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MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

July 23, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR ELIZABETH DOLE  
Assistant to President for Public Liaison

FROM: WILLIAM P. CLARK *wpc*

SUBJECT: Private Sector Support to the National League  
of Families of American Prisoners and Missing  
in Southeast Asia

*Natl League of Families*  
4999  
JUL 26 1982

EHD	
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In a recent meeting that Bud McFarlane held with the Executive Board of the National League, it was pointed out that the decline in private sector support to this organization correlated with the declining attention of past administrations to seek a final accounting of our servicemen.

Given the President's personal commitment to resolution of this issue and the resultant high priority the Departments of State and Defense are now giving to the matter, perhaps something could be done to encourage greater private sector support to the League again.

It would be appreciated, if in your contacts with appropriate private organizations you could insure that they understand the administration fully supports the League's activities and we strongly encourage private sector support to them and their activities. Any help you can provide along these lines will be greatly appreciated.

My point of contact for POW/MIA affairs who could provide additional information if needed by your staff is Richard Childress, X3576.

*Morton -  
could  
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some  
ideas  
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regard!  
She*

*to Morton -  
Per Red's  
note.*

*She -  
let's have Morton  
talk to him +  
see if they can set  
up a meeting to  
see what can be  
done.  
She*

PW/MIA PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

The Department of Defense public information program should be primarily based upon the continuing refusal of the communist governments of Indochina to cooperate on the issue of accounting for missing American personnel. Although the USG is realistic and accepts that information will not be forthcoming on each of the missing, the evidence clearly establishes that the Vietnamese are deliberately withholding data on hundreds of American servicemen and civilians.

Activities should be coordinated with the Joint Chiefs of Staff to ensure all service participation.

The following points should be thoroughly documented and used to back up DoD's position:

...Information provided by the "mortician," which is substantiated by DIA, proving that Hanoi is currently withholding the remains of 400+ Americans. This information should be provided in the greatest possible detail so as to refute any impression that Vietnam is cooperating on the accounting.

...Category 1 and 2 cases where the U.S. government either expects or suspects the SRV and Lao could provide information should be utilized. Specifically point out some of the obvious discrepancy cases. This data also serves to further substantiate the mortician's information.

...The continued receipt of live sighting reports are an integral portion of the issue. Supply the current numbers of reports under investigation, types of reports, efforts to investigate, etc.

...Vietnamese history in dealing with the French, both in withholding remains and captives.

...Data regarding Laos, i.e., at one time some Lao officials claimed to hold POWs but none held there for any length of time were ever returned. (Shelton, Hrdlicka and DeBruin should be used as examples.)

The Department of Defense should prepare written materials to clearly explain the information previously noted. Not only in the form of a press packet, but a shorter informational brochure should also be prepared for wider distribution. Display posters for bulletin boards would also be useful.

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF AWARENESS PROGRAM

- I The Secretary of Defense or another high level DoD official should hold a special press briefing to provide detailed, factual POW/MIA data. In view of the recent USG talks in Hanoi and the virtual lack of cooperation on the part of the Vietnamese, a briefing on the facts would be timely and useful. Again, part of the purpose would be to stress DoD's commitment to the accounting and to clearly demonstrate the communist's duplicity on the issue.
- II Extensive background data, including that supplied to the press, should be sent to military installations world-wide. Fact books similiar to that distributed by the League should be available to all military PA offices.
- III Similiar information should be provided to those publishing base newspapers. Such papers should be encouraged to write articles on the PW/MIA issue, with up-dates as appropriate. Press releases can be sent to these papers on a regular basis and/or when new programs or information become available.
- IV Posters and brochures should be made available to all military installations. The posters can be displayed on bulletin boards and the brochures available nearby.
- V All speeches delivered by high level DoD officials should be perused with an eye toward including a sentence or two on the PW/MIA issue. Often such can be worked into a relatively unrelated speech. On occasions such as Memorial Day, Armed Forces Week, Veterans Day, etc., more extensive comments should be inserted.

VI DoD public affairs should constantly be on the look out to arrange in-depth interviews with DoD officials on the PW/MIA situation. Writers for such publications as Harper's, National Review, Atlantic Monthly, as well as more military and foreign policy oriented magazines should be encouraged to do articles which include PW/MIA data. Often such information can be incorporated in articles dealing with foreign policy in the Indochina/Southeast Asia region.

#### OTHER RELATED ACTIVITIES

Notify the Air Force and Navy that flying the missing man formation at activities other than funerals is no longer prohibited, but encouraged. Provide pertinent data for the announcements accompanying the formation.

Encourage government contractors to promote the PW/MIA issue via their in-house employee publications, ads, letter writing campaigns, etc. DoD can always provide such companies with the League's address for those interested in receiving letter writing campaign materials.

Prepare a list of appropriate holidays where the POW/MIA issue can be included. Such would include the various birthdays of the military services, Armed Forces Week, Veterans Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Christmas, Thanksgiving, etc.

Make radio and television public service spots aimed to inform the public.

Start now planning and implementing the background work necessary for a meaningful and significant National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Even without the official proclamation, there is little doubt the day will take place. Background and factual data should be going out now. Bases world wide should be encouraged to work with local cities and towns to host parades, reviews or other appropriate activities.

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The Department of State's campaign should be based upon the same data the Department of Defense is using, with a natural emphasis on the foreign policy aspects of the situation.

### IMPLEMENTATION OF AWARENESS PROGRAM

- I Publications such as GIST and STATE magazine should run regular up-dates on the PW/MIA issue. Reprints of such articles should be available to include when answering public and congressional inquiries.
- II Seek out appropriate forums for high level State department personnel to make public statements on the issue. This includes speeches, media appearances, congressional hearings, etc. Often one or two sentences inserted into remarks will help stress the issue. In some instances reporters should be told that the official would specifically like to be questioned on the PW/MIA issue.
- III Maintain an up to date response format for congressional and public inquiries. Include articles and statements from a State Department official and the President.
- IV State Department personnel en route to assignments in Southeast Asia should be provided with thorough briefings (including a DIA briefing) on the issue. These personnel (AID, refugee affairs, embassy staff, including ambassadors) should be alert for opportunities to seek out PW/MIA information.
- V Public Affairs should seek out opportunities for in-depth interviews in magazines and newspapers. It is particularly important that Secretary Haig make some comments on the issue. Others who could provide pertinent comments include Buckley, Enders, Holdridge and O'Donahue. Often the PW/MIA issue can be raised as an item of "great personal concern."

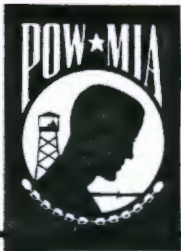
## WHITE HOUSE

For obvious reasons it would enhance the awareness campaign to have the President raising the subject of PW/MIAs from time to time. However, it is also necessary that the President's advisors be properly briefed on the issue so they are up to date and fully understand the value in presidential involvement. In particular, President Reagan has had a longstanding interest and involvement from the days he was governor of California. At one point in the early 70's Mrs. Reagan wrote a newspaper column and donated her salary to the League's effort.

