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(As of 21 Jul 71)

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183. BUTTS ALLEGATION (VVAW-WSI)

ALLEGATION: 1. Indiscriminate killing and wounding of VN civilians.
2. Destruction of private property.

SUBJECT/SUSPECTS: Unidentified members of 2/12th Inf, 25th Inf Div, or
unidentified members of 4/39th Inf, 9th Inf Div.

COMPLAINANT: Mr. Dennis Butts, former SP4, 2/12th Inf, 25th Inf Div,
and 4/39th Inf, 9th Inf Div, Sep 66 - Sep 67.

BACKGROUND: Between 31 Jan and 2 Feb 71, at Detroit, MI, Mr. Butts testified at the "Winter Soldier Investigation" (WSI) as a member of an organization identified as the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW). Mr. Butts testified that in the winter of 1966, perimeter guards opened fire on a village with machine guns, killing seven civilians and wounding 16. Mr. Butts said other civilians were killed and wounded by perimeter guards, including the wounding of a 15-year-old boy next to his hut near Dau Tieng in Jan 67. He further testified that members of a mortar unit fired illuminating rounds into villages, setting huts on fire, and then laughing at villagers fleeing their burning huts.

STATUS/PROGNOSIS: Investigation completed; insufficient evidence.

After being contacted by CID on 28 Jun 71, Mr. Butts stated that on advice of counsel he would not make any statement. On 29 Jun 71, Mr. Michael Oliver, Attorney at Law, was contacted by CID. Mr. Oliver stated that he represented all members of the VVAW and he had instructed them not to divulge information to any investigative agency unless immunity was granted.

WITNESSES: Not identified.

INITIATED BY WHOM: AGC; WSI material is contained in the Congressional Records of 6 and 7 Apr 71.

RESPONSE TO INITIATOR: AGC notified of review and evaluation.

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