SA 99

B-182

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
1608 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 628-6811

P, W

June 29, 1973

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

RE

The Board of Directors has asked me to write to you to ask why a public statement concerning the missing-in-action has not been made from your office.

We had every reason to believe that a public statement would be made upon Dr. Kissinger's return from Paris. There has been no statement issued relative to the progress that was made at his most recent meeting with Mr. Le Duc Tho. Likewise, there has been no progress made toward the accounting of the 1300 missing Americans we represent.

We should like a reply to this request prior to our Board meeting on July 26. It is necessary that we understand why no public protest has been made regarding North Vietnam's failure to comply with the peace agreements as they pertain to our missing men.

Sincerely,

Helene L. Knapp

Helene L. Knapp (Mrs. Herman L.)
National Coordinator

HLK:mk

DF

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The League's mood is likely to be moderate and sober. Most of those remaining active in the League are relatives of MIA's rather than POW's and their focus is naturally upon issues affecting the status of the missing men.

Possible Questions and Suggested Answers:

While the League's representatives may raise several of the standard questions about the status of your sensitive private negotiations -- you may wish to field these questions along the lines of your latest background statements on these issues -- they are likely to focus on the following specific points concerning the fate of the MIA's:

-- Implementation of the Accords: The North Vietnamese and their allies haven't provided any more names of POW's or MIA's and they are blocking the investigations prescribed by the Accords. Why isn't the Administration protesting this lack of progress? (Note: The League has written a letter to the President (Tab B) complaining about the lack of strong public statements by the Administration on this issue.)

- Suggested Reply: We are very much concerned that the provisions on releases, accounting, return of remains, etc. be fully implemented, and I can assure you that the North Vietnamese and their allies understand our position. This, I want to remind you, was also the thrust of the President's message when he met with the POW returnees at the White House on May 24. This was also an important point in the U.S./DRV Communique of June 13. You can be quite sure that we will continue to press the other side to comply with the relevant provisions of the Communique and the Agreement.

-- Laos: What about the great discrepancy between the number of men missing in Laos (over 300) and the handful the Communists said they held? Do we really have to wait for a political settlement in Laos before we learn more from the other side about our MIA's there?

- Suggested Reply: We have talked to the other side repeatedly, and, as you indicate, they do say we must wait until the completion

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SA 99 B-185

6590

Ed,
This was found in my cy's of the chron. Thought you would like it.
Al

CIL

ACTION

January 28, 1974

OWCROFT

ER SK

SUBJECT: VIVA Correspondence with Bryce Harlow on POW/MIA Issue

VIVA, which had earlier written to Counsellor Laird, and whose representatives have, as you know, repeatedly tried to reach Secretary Kissinger, recently wrote to Counsellor Harlow to request his personal assistance in behalf of the MIA's (Tab B). The VIVA letter, signed by Stephen Frank, specifically requested that this correspondence not be forwarded to the Department of Defense for reply but be handled by Counsellor Harlow.

We continue to counsel against a White House meeting for VIVA, and we recommend against any meeting of VIVA representatives with Counsellor Harlow.

Accordingly, we have prepared a draft reply for Counsellor Harlow's signature, expressing the Counsellor's regrets at being unable to meet with VIVA and enclosing a number of self-explanatory items attesting to the Administration's continued concern and determination in behalf of the MIA's (Tab A).

A memorandum transmitting the draft reply to Counsellor Harlow has been prepared for your signature at Tab I.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the memorandum of transmittal to Counsellor Harlow at Tab I.

William Stearman concurs.

DF

6590

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

January 28, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: SVEN KRAEMER SK

SUBJECT: VIVA Correspondence with Bryce Harlow on POW/MIA Issue

VIVA, which had earlier written to Counsellor Laird, and whose representatives have, as you know, repeatedly tried to reach Secretary Kissinger, recently wrote to Counsellor Harlow to request his personal assistance in behalf of the MIA's (Tab B). The VIVA letter, signed by Stephen Frank, specifically requested that this correspondence not be forwarded to the Department of Defense for reply but be handled by Counsellor Harlow.

We continue to counsel against a White House meeting for VIVA, and we recommend against any meeting of VIVA representatives with Counsellor Harlow.

Accordingly, we have prepared a draft reply for Counsellor Harlow's signature, expressing the Counsellor's regrets at being unable to meet with VIVA and enclosing a number of self-explanatory items attesting to the Administration's continued concern and determination in behalf of the MIA's (Tab A).

A memorandum transmitting the draft reply to Counsellor Harlow has been prepared for your signature at Tab I.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the memorandum of transmittal to Counsellor Harlow at Tab I.

William Stearman concurs.

B 185

DOD/NSC

SA 99 B-186

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL 618

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ACTION

February 15, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: SVEN KRAEMER SK

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Conversation for Secretary Kissinger's Meeting with National League of Families - February 9, 1974

Attached for your review is a memorandum of conversation for Secretary Kissinger's meeting of February 9, 1974 with the Executive Board of the National League of Families (Tab A).

You will recall that in this meeting Secretary Kissinger agreed to undertake the following actions concerning the MIA issue:

(1) A look at the question of a possible USG demarche to the United Nations to request an overall review of the MIA issue (memcon p. 3).

(2) A look at the question of a possible USG approach to the World Court on the MIA issue (memcon pp. 3, 4).

(3) A review of how often we have followed up the matter of the 80 discrepancy folders submitted to the other side (memcon p. 4).

(4) Agreement that the League could issue a public statement on the February 9 meeting (memcon p. 7).

Additionally, Frank Sieverts reports that the League has picked up Secretary Kissinger's expression of support (memcon p. 3) for the possibility of sending a delegation from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Senate Armed Services Committee to the USSR, the PRC and North Vietnam to press the MIA case. According to Sieverts, the League has written a letter to the SFRC formally proposing such a trip and has orally indicated to the SFRC that "Secretary Kissinger supports this project." We may be hearing more about this later.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



DP 1.3(a)(5)

I assume that Frank Sieverts is checking on items 1 and 2 and that someone with access to the Kissinger/Tho meeting materials is checking on item 3. Concerning item 4, I have let Iris Powers know the suggested changes on the League's draft statement as recommended by Secretary Kissinger.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you approve the memorandum of conversation attached at Tab A.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Participants: Secretary Henry A. Kissinger
General Brent Scowcroft
Sven Kraemer, NSC
Frank Sieverts, State Department
Roger Shields, Defense Department
20 members of the Executive Board of the National League of Families

Date, Time, Place: February 9, 1974 - 12:10 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
The Roosevelt Room

Kissinger: Hello, how nice to see you again.

Question: We were all so thrilled to learn of your becoming Secretary of State. We are very glad to meet with you again. As always in the past, we understand that this meeting will be off the record, so that we can have a free and open discussion. We have brought a list of questions, and then each member will have some additional questions for you. (list attached)

Kissinger: I will treat all of the questions on your list as one. Essentially they ask what we are doing and what can be done. I'll be perfectly honest.

Sanitized

1.3(a)(5)

The North Vietnamese understand only carrots or sticks. We have no carrots and only a few sticks. If economic aid to North Vietnam was passed by the Congress there would be some carrots. And if we had not been deprived by the Congress of military action in the area then we would have some sanctic

When I met with Le Duc Tho, I repeated your concerns. They know our views. As you know, the North Vietnamese say they have no more prisoners. I myself can't believe that they hold anyone. They would have no reason to, and our returning prisoners also believe that all of whom they knew were returned. Might they be holding on to some POWs who are technical experts? I don't know who on our MIA list would be in such a category. It is my own genuine belief that there are no more POWs held in North Vietnam.

You ask why they won't let us look for our men, for remains. What's in it for them. Well, they are against Americans, against all foreigners. They fear intrusion. There are also technical difficulties. [

1.3(a)(5)

Sanitized

]

I don't believe they hold any more prisoners. About the MIA's, I have talked to the Chinese, the Soviets and to Le Duc Tho. Unless we can structure some threat, however, they just won't do anything. But we will keep after it. Whenever I meet Le Duc Tho (perhaps once a year just to keep things going) I'll raise the issue. We exchange constant messages and I always mention the MIA's.

In Laos, it's unlikely, but conceivably there might be POW's. The other side may at some point want to do its own negotiating on the POW/MIA issue. In Cambodia, a specific written message we had passed on to the other side received the answer that there were no POW's. It is unlikely, but possible that there might be POW's in areas in which the North Vietnamese are not in total control.

Well, that's my assessment.

Question: What did you think of the various statements made at the recent Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearings?

Kissinger: Many of those who got us into the negotiations mess and deprived us of our leverage, now tell us to push the Soviets and the Chinese around on the MIA issue.

Question: What about your executive session with the Committee?

Kissinger: My executive session the next day had little focus on the MIA issue. Most of it dealt with the Plumbers, David Young, etc. I did say, in response to a question, that I welcomed Congressional concern about the MIA's.

Question: What do you think of a delegation from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Senate Armed Services Committee going to the Soviet Union, China and North Vietnam concerning the MIA's?

Kissinger: Their problem would be to get visas. But we would support it.

Question: What about a letter writing campaign to the Chinese?

1.3(a)(5)

Kissinger: [ Sanitized ] I have good personal rapport with Chou en Lai and I have talked to him about the North Vietnamese and the POW/MIA issue. I have reason to believe that they have talked to the North Vietnamese. They have also expanded their search areas within the PRC in seeking information on possible MIA's.

Question: What about Le Duc Tho?

Kissinger: I have sent Le Duc Tho many messages. We are considered pen pals. Now an increasing insolence marks the correspondence on both sides. As for meetings, he just uses them for propaganda assaults on the U.S.

Question: What about going to the United Nations and requesting an overall review of the MIA issue?

Kissinger: All of the Vietnamese parties say that the U.N. is incompetent. We will make a demarche. It would be a grandstand play, however, and what would we pay for that? I will look into your question.

Question: What about a resolution through the World Court concerning the POW mistreatment, MIA discrepancies, etc.

Kissinger: I gave them 80 folders on the discrepancies. There has been no answer. I will look into the World Court issue.

Question: What do you think of a U.S. Government/MIA Family worldwide awareness campaign?

Kissinger: We will support anything focusing attention on the issue.

Question: What has happened to the other side's review of the folders?

Kissinger: I will review how often we have followed up on this matter. We will check this out.

Question: Four years ago there was a massive letter writing campaign (to North Vietnam) in behalf of our POWs. It seemed to help. What about a similar appeal to the PRC?

Kissinger: I would do it to the Russians, but I would leave the Chinese alone for a while. The situation there could blow sky high. It's precarious. A letter campaign might be counterproductive. It could help the extremists against Chou. Such a U.S. intrusion might be dangerous. I would definitely counsel against it.

Question: England has diplomatic relations with North Vietnam. Have we tried to go through England in behalf of our missing?