It is strongly recommended that Mrs. Dole, Judge Clark, Messrs Meese, Deaver and Baker receive intelligence briefings from DIA and other pertinent data so they are fully aware of the government and private efforts on the issue and can keep the President informed of important developments.

### IMPLEMENTATION OF AWARENESS PROGRAM

- I Look for opportunities for presidential involvement. Specifically, July 9th, National POW/MIA Recognition Day; July 10th, the League's 13th Annual Meeting; November 11th, Veteran's Day and dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and January 27<sup>th</sup>, the 10th Anniversary of the signing of the Paris agreements.
- II Provide statements based on current data to the speech writers to be included in remarks on occasions such as listed above. On other occasions such as Christmas, Thanksgiving and patriotic holidays, a sentence or two should be submitted for inclusion in the president's holiday message.
- III Arrange for officials of the League to meet with the President for a substantive discussion of the issue. (To date Reagan is the only president who has not met with the League leadership.)



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES  
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

1608 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 223-6846

March 3, 1982

MEMORANDUM TO: INTERAGENCY GROUP ON POW/MIAs

FROM: ANN GRIFFITHS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LEAGUE OF FAMILIES

SUBJECT: PUBLIC AWARENESS IMPLEMENTATION

Several members of the IAG will be meeting tomorrow to discuss implementation of the government's POW/MIA public information program, however, I wanted to take this opportunity to familiarize you with current League awareness efforts.

We are extremely involved in programs to alert the American public to the facts of the POW/MIA issue, emphasizing the lack of cooperation by the Indochinese governments through a "Write Hanoi" letter campaign. Following are some of the numerous avenues being pursued:

"Write Hanoi" letter campaign, copy attached. It will initially be distributed to 500 targeted newspapers throughout the country.

League brochure (enclosed), just revamped and now available. The League has distributed 50,000 brochures in the last seven months, not to mention vast amounts of accompanying data. The brochure is sent in response to initial inquiries and utilized for conventions.

TV Public Service Announcements are currently in production for limited release.

FACT Book, distributed only upon request for single copies. The League recommends that the Defense Department distribute similar information to all members of Congress, under cover of a letter from the Secretary of Defense, as a current status report of U.S. government efforts.

Special Projects Outline (enclosed). Distributed to individuals upon request as a means of motivating local area involvement and interest.

Billboards: Currently being distributed. In one week, fifty billboards have already been placed. The League also drafted an instruction sheet, providing information relative to gaining billboard companies' cooperation to provide free space and labor for placement.



January 26th Public Awareness Seminar - to seek cooperation from other POW/MIA groups as well as national veterans organizations - to attempt to ensure that accurate, objective data is utilized in public awareness efforts.

TV, radio interviews, talk shows - too numerous to list

Magazine articles, features in veterans organization publications.

Memorandum to all NAM/POW members, providing them with a synopsis of current information, the "JCS Background Paper," January 1982, and the DIA "Review of Intelligence Efforts on the PW/MIA Issue," January 1982. This action was taken with the concurrence of the NAM/POW president and LTC John Fer, OSD/ISA, POW/MIA Affairs. The reaction has been favorable and numerous returned POWs have requested membership in the League as a result. The purpose was simply to provide those with a "need to know" some current data - they are frequently asked for opinions on the issue and few have up to date information.

Speeches - upon request, primarily to veterans conventions, conferences, civic groups and schools.

In line with the U.S. government Public Information Program, adopted at the January 19, 1982, IAG meeting, enclosed are League prepared drafts of suggestions for each involved agency and the administration. Not included, yet to be prepared, are suggestions for congressional implementation. It is hoped the drafts will be helpful in solidifying ideas so there will be no unnecessary delay in moving forward.

Also enclosed is a proposed change in the public statement concerning live sightings and U.S. government actions now being taken as well as the current position. Both versions are accurate, objective and could not easily be misquoted or taken out of context. The League recommends immediate acceptance of the first proposal, which could then be included in public awareness efforts, particularly by OSD/PA.

The final enclosure concerns the League's 13th Annual Meeting, July 9 - 11, 1982, Stouffer's National Center Hotel. A revised draft of the program and our letter requesting OSD support are included for your information.



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES  
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

1608 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 223-6846

March 1982

Dear Editor:

The National League of Families is initiating a "Write Hanoi" campaign, designed to call public attention to the 2,494 Americans who remain unaccounted for in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. We particularly wish to demonstrate to the communists that the American people will no longer tolerate their using our missing men in an attempt to extort aid, trade and recognition from the U.S.

For almost eight years our government did little to secure information on the missing; however, recently substantiated intelligence information indicates the Vietnamese are withholding the remains of several hundred Americans, planning to dole them out when deemed to be in their political self interest.

Further, the Defense Intelligence Agency is now seriously pursuing reports of Americans in captivity. In addition to 400+ eyewitness reports under investigation, all U.S. intelligence collection assets are being utilized in an effort to locate American prisoners in both Vietnam and Laos.

Enclosed is a draft paper which I hope you will consider printing as an editorial or letter to the editor. Also, enclosed is a sheet of public service ads. It is our hope you will be able to run these ads as space allows.

The National League of Families is a non-profit, tax exempt charity. We are counting on your help with this humanitarian project.

Sincerely,

Ann Mills Griffiths  
Executive Director

SUGGESTED EDITORIAL OR LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Over nine years have passed since the end of official U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War, yet 2,494 American servicemen and civilians remain unaccounted for in Indochina. Many of these men did not just disappear from the face of the earth - some were seen captured, others ejected from aircraft over populous cities. To date, there has been an accounting for only 78 men.

Vietnam's claim of inability to supply information on the missing is dubious, particularly in view of substantiated intelligence information that they are purposely withholding the remains of several hundred Americans.

Even more outrageous is the strong possibility that Vietnam and Laos continue to hold American prisoners. The Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) is currently investigating over 400 eyewitness reports, primarily from refugee sources, of men still in captivity. According to DIA, the "weight of the evidence theory" suggests that Americans may be alive in communist controlled Southeast Asia. Recently, former DIA director, Lt. General Eugene Tighe, told a congressional committee looking into the POW/MIA issue that in his personal judgement men are currently in captivity.

In view of the increasingly convincing evidence that Vietnam is withholding POWs and the substantiated data proving they could account for hundreds of the dead, the National League of POW/MIA Families is initiating a "Write Hanoi" campaign. The thrust of the effort is to show the Vietnamese that the American people will not accept using our servicemen and civilians as pawns in an attempt to extort reparations from the U.S. We urge support for this campaign. Letters can be sent to Vietnam in care of their ambassador to the United Nations, Ha Van Lau, 20 Waterside Plaza, New York, NY 10010.

Ten years ago such campaigns worked effectively to secure better treatment for American POWs in Hanoi. Now is the time to bring home the rest of our men, dead or alive.



