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(As of 29 Jul 71)

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196. GEORGE SMITH ALLEGATION (VVAW-WSI)

ALLEGATION: Maltreatment of PW's.

SUBJECT/SUSPECTS: 1. Mr. Smith (see COMPLAINANT).
2. Unidentified members of the 5th Special Forces Gp.

COMPLAINANT: Mr. George Smith, former SSG, 5th Special Forces Gp, Jul 63 to Nov 63. (Mr. Smith was taken prisoner by the NLF in Nov 63 and released in Nov 65.)

BACKGROUND: Between 31 Jan and 2 Feb 71, at Detroit, MI, Mr. Smith testified at the "Winter Soldier Investigation" (WSI) as a member of an organization identified as the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW). Mr. Smith alleged that PW's taken by his unit were beaten and then placed in barbed wire cages that were about three or four feet high.

STATUS/PROGNOSIS: Investigation completed; unsubstantiated.

In a 21 Jun 71 CID interview, Mr. Smith stated that in Oct 63, in the Hiep Hoa Hamlet, he observed SVN from the local Civilian Irregular Defense Group beat PW's and place them in barbed wire cages too small to stand in. Mr. Smith further stated that his unit was acting in an advisory capacity only and was not involved in the maltreatment of the PW's.

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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