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(As of 21 Oct 71)

188. PODLASKI ALLEGATION (VVAW-WSI)

ALLEGATION: 1. Murder of PW's, VN civilians, and a Laotian national.
2. Destruction of private property.

SUBJECT/SUSPECTS: Unidentified CPT, NCO, and members of 5th Special Forces Group.

COMPLAINANT: Mr. Ronald A. Podlaski, former SGT, 5th Special Forces Group, Apr 68 - Apr 69.

BACKGROUND: Between 31 Jan and 2 Feb 71, at Detroit, MI, Mr. Podlaski testified at the "Winter Soldier Investigation" (WSI) as a member of an organization identified as the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW). Mr. Podlaski testified to continual border-crossing missions into Laos and Cambodia in 1968 and 1969 on orders from MACV-SOG. On one LRRP mission in Laos, his patrol ambushed a company-sized NVA Pathet Lao unit. On orders, a man believed to be a Laotian prince was killed. CIA and MACV threatened to declare his team deserters in order to cover up the incident. Mr. Podlaski further alleged that he witnessed a SFC throw a PW out of a helicopter 5,000 feet over the South China Sea (south of Da Nang) in Aug 68 on orders from an unidentified CPT. Mr. Podlaski also testified to the leveling of Xuom Son Tui Village, near Marble Mountain, by gunships. The village was "pacified."

STATUS/PROGNOSIS: Investigation completed; insufficient evidence.

On 28 Jul 71, CID telephonically contacted Mr. Podlaski, who declined an interview pending advice from his attorney, stating that upon contacting his attorney, he would further contact CID. To date, Mr. Podlaski has not contacted CID. Efforts by CID to locate Mr. Podlaski revealed that he has left home for Washington state without leaving a forwarding address. In the event that Mr. Podlaski is located, a supplemental investigative report will be submitted.

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 has been notified of review and evaluation.

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