**POW/MIAs  
Can't Come Home  
Without Your Help**

**WRITE HANOI**

c/o Ha Van Lau  
SRV Rep. to the UN  
20 Waterside Plaza  
New York, NY 10010

National League of  
POW/MIA Families  
Washington, D.C. 20006

**American  
POW/MIAs  
are Alive  
In Vietnam**

**They Need Your Help!**

**WRITE HANOI**

c/o Ha Van Lau  
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**AMERICAN  
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20 Waterside Plaza  
New York, NY 10010

National League of POW/MIA Families  
1608 K St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006



**DON'T BREAK  
FAITH WITH  
OUR  
POW/MIAs**

**Demand their return**

**WRITE HANOI**

c/o Ha Van Lau  
SRV Representative to the UN  
20 Waterside Plaza  
New York, NY 10010

National League of POW/MIA Families  
1608 K St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006



**AMERICAN  
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**WRITE HANOI**

c/o Ha Van Lau  
20 Waterside Plaza  
New York, NY 10010

National League of  
POW/MIA Families  
Washington, D.C. 20006



**RELEASE OUR  
POW/MIAs**

**WRITE HANOI**

National League of  
POW/MIA Families  
Washington, D.C. 20006

c/o Ha Van Lau  
SRV Rep. to the UN  
20 Waterside Plaza  
New York, NY 10010



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES  
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

1608 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 223-6846

SUGGESTIONS FOR PUBLIC AWARENESS AND FUND RAISING PROGRAMS

Individuals and organizations can help the effort to obtain information on the 2,494 men still unaccounted for in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. The League of Families needs assistance in securing public awareness and fund raising. Most fund raising projects also serve to draw public attention to the POW/MIAs.

Following are suggestions for ways to help. For more information and assistance in implementing programs, contact the League's Special Projects Coordinator, Kathi Neal Parsels, at:

1126 Oxford Road, N.E.  
Atlanta, GA 30306  
404/373-6095

BILLBOARDS: Twenty-four sheet billboards reading "Tell the World About Us - American POWs, Alive in Vietnam," are available for \$20.00 each. Companies that rent boards usually donate a certain number each month, rent-free, for non-profit organizations. A guide is available on how to approach local billboard companies to secure donated space.

BUMPER STICKERS: As a project, individuals and groups may want to contact local cab companies, car rental companies, delivery services, etc., with the request that they put stickers on each of their company vehicles.

RIBBON CAMPAIGNS: Several communities and organizations have initiated ribbon campaigns, urging people to wear various colored ribbons to signify support of the POW/MIAs. Such programs are useful in drawing public attention to the issue.

LEAGUE ADOPTION PROGRAM: For a donation of \$5.00 a month or more, an individual or organization can "adopt" a POW/MIA. They are asked to pray frequently for their adopted man and his family, write letters to Congress on his behalf and tell others about him.

SPEAKER'S BUREAU: A speaker's bureau is a good way to inform the public about the POW/MIA issue by arranging for speakers to address meetings of civic organizations, PTAs, students, etc. A guide for setting up a community speaker's bureau is available.

POW/MIA PRAYER: Encourage organizations (veterans posts, PTAs, civic groups, etc.) to open their meetings with an appropriate POW/MIA prayer.

RADIO-THONS: Contact a local radio station to see if they will devote a part of their broadcast day to public awareness on the issue. The Special Projects Coordinator will provide specific assistance in implementing this project.

RALLY: Hold a rally at the State Capitol, City Hall, a park, etc., on an appropriate day (Veterans Day, anniversary of a local man becoming MIA, Memorial Day, etc.). As suggestions: Have speakers; tables with letter writing information; displays - photos of local MIAs; 2,494 candles or flowers; person dressed as POW, etc.

LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGNS:

Letters to Congressmen and Senators: Make elected officials aware that their constituents are concerned about the issue.

Write Hanoi: The League is initiating a "Write Hanoi" campaign. Letters should be addressed to Ha Van Lau, SRV Ambassador to the United Nations, 20 Waterside Plaza, New York, NY 10010.

Letters to the Editor: This is an effective way to publicize the issue. General letters regarding the POW/MIAs are always useful. Be sure to respond to articles and editorials, either correcting the story or thanking the paper for their coverage.

Suggestions for conducting letter writing campaigns:

Booths: Most shopping malls hold special events each month. Contact the promotion manager to arrange to set up displays and tables in the mall. Have suggested letters, pre-printed post cards, petitions, etc., that just have to be signed.

Letter Writing Parties: Invite friends in for a letter writing party/luncheon, having someone in attendance who is knowledgeable about the issue and can speak briefly and answer questions. Provide writing materials, suggested letters, names of local members of Congress, etc.

Publicity: Public service spot announcements on local radio and television stations and announcements in daily and/or weekly newspapers are excellent for bringing the issue and the letter campaign to the attention of the public.

Other Community Groups: Ask other civic and veterans organizations, student clubs, PTAs, and professional organizations to urge their members to participate in the letter writing effort.

LAPEL PINS: Lapel pins are available from the League office for \$3.00 each (two for \$5.00).

FASHION SHOW: Hold a fashion show, perhaps on a patriotic theme with mostly red, white and blue outfits. The POW/MIA issue can be featured as the recipient of any proceeds, concentrating on area missing men. The Special Projects Coordinator has authentic POW pajamas, shoes and other items available for loan for such an event.

POW DINNER: Hold a dinner serving typical POW foods. This event can be held as a community event in a parking lot or public building. It can also be held as a society affair with black tie, etc. Publicity for this type of event can be obtained through the food editor at the local newspaper and by radio and TV.

FLOWER SHOWS: A local garden club may wish to host a flower show, with all arrangements having a patriotic theme. Each entry could be in honor of a local POW/MIA. Entry donations can be contributed to the League of POW/MIA Families.

AUCTIONS: Auctions are an excellent way to raise money and make the public aware of the missing men. Yard sales sponsored by individuals or organizations are also good fund raising vehicles and promote the issue.

PARADES: Participate in local parades. Floats depicting POWs in captivity can be made or other displays using the "Don't Let Them Be Forgotten" theme.

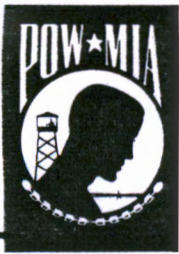
SPORTS EVENTS: Contact the public relations person for major and minor league sports teams in the area. Ask them to devote a half time to the POW/MIAs, a minute of silent prayer just prior to the singing of the National Anthem or flash a message on the scoreboard.

MARQUEES: Many shopping malls, gas stations, fast food restaurants, etc. have marquees. Ask them to put a message on their marquee about POW/MIAs. The marquee can call attention to local MIAs or carry a general message such as appears on the League's billboards.

RESOLUTIONS: Urge adoption of resolutions in support of the POW/MIAs at all levels of an organization. Encourage city, county and state governments to pass similar resolutions.

CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY: Hold a special ceremony in honor of the missing men, using candles, special music and prayer. Work through a local church or military base.

