEAR TWO HUTS, WHICH WERE ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE STREAM. NOT WANTING THE CHILDREN TO SEE HIM, MR. PAGE SQUATTED DOWN IN THE GRASS. TWO VIETNAMESE MEN THEN CAME OUT OF THE WOODS AND WALKED TO ONE OF THE HUTS. MR. PAGE DECIDED TO STAY PUT FOR A WHILE AND EVENTUALLY FELL ASLEEP. RAIN LATER WOKE HIM UP AND HE NOTICED THAT TWO LARGE COVERED TRUCKS HAD PULLED UP TO THE HUTS. HE LAY DOWN AGAIN, SLEPT SOME MORE AND GOT UP AFTER DARK, BY WHICH TIME THE TRUCKS HAD ALREADY LEFT. HE WADED ACROSS THE STREAM, AND STARTED WALKING THROUGH THE PLANTATION AWAY FROM THE STREAM AND THE HUTS.

T. MR. PAGE FOLLOWED A ROAD HE THOUGHT MAY HAVE BEEN USED BY TRUCKS TO MOVE THROUGH THE PLANTATION. HE FOLLOWED THE ROAD AS IT LED AWAY FROM THE STREAM AND THE HUTS FOR QUITE SOME TIME UNTIL HE REACHED THE EDGE OF THE PLANTATION WHERE THE JUNGLE BEGAN AGAIN. A ROAD RAN PARALLEL TO THE EDGE OF THE PLANTATION AND HE DECIDED TO HEAD TO THE RIGHT AND KEPT MOVING IN THE SAME DIRECTION, SOUTHWEST.

U. EARLY IN THE MORNING AS HE CONTINUED DOWN THIS ROAD HE HEARD NOISES BEHIND HIM AND SO HE MOVED OFF THE ROAD INTO THE JUNGLE TO HIDE. TWO MEN ON BICYCLES RODE PASSED HIM, STOPPED A BIT DOWN THE ROAD, AND BEGAN CUTTING SOME BRANCHES. NOT LONG AFTER THEY RODE THEIR BICYCLES BACK IN THE DIRECTION FROM WHERE THEY HAD COME WITHOUT NOTICING MR. PAGE. HE WAITED FOR A FEW MINUTES AND THEN CONTINUED MOVING.

V. HE THEN SAW THE SAME TWO CHILDREN HE HAD SEEN THE DAY BEFORE BY THE TWO HUTS. THEY NOTICED HIM AND SO MR. PAGE DECIDED SINCE THEY HAD ALREADY SEEN HIM THAT HE WOULD TRY TO CONVINCED THEM HE WAS FRIENDLY. HE WAVED TO THEM, BUT THEY WOULDN'T WAVE BACK. PAGE CONTINUED WALKING TOWARDS THE KIDS AND THEY EVENTUALLY JUMPED ON A MOTOR BIKE AND HEADED BACK IN THE DIRECTION WHERE HE HAD SEEN THEM THE DAY BEFORE BY THE STREAM. HE KNEW THEY WOULD LIKELY REPORT HIS PRESENCE AND THAT SOMEONE WOULD PROBABLY COME LOOKING FOR HIM WHERE THE CHILDREN HAD SEEN HIM. PAGE DECIDED TO HEAD OUT INTO THE PLANTATION TO HIDE. HE SAT DOWN IN A SPOT WITH HIGH GRASS WHERE THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SEE HIM AND ACTUALLY FELL BACK ASLEEP. LATER IN THE MORNING WHEN NO ONE HAD COME LOOKING FOR HIM, HE GOT BACK UP AND MOVED TOWARDS A CORNER OF THE PLANTATION WHERE THE KIDS HAD BEEN EARLIER. HERE HE FOUND AN OX CART ROAD WHICH WENT OFF INTO THE JUNGLE SO HE DECIDED TO FOLLOW SINCE IT HEADED IN THE DIRECTION HE WANTED TO GO.

