

186. KOGUT ALLEGATION (VVAW-WSI)

- ALLEGATION:
1. Murder of unidentified VN.
 2. Aggravated assault.
 3. Looting and destruction of private property.
 4. Forced evacuation of VN villages.

- SUBJECT/SUSPECTS:
1. Unidentified ARVN captain and unidentified members of an unidentified ARVN unit.
 2. Mr. Kogut (see COMPLAINANT) and unidentified members of 155th Assault Helicopter Co.

COMPLAINANT: Mr. Russel Kogut, former WO1, 155th Assault Helicopter Co, May 68 - Mar 69.

BACKGROUND: Between 31 Jan and 2 Feb 71, at Detroit, MI, Mr. Kogut testified at the "Winter Soldier Investigation" (WSI) as a member of an organization identified as Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW). Mr. Kogut alleged that while on a flight over an unnamed bay near Tuy An, RVN, members of his crew and an unidentified ARVN captain dropped rocks on sampans in the bay from the helicopter, causing one sampan to sink. One occupant of a sampan was struck in the chest by a rock. Mr. Kogut inferred that he may have been killed. Mr. Kogut also alleged that on field operations in De Lat, a village SW of Dalat, RVN, all the residents of the village were evacuated by ARVN soldiers, who then burned the village. The ARVN killed most of the livestock and kept the rest for their own use. According to Mr. Kogut, this and the burning of stored rice was apparently the routine conduct of the ARVN soldiers. Mr. Kogut further alleged that in the vicinity of Ban Dong, he ordered his helicopter gunner to shoot and kill several animals upon orders from an unidentified US Army captain. Mr. Kogut also witnessed the shooting of water buffalo for sport.

STATUS/PROGNOSIS: Investigation completed; insufficient evidence.

In a 15 Jul 71 CID interview, Mr. Kogut stated that on 14 Jul 71, he had talked to a staff member of the VVAW who informed him that their lawyers had advised that he (Kogut) not make any statement pertaining to his allegations. No further statement was made by Mr. Kogut.

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.