Kissinger: No. If you had to deal directly with the Europeans, you wouldn't do it. We don't need the British. We have better relations with the North Vietnamese than they do. I can see Le Duc Tho. But the DRV won't receive a British Ambassador; the British consul only can see middle-range officials. Only the Soviets or the PRC make a difference.

Question: What is the strategy of the State Department to get an accounting of our missing?

Kissinger: One can't have a strategy without leverage. Our strategy is to approach the other side at regular intervals -- the DRV, PRC and the Soviet Union. Letters, appeals, public opinion will count. You will remember that in the worst days before the POWs were released, I always felt that we would get them. We had muscle then. Now we can't threaten much. So, only if the PRC, the Soviets and the DRV should be so desperate that they would absolutely need us, would they really move on the MIA issue. I don't think public pressure will be sufficient.

Question: What about a special meeting with Le Duc Tho just on the MIA problem? And where do you see the end for us in settling the MIA issue?

Kissinger: [ Sanitized ] He read me the Party newspaper's article on Quang Tri stating that the "objective conditions" were in North Vietnam's favor. Three days later, we bombed Hanoi and Haiphong. The best relations we ever had was after the Christmas bombing. [ Sanitized ]

1.3(a)(5)

This last year we were shadow boxing. I just didn't have enough leverage. I can't see an end to this issue. I can't see what would impel. North Vietnam, unless, for example, they would get economic aid. But they want $3 billion. We are not prepared to put such a proposal to the Congress; the North Vietnamese have broken the agreements.

Question: What about getting visas to Hanoi?

Kissinger: I don't think you will get them. The DRV Embassy in Paris will probably refuse. They only let those in who will provide them with propaganda value, and they would require something propagandistic from you. There is no harm in your trying to get visas, however.

Question: There was supposed to be a coalition in Laos. Is the U.S. helping to speed it along?

Kissinger: Speeding things along is not an easy matter in Laos. The North Vietnamese are the main obstacle to coalition. They are supposed to move their forces out of Laos 60 days after a coalition is formed. They have no intention of doing so.

Question: Then will a coalition not be formed?

Kissinger: It will be formed, but the North Vietnamese won't leave. We are for a coalition government. There has been some progress recently and it could come to pass. We're encouraging it. The U.S. is no obstacle.

Question: Senator Jackson tied the Most Favored Nation matter to the issue of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union. Can we get Jackson to back off on this end and tie MFN to the MIA issue?

Kissinger: I've tried for a long time to back Jackson off the MFN Jewish issue. But it's also useless to tie the Soviets to the North Vietnamese on the MIA issue, because that would force the Soviets to say that they had bought MFN at the cost of their ally. In 1972 we promised MFN if we could bomb North Vietnam. We bombed and we ended the war on reasonable terms. Now, much later, when it is time to deliver, people raise a question which was never raised at the time.

Question: How successful do you think the Public Awareness campaign can be?

Kissinger: It is one of few cards, but its success chances are probably low. If in the course of this campaign you can avoid saying that the U.S. Government is negligent and stupid, that would be good for our morale.

Question: Could you use some of the pressures in Indochina which were effective in the Middle East on the POW/MIA issue.

Kissinger: There is no magic in negotiating. There was a reality in the Middle East -- we demonstrated that Soviet arms could not win a victory. This brought them up against us and they learned they could not overrun us in the Middle East. They need the United States for a political solution there.

Give us some cards in Vietnam and we can do something. In the Middle East we can influence Israel; we have more influence than the Soviets, despite all the Soviet arms. In North Vietnam, when we were bombing, we could do something. Now don't say that I urged you to get the bombing turned on again.

Question: If one POW was now found in North Vietnam, what would you do about it?

Kissinger: We'd go very far (to get him out).

Question: That raises the question of Emmet Kay in Laos.

Kissinger: He should be released, but we are hamstrung.

Question: We've heard he might be released in March.

Kissinger: I don't know.

Question: I just want you to know that we all have great respect for you. We also want to thank you for donating your Nobel Prize money to the POW/MIA children.

Kissinger: Thank you.

Question: What about the progress of the North Vietnamese/South Vietnamese prisoner exchanges?

Kissinger: The North Vietnamese finally moved recently because they wanted the 5,000 cadres who were released. This does not mark a general improvement in the situation. And it has no relation to the issue of U.S. MIA's.

Let me say that if you want to harrass a government on the MIA issue, you should write to the Swedes. It might do some good. Write to Olof Palme. Write often and keep it up. France might also help, but writing to the French won't do much good.

Question: What can the (League's Executive) Board tell the League's members about your comments today? It would be very helpful to communicate this.

Kissinger: In principle, I agree, but how should it be done?

Question: We would like to circulate a summary. Sven Kraemer is taking notes, can we work with him?

Kissinger: If Sven writes it, he would make it so blood-curdling that it will ruin me.

Question: You have been very pessimistic. You don't give us hope.

Kissinger: It is better to tell you the truth. Something might happen, but I just don't have much hope.

Question: Is there any tie in on the MIA issue and the political prisoners issue in South Vietnam?

Kissinger: Not much. And the North Vietnamese are likely to remain tough, but it's possible that some day the North Vietnamese may seek U.S. good will and be more accommodating. They might become worried about developments in the PRC for example.

Question: Thank you for meeting with us.

Questions Submitted to Secretary Kissinger - February 9, 1974

TO: DR.KISSINGER

FROM: THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES

1. Can you give us any information regarding the in-depth discussions re the MIA issue during your December meeting with Le Duc Tho?

2. Has there been any follow up on matters discussed?

3. Did the telegrams and messages have any effect on the discussions between you and Le Duc Tho?

4. What is the current state of development in negotiations with the Vietnamese to assist in the accounting? Any information on results of the 80 files which you took to Hanoi?

5. Have we formally requested that our teams be allowed in? To whom was the request made? When/ By whom? How often do we repeat the request?

6. Have you read the League statements made to the Senate Forwign Relations Committee on January 28th? Do you have any comments?

7. Any suggestions on programs that the League might undertake that would assist in getting the accounting?

8. What are your own personal beliefs as to the probability of an accounting at this time?

9. Are there hopeful signs in Laos indicating an accounting of our men there? Any information on release of Emmet Kay?

10. Congressman Gilman quoted Gen. Vang Pao that there were 8 to 10 American pilots being held in North Vietnam for their technical expertise. Would you see that this is examined closely asking Gen. Vang Pao to give precise information on who saw them, where, and under what conditions?

11. Do you feel that approaches already made to the Chinese have had any impact on the North Vietnamese? Are there other pressures that can be brought to bear upon Russia and China that would effect the accounting?

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
1608 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 628-6811

February 5, 1974

Mr. Frank Sieverts
Department of State, Room 7336
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Frank:

Following is a list of names you requested of those who will attend the meeting with Dr. Kissinger on Saturday, February 9, 1974 at 11:30 a.m.:

*Scott Albright, Executive Director
Father of Air Force officer - MIA/Laos 13 Dec 1968

*Iris Powers, Chairman of the Board
Mother of Army officer - MIA/SVN 2 April 1969

Robert A. Brett, Board Member
Father of Air Force officer- MIA/Laos 29 Sept 1972

*John B. Coker, Board Member
Father of Navy POW returned

*Maureen Dunn, Board Member
Wife of Navy officer - MIA/China 14 Feb 1968

Bertha Estes, Board Member
Mother of Navy officer - MIA/NVN 19 Nov 1967

Earl Hopper, Board Member
Father of Air Force officer - MIA/NVN 10 Jan 1968

George J. Creed, Board Member
Brother of Air Force officer - MIA/Laos 13 Mar 1971

Norma Mitchell, Board Member
Wife of Air Force officer - MIA/Laos 22 May 1968

*Nancy Perisho, Board Member
Mother of Navy officer - MIA/NVN 31 Dec 1967

Mitchell Sadler, Board Member
Father of Air Force officer - MIA/Laos 30 Jun 1970

Marian Shelton, Board Member
Wife of Air Force officer - MIA/Laos 19 April 1965

George Shine, Board Member
Father of Air Force officer - MIA/NVN or Laos 2 Dec 1972

Earlyne Thomas, Board Member
Wife of Air Force officer - MIA/NVN 18 Dec 1972

Edward H. White, Board Member
Father of Air Force officer - MIA/Laos 24 Nov 1969

E. C. Mills, Board Member
Father of Navy officer - MIA/NVN 21 Sept 1966

*Sara Frances Shay, Secretary-Treasurer
Mother of Air Force officer - MIA/Laos 8 Oct 1970

*Helene L. Knapp, Ex Officio Board Member
Wife of Air Force officer - MIA/NVN 24 April 1967

*Darlene Sadler, Ex Officio Board Member
Wife of Air Force officer - MIA/Laos 30 Jun 1970

*Evie Grubb
Wife of Air Force officer - POW (Died in Captivity)

Ann Hart, Regional Coordinator
Wife of Air Force officer - MIA/Laos 21 Dec 1972

Charles Havens, Legal Advisor to the National League of Families

Scott Albright

SCOTT ALBRIGHT
Executive Director

SA:mjh

# NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

| DOC MO | DOC DA | RECD MO | RECD DA | RECD HR | LOG NBR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 15 | 2 | 15 | 79 | 618 |

INITIAL ACTION O

**SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION**

TO: PRES _____ FROM: ~~ROGERS~~ Kissinger

KISSINGER _____ RICHARDSON _____

SCOWCROFT X SCHLESINGER _____

ELIOT _____

UNCLAS _____ LOU _____ C X S _____ TS _____

LOG IN/OUT ONLY _____

NO FORN _____ NODIS _____

EYES ONLY _____ EXDIS _____

CODEWORD _____

SENSITIVE _____

SUBJECT: Memcon of HAK mtg w/ members of Natl League of families on Feb 9 1974

REFERENCE: S/S _____ OTHER _____ NOT XEROXED _____

**DISTRIBUTION/INITIAL ACTION ASGMT**

| INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION | ACTION | INFO | REC CY FOR |
|---|---|---|---|
| ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/SCOWCROFT | | | |
| STAFF SECRETARY | | | |
| FAR EAST | | | |
| SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA | | | |
| MID EAST/NO. AFRICA/SO. ASIA | | | |
| EUROPE/CANADA | | | |
| LATIN AMERICA | | | |
| UNITED NATIONS | | | |
| ECONOMIC | | | |
| SCIENTIFIC | | | |
| NET ASSESSMENT GROUP | | | |
| PROGRAM ANALYSIS | | | |
| NSC PLANNING | | | |
| CONGRESSIONAL | | | X |
| OCEANS POLICY | | | |

ACTION REQUIRED

MEMO FOR HAK ..... ( )
MEMO FOR PRES. ..... ( )
REPLY FOR _____ ( )
APPROPRIATE ACTION ..... ( )
MEMO _____ TO _____ ..... ( )
RECOMMENDATIONS ..... ( )
JOINT MEMO ..... ( )
REFER TO _____ FOR: _____ ( )
ANY ACTION NECESSARY? ..... ( )
CONCURRENCE ..... ( )
DUE DATE:

COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)

IF NO ACTION, RETURN W/PROFILE FOR FILES. IF CONVENIENCE CY NEEDED, PLEASE INDICATE: ☐

**SUBSEQUENT ROUTING/ACTIONS**

| DATE | FROM | TO | S | SUBSEQUENT ACTION REQUIRED (OR TAKEN): | CY TO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2/15 | | Sig'ft | X | Decision (2/22) | |
| 2/25 | | | C | S'croft approved memcon | |

**NSC/S DISP INSTR**

DISPATCH _____ NOTIFY _____ & DATE _____

SPECIAL DISPOSITION) _____

OR RECORD COMMENT:) _____

CY RQMTS: SEE ABOVE PLUS: _____

FEB 27 1973

CROSS REF W/ _____ JOINED BY LOG # _____

SEE # _____ FOR FINAL ACTION & FILING.

SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: X

MICROFILM & FILE RQMTS:

M/F'D _____ BY _____

CYS FOR ) SA _____
ORIG ) HP _____
TO ) WH _____
) PA X
) SF _____
) NS _____
) EP _____
DESTROY) DY _____

* GPO: 1973-489-668

SA 99 B-188

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

INFORMATION

February 6, 1974

Thanks. B

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: SVEN KRAEMER SK

SUBJECT: Secretary Kissinger's Meeting with the National League of Families - February 9

Attached (Tab A) is a copy of a memorandum with talking points prepared by Frank Sieverts for use by Secretary Kissinger in Saturday's meeting with the National League of Families.

Please note that in the second paragraph of his memo Sieverts mentions favorably the League's hope that they might be able to see the President during such a meeting, just as they did last year after the POW's returned. Is there any chance that the President could briefly walk by?

Tab B, a list of League attendees, will be forwarded directly to us by the League on Friday when they know more precisely who will be coming. Tab C was not forwarded by Sieverts with this copy but consists of news clips reporting on the Fulbright Committee's recent POW hearings. Sieverts states that he earlier forwarded a separate report on these hearings to Secretary Kissinger.

Attachment

DF

To: The Secretary

From: D/PW - Frank A. Sieverts

Your Meeting With MIA Families
11:30 a.m., February 9

The officers and Board of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia look forward to meeting with you on the same off-the-record basis as in the past, in the Roosevelt Room at the White House, Saturday morning, February 9, at 11:30. A list of those coming is at Tab B, with stars by the names of those you have met before. The Director, Colonel Scott Albright, and Chairman, Mrs. Iris Powers, advise that there are several "dissident" members on the board who advocate actions such as the "vigil" at the White House January 27, which continues to date in the form of two camper vehicles circling the White House during daylight hours, with the stated purpose of requesting a meeting with the President. Although this demonstration was not organized by the League of Families, several of the board members participated in it, among them Mrs. Earlyne Thomas, whose picture was featured in the Washington Post coverage of the vigil and who will be present Saturday. (See news clips, Tab C.)

(In addition to meeting with you, the group would also deeply appreciate seeing the President, as they did last year after the POW's returned. If the President did this he would be meeting with representative families without responding directly to the demonstration and camper vehicles.)

Three MIA relatives who will be at the meeting testified at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing January 28: Col. Albright, Mrs. Dunn (husband missing in vicinity of China), and E. C. Mills (son missing in North Vietnam since 1966). Their testimony, which was warmly received by the Senators present, called for US Government efforts to press the Communist authorities for information on our missing men.

It should be noted that the families attending and testifying at that hearing are not entirely representative of the MIA population as a whole. From personal contact, I know there are many MIA relatives throughout the country who recognize that the chance of obtaining significant information is nil and who want an end to the uncertainty. The problem is complicated by legal action brought by five next-of-kin in Federal Court in New York, which since August has restrained the military services from declaring any men dead except at the petition of the primary next-of-kin. About 100 families have requested status reviews but the majority have taken no action, with the result that over 1,100 men are still in the missing status. There is no indication as to when or how the court will rule.

Most of the families you will see Saturday hope you will support their strong dedication to the search for the missing. A few (Col. Albright, Mrs. Powers, Mrs. Maerose Evans of California, and Charles Havens, the League's counsel) are working quietly to bring the League to an honorable conclusion soon. This group would be strengthened by words from you to the effect that, although our government will continue its efforts, we must be realistic and recognize (a) there is no evidence that any American servicemen lost prior to the Viet-Nam ceasefire survive, and (b) the chance of getting significant information on our missing is small, and no amount of "pressure" or publicity in this country is likely to change that situation anytime soon. I understand Ambassador Martin feels that continued emphasis on the MIA problem, in the Four Party Joint Military Team and in other channels, will be ineffective and may divert our energy from other important aspects of the Indochina situation.

Talking points and background information are at Tab A. Roger Shields from Defense, Sven Kraemer from the NSC, and I also plan to attend.

Attachments:

Tab A - Talking Points and Background Information
Tab B - List of Attendees
Tab C - News Clips

Drafted: D/PW:FASieverts:ijg
x29454 2/5/74
Concurrences:
EA - Mr. Stearns
DOD/ISA - Dr. Shields
EA/VN - Mr. Wenzel
NSC - Mr. Kraemer

cc: NSC - Gen. Scowcroft

TAB A

## TALKING POINTS AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Over 1,100 US servicemen plus 30 American civilians remain missing in Indochina. Another 1,200 are listed as killed, body not recovered.

Complete lists have been given to DRV and PRG delegations in Four Party Joint Military Team (FPJMT) in Saigon, and to LPF representatives in Laos.

Detailed information on specific cases also provided -- by you in Hanoi February, 1973, and through FPJMT in Saigon.

FPJMT continues to meet twice weekly, hamstrung by DRV/PRG refusal to come to grips with specifics of MIA accounting and return of remains. DRV/PRG have linked this to other subjects, such as release of civilian prisoners, ceasefire violations, resupply, liaison flights, etc.

Families hope especially to hear about your meeting with Le Duc Tho in December.

They may ask if you have asked Moscow and Peking to help -- on MIA's in Indochina.

Mrs. Dunn may ask about her husband and other MIA's in China.

Joint Casualty Resolution Center (JCRC) was ambushed south of Saigon December 15, with one American and one Vietnamese killed and several wounded. JCRC operations not suspended, although there have been no on-the-ground search efforts since that date.

In Laos, accounting for MIA's covered in February 21, 1973 Agreement and September 14 Protocol. US officials in close touch with LPF to press for implementation, which awaits formation of coalition government. (Vientiane reports Souvanna optimistic coalition may come into being in February.) Commission to implement the Agreement is already at work on other subjects.

Emmet Kay, US civilian captured in Laos May 7, 1973, is only confirmed US prisoner in Indochina. We are aware of

report from Gen. Vang Pao (MR 2, Laos) that "eight-ten young pilots" are still held by North Vietnamese. We have checked this report and it must be regarded as unsubstantiated.

Also aware of report from Walter Cronkite that up to ten journalists may still be held in Cambodia, including several Americans. No confirmation.

Our interest in MIA's is widely known in Indochina so we receive reports of uncertain reliability. To date, USG has no information that any of our men missing before the ceasefire continue to be held. North Vietnamese and Pathet Lao have told us privately and publicly they hold no more (besides Emmet Kay).

SA 99 B-189

STATEMENT ON MIAs FOR STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE

On January 27, one year shall have passed since the signing of the Paris Cease-Fire Agreement. As a result of that historic document, several things happened--our ground forces left Vietnam, mines were removed from North Vietnamese harbors and waterways, and almost 600 POWs came home after years of inprisonment. There are, however, several pieces of unfinished business that still face us and demand resolution:

1. There are still almost 1200 men still carried by this Government as POWs and Missing in Action who have not been accounted for. This accounting was promised by the North Vietnamese as a condition to our bombing halt.

2. The remains of the 55 men who were reported to have died in captivity have not been returned as promised.

These two facts mean that there are many American families who have been living for years in uncertainty--not knowing whether their husband or father or son or brother is alive or dead.

The situation is simply that the North Vietnamese have refused to live up to their promise to account for these men. Our teams that have been sent to Southeast Asia to search for these men and determine their status have not been allowed to visit North Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, or the Viet Cong controlled portion of South Vietnam.

During this past year, nearly all of the leverage which we had to inforce compliance with the peace agreement has disappeared. This government, however, cannot permit a signatory to a cease-fire to ignore such an agreement with impunity. Our citizens deserve the protection of this government. I am therefore asking the Congress to join with me and all Americans in an expression of determination to keep our promises to these men and their families that we will get a full accounting. Since there has been no cooperation on the part of the North Vietnamese since the return of the POWs, and no indication that their attitude is going to improve, I am requesting the Congress to authorize me, on a one-time basis, to demand

DF

positive progress in the accounting within the next 60 days or to take such actions, diplomatic or economic, as necessary to force the North Vietnamese to live up to the cease-fire agreement.

B-190 SA99

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

#41

GENERAL SCOWCROFT:

The attached, I hope, answers your query. I do not, at this point, recommend a belated reply from the President. Not knowing the background to your question, further correspondence may be required. If so, I would be glad to follow through.

41

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

INFORMATION

January 4, 1974

Thanks BS

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: Sven Kraemer SK

SUBJECT: National League of Families and VIVA Items

The following is provided in response to your request concerning Scott Albright's National League of Families correspondence of August 14, 1973.

The Albright letter, a copy of which is attached at Tab A, transmitted a series of League views--mostly critical--and recommendations concerning POW/MIA issues. At the time the letter was received and in the context of other communications from the League, it was thought that Secretary Kissinger would be meeting with the League in September and would, in behalf of the President, reassure the League's Executive Board as to the Administration's continuing concern and efforts in behalf of the MIAs. It was the strong consensus of Frank Sieverts, Roger Shields and myself that it would be far wiser to have Dr. Kissinger review the context of the issues and to state the Administration's case positively during such a meeting than to have still another "please be assured..." letter from an Administration official.

At this point, however, the arrangements for a League meeting with Dr. Kissinger were postponed to October, and then, with the Middle East war, an October meeting also proved impossible. In the interim, however, League Board members were in regular and friendly contact with Sieverts, Shields and myself and we informally discussed a number of the points raised in the Albright letter, with no pressure of any sort from the League for a formal, written answer. As a matter of fact, Albright, in a discussion with Sieverts, appears to have treated his letter's critiques as provocations to which he did not expect any official reply. In view of the above considerations and in view of the long delay, it was our continuing consensus

DF

in November that the letter should not receive a formal reply but that we should stay with our informal discussions and should await the next scheduled meeting between Secretary Kissinger and the League.