W. HE EVENTUALLY CAME UPON A CIRCULAR CLAY MOUND THAT WAS ABOUT THREE- FEET HIGH WITH FOUR TO SIX BIG POLES STICKING UP. IT LOOKED LIKE A CHIMNEY AND IT HAD SOME BRUSH THROWN ON TOP OF IT. INSIDE THE MOUND HE COULD SEE THE VIETNAMESE HAD BEEN MAKING CHARCOAL. AS HE WAS POKING AROUND THE MOUND LOOKING FOR CONTAINERS WHICH MAY HAVE CAUGHT SOME RAIN WATER, HE HEARD SOMETHING AND LOOKED UP TO SEE THE BIGGEST SNAKE HE HAD EVER SEEN, A SIX OR SEVEN-FOOT LONG PYTHON. HE SLOWLY BACKED AWAY FROM THE SNAKE AND THEN AS HARD AS HE COULD RAN AWAY FROM THE MOUND. MR. PAGE THEN CONTINUED WALKING DOWN THE OX CART ROAD, WHICH EVENTUALLY CAME TO A "T." MR. PAGE FOUND HIMSELF LOOKING AT A DIRT ROAD THAT APPEARED TO BE WELL USED. HE FOLLOWED THE ROAD TO THE RIGHT AND FINALLY REALIZED THE ROAD JUST CIRCLED AROUND AND LED HIM RIGHT BACK TO THE "T." ABOUT THE TIME HE REACHED THIS POINT, SEVERAL F-105 THUNDERCHIEF AIRCRAFT FLEW VERY LOW JUST OVER HIS POSITION AND DROPPED SOME BOMBS ABOUT A MILE AWAY FROM WHERE HE WAS STANDING. HE TOOK HIS SHIRT OFF, WENT OUT INTO THE OPEN FIELD AND WAVED, HOPING THEY WOULD SPOT HIM, BUT THEY DID NOT. MR. PAGE NOW WALKED IN THE OTHER DIRECTION AWAY FROM THE "T" AND WALKED UNTIL LATE IN THE AFTERNOON.

X. MR. PAGE CAME OUT INTO ANOTHER CLEARING AND SAW A SOUTH VIETNAMESE FLAG FLYING OVER A COMPOUND ABOUT A HALF-MILE AWAY; THE COMPOUND TURNED OUT TO BE AN ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF (SOUTH) VIETNAM SPECIAL FORCES CAMP. HE

TIED A HANDKERCHIEF TO THE CARBINE, HELD IT OVER HIS HEAD AND WALKED TOWARDS THE CAMP. NEXT TO THE CAMP'S MAIN GATE THERE WAS A CEMENT BUNKER ON TOP OF WHICH A FEW SOUTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS WERE SITTING AND TALKING. AS HE NEARED THE GATE AN OLD VIETNAMESE MAN WHO WAS CUTTING GRASS NOTICED HIM. MR. PAGE MOTIONED TO THE MAN TO GIVE HIM SOME WATER FROM A WATER TRAILER THAT WAS JUST INSIDE THE COMPOUND. THE OLD MAN GAVE HIM SOME WATER AND IT WAS ONLY THEN THAT THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS REALIZED HE WAS STANDING THERE. THEY QUICKLY POINTED THEIR WEAPONS AT HIM AND THEN RELIEVED HIM OF HIS.

Y. VERY QUICKLY A JEEP WITH A U.S. AIR FORCE OFFICER, A COUPLE OF U.S. ARMY SPECIAL FORCES SOLDIERS, AND A COUPLE OF VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS PULLED UP TO THE CAMP GATE TO SEE WHAT WAS GOING ON. RESPONDING TO THEIR INQUIRES MR. PAGE TOLD THEM HE HAD JUST WALKED OUT OF THE JUNGLE AND THEY CHALLENGED HIM ON THIS BECAUSE THEY KNEW THE VIET CONG CONTROLLED THE AREA. THEY TOOK HIM INSIDE THE CAMP TO THE MEDIC'S OFFICE AND CHECKED HIM OUT AND GAVE HIM SOMETHING TO DRINK AND EAT. AFTER LISTENING TO THE ACCOUNT OF HIS EXPERIENCE THEY ASKED IF HE WAS UP TO FLYING OVER THE INCIDENT AREA IN A HELICOPTER. PAGE AGREED SO HE AND AN AMERICAN MAJOR WENT UP IN A HELICOPTER FLOWN BY VIETNAMESE PILOTS. HE SHOWED THEM THE STREAM AND THE TWO HUTS AND THE AREA OF HIS ESCAPE. MR. PAGE ADDED THAT AS THEY FLEW OVER THE AREA EACH LOCATION HE POINTED OUT WAS MARKED ON A MAP. THEY RETURNED TO THE SPECIAL FORCES CAMP AND THEN LATER FLEW HIM TO TAN SON NHAT AIR BASE WHEN HE AGREED HE WAS UP TO MAKING THE TRIP. MR. PAGE COULD NOT RECALL THE NAMES OF ANY OF THE AMERICAN SERVICEMEN WHO HE MET AT THE SPECIAL FORCES CAMP.