Fund raising note - For those who sponsor projects that also raise funds for the National League of Families, please convert any cash to checks before sending it to the office. The League is a non-profit charity, tax exempt #23-7071242, incorporated in the District of Columbia. Funds raised support efforts to obtain the release of all POWs, the accounting for all those still missing and repatriation of the remains of those who died serving our nation.



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES  
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

1608 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 223-6846

March 3, 1982

Mr. Robert Nimmo  
Administrator  
Veterans Administration  
810 Vermont Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Mr. Nimmo:

On January 19, 1982, the Interagency Group on POW/MIAs (IAG) unanimously adopted the concept of promoting public awareness on the POW/MIA issue. The IAG, comprised of representatives of the Defense and State Departments, Defense Intelligence Agency, National Security Council, White House Office of Public Liaison, the Congress and the National League of Families, was organized in January of 1980 to develop policy and coordinate activities of those U.S. government and private organizations which have direct responsibility for resolving the POW/MIA accounting problem.

The VA has a unique capability and therefore could be of enormous assistance to us in disseminating information throughout the country. Enclosed are some suggestions which might be put into practice by your agency. Many of the Outreach Centers and various VA or Department of Labor, Veterans Employment Service offices are already supporting the League's efforts.

Your assistance in promoting the necessary public awareness would be most helpful. I would appreciate receiving your reaction to this proposal and look forward to hearing from you. Should you or any members of your staff have questions, please feel free to call.

Respectfully,

Ann Mills Griffiths  
Executive Director

Enclosures: Public Awareness Proposal  
League's "Write Hanoi" Campaign

cc: Chuck Hagel  
Dean Phillips



## VETERANS ADMINISTRATION PUBLIC AWARENESS PROPOSAL:

PURPOSE: The ultimate objective is to secure the return of any POWs who may still be held captive and to obtain the fullest possible accounting for those missing. Although public awareness can not, in itself, accomplish these goals, toward that end it can;

- 1) Create world-wide pressure on the governments of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Lao Peoples Democratic Republic.
- 2) Create a domestic climate within this country which would provide the government flexibility in dealing with the issue. This flexibility would allow the U.S. to weigh alternatives and determine policy to gain regional strategic objectives and the POW/MIA accounting in the shortest possible time.
- 3) Serve to back up the administration's commitment to the men and women serving in the armed forces, that they will not be abandoned in a future conflict.

IMPLEMENTATION: The following is suggested as a means of achieving the objective:

- 1) MATERIALS NECESSARY:
  - Brochure/flyer prepared by the VA, giving an overview of the current status of the POW/MIA issue.
  - Posters to advertise VA's involvement, asking for help from employees nation wide.
  - Sample letters to Hanoi, petitions, etc.
- 2) VA LEADERSHIP INVOLVEMENT:
  - News releases should be distributed to VA's mailing list announcing participation in public awareness on the POW/MIA issue and the "Write Hanoi" letter campaign.
  - VA leadership should include the POW/MIA issue in appropriate public forums, speeches, etc.
- 3) IN HOUSE PUBLICATIONS:
  - Newsletters to employees should carry articles on the POW/MIA issue, ways for people to help, frequent up-dates.
  - Publications should utilize "Write Hanoi" slicks.

4) VA HOSPITALS:

- Posters/notices on bulletin boards, encouraging involvement.
- Letter writing by patients and employees, samples provided.

5) REACH OUT CENTERS:

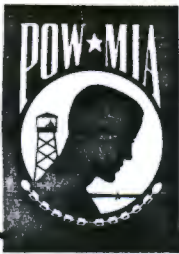
- Literature (brochure/flyer) should be available at all times.
- POW/MIA speaker for meetings.
- Posters/notices about the POW/MIA issue and the "Write Hanoi" letter campaign should be placed on bulletin boards.

PROPOSED U.S. GOVERNMENT POSITION STATEMENT: DRAFT

While the U.S. government has thus far been unable to conclusively establish that Americans are still detained against their will in Indochina, the weight of the evidence precludes ruling out that possibility. We will continue to utilize all U.S. intelligence assets in an effort to corroborate or disprove recurring reports of Americans in captivity.

ALTERNATIVE:

While the U.S. government has thus far been unable to prove that Americans are still detained against their will in Indochina, information in our possession precludes ruling out that possibility. We will continue to utilize all U.S. intelligence Assets in an effort to corroborate or disprove recurring reports of Americans in captivity.



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES  
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

1608 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 223-6846

March 1, 1982

LTC John Fer, USAF  
Principal Advisor to the  
Secretary of Defense  
for PW/MIA Affairs  
The Pentagon, 2D322  
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear John:

The National League of Families will hold its 13th annual meeting July 9 - 11, 1982, at Stouffer's National Center Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. A tentative schedule is provided herein and constitutes the basis for requested Defense Department cooperation and assistance.

As you may be aware, a resolution has been introduced in the House to establish July 9, 1982 as National POW/MIA Recognition Day. The Senate version will be introduced this week. The date coincides with the League's annual meeting and falls on Friday to facilitate Defense Department participation. It is our hope that the commemorative ceremony will again be held at the Pentagon, River Entrance lawn.

Although the National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony is completely separate from the League's annual meeting, arrangements need to be made simultaneously in view of timing requirements. It is anticipated that Congress will move expeditiously to ensure adequate time for the presidential proclamation and subsequent planning by the designated military service.

Tentative plans for our annual meeting include a Congressional breakfast, to be held on Friday, July 9, at 8:30 a.m. at Stouffer's Hotel, Admiralty Ballroom. At approximately 10:00 a.m., following that activity, bus transportation is requested to the Pentagon in time for the National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony, which is likely to be set for 11:00 a.m., returning immediately following.

As in past years, it is requested that the military services provide casualty representatives to be present to respond to any questions which may arise. A notice will be placed in the League newsletter advising the families to bring their FOIA files if they wish to discuss individual cases. Adequate hotel space will be provided to permit private discussions with the families.

All military representatives are invited to participate in activities, including the Congressional breakfast and the banquet/program on Saturday evening, July 10, 1982. In spite of the fact that the League can not financially underwrite the cost of attendance, it is hoped that representatives will plan on attending.

Added requests for support include patriotic music and a joint services color guard at the Saturday evening program and military chaplains to assist in catholic and protestant services on Sunday, July 11, 1982, at 9:00 a.m.

This request also includes transportation for the POW/MIA families to attend the annual meeting, either through COIN Assist or through Civil Aeronautics Board waiver of fixed rates to permit cost free or reduced fare, space available travel on commercial airlines.

As you are aware, last year's transportation resulted in untimely delay and unnecessary frustration. The result was no assistance at all in spite of Secretary Weinberger's specific efforts to accomodate the request. The need still exists for the POW/MIA next of kin to receive up to date information on U.S. government efforts to resolve the accounting problem. By POW/MIA next of kin, I refer to those whose missing man's status has been presumptively changed from POW or MIA to KIA as well as those still listed as POW or MIA.