In this connection, Frank Sieverts has now informed me that the League has invited Secretary Kissinger to meet with its Board at some time during the period February 8 through 10, when it is having its next meeting. The League invitation apparently cited Secretary Kissinger's cancellations of meetings originally scheduled for September and October. I agree with Sieverts that it would be most appropriate for Secretary Kissinger to meet with the League at the proposed time. Sieverts is working with Dick Campbell to arrange such a meeting and we would expect to prepare substantive talking points for such a meeting on the issues raised in the League letter and in any subsequent League communications.

In a separate POW/MIA matter, concerning VIVA correspondence at Tab B, it is Sieverts' and my recommendation to Peter Burke (who is cited in VIVA correspondence as having promised an October meeting between Secretary Kissinger and VIVA) that he personally telephone VIVA to indicate to them that they misunderstood him, that the Secretary's schedule makes it impossible for him to meet with VIVA and that the Secretary will be meeting, as in the past, with the National League of Families, which represents most of the families of the MIAs.

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
1026 17th STREET, N.W. • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 (202) [illegible]

A

August 16, 1973

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the membership of the National League of Families, may I, first of all, thank you for your letter of July 27, 1973, expressing once again your firm resolve to assure the fullest possible accounting for the Americans still missing-in-action in Southeast Asia. We also appreciate the rapid work of your staff in preparing and dispatching the diplomatic note, strongly reminding the North Vietnamese of their obligations under the Paris Agreement.

Our just-concluded Fourth Annual Convention was a very busy and productive one. The families gave guidance to our Board of Directors in the form of a series of resolutions. Several of these resolutions should be brought to the attention of staff elements within the White House for whatever action may be necessary. The first resolution was answered, in part, by the text of the diplomatic note, however, I shall quote it here for your information and follow-on action as appropriate:

> "The League urges the President to press for additional information from the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam), the Pathet Lao, the Khymer Rouge and the Viet Cong, concerning all Americans who are still missing; that the case of each man carried in missing status be judged on an individual basis, and that where discrepancies exist, the Government of the United States will pursue every feasible avenue of investigation, and that where the information is conclusive as to the circumstances surrounding the incident, statuses be reviewed and changed in accordance with the preponderance of information."

The families expressed their displeasure at the official negative approach to the MIA issue:

> "The League strongly recommends that all United States Government officials (military and civilian) immediately cease using such phrases as:
>
> 'All POWs returned', 'We have no evidence of any POWs still alive in Southeast Asia', and 'Our involvement in Southeast Asia is over with',
>
> and speak instead in terms of the discrepancies in the accounting for our POW/MIAs."

[illegible] aid to North Vietnam.

"The League shall [illegible] a vigorous policy of [illegible] for reconstruction of [illegible] until the North Vietnamese [illegible] the U. S. Government in obtaining the return of all [illegible] the fullest possible accounting of all Americans [illegible] action in Southeast Asia."

The families expressed a strong desire to have a point of co[illegible] the Executive offices, thus the next resolution:

"The League requests that President Nixon appoint an ind[illegible] the White House Executive Staff level whose primary resp[illegible] will be to carry out the President's pledge for the compl[illegible] accounting of our missing men."

While General Kingston's presentation was appreciated by the [illegible] were deeply concerned over the fact that the authorities to enabl[illegible] Casualty Resolution Center to do its job had not been negotiated.

"The League is dissatisfied with the inactivity of the Un[illegible] Government and North Vietnam in providing the Joint Casua[illegible] Center the rights of over-flight and entry into all of So[illegible] The League demands that all efforts be exhausted to make [illegible] (the Governments of U. S., DRV, PRG, Pathet Lao and Khym[illegible] aware of the fact that American POW[illegible] must be released or [illegible] accounted for and the missing accou[illegible] for within six w[illegible]

Many of our families expressed their di[illegible]sure that our im[illegible] tions with the USSR and China have not had [illegible] impact on the mis[illegible] problem:

"The League strongly opposes the gr[illegible]ing of "most favor[illegible] status for trade with the United States to either Russia [illegible] until these two countries have assisted in bringing the [illegible] Southeast Asia to an end, and until they have demonstrat[illegible] insistence that North Vietnam must vigorously assist the [illegible] States in obtaining the fullest possible accounting of al[illegible] missing throughout Southeast Asia."

The families expressed their displeasure that the United Nat[illegible] nothing to help in this humanitarian effort, and felt that U. S. [illegible] support the UN should be reduced unless such is done:

"The League believes that the present U. S. role in the [illegible] is actually encouraging the United Nations' attitude of [illegible] toward the plight of missing Americans and their famili[illegible] believes that unless the United Nations is able to assu[illegible] accounting of MIAs in 90 days, our Government should re[illegible] its share of the United Nations Bud[illegible] to 7% which is e[illegible] of the population of all UN member [illegible]. The League [illegible] that such action is not merely an [illegible], but a legal [illegible] Covenant under Article I of the [illegible] Convention."

Mr. President, we respect [illegible] each of these resolutions, and [illegible] whatever action is contemplated.

Once again, we thank you for your [illegible] will not let us down in the future.

Respectfully,

SCO[illegible] SIGHT
Co[illegible] USAF (RET)
Di[illegible] Director

SA/rew

6585

VIVA VOICES IN VITAL AMERICA

*Dedicated to those who preserve our freedom, shall it forever endure.*

MADISON AVE., SUITE 706
YORK, N.Y. 10017
869-1428

20 November 1973

The Honorable Henry Kissinger
Secretary of State and Assistant to the President
Washington 25, DC

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed please find the letter which I had sent to Mr. Peter Burke on 25 September 1973 regarding your meeting with us to discuss the most urgent issue of the accounting of the Missing in Action in Southeast Asia. Mr. Burke had suggested that we meet during the second week of October to discuss the MIA situation which, as you know, is one that holds a priority within the minds and hearts of the families of the missing and the vast majority of the American people as well as VIVA.

We realize that your schedule is a very heavy one but on the same hand, this issue is a very timely one. With your approval, we would like to arrange a meeting within the next thirty days to discuss this so urgent a humantarian issue.

Please contact me at your earliest opportunity so that we can set a date for the meeting that will be most convenient for you.

On behalf of the returned Prisoners of War and the families of the missing, let me extend our sincerest thanks for your concern for the Missing in Action. I look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Very truly yours,

VIVA

John A. Franchi
Director of New York Operations

JAF/gr
enc.

VIVA VOICES IN VITAL AMERICA

Dedicated to those who preserve our freedom, shall it forever endure

35 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022
(212) 751-4050

25 September 1973

The Honorable Doctor Henry Kissinger
Secretary of State
Washington 25, DC

Attention: Peter Burke

Dear Mr. Burke:

It was an extreme pleasure speaking with you on the phone last Friday, 21 September.

I explained to the families Dr. Kissinger's reason for not being able to meet with them for any length of time and also your suggestion to arrange a meeting during the 2nd week of October to discuss with Dr. Kissinger the Missing in Action. The families were most pleased that a meeting can be arranged.

I would greatly appreciate your earliest response on a confirmation of date so that I can contact the families and make final arrangements.

Again, many thanks for your concern for the Missing in Action. Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain,

Very truly yours,

VIVA

John A. Franchi
Director

JAF/gr

# NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

| DOC MO | DOC DA | RECD MO | RECD DA | RECD HR | LOG NBR |
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INITIAL ACTION O

**SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION**

TO: PRES ____ FROM: ~~ROGERS~~ Kraemer

KISSINGER ____ RICHARDSON ____

SCOWCROFT ✓ SCHLESINGER ____

ELIOT ____

UNCLAS ✓ LOU ____ C ____ S ____ TS ____

LOG IN/OUT ONLY ____

NO FORN ____ EYES ONLY ____ CODEWORD ____ SENSITIVE ____

NODIS ____ EXDIS ____

SUBJECT: INFO Memo on Natl league of families & VIVA items & ltr from Scott Slaughter

REFERENCE: S/S ____ OTHER ____ NOT XEROXED ____

**DISTRIBUTION/INITIAL ACTION ASGMT**

| INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION | ACTION | INFO | REC CY FOR |
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| ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/SCOWCROFT | ■ | | |
| STAFF SECRETARY | | | |
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| SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA | | | |
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| NET ASSESSMENT GROUP | | | |
| PROGRAM ANALYSIS | | | |
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ACTION REQUIRED

MEMO FOR HAK ..... ( )
MEMO FOR PRES. ..... ( )
REPLY FOR ____ ( )
APPROPRIATE ACTION ..... ( )
MEMO ____ TO ____ ..... ( )
RECOMMENDATIONS ..... ( )
JOINT MEMO ..... ( )
REFER TO ____ FOR: ____ ( )
ANY ACTION NECESSARY? ..... ( )
CONCURRENCE ..... ( )
DUE DATE:

COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)

IF NO ACTION, RETURN W/PROFILE FOR FILES. IF CONVENIENCE CY NEEDED, PLEASE INDICATE: ☐

**SUBSEQUENT ROUTING/ACTIONS**

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**NSC/S DISP INSTR**

DISPATCH ____ NOTIFY ____ & DATE ____

SPECIAL DISPOSITION) ____

OR RECORD COMMENT:) ____

CY RQMTS: SEE ABOVE PLUS: ____

CROSS REF W/ 7304708 JOINED BY LOG # ____

SEE # ____ FOR FINAL ACTION & FILING.

SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: ✓

MICROFILM & FILE RQMTS:

M/F'D ____ BY ____

CYS FOR 16 JAN 1974

ORIG TO ) HP ____ ) WH ____ ) PA ✓ ) SF ____ ) NS ____ ) EP ____ DESTROY) DY ____

★ GPO: 1973-489-668

President:

[illegible] of the membership of the National League of Families, [illegible] thank you for your letter of July 27, 1973, [illegible] firm resolve to assure the fullest possible accounting [illegible] still missing-in-action in Southeast Asia. We also [illegible] work of your staff in preparing and dispatching the diplomatic [illegible] reminding the North Vietnamese of their obligations under [illegible]

[illegible]-concluded Fourth Annual Convention was a very busy and [illegible] the families gave guidance to our Board of Directors in the form of a [illegible] of resolutions. Several of these resolutions should be brought to the attention of staff elements within the White House for whatever [illegible] may be necessary. The first resolution was answered, in part, by the [illegible] of the diplomatic note, however, I shall quote it here for your [illegible] and follow-on action as appropriate:

"The League urges the President to press for additional information from the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam), the [illegible] Lao, the Khmer Rouge and the Viet Cong, concerning all [illegible] who are still missing; that the case of each man carried [illegible] status be judged on an individual basis, and that where [illegible] exists, the Government of the United States will pursue every avenue of investigation, and that where the information is [illegible] to the circumstances surrounding the incident, statuses be [illegible] changed in accordance with the preponderance of information."