Z. ARRIVING AT TAN SON NHAT, HE WAS TAKEN TO THE BASE CLINIC WHERE THEY STARTED AN INITIAL DEBRIEFING. COLONEL BUDWAY, THE BASE COMMANDER, PUT A CALL THROUGH TO MRS. PAGE AND HE WAS ABLE TO SPEAK WITH HER THAT NIGHT. PAGE WAS THEN TAKEN DOWNTOWN TO A BIG HOTEL WHERE SOME HEADQUARTERS ELEMENT WAS LOCATED. HE WAS ASKED QUESTIONS HERE AND THEN LATER RETURNED TO TAN SON NHAT AIR BASE. HE WENT TO COLONEL BUDWAY'S OFFICE AND RE-TOLD THE EXPERIENCES OF THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS TO HIM AND ANOTHER COLONEL (NFI). COLONEL BUDWAY ASSURED PAGE THAT THEY WOULD DO EVERYTHING IN THEIR POWER TO GET THE OTHER THREE AIRMEN BACK.

AA. THE FOLLOWING DAY PAGE WAS ASKED IF HE WAS UP TO FLYING BACK OVER THE INCIDENT AREA AGAIN AND HE SAID HE WAS. AS THEY WERE PREPARING TO BOARD A HELICOPTER, PAGE INSISTED ON CARRYING A WEAPON AND SAID HE WOULD NOT MAKE THE FLIGHT UNARMED. SOMEONE TRIED TO CONVINCHE HIM THAT THE TWO DOOR GUNNERS WOULD BE SUFFICIENT PROTECTION. HE PROTESTED AND SAID UNLESS HE WAS GIVEN A WEAPON HE WOULD NOT MAKE THE TRIP. THEY ACQUIESCED AND GAVE HIM A .45 CALIBER M3 SUBMACHINE GUN AND A COUPLE OF CLIPS OF AMMUNITION. THEY FLEW OUT TO VUNG TAU THEN BEGAN WORKING THEIR WAY BACK AS THEY FOLLOWED THE EARLIER MOVEMENTS OF PAGE AND THE OTHER THREE AMERICANS. THEY MARKED EVERY KEY LOCATION INCLUDING THE CAPTURE POINT, ROADS, STREAMS, HUTS, THE SPECIAL FORCES CAMP, ETC. THE NEXT DAY A HELICOPTER WITH A SPEAKER FLEW OVER THE AREA BROADCASTING REQUESTS TO THE VC TO EXCHANGE THE THREE MISSING AMERICANS FOR FOOD, MEDICAL SUPPLIES OR ANYTHING THEY WANTED TO TRADE THEM FOR. MR. PAGE BELIEVES THE WOOD CUTTERS HE SAW REPORTED SEEING THE AMERICANS BUT NOTHING ELSE CAME OF THIS. THIS ENDED MR. PAGE'S ACCOUNT OF HIS EXPERIENCE.

5. COMMENTS:

A. THE REMAINING TIME WITH MR. PAGE, HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS, AND MS. DIANE MOORE, WAS SPENT CLARIFYING A FEW POINTS OF HIS ACCOUNT.

B. THE MENTION OF MCCLURE AND SMITH IN PARAGRAPH 3H ABOVE IS A REFERENCE TO U.S. ARMY SPECIAL FORCES STAFF SERGEANTS CLAUDE D. MCCLURE AND GEORGE E. SMITH, BOTH ASSOCIATED WITH RESOLVED CASE 0024. THESE TWO MEN WERE CAPTURED IN LONG AN PROVINCE (FORMERLY HAU NGHIA PROVINCE) ON 24 NOVEMBER 1963 AND RELEASED IN PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA ON 5 DECEMBER 1965.

6. JPAC ANALYST: MR. STEPHEN E. THOMPSON, EXTERNAL RELATIONS OFFICE.