COIN Assist transportation approval would be overt evidence of increased U.S. government support, welcomed by the families, and would enable much greater participation by those who simply can not afford the expenditure of funds to attend.

Please do not await passage of National POW/MIA Resolutions by Congress to implement other requests in this letter. The confusion which occurred last year resulted from such a decision. The League's annual meeting is separate from but closely coincides with National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

As an added note, last year's request for service luncheons was basically favored by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and the Secretary of Defense, referred to the individual services and subsequently turned down. It would be considered appropriate and supportive for the services to host their respective families; however, another such refusal could only be interpreted as a lack of interest by the military, therefore counterproductive.

To reiterate the specific requests -

- ... Bus transportation to and from the National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony at the Pentagon
- ... Casualty representatives from each service
- ... Patriotic musical presentation on Saturday evening, July 10, 1982
- ... Joint services color guard on Saturday evening, July 10, 1982
- ... Catholic and protestant chaplains for services on Sunday, July 11, 1982, 9:00 a.m.
- ... COIN Assist or other transportation for POW/MIA families
- ... Service hosted luncheons (optional)

LTC John Fer, USAF  
Page 3

I look forward to hearing from you at the earliest possible time in view of the need to finalize plans. Your assistance is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,



Ann Mills Griffiths  
Executive Director

cc: IAG

GIST

*League revisions 3/2/82*

POW/MIAs

The U.S. Government is strongly committed to obtaining the fullest possible accounting for Americans missing in Southeast Asia. Lack of cooperation from the governments of Vietnam and Laos has been the principal obstacle to determining the fate of these missing Americans. U.S. Government policy seeks to develop new avenues of approach that might lead to better cooperation; to investigate unfailingly and carefully all reports of possible live POWs in Vietnam and Laos; and to hold these governments to their humanitarian obligation to provide the fullest possible accounting for missing Americans and return of all recoverable remains.

Approximately 2500 Americans killed or missing as a consequence of the Vietnam War have not been accounted for. Of this number, approximately 1150 are known to have been killed in action, but their remains have not been recovered.

Between February and April 1973 the Hanoi government released 591 American prisoners. An additional 68 Americans stranded in Vietnam after April 1975 left in the course of the following year. To date, the Vietnamese have returned 78 sets of remains, and have provided a list of 47 names, 40 of whom were Americans, of persons reported to have died in captivity in southern Vietnam, though their remains have not been returned. In August 1978, the Lao Government returned four sets of remains, two of which were later determined to be non-American. Political and military conditions in Kampuchea have precluded obtaining an accounting for the small number of Americans lost in that country.

The United States Government has repeatedly urged the Vietnamese and Lao Governments to meet their humanitarian obligation to provide the fullest possible accounting for Americans missing in their countries. Both governments assert that no Americans are held captive, but they have done very little to substantiate that

assertion by providing information on missing Americans, including a number known to have been captured alive. It is clear that the Vietnamese and Lao Governments have a great deal more information on missing Americans available to them than they have given to us.

In all contacts with Vietnamese and Lao authorities, we have stressed the importance of obtaining all possible information and return of recoverable remains. Further, we have sought from refugee and other sources information that pertains to the fate of missing Americans. All reports that Americans are being held in captivity in Vietnam and Laos are thoroughly investigated.

Of the 1350+ reports received since 1975 pertaining to POW/MIA matters, nearly 700 pertain to live sightings of U.S. servicemen. The remainder concern crash or grave sites. Approximately one-third of the 400 first-hand live sighting reports correlate to Americans who have previously been accounted for and are no longer in Southeast Asia.

While the U.S. government has thus far been unable to prove that Americans are still detained against their will in Indochina, information in our possession precludes ruling out that possibility. We will continue to utilize all U.S. intelligence assets in an effort to corroborate or disprove recurring reports of Americans in captivity.

As part of U.S. Government efforts to elicit information and cooperation from the Vietnamese Government, representatives of our Joint Casualty Resolution Center visited Hanoi in October 1980 to discuss the technical aspects of determining the fate of missing Americans. During a second visit on May 27-30, 1981, the Vietnamese announced that they would turn over to us remains believed to be those of three Americans. These remains were delivered to us on July 7 and have since been identified as Commander Ronald W. Dodge (USN), Lieutenant Stephen O. Musselman (USN) and Captain Richard H. Van Dyke (USAF). In all three instances, the Vietnamese were known to have had the Americans, alive or dead, in their control since the initial incidents - as long as 14 years. Although this was a



disappointingly small gesture, we had hoped that it might signal a resumption of the accounting process and renewed efforts by Hanoi to provide information on missing Americans.

In February 1982, Defense and State Department representatives, led by Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Richard L. Armitage, visited Hanoi to discuss the POW/MIA accounting problem. This delegation was the first official U.S. government group at that level to travel to Vietnam since 1973, tasked solely with discussion of the POW/MIA issue.

Again, the results were less than satisfactory. Although termed cordial and frank, the meetings resulted only in Vietnamese agreement to send representatives to the Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii and to continue technical level meetings of the JCRC and their Vietnamese counterparts on an "as needed" basis.

Our Embassy in Vientiane has made repeated representations to the Lao Government on the importance of accounting for missing Americans. Although Lao Foreign Ministry officials assure us that they understand our concerns about missing Americans, they have not responded positively to our proposals for actions which might be taken to further the accounting process. These proposals include:

- setting up a counterpart organization to work with our Embassy in Vientiane and the Joint Casualty Resolution Center (JCRC) on MIA matters;

- permitting a JCRC team to visit Laos;

- inviting a Lao team to visit JCRC headquarters and the Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii;

- cooperation in access to crash sites, including joint visits and possible removal of unexploded ordnance in the area of the crash sites.

DRAFT PROGRAM  
THIRTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING  
JULY 8 - 11, 1982  
STOUFFER'S NATIONAL CENTER HOTEL  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN

ANN MILLS GRIFFITHS

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Kathi Neal Parsels.....ASSISTANT CONVENTION CHAIRMAN  
Sally Kennedy.....REGISTRATION CHAIRMAN  
Carol Bates.....PRESS CO-CHAIRMAN  
Patti Sheridan.....PRESS CO-CHAIRMAN  
Anne Knutson.....SPECIAL ASSISTANT  
Sara Frances Shay.....BANQUET CHAIRMAN  
Wally Hartness.....AUCTION CHAIRMAN

THURSDAY, JULY 8TH

12:00 PM - REGISTRATION PLAZA LEVEL  
9:00 PM

3:00 PM - MEETING OF THE 1981-82 and 1983-84  
BOARDS OF DIRECTORS POTOMAC ROOM

7:30 PM - REGIONAL MEETINGS

REGION I	ROANOKE ROOM
REGION II	RAPPAHANNOCK ROOM
REGION III	JAMES ROOM
REGION IV	DEWEY I ROOM
REGION V	DEWEY II ROOM

Regions I, II and III meeting rooms are on the Lobby Level.  
Regions IV and V will meet on the Plaza Level.