Families expressed their displeasure at the official [illegible] the MIA issue:

"The League strongly recommends that all United States [illegible] officials (military and civilian) immediately cease using [illegible] 'All POWs returned', 'We have no evidence of any POWs [illegible] in Southeast Asia', and 'Our involvement in Southeast [illegible] over'.

[illegible] instead in terms of the discrepancies in the [illegible] POW/MIAs."

Best Copy Available

[illegible]

[illegible] of the [illegible]
[illegible] of our missing [illegible]

[illegible]

With [illegible] Kissinger's presentation [illegible]
[illegible] of conditions [illegible] the fact that [illegible]
[illegible] Hanoi has failed [illegible] to do its [illegible]

"The League is dissatisfied with the [illegible]
[illegible] and North Vietnam in [illegible]
[illegible] the rights of over-flight and [illegible]
The League demands that all efforts [illegible]
[illegible] Government of D. R. V. [illegible]
[illegible] of the fact that American POWs [illegible]
[illegible] accounted for and the missing accounted [illegible]

Many of our families expressed their displeasure [illegible]
[illegible] with the USSR and China have not had any [illegible]
[illegible]

"The League strongly opposes the granting [illegible]
[illegible] status for trade with the United States [illegible]
until these two countries have displayed [illegible]
[illegible] Asia to an end, and until they [illegible]
insistence that North Vietnam must [illegible]
[illegible] in obtaining the fullest possible [illegible]
[illegible] throughout Southeast Asia."

The families expressed their displeasure that [illegible]
[illegible] to this humanitarian effort, [illegible]
[illegible] the US should be rewarded military [illegible]

The League believed that the [illegible]
[illegible] accompanying the United [illegible]
[illegible] the rights of sharing [illegible]
[illegible] the United States [illegible]
[illegible] days, [illegible]
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Best Copy P.33.42

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SA 99 B-192

August 17, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: LEE HUEBNER

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

Attached is a minor modification suggested in the text. We think it is looking quite good.

The National League of Families has been urging that some reference to the MIA's be added, but I have not been able to find a way to insert it without destroying the symmetry of the text.

Would appreciate receiving copies of any further drafts.

Attachment

DF

The attacks on the American military have taken many forms, from [slandering] denigrating veterans of Vietnam [as misfits and drug addicts] to the constant attempts to slash our defense budget, strip away our strength, and reduce us to a second-rate military power.

Most recently, the attack has focused on one specific action, the bombing of North Vietnamese troops along the Cambodian border in 1969 and 1970. This action -- an action that saved countless American lives -- has been twisted and distorted by those who seek to discredit our armed forces and our purposes in Vietnam. Here and now, I intend to set the record straight.

* * * *

The allegations are that American airpower violated the neutrality of Cambodia in 1969 and that the action was taken furtively, in order to deceive the American people and the Congress.

These allegations are false.

What are the facts?

By 1969, North Vietnamese troops had overrun the entire border area of Cambodia and were using this occupied territory as a privileged sanctuary from which to attack American and allied troops in South Vietnam. The enemy concentrations were heaviest in a strip of territory about ten miles wide running along the border

SA 99 B-193

El - file
(Delivered by Gen Kingston to 11th Annual Conv. Sat 7/28/73 = National Alliance of Families)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 27, 1973

During the past year we have witnessed the long awaited return of our brave prisoners of war and shared with their families the joy of their homecoming. Our happiness has, however, been diminished by our grave concern for the 1,300 men who remain unaccounted for, and by the compassion we feel for their loved ones.

I understand that General Kingston will be with you on this occasion to report on the Joint Casualty Resolution Center and on the progress of its efforts to resolve the fate of our missing and to recover the remains of the gallant men who died on the battlegrounds of Southeast Asia. I want to reassure you that I have put the highest priority on this mission, and that we will not rest until its goals have been fully met. We have lived up to our part of the Paris Agreements and we intend to do everything in our power to insist that other parties abide by them to the fullest.

Mrs. Nixon joins me in welcoming you to our Nation's Capital. We sincerely hope that the task which you have so earnestly pressed forward will soon be accomplished and we pledge you our sustained support.

Richard Nixon

DF

SA 99 B-194

Cy sent to Chas Kissinger 1/3/73

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
1608 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 628-6811

1. Was the accounting of the missing a topic of discussion during your most recent meetings with Le Duc Tho? If so, how much time was spent on this particular problem, what promises, if any, were you able to exact; and what progress, if any, has since taken place?

2. Are the four-power military teams in Saigon currently making any efforts to break the deadlock that has developed with respect to a full accounting of our missing men?

3. What leverage do we have to stimulate additional action on their part? And on the part of the North Vietnamese (now that the mine removal has been completed).

4. What progress has been made with respect to the Cambodian and Laotian situations? And what is the earliest date that we can expect our inspection teams to gain admission to these areas? We know an independent request was made to the Pathet Lao.

5. At the time the Paris Agreement was being signed, and we were awaiting the list of U.S. prisoners "held in Laos" a number of U.S. officials indicated to us that they expected a far more substantial list of names than was ultimately received.

   a) what was the basis for this expectation?
   b) has the question been re-explored with Le Duc Tho?
   c) what is your personal opinion or knowledge concerning the possibility that Americans may still be held captive in Laos?

6. With respect to Cambodia, you had publicly commented that no U.S. citizens were held there? Is this still a valid belief?

DF

7. Several spokesmen for the U.S. Government, including Dr. Shields at Defense, Frank Sieverts at State, and General Kingston (who heads the Joint Casualty Resolution Center in Thailand) all have publicly stated that the United States has "no evidence that any of our missing men survived."

   a) is this negative approach to the MIA problem the official position of the President?

   b) if so, why? Would it not strengthen our position to make public statements to the effect that we have as yet been furnished no proof that any of our missing men are dead?

   c) if this negative approach is <u>not</u> the official position of the President, why have subordinate spokesmen not been given White House guidance to the contrary?

8. Although our returning POWs have related tales of torture and inhumane treatment at the hands of the DRV and the V.C., our Government has made no official protest concerning these and other violations of the Geneva Convention. Is it the policy of the President to remain mute on this vital matter?

9. We are familiar with the unsuccessful efforts of the four-power military team to obtain clearance for the exhumation of the remains of our men who died in North Vietnamese captivity, but why have other nations and our own countrymen not been publicly alerted to this failure by the DRV to honor its commitments? And why, at the highest levels, has no public attention been focused on other roadblocks that have developed in the accounting efforts? Why hasn't there been more progress?

10. Tomorrow marks the 6-month anniversary of the signing of the Paris agreement. Our Board strongly and unanimously feels that this would be an appropriate time for either you or President Nixon to make a strong public statement outlining major problems that have arisen concerning the accounting of the missing, with particular emphasis on:

a) the refusal of the other side to return our dead.

b) the refusal of the other side to provide information on men we know (from photographic and other evidence) to have been captured; but who were not returned and not accounted for, and

c) our inability to follow through with basic investigations and accounting procedures.

May we have your comment on the possibility of obtaining such a statement?

11. And now, would it be possible for each member of the Board who has remaining questions, to address one such question to you?

July
26
1973

SA 99 B-203

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 8, 1973

FOR: ANNE ARMSTRONG

FROM: STEPHEN BULL

General Scowcroft brought to my attention the letter to you from Harry Dent with regard to Colonel Collins, the Vietnam returnee. Although Col. Collins has not yet been formally notified, I wanted to advise you that we are planning to have Col. Collins and his "POW Chorus" perform the POW Hymn and "The Lord's Prayer" immediately following the invocation at the dinner. This will certainly give Col. Collins a great deal of visibility.

cc: Gen. B. Scowcroft

DF

May 3, 1973

Honorable Anne Armstrong
Counselor to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Anne:

Lieutenant Colonel J. Quincey Collins is a South Carolina boy who was a POW in Vietnam for 7 1/2 years. He is giving very serious consideration to running for the United States Senate from South Carolina in 1974, and we want him to do this very much. I recently had him meet with our State Party Chairman, George Bush, Fred Dent and Roger Milliken when they were all in South Carolina for a big Republican get-together. They were likewise impressed.

Collins will be attending the White House Reception for POW's on May 24 or whatever date this is to be held. It is important that two things happen: (1) that the President give him some special attention and (2) that Collins and a small group of POW's be permitted to sing a few songs for the President, songs they composed themselves on toilet paper while in captivity. I realize that someone will say that the program is all set as to how the President is going to entertain the POW's. However, the POW's want to entertain the President, and since this is their night at the White House, their special wish to sing for the President should be honored.

I understand there may be a POW from South Dakota who is considering running against George McGovern. George Bush has information on this. He should likewise get special attention.

You may recall that the President told George Bush these are the kind of people who should be recruited to make these races in 1974. Collins has been a tremendous hit as a speaker before civic groups across South Carolina. The idea of running him was brought to us by civic group leaders who have been so impressed with his convictions and his ability to articulate these convictions. The basic conviction he has is that America is turning too soft, and down here that hits better than anything I know.

His idea is to run a campaign based on these convictions and his determination to do something about this trend towards softness in America. As to his feelings as to Watergate or any other matter is concerned, he would be absolutely untouchable by Senator Hollings.

Senator Thurmond was out of the Country when Collins was here, but I am sending him a copy of this letter to you so he will be briefed on our plans for the Colonel. I am sure the Senator will go along with the idea.

I am preparing to leave on a trip around the world and will not be back until May 18, so I am leaving this good matter in your good hands.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

Harry S. Dent

HSD:nn

cc: Senator Strom Thurmond
✓Brigadier General Brent Scowcroft

SA 99

B-201

POW

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL #2585

May 10, 1973

MEMO FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: WILLIAM L. STEARMAN

SUBJECT: May 24 POW Program

I think it would be a good idea to invite those suggested in the attached State memo -- especially the foreigners who were very popular with our POW's. (I have no strong feels about the others.)

State needs a reply soon in order to make the necessary arrangements in time.

DF

S/S-7308405

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

May 8, 1973

UNCLASSIFIED

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HENRY A. KISSINGER
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: President's May 24 Program for POW's

The Secretary has asked me to convey his strong hope that the six non-US citizen returnees who were held and released with our men in North Vietnam can be invited to the President's May 24 dinner for our returned POW's. (A list of their names is attached.) We know from our returning men that these people conducted themselves with great character in captivity. The two Germans, for example, endured solitary confinement for their refusal to denounce US policy. The two Philippine employees of the Voice of America served as go-betweens for American POW's--at great personal risk. The two Canadians also comported themselves well in captivity. Tentative invitations have already been extended to the two Germans, and the Secretary strongly recommends that they at least, and preferably all six, be invited. This would be popular in the home countries and beneficial to US foreign policy interests.

