

STATEMENT: [07X]

ON THE MORNING OF 29 APRIL 1975, I WAS PICKED UP BY HELICOPTER [AT BUILDING 259] WHERE I HAD BEEN FORCED TO SPEND THE NIGHT DUE TO AN ASSAULT ON [SAIGON AIRPORT] TRAFFIC JAMS AND CLOSING THE AIRPORT GATE HAD FORCED ME TO [BUILDING 259] AFTER MY AIRLIFT TO THE AIRPORT, I WAS DIRECTED TO PICK UP ADDITIONAL CREWS AT [BUILDING 259] WITH [07X]

I MADE 4 OR 5 TRIPS FROM [BLDG. 259] TO AIR AMERICA RAMP WITH FLIGHT CREWS PLUS [MR. VELTE, MR. GREEN, REID AND GROUND MAINTENANCE PEOPLE.] APROXIMATELY 50 PEOPLE WERE TRANSPORTED BY 07X UNTIL OM DIRECTED ALL AIRCRAFT TO STANDBY ON A ROOFTOP UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO VNAF THEFT OF OUR AIRCRAFT PLUS RAMP CONGESTION BY VIETNAMESE.

I WENT TO THE EMBASSY ROOFTOP AND SHORTLY AFTER I ARRIVED [CHAUNCY COLLARD] CALLED AND SAID TO GO TO THE TENNIS COURTS FOR A LOAD. [ED REID] LOADED ME FOR THE [BLUE RIDGE] I ARRIVED AT THE [BLUE RIDGE] OFFLOADED, REFUELED AND WENT BACK TO [SAIGON] WHEREUPON I LANDED AT THE [EMBASSY ROOF] AND PICKED UP ANOTHER LOAD HEADING FOR THE [BLUE RIDGE] ARRIVING AT [BLUE RIDGE] IT HAD A FULL DECK SO I WAS LANDED ON A [SHIP CALLED FIREBALL.] I RETURNED TO [SAIGON] AFTER REFUELING ON [FIREBALL] AND PICKED UP ANOTHER EMBASSY ROOF LOAD THIS TIME GOING TO THE [FIREBALL] AGAIN AND REFUELED. RETURNING TO [SAIGON] I WAS DIRECTED TO THE [H30 PAD] WHERE I LOADED AND DROPPED THIS GROUP ON THE [DENVER] AND REFUELED AND WENT BACK TO [SAIGON] MAKING ONE MORE PICKUP AT THE [H30 PAD.] I PROCEEDED TO THE [U.S.S. DULUTH] WHERE I LANDED AND SECURED AT ABOUT 1900 HOURS LOCAL TIME.

APPROVED FOR
RELEASEDATE:
13-Mar-2009

I ESTIMATE [50 (FLIGHT CREWS AND GROUND CREWS)] TRANSFERRED FROM [259-AAM RAMP] IN THE MORNING AND THE [SAIGON TO SHIP MOVEMENT AT 75-80 PASSENGERS]

MY PERSONAL LUGGAGE (BAGGAGE) WAS SEPARATED FROM ME DUE TO THE URGENCY OF MOVING FLIGHT CREWS AND PERSONNEL TO AAM RAMP FROM [BUILDING 259] AND RAMP SECURITY PREVENTED MY EVER RECOVERING THE PERSONAL ITEMS, SINCE I WAS OPERATING SINGLE CREW WITH NO FLIGHT MECHANIC.

[CAPT. J. D. FONBURG]
AIR AMERICA, INC.]