FRIDAY, JULY 9TH

8:30 AM - CONGRESSIONAL BREAKFAST ADMIRALTY BALLROOM

Colonel Earl P. Hopper, AUS - Ret.,  
Chairman of the Board, Presiding

Invocation  
Chaplain Jerry Singleton, LTC, USAF - to be invited

POW/MIA TASK FORCE PRESENTATION  
Members of Congress

10:20 AM - BOARD BUSES TO PENTAGON HOTEL ENTRANCE

11:00 AM - NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION  
DAY CEREMONY PENTAGON

12:00 PM - BOARD BUSES FOR RETURN TO HOTEL/LUNCH BREAK

2:00 PM - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT  
Ann Mills Griffiths

3:00 PM - INTERAGENCY GROUP FORUM ADMIRALTY BALLROOM

Colonel Earl P. Hopper, Board Chairman

Honorable Dan O'Donohue  
Deputy Assistant Secretary, East Asia  
and Pacific Affairs  
Department of State

RADM Allan G. Paulson, USN  
Deputy Director for Collection Management  
Defense Intelligence Agency

Honorable Richard Armitage  
Deputy Assistant Secretary, East Asia  
and Pacific Region  
Department of Defense, International  
Security Affairs

Major General Daryl Tripp, USAF  
Vice Director, Plans and Policies  
Joint Chiefs of Staff

5:00 PM - DINNER BREAK

7:00PM - GUEST SPEAKER (to be announced)

7:30 PM - FINANCIAL REPORT AND AUCTION

Mr. George Shine, Financial Chairman  
LTC Walter Hartness, USAF-Ret., Auction Chairman

SATURDAY, JULY 10TH

9:00 AM - PUBLICITY & ACTIVITIES WORKSHOP ADMIRALTY BALLROOM

Major John Parsels, USA-Ret., Chairman  
Carol Bates, Director of Public Affairs  
Kathi Neal Parsels, League Special Projects Coordinator

10:00 AM - SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS:  
Non-POW representatives to be determined

11:00 AM - REFUGEE INFORMATION SEMINAR ADMIRALTY BALLROOM

Mr. George Brooks, Chairman

LTC Jack Kennedy, USAF  
Defense Intelligence Agency

12:00 PM - LUNCH BREAK

2:00 PM - BUSINESS MEETING ADMIRALTY BALLROOM

4:30 PM - BREAK

6:30 PM - NO-HOST RECEPTION CHESAPEAKE ROOM

7:30 PM - ANNUAL DINNER ADMIRALTY BALLROOM

Colonel Earl Hopper, Master of Ceremonies

Military Musical Presentation

Joint Armed Forces Color Guard  
Military District of Washington

Invocation  
RADM R.H. Trower, USN, CHC - to be invited  
Chief of Chaplains

Introductions/Dinner

Guest Speaker

PRESENTATION OF LEAGUE AWARDS

Raffle Drawing

SPECIAL GUEST  
Fred Travalena (tentative)

Benediction

Adjournment

SUNDAY, JULY 11TH

9:00 AM	- CHURCH SERVICES	
	Protestant Service	DEWEY I, II & III ROOMS
	Catholic service	RAPPAHANNOCK, ROANOKE ROOMS
10:00 AM	- BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING	POTOMAC ROOM

Army Secretary Jack Marsh has visited CILHI and is aware that the only two remains that could even be considered for the "unknown" are still undergoing the process of identification. Even these would require waiving most all of the criteria. See Marsh letter attached.

The Central Identification Lab in Hawaii is responsible for identifying remains. Dr. Furue, Mr. Witzel or Col. Dave Rosenberg at CILHI can be reached at 808/438-1532.

League memo to Senate regarding interment of Vietnam unknown is attached.

Note that Vietnam Veterans will also be honored by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial scheduled to be dedicated this November 11th.

CBS Evening News on February 13, 1982, carried a piece on the question of the unknown, including an interview with Col. Dave Rosenberg, commanding officer of CIL, where he stated that CIL does not have remains qualifying as an unknown. The Secretary of the Army currently has a copy of that film in his office. To obtain it contact BGEN Lyle Barker at Army public affairs, 695-5135. Lt. Col. Paul Kirkegaard 695-1717, in the secretary's office has the film.



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

WASHINGTON

27 JAN 1982

*just read file*

Mrs. Ann Mills Griffiths  
Executive Director  
National League of Families  
of American Prisoners and  
Missing in Southeast Asia  
1608 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006

FEB 03 1982

*WJ  
2/4*

Dear Mrs. Griffiths:

Thank you for your recent letters to Secretary Weinberger and me urging that we delay the interment of a Vietnam Unknown until there is a full accounting for all unrecovered servicemen from the Vietnam era.

I have conferred with Secretary Weinberger about this matter and we have been briefed on the selection process as well as the current status of this effort.

I have been advised there are unknown candidate remains still undergoing the identification process. Scientific identification techniques and the rapid recovery of casualties from Southeast Asia have substantially reduced the number of remains that are still unidentified. This contrasts with our experience in both World Wars and Korea where a great many remains were available for the selection process.

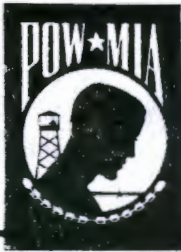
Last July at the Pentagon's POW-MIA Recognition Day Ceremonies which you attended, President Reagan reaffirmed his commitment to the POW/MIAs. His message stated "My Administration is determined to obtain the fullest possible accounting for these brave Americans". Our efforts regarding the POW/MIAs are completely independent of the Vietnam Unknown issue. The interment of a Vietnam Unknown would be a demonstration of the honor this Nation has for its men and women who died in Southeast Asia. It would not be a signal that the Government is closing out the book on Vietnam.

We are continuing to review the situation on how best to proceed. Thank you for expressing your views on this important matter.

Sincerely,

*John O. Marsh, Jr.*  
John O. Marsh, Jr.

*Pleasure seeing you at the Special Forces dinner.*  
*AM*



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES  
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

1608 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 223-6846

November 17, 1981

MEMO TO MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE  
FROM ANN GRIFFITHS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
RE INTERMENT OF VIETNAM WAR UNKNOWN

In recent months there has been a renewed effort on the part of Congressman William F. Goodling, (R-Penn.) to inter an unknown American from the Vietnam War in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. I understand the move has now reached Secretary of the Army John O. Marsh for a decision.

According to the Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii (CILHI - the U.S. organization of forensic specialists tasked with identifying remains) there are currently only five bodies believed to be American, which have yet to be identified. CILHI has reported to the Department of the Army that none of the remains they possess meets current criteria for an unknown and they are optimistic they may be able to make positive identification. Additionally, too much is known for the bodies to possibly qualify as unknowns. Some may even be non-military casualties.

Following are the established criteria for selection of a Vietnam unknown.