The Secretary also thinks it would be good to expand the invitation list to include selected Members of Congress (especially those who supported the President's POW and Vietnam policy). In addition, he recommends that others who contributed to our POW efforts also be invited, such as Frank Borman, who visited eleven countries in 1970 as the President's Special Representative on POW's, and H. Ross Perot, who carried out wide-ranging POW efforts in 1969-71 and who is himself hosting two major parties for our returnees; and key State Department aides who worked on this subject. (A suggested list from which such invitations could be drawn is also attached.)

UNCLASSIFIED

The Secretary recognizes that the invitation list already stands at 1200 and that space is limited. However, he believes the importance of this occasion is such that it should be broadened to include Members of Congress and others who helped in our POW efforts through the years.

The Department has set aside the Eighth Floor Reception area for Mrs. Nixon's tea for the wives (and other female guests) and the West Auditorium for the President to meet during the afternoon with the men. We would appreciate knowing if the President wants State Department officials to join in the briefing.

Theodore L. Eliot, Jr.
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

Lists

RECOMMENDED LIST OF NON-US RETURNEES
TO BE INVITED TO MAY 24 POW DINNER

| Returnee | Nationality | Date of Capture |
|---|---|---|
| Miss Monika Schwinn | West German (Nurse) | April 27, 1969 |
| Mr. Bernhard Diehl | West German (Nurse) | April 27, 1969 |
| Mr. Candide Badua | Philippine (VOA) | Feb. 1, 1968 |
| Mr. Arturo M. Balagot | Philippine (VOA) | Feb. 1, 1968 |
| Mr. Marc Cayer | Canada (IVS) | Feb. 1, 1968 |
| Mr. Lloyd M. Oppel | Canada (missionary) | Oct. 27, 1972 |

All were released with US POW's
March, 1973.

(Invitations may be extended through State Department.)

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONS TO GUEST LIST
FOR MAY 24 POW DINNER

Government

Acting Secretary of State and Mrs. Kenneth Rush

Ambassador William H. Sullivan

Ambassador and Mrs. Graham Martin

Ambassador and Mrs. G. McMurtrie Godley

Administrator of AID and Mrs. John Hannah

Director of USIA and Mrs. James Keogh

State Department Deputy Legal Adviser
and Mrs. George H. Aldrich

State Department Special Assistant for
Prisoner of War Matters and
Mrs. Frank A. Sieverts

Non-Government

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Borman

Mr. and Mrs. H. Ross Perot

Ambassador and Mrs. Henry Cabot Lodge

# NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

| DOC | | RECD | | | LOG NBR | INITIAL ACTION O |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MO | DA | MO | DA | HR | | |
| 5 | 8 | 5 | 10 | 12 | 2585 | Stearman |

**SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION**

TO: PRES ____ KISSINGER X SCOWCROFT ____

FROM: ROGERS ____ RICHARDSON ____ SCHLESINGER ____ ELIOT X

UNCLAS X LOU ____ C ____ S ____ TS ____

LOG IN/OUT ONLY ____ NO FORN ____ EYES ONLY ____ CODEWORD ____ SENSITIVE ____ NODIS ____ EXDIS ____

SUBJECT: State Request for that the non-US POW Returnees be invited to May 24 POW Dinner

REFERENCE: S/S 7308405 OTHER ____ NOT XEROXED ____

**DISTRIBUTION/INITIAL ACTION ASGMT**

| INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION | ACTION | INFO | REC CY FOR |
|---|---|---|---|
| ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/SCOWCROFT | | | |
| STAFF SECRETARY | | X | |
| FAR EAST (STEARMAN) | X | | |
| SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA | | | |
| MID EAST / NO. AFRICA / SO. ASIA | | | |
| EUROPE / CANADA | | | |
| LATIN AMERICA | | | |
| UNITED NATIONS | | | |
| ECONOMIC | | | |
| SCIENTIFIC | | | |
| NET ASSESSMENT GROUP | | | |
| PROGRAM ANALYSIS | | | |
| NSC PLANNING | | | |
| CONGRESSIONAL | | | |
| OCEANS POLICY | | | |

ACTION REQUIRED

MEMO FOR HAK ..... ( )
MEMO FOR PRES. ..... ( X )
REPLY FOR ____ ( )
APPROPRIATE ACTION ..... ( )
MEMO ____ TO ____ ..... ( )
RECOMMENDATIONS ..... ( )
JOINT MEMO ..... ( )
REFER TO ____ FOR: ____ ( )
ANY ACTION NECESSARY? ..... ( )
CONCURRENCE ..... ( )
DUE DATE: 5/15

COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)

IF NO ACTION, RETURN W/PROFILE FOR FILES. IF CONVENIENCE CY NEEDED, PLEASE INDICATE: ☐

**SUBSEQUENT ROUTING/ACTIONS**

| DATE | FROM | TO | S | SUBSEQUENT ACTION REQUIRED (OR TAKEN): | CY TO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5-25 | NWS | NSC/S | | Original tabed to Scowcroft on May 10 – OBE now | |
| | | | | Stolen ; UNK | |

**NSC/S DISP INSTR**

DISPATCH ____ NOTIFY ____ & DATE ____
SPECIAL DISPOSITION) ____
OR RECORD COMMENT:) ____
CY RQMTS: SEE ABOVE PLUS: ____

CROSS REF W/ ____ JOINED BY LOG # ____

SEE # ____ FOR FINAL ACTION & FILING.

SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: ____

MAY 29 1973

MICROFILM & FILE RQMTS:

M/F'D ADC BY ____

CYS FOR ) SA ____
) HP ____
ORIG ) WH ____
) PA X
) SF ____
) NS ____
) EP ____
DESTROY) DY ____

★ GPO: 1973- 489-688

SA 99 B-200 (~~[illegible]~~)

POW

IMM
PRECEDENCE

UNCLAS
CLASSIFICATION

FROM: DAVID HOOPES
TO: GEN SCOWCROFT

INFO:

RELEASED BY: HB

FOR COMMCENTER USE ONLY

DAC _____ GPS _____
LDX 060 PAGES 16
TTY _____ CITE _____

DTG
240015Z

TOR: 240032Z

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY

DF

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 23, 1973
7:45 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR: BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM: DAVID C. HOOPES

SUBJECT: Remarks for POW Events

Steve said I should dex to you the Reception Remarks and the Toast Remarks, which are only a part of the 26+ pages of material which have been prepared by the writers, and which the President received this evening at 6:00 p.m. prior to his departure. The titles of all of the materials are listed below, and the materials I am sending you are noted:

-- Suggested Remarks: POW Reception at State Department*
-- Fact Sheet: Dinner Honoring POWs
-- Selected Quotes from Returning POW's
-- POW Vignettes
-- Suggested Remarks--Introductory Remarks Prior to Dinner
-- Suggested Remarks: Toast to POWs*
-- RN Anecdote from March 29 Speech *
-- Recommendations for the Toast*
-- Suggested Remarks: Introduction of Bob Hope
-- Introduction of Irving Berlin

*Indicates those materials dexed to you and attached herewith.

The writers, at General Haig's request, are now preparing several pages of additional Statements for the State Department Reception to incorporate some of the Norfolk Remarks. I will dex you a copy as soon as I receive it.

Thank you.

(Khachigian et al)DG May 23, 1973

SUGGESTED REMARKS: POW RECEPTION AT STATE DEPARTMENT

As you might know, Bill Rogers is out of town on a tour of Latin America. When I told him I would hold a reception for you at the State Department in his absence, he said, "That's fine, Mr. President, but is Henry coming too?" I didn't know what worried Bill until I found out that Henry made plans to use the Oval Office until I got back from this reception.

* * * * *

Tonight, I hope we will have the opportunity to enjoy ourselves socially, but let me be serious for a moment.

The pros and cons of how America became involved in Vietnam have been debated a thousand times. But, for today, I know I speak for all Americans when I say thank you to a very special band of men and a very special group of families. The story of your courage and love of country has helped to inspire and unite us all.

* * * * *

Some of you are aware, I know, of the very difficult decision I had to make last December. It was among the most difficult decisions of my Presidency. When we make decisions and when times are most difficult, we all seek a source of strength. I recall how you men looked to faith in God, and so did I. I recall how all of you looked to loyalty to your country's high principles, and so did I.

Purpose fair stand in Vietnam

I know too that you looked to comfort from your comrades.

Let me just add, that in those grave moments my thoughts often went to you and your families. I can assure you that there may have been times when you were alone and that I was alone -- but last December, your courage and the courage of your loved ones gave me a determination and hope that bridged the distance between us. I shall never forget that.

* * * * *

Few cherish peace more than the warrior, for he knows best the ravage of war. By your service and the service of millions of your comrades who gave their service, their wounds or their lives, you hastened the coming of the peace.

The question will be asked as it is of all wars and all trials in life: "Was it worth it -- those years out of my life?" History's answer is yes. Your sacrifice not only helped us to honor our pledge to the 17 million people of Vietnam but also to lay the foundation for a generation of peace. All free people will always be thankful for that legacy.

ask their help in the reconstruction & development of Indochina

* * * * *

Thoughts on Heroism

"Wars may cease, but the need for heroism shall not depart from the earth, while man remains man and evil exists to be redressed." Adm. Alfred Thayer Mahan -- 19th Century.

Justice Holmes once remarked that a hero touches all of us "with the contagion of his courage."

Tasks remaining
1. Show statistics, complete documentation
2. account for the missing
3. Contribute to rebuilding of development of Indochina
4. Maintain America strong

* * *

I need your support here as we handled it in Berlin the conflict.

(Khachigian) DG

TAB A
May 23, 1973

SUGGESTED REMARKS -- INTRODUCTORY REMARKS PRIOR TO DINNER

(Note: Following RN's welcoming remarks to the POWs before dinner, he will be introducing the POW Chaplain for an invocation. The POW Chaplain is Captain Charles R. Gillespie, USN. After the invocation Gillespie will introduce the POW Chorus to sing the POW Hymn. RN will probably want to allude to the POW Chorus before the invocation begins.)

I want you to know how proud we are to have you as our guests this evening. Pat and I may be your hosts for the evening, but I know grateful Americans everywhere throughout our great land are your true hosts tonight.

Your presence here is symbolic of the tribute American history pays to you, and to all those who served, fought, were wounded, killed for their country in the crucible of this difficult conflict.

My staff tells me this is the biggest dinner ever held at the White House. I think that is important because I can't think of a bigger or better occasion that could be held at the White House.

* * *

Someone told me about your housing facilities while you are in Washington. I think you would agree with me that it's a long way from the Hanoi Hilton to the Washington Hilton.