- ...Recovered in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia
- ...Death occurred between August 1964 and March 1973
- ...Remains nearly complete (80%)
- ...Not commingled
- ...Personal effects establish that remains is military
- ...No possible identifying clues
- ...Circumstances must not lead to future identification
- ...Cremated remains eliminated

With the exception that the remains were recovered in Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia, none of the five currently meets the criteria. For example, if the U.S. had "nearly complete remains (80%)" the tremendous advances in forensic science would render identification highly likely. Interment at this time would require waiving the criteria.

Further, the National League of Families strongly opposes such action, as interment of an unknown will be billed as the "end of a sad chapter of American history" and otherwise promoted to "put the war behind us." In view of the fact that almost 2,500 Americans remain unaccounted for in Southeast Asia and the increasing



evidence some of these men may still be alive, as well as the high priority now being assigned by the U.S. government to collecting POW/MIA intelligence, we oppose any move to prematurely bury an unknown.

The U.S. should be proud that advances in forensic technology have improved to the point that we may never again have an unknown. Rather than attempting to placate some Vietnam veterans through interment of remains of someone who might subsequently be identified, substantive programs to solve significant veterans programs should be pursued. The League strongly opposes any move to waive existing criteria to enable interment for what are primarily political purposes.

The memorial amphitheater display room already contains a plaque honoring those who served, were killed and remain missing due to the Vietnam War. In view of the fact there is no qualified unknown, the League of Families feels the current honors at Arlington should suffice at this time.

I would be interested in learning your views on this matter and urge you to contact the Secretary of the Army before an irreversable decision is made.

ID # 052591

VA

Dg

# WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

O - OUTGOING

H - INTERNAL

I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 8/1/2/14

Name of Correspondent: R. G. Mac McIntock Sr.

MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: wants to know why the Administration has said no to the replacement of an unknown soldier of the Vietnam war

### ROUTE TO:

### ACTION

### DISPOSITION

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>PL/BLAC</u>	<u>ORIGINATOR<sup>CH</sup></u>	<u>8/1/2/14</u>			<u>C 8/2/10/1/20</u>
<u>✓ DOD</u>	<u>R<sup>CH</sup></u>	<u>8/1/2/17</u>			<u>A 8/2/10/1/12</u> PY 13
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		<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
		<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>

#### ACTION CODES:

- A - Appropriate Action
- C - Comment/Recommendation
- D - Draft Response
- F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure

- I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
- R - Direct Reply w/Copy
- S - For Signature
- X - Interim Reply

#### DISPOSITION CODES:

- A - Answered
- B - Non-Special Referral
- C - Completed
- S - Suspended

#### FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

- Type of Response = Initials of Signer
- Code = "A"
- Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.  
 Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).  
 Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.  
 Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

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Prime Subject Code: VA Secondary Subject Codes: ND 016  
CO 172  
PA 001

### PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C		Time: _____	P- _____
DSP		Time: _____	Media: _____

**SIGNATURE CODES:**

**CPn - Presidential Correspondence**

- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan
- n - 2 - Ronald Reagan
- n - 3 - Ron
- n - 4 - Dutch
- n - 5 - Ron Reagan
- n - 6 - Ronald
- n - 7 - Ronnie

**CLn - First Lady's Correspondence**

- n - 1 - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Nancy
- n - 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan

**CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence**

- n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

**MEDIA CODES:**

- B - Box/package
- C - Copy
- D - Official document
- G - Message
- H - Handcarried
- L - Letter
- M - Mailgram
- O - Memo
- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

PLBLAC

16 JAN 1982

Mr. R. G. Mac McLintock, Sr.  
President  
Vietnam Veterans of America  
North Valley Chapter  
6799 Skyway  
Space 34  
Paradise, California 95969

Dear Mr. McLintock:

Thank you for your telegram dated December 11, 1981, to President Reagan concerning the selection of an Unknown Serviceman from the Vietnam era. The President has asked me to write to you in his behalf.

First, let me assure you that the Vietnam Veterans have not been excluded from having an unknown serviceman from their war. In 1973 Congress authorized a Vietnam Unknown to be interred in Arlington National Cemetery alongside the Unknowns from previous wars.

Since 1973 the Department of the Army has been making every effort to identify all remains from Southeast Asia before we select an Unknown. There are unknown candidate remains that are still undergoing the identification process. In considering the selection process, it is important to note not only the nature of the struggle in Vietnam and the techniques of combat whereby the fatally wounded could be more rapidly recovered, but also modern techniques of scientific identification. These exhaustive techniques and the rapid recovery of casualties have substantially reduced the number of remains that are still unidentified. This contrasts with our experience in both World Wars and Korea where a great many remains were available for the selection process.

We are currently reviewing the situation to determine how best to proceed. I share your concern that we suitably honor our Vietnam Veterans who gave their last measure when this country called upon them.

Sincerely,

(Signed)

William R. Gianelli  
Assistant Secretary of the Army  
(Civil Works)

cf: SACW (file, read, sign)  
SASG for OSD  
MAJ PEIXOTTO/ps/12 Jan 82

W63074 Sus: 4 Jan 82

SASG

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

DECEMBER 17, 1981

TO: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY *WAK*

DEC 17 1981

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 052591

MEDIA: TELEGRAM, DATED DECEMBER 11, 1981

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MR. R. G. MAC MCLINTOCK SR.  
PRESIDENT  
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA  
NORTH VALLEY CHAPTER  
6799 SKYWAY  
SPACE 34  
PARADISE CA 95969

SUBJECT: WANTS TO KNOW WHY THE ADMINISTRATION HAS  
SAID NO TO THE REPLACEMENT OF AN UNKNOWN  
SOLDIER OF THE VIETNAM WAR

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL — IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN  
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE  
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE  
(OR DRAFT) TO:  
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 62, THE WHITE HOUSE

SALLY KELLEY  
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON  
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

W63074

VA WHB005(0722)(1-003031A345)PD 12/11/81 Q722

1981 DEC 11 AM 7 36

ICS IPMWGWC WSH

01861 12-11 0719A EST

RMS WHITE HOUSE DC

4-003656S345 12/11/81

ICS IPMBNGZ CSP

9168728544 TDBN PARADISE CA 171 12-11 0610A EST

RMS PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN RPT DLY MGM, DLR AM, DLR

WHITEHOUSE

WASHINGTON DC 20500

IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAS SAID NO TO THE REPLACEMENT OF AN UNKNOWN SOLDIER OF THE VIETNAM WAR IN WASHINGTON DC. I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A RESPONSE AS TO WHY THE VIET NAM VETERANS HAVE BEEN DISALLOWED THIS HONOR. I DO BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF YOUR ADMINISTRATION TO HAVE IN WASHINGTON DC TO HAVE ANOTHER FILM OF AN UNKNOWN SOLDIER OF THE VIETNAM WAR. WE, OF THE

VIET NAM VETERANS OF AMERICA BELIEVE THAT THIS IS MOST APPROPRIATE. I WOULD ASK THAT YOU RESPOND TO ME DIRECTLY AS TO WHY THIS HAS NOT BEEN DONE AND/OR WHAT WE MIGHT DO LEGISLATIVELY TO GAIN THE RESPONSE THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AN UNKNOWN SOLDIER IN THE PARADISE CHICO AREA. WHAT MUST I DO TO AVAIL OURSELVES TO THAT UNKNOWN SOLDIER. I WOULD APPRECIATE A DIRECT RESPONSE TO ME AT THE NUMBER BELOW.