* * *

I hope no one objects to the fact that we are having an American menu this evening. I specifically ordered that there be no pumpkins, turnips or rice.

* * *

As you know, the American flag which flew over Clark Air Base on your first arrival is flying tonight over the White House. Just as that flag symbolized your return to Clark it is also a token tonight of how welcome you are in this home.

* * *

Just one more thing, I know that you gentlemen are more than familiar with the term "debriefing." You will notice that there are many fine domestic wines and champagnes on our menu tonight. Please do me a favor and don't bother to give any debriefings on this dinner tomorrow morning.

# # #

Thanks [illegible]

(Khachigian et. al.) DG May 23, 1973

SUGGESTED REMARKS: TOAST TO POWs

(Note: Brigadier General John Flynn, in responding to RN's toast, will express gratitude to RN, American people, and the services. He never lost faith in pledges of Commander in Chief. He may refer obliquely to December bombing.

During toast remarks, Flynn will introduce two junior officers who, with him, will present RN with a plaque in token of the POWs' esteem.

While in prison the POWs, on holidays, proposed toasts to RN as Commander in Chief. Flynn will explain that tradition and the toast will be offered in the same way that it was in prison.

It is now expected that RN will toast only the POWs. As a surprise, you may want to ask the POWs to rise in a second toast -- to their families and loved ones.)

* * *

Al Haig
Good

Before I begin, I know you will want to join me in a brief moment of silence in honor of your comrades who gave their lives, those who lie wounded, and those who have not yet been accounted for.

* * *

As we sang our National Anthem tonight, my thoughts drew back in history to another war and to a prisoner of war named Francis Scott Key. He wanted to know during his captivity whether the "Star

Spangled Banner" still waved "over the land of the free and the home of the brave."

We knew that the same question was in your minds throughout your long ordeal, and we did everything we could to let you know that the flag under which you had served was still flying high and would continue to for as long as it took to bring you home with your heads held high.

Because of your sacrifices and your heroism, Americans can salute our flag more proudly and feel the meaning of our Anthem more deeply than we ever have before.

Because you kept faith with America, America has gained new faith in itself.

* * *

RN ANECDOTE FROM MARCH 29 SPEECH

One of the most moving moments of my Presidency came this spring when I talked to a man who had spent almost 8 years in a Communist prison camp in North Vietnam. For over 4 years he was in solitary confinement. He lived on two meals a day, usually just a piece of bread, a bowl of soup. All he was given to read was Communist propaganda. All he could listen to was the Communist propaganda on radio.

I asked him how he was able to survive it and come home, standing tall and proud, saluting the American flag. He paused for a long time before he answered. And then he said, "It is difficult for me to answer. I am not very good at words. All I can say is that it was faith -- faith in God and faith in my country."

If men who suffered so much for America can have such faith, let us who have received so much from America renew our faith -- our faith in God, our faith in our country, and our faith in ourselves.

* * *

Throughout the long ordeal in Vietnam, all of us were gravely concerned about our prisoners of war.

Now that these valiant men have returned to our shores, along with two-and-one-half million of their comrades who also served in Vietnam, we must all become guardians of peace.

Through the efforts of the American serviceman in Vietnam, we are close to a goal that we have only been able to dream about for nearly 20 years: prosperity without war.

We must now wage the peace with the same determination and faith that we waged the war.

* * *

We not only honor you men tonight, because you know better than I that an equal drama played itself in our land. Your wives, children, parents, and all your friends and relatives underwent the most difficult personal ordeals in your absence. I know that as we honor you, you won't want us to forget the great words of the poet, Milton: "They also serve who only stand and wait." And I assure you that they, too, served with distinction and courage.

Good

* * *

~~The outstanding conduct of the vast majority of the prisoners during~~ this long and bitter ordeal ~~proves~~ has proved that the American fighting man today stands just as tall as the men who fought at Concord, at Gettysburg, at Guadalcanal and at Inchon. Long after the bitterness and controversy surrounding the political side of this conflict have been forgotten, the heroic conduct of the American fighting man in Vietnam will be remembered.

Good

* * *

(Khachigian)DC

May 23, 1973

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE TOAST

General Flynn:

Believes that the President's toast should be brief and that the POWs' presence that evening fully bespeaks RN's feelings towards them. He feels that an accolade would be almost redundant. The POWs, says Flynn, don't consider themselves unique, so that RN might say that the POWs are a symbol of what the services produced. He feels that the POWs are simply the results of fate's random selection. Since the services reflect the civilian population, the accolade ought to be to the services.

Admiral Stockdale:

Admiral Stockdale felt there were a number of points RN might consider. Stockdale believes that the POWs won a battle of their own in encouraging the North Vietnamese to improve their treatment. While RN was working effectively on the outside to obtain their freedom, the POWs were showing strength within the camps to undermine the North Vietnamese torture program.

From 1965 on, resistance began in an organized way. POWs operated as a military unit (later to be named the Fourth Allied POW Wing -- see fact sheet) to preserve the honor of the individuals and the U.S. One important impact of the Sontay mission was to cause the relocation of all the POWs into a central area, making organization and resistance more possible.

When the POWs were reduced to imprisonment without life's amenities, they gravitated to basic values: faith, loyalty to country and loyalty to the President. Stockdale also pointed out that some POWs were not in this chain of organization and references to it should not be all inclusive (i.e., collaborations).

Stockdale strongly believes some mention should be made of POWs dying during internment and the MIAs.

General Scowcroft:

RN should pursue the theme he has before: how proud we are, what an uplift there is to the national spirit, how the manner of their return ended the conflict on an upbeat -- with the POWs heads held high.

The conflict was larger than just Vietnam. We were there and played a role in such a way that our allies could have confidence in our reliability and our enemies would respect our integrity and willingness to stand.

Roger Shields (DOD Director, Project Homecoming):

Commend the families who were under the most difficult pressures -- they matched the sacrifices of their loved ones. They stood tall though they had the greatest right of anyone to ask for immediate return. Also mention the MIAs (the "unaccounted for") and those who died in imprisonment.

Bill Timmons:

Not the appropriate forum to criticize the Congress directly, but a line or two is necessary about not reducing defense funds -- same theme as in Norfolk. The U.S. is the only country which stands up and can be counted upon. We can't be weak.

Yes

Dick Moore:

Upbeat and straightforward.

Bill Baroody:

RN should broaden the focus to include all veterans. A good forum to designate a day in honor of all Vietnam veterans.

Yes

# # #

(Khachigian)DG May 23, 1973

SUPPLEMENTAL REMARKS: POW RECEPTION AT STATE DEPARTMENT

The easiest thing to do when peace is achieved is to turn inward; to be concerned only with ourselves; to let our guard down; to rest our inner resources.

That would be a tragic mistake because the greatest threats to peace can come when the threats appear to be least apparent.

You don't disband the fire department after the fire has been extinguished. And I assure you today, I am not going to preside over the dismantling of our national defense when the greatest promise for a generation of peace is still at hand.

* * *

Talking about peace is much easier than keeping the peace. Those who talk of peace do so by calling for reductions in the defense budget. Those who act for peace know that we can do so only when we have a strong national defense.

Those who talk of peace believe the world will become less belligerent if we simply do not talk belligerently. But those who act for peace know that we can't negotiate with words if we cannot act with more than words.

Those who talk of peace may believe that strength is a belliçose word, but those who act for peace know that strength is more than a word when negotiations are underway.

* * *

The cause in which you fought so well and sacrificed so much was the cause of peace. And that means not a phony peace, not a paper peace, not a temporary peace that would last a hundred days and then be ripped apart by the guns of renewed aggression.

You laid your lives on the line for a real peace, one that would last, so that the children of Indochina could grow up without violence and so that the children of the United States would not have to fight a new war springing up out of the ashes of this one a few years from now. That is why we are taking the steps now, through diplomacy and through strength, to see that Hanoi keeps the promises it made in Paris.

* * *

We want to reduce the burden of arms that has weighed so heavily on the world for so long -- but we want that reduction to be mutual as a result of negotiation, not unilateral as a result of wishful thinking.

* * *

Let's never send the President of the United States to the conference table as head of the second strongest nation in the world.

* * *

Admiral Nelson -- the great English hero -- died at the moment of his greatest triumph during the battle of Trafalgar. And his last words, as he fell to the deck of his ship, were these: "Thank God I have done my duty." Many of our comrades in arms did not live to see the peace for which they fought. But each member of this group can also say as he looks back on his service to the nation: "Thank God, I have done my duty."

# # #

SA 99 B-204

# PRESS
# DEPARTMENT OF STATE

March 27, 1973

No. 90

LIST OF CIVILIAN PRISONERS OF WAR
CAPTURED IN SOUTH VIET-NAM AND
RELEASED ON MARCH 27, 1973

| Name | Nationality | Date of Birth | Date of Capture |
|---|---|---|---|
| DAVES, Gary Lawrence<br>Mescalero, New Mexico | American | 12/16/42 | 2/3/68 |
| MEYER, Lewis Ernest<br>San Diego, California | American | 8/3/33 | 2/1/68 |
| OLSEN, Robert F.<br>Temple City, California | American | 9/17/38 | 2/2/68 |
| RUSHTON, Thomas, Jr.<br>New Bedford, Massachusetts | American | 10/10/34 | 2/2/68 |
| WILLIS, Charles Edward<br>Pocatello, Idaho | American | 2/28/26 | 1/31/68 |

* * * * * * * * *

DF

For further information contact:
D/PW - Mr. Frank Sieverts, 632-9454

# PRESS
# DEPARTMENT OF STATE

March 27, 1973

No. 91

LIST OF CIVILIAN PRISONERS OF WAR
CAPTURED IN LAOS AND
RELEASED ON MARCH 28, 1973

| Name | Nationality | Date of Birth | Date of Capture |
|---|---|---|---|
| BRACE, Ernest Cary<br>Superior, Arizona | American | 8/15/31 | 5/21/65 |
| MATTIX, Samuel Allen<br>Centralia, Washington | American | 12/6/52 | 10/28/72 |

* * * * * * * * *

SA 99 B-205

POW

~~ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL~~

MAR 9 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: BRUCE KEHRLI

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT (S)

SUBJECT: P-2286

Presidential Action Memorandum P-2286, dated February 26, 1973, requested an evaluation of a New York Times article on disputes and dissention in POW camps.

A check with the Pentagon reveals that this story was a greatly exaggerated report based upon unauthorized sources at Clark Air Force Base. DOD Public Affairs officers quickly moved to put the story down and there were no subsequent reports after the first day's run. Subsequent press interviews with POWs pointed out that while Americans would obviously express a variety of views even in captivity, there were no violent disputes such as the New York Times claimed.

We are satisfied that this story was adequately dealt with by DOD and that no further followup is necessary.