SIGNED:

R.G. MACCLINTOCK SR

RESIDENT, VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

NORTH VALLEY CHAPTER

6799 SKYWAY SPACE 34

PARADISE, CALIFORNIA 95969

6799 SKYWAY SPACE 34  
PARADISE CA 95969

0641 EST  
NNNN

Mennonite  
Central  
Committee  
U.S.



21 South 12th Street  
Akron  
Pennsylvania  
17501  
U.S.A.

**MCC**

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500





THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

(POW/MIA)

forwarded to  
Tony Dolan  
Chris Buckley  
Ann Fairbanks

# Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Collections

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POW/MIA

## A TORTURED MIND

MY LIFE IS FULL OF CONFUSION, DOUBT, ANGUISH, AND DEPRESSION.

I'M CONTINUOUSLY SEEKING AN ANSWER TO MY PAST AND THE UNCERTAINTY OF MY FUTURE.

I SERVED WITH PRIDE IN A WAR NO ONE WANTED AND NOW EVERYONE WANTS TO FORGET.

TO FORGET ISN'T THAT EASY FOR ME, MY DAYS AND NIGHTS ARE INVADDED BY THOUGHTS OF THINGS I'VE DONE TO "STOP THE FLOW OF COMMUNISM", THINGS MY PARENTS AND CHURCH TAUGHT ME WERE WRONG.

I FEEL AS A CHILD NOW, DEFENSELESS AGAINST AND AT THE MERCY OF MY MIND AND ITS MEMORIES.

AT TIMES I FEEL THE HEAT OF THE BURNING VILLAGES, HEAR THE SCREAMS OF THE INNOCENT AS THEY BURN AT THE HANDS OF THEIR SAVIOR! ME.

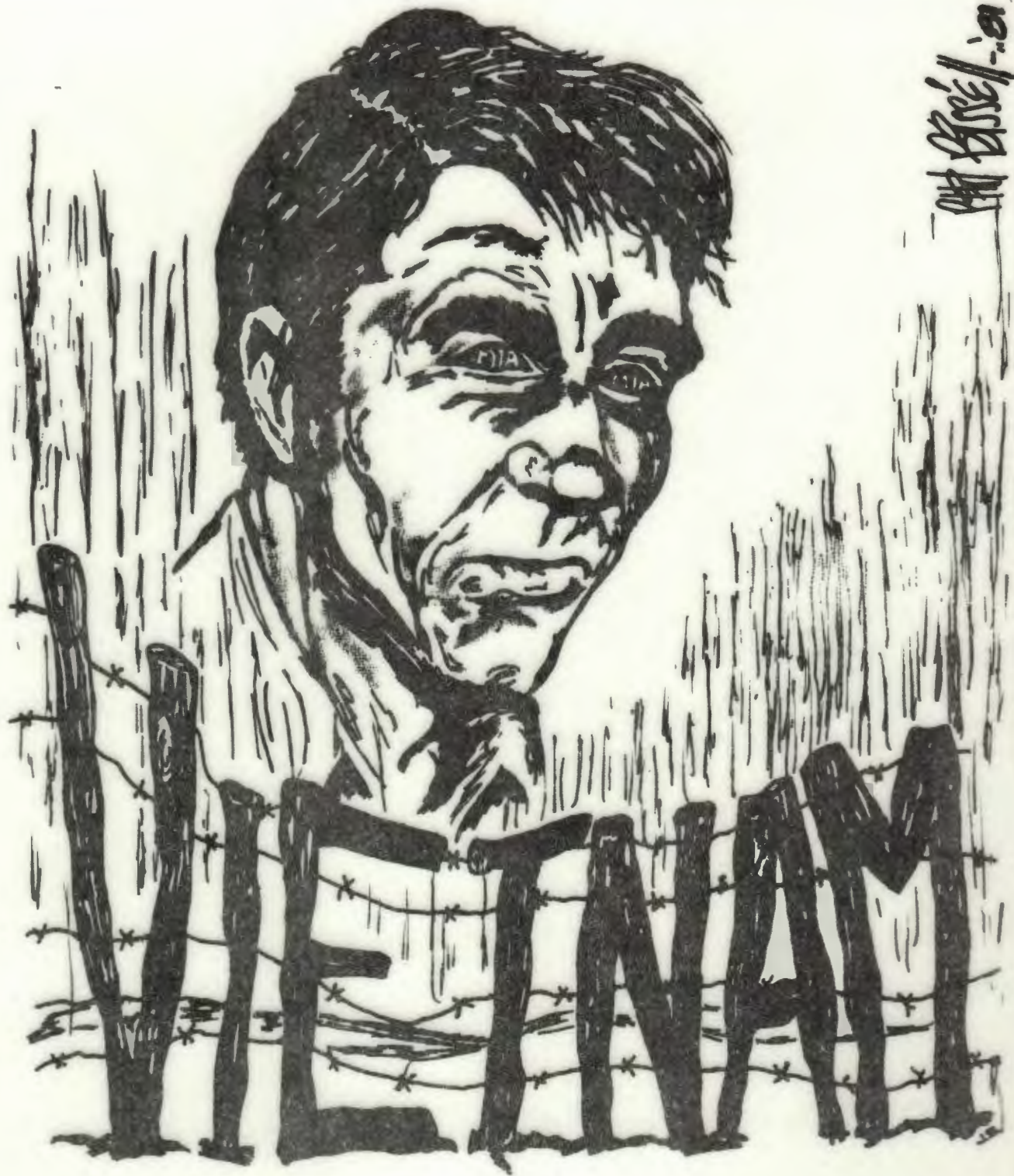
UNKNOWINGLY I HAVE SENTENCED MY WIFE AND FOUR CHILDREN TO A HOLLOW FUTURE.

MANY VIETNAM VETERANS ARE SUFFERING THE SAME FATE AS I.

THERE'S A NAME FOR THIS INSANITY ITS' CALLED, POST TRAUMATIC-DELAYED STRESS SYNDROME.

IF OTHER VIETNAM VETERANS COULD WRITE ME, MAYBE TOGETHER WE'LL FIND A WAY TO SURVIVE, THIS WAR.

JERRY SCHAEFER  
967 MIDDLESEX STREET  
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS



Pat Bassell '81

reprinted with permission from the Lowell Sun

WORK FOR THE  
RETURN OF  
**POW  
MIA  
"HOSTAGES"**  
IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Any donations to the families of these men would be greatly appreciated. Please send your contributions to: THE VIETNAM COMBAT VETERANS of LOWELL  
.45 MERRIMACK STREET ROOM 227  
LOWELL, MASS. 01852

The National League of Families is a non-profit, tax exempt, charitable organization IRS No. 23-7071242.  
1608 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006