DF

~~ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL~~

LJ:nm:3/8/73

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

ADMINISTRATIVELY ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

March 8, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: LES JANKA

SUBJECT: Kehrligram on POW Story in Times

In the memo at Tab B, our attention is directed to a New York Times story about disputes and dissension in POW camps. It was requested that a study be made to determine the occasion of the story and if it is inaccurate, to discredit it.

Checks with Jerry Friedheim's office indicate that this story resulted from a bad case of overwriting from an unauthorized interview with a homecoming staff officer at Clark. Chappie James quickly put the story down in his talks with reporters here, and he was successful to the point that the story was not picked up again anywhere.

The suggested response from you to Kehrli at Tab A tells him the matter was taken care of to your satisfaction.

ADMINISTRATIVELY ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 26, 1973

ADMINISTRATIVELY ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: BRUCE KEHRLI BAK

SUBJECT: Times Story on POWs

The February 23 News Summary contained the following note:

-- All nets noted Times story of disputes, divisions over war in POW camps.

Referring to the above, it was requested that an evaluation of this Times' story be made and, if the paper is in error, it should be discredited.

You should follow up with the evaluation and work with Ron Ziegler and Bill Baroody to correct any errors found.

Please forward a report on actions taken to the Office of the Staff Secretary by March 6, 1973.

Thank you.

cc: H.R. Haldeman
Ron Ziegler
Bill Baroody

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dan S —
Your reference
next of Qs & As.
Ken

B-206

INVESTIGATIONS OF POW STATEMENTS

Question: With American prisoners home, will there be any investigation of the reported statements they made while in captivity against American policy?

Answer: My concern at the moment is the return of all of our prisoners and to insure the fullest possible accounting for all the missing. I don't think it is useful at this point to speculate about what might or might not have been said under conditions of severe stress. Suffice it to say that we are very proud of our POWs and the sacrifice they have made--as we are of all those who have honorably helped carry the burden of the defense of Vietnam.

DP

SA 99 B-207

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

HIGH PRIORITY

April 25, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: DAVID PARKER

SUBJECT: Ross Perot Dinner in Sanfrancisco April 27

Concerning the attached memo covering the phone call you had from Ross Perot, I suggest you advise him that a phone call will not be possible from the President on this occasion.

However, I think it is absolutely essential that a Presidential message be sent to this event and by copy of this memo I am so alerting Eliska Hasek and telling her that if she needs any additional information concerning the dinner, she should contact you.

DF

CC: Eliska Hasek

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 24, 1973

1973 APR 24 PM 1 49

NCD

absolutely prerogatial to send — pls work out with Eliska + Scowcroft

MEMORANDUM FOR: DAVE PARKER

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

Ross Perot has been in touch with me regarding a dinner he is giving in San Francisco on April 27.

He is inviting 80 of the military team which made the raid on the Son Tay prison, together with their wives, and a somewhat lesser number of ex-POW's who had been imprisoned at Son Tay. John Wayne and Glenn Ford are participating and other celebrities have been invited.

Perot ~~also~~ inquired, low-key, about the possibility of a Presidential phone call or message to the dinner. I told him I would look into the possibilities but made no commitment in any way.

I do not think a Presidential phone call would be a good idea but, depending on what the practice has been for similar occasions, I think a Presidential telegram to the dinner might be a nice gesture.

B-208

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 16, 1973

FOR: BRIG. GEN. BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM: STEPHEN BULL SB

RE: Calls to the President from POW Families

As you know I have been taking calls from wives and mothers of POWs that were intended for the President. We have been asked to compile a small list of those special wives, such as Sybil Stockdale, to whom the President might wish to speak should they call. Could you please prepare this list and send it to me so that it will be on hand.

For all calls from people other than those you list, I will take them. It would be helpful, particularly if the volume builds, for you to take some of these calls occasionally, particularly because of your previous dealings with some of these families.

Thank you.

DF

B-209

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

1 MAR 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Employment Opportunities for POWs

During our recent talks I mentioned employment opportunities for returning POWs who wished to leave active duty. This memorandum responds to your request for additional information concerning this subject.

An "Industry Committee on POW Employment" consisting of 16 major companies, corporations and associations, has pledged to find jobs for any returning POW who elects to leave the military service. The committee was developed by the Department of Defense from companies that participated in Job Information Fairs held in Europe and the Pacific area in 1972 for soon-to-be-veterans. Jim Oates was instrumental in promoting and personally participating in the Information Fairs which bring together representatives of participating firms and military personnel planning to leave service.

Each of the companies has additionally accepted the responsibility to perform a liaison function with the remainder of industry throughout the United States to insure that returnees choosing to leave the service will be offered multiple job opportunities thereby increasing the chances of being employed in the industry and geographical area of their choice. Job opportunities will be developed at every level by the industry representatives, matching the returnee's needs and ability. Where appropriate the returnee will be offered the opportunity to participate in a company sponsored training program to further qualify for a position. This is tantamount to assurance that they will be hired.

This committee of companies has also accepted the responsibility for representing industry at one or more of the 31 military hospitals where the returnees will be processed. The representatives will work through Department of Labor counselors, who also have been assigned to each of the hospitals, to determine the interest of returnees in employment and then to find each a job. A listing of companies and the hospitals for which they are responsible which make up the Industry Committee on POW Employment is attached.

DF

All of the hospitals also have representatives assigned from the Office of Education of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare for educational opportunities; the Veterans Administration for all benefits accrued to the individual; and the Small Business Administration for any returnee who desires to establish his own business. Additionally, points of contact have been established with the Office of Minority Business Enterprise of the Department of Commerce for minority returnees who want to establish their own business; and the U. S. Civil Service Commission for those who seek employment with the Federal Government.

Elliot L. Richardson

Attachment

MILITARY HOSPITALS WITH COMPANY/CORPORATION/ASSOCIATION RESPONSIBLE FOR FINDING EMPLOYMENT FOR RETURNEES

| Company | Hospital for Which Responsible |
|---|---|
| Exxon | Brooke Army Medical Center, Texas<br>Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center, Texas |
| IBM | Letterman General Hospital, California<br>Fitzsimons General Hospital, Colorado<br>Tripler General Hospital, Hawaii<br>David Grant USAF Medical Center, Travis AFB, Calif. |
| Western Electric | Valley Forge General Hospital, Pa. |
| Cummins Engine | Ireland Army Hospital, Fort Knox, Kentucky |
| General Electric | Patterson Army Hospital, Fort Monmouth, N.J.<br>USAF Regional Hospital, Maxwell AFB, Alabama<br>US Naval Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa. |
| Goodyear Tire & Rubber | US Army General Hospital, Ft. Gordon, Ga. |
| Xerox | Malcolm Grow USAF Medical Center, Andrews AFB, Md.<br>USAF Regional Hospital, March AFB, California |
| General Motors | USAF Regional Hospital, Sheppard AFB, Texas<br>US Naval Hospital, Great Lakes, Illinois |
| Travelers Insurance | USAF Regional Hospital, Westover AFB, Mass.<br>US Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, Va.<br>Chelsea Naval Hospital, Boston, Mass. |
| Bell System | USAF Medical Center, Scott AFB, Illinois<br>US Naval Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee<br>USAF Medical Center, Keesler AFB, Miss. |
| Firestone Tire & Rubber | USAF Medical Center, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio |
| Nat 'l Assn. of Home Builders | Oak Knoll Naval Hospital, Oakland, California<br>US Naval Hospital, Bethesda, Md. |
| United Parcel Service | Balboa Naval Hospital, San Diego, California<br>US Naval Hospital, Camp Pendleton, California |
| Int'l Assn. of Chiefs of Police | US Naval Hospital, Bremerton, Washington<br>US Naval Hospital, Camp Lejeune, N.C. |
| J.C. Penney | US Naval Hospital, Jacksonville, Fla. |
| Bankers Trust | St. Albans Naval Hospital, New York |

SA 99 B-210

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 28, 1973

ADMINISTRATIVELY ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. HENRY KISSINGER

FROM: BRUCE KEHRLI

SUBJECT: Izvestia on POWs

The February 27 News Summary contained the following note:

-- Izvestia accused DOD of brainwashing returned POWs and said they in turn brainwash the public. The Russ see a "kind of deal," w/DOD telling POWs their ranks were retained, salaries paid and publicity ensured, so "you are asked to do only 1 thing -- justify this war and start doing it at once...."

Referring to the above, it was noted that you should object to Dobrynin for this libellous attack by a government organization.

DP

cc: H.R. Haldeman

DARKEST COPIES

NA

Through end unreviewed

[illegible]

[illegible] BASE HOSPITAL BEFORE DEPARTING FOR THE [illegible]
[illegible] THE [illegible] WAS TO BE BRIEF. [illegible] AS LONG AS IT TOOK TO GET [illegible]
[illegible] MILITARY. FROM WHAT [illegible] DOCTORS [illegible]
[illegible] THE [illegible] SENT DOWN THE REPORTS [illegible]
[illegible] WHO [illegible] WILLING MARTYRS WERE [illegible] BALLING BANANA SPLITS
[illegible] DISCUSSIONS IN THE MILITARY [illegible]
[illegible] SYSTEMS--THE [illegible] WERE [illegible] ABOUT THE NEW BOOK, PUSHING [illegible].

[illegible] THE TELEVISION REPORTS WERE [illegible]
[illegible] FROM TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE NEAR SAN FRANCISCO, A BASE [illegible]
[illegible] THE [illegible] ACCUSTOMED TO RECEIVING ONLY
[illegible]-DEALER [illegible] FROM [illegible] PACIFIC. AND THERE ANOTHER
[illegible] AND [illegible] GENERAL [illegible] AT THE AIRCRAFT DOOR AS SMART
LIEUTENANT COLONELS, MAJORS, [illegible] AND SO FORTH IN ELEGANT
[illegible] UNIFORMS [illegible] OUT OF THE [illegible] LIKE CLOWNS
[illegible].

*

[illegible]

[illegible] LIEUTENANT COLONEL [illegible].

[illegible] 1968, [illegible] PEOPLE WERE [illegible] IN HIS [illegible] ENEMY. [illegible] LIEUTENANT COLONEL [illegible] YEARS' IMPRISONMENT, HE IS [illegible] THE [illegible] FROM THE DEFEATED BACHELOR [illegible] OF PRISON.

[illegible] AFFILIATE LIEUTENANT COLONEL PURCELL, [illegible] VIETNAM, [illegible] HIS AFFILIATE WITH LIEUTENANT [illegible] AND [illegible] AND SYMPATHIZED. THIS IS THE [illegible] PLACE. [illegible] THE SIGNIFICANCE [illegible] OF THE OPPTAGONS

5A99 B-211

## Release of American Prisoners

1. The release of American prisoners is an unconditional obligation of the ceasefire agreement. The Agreement clearly states that these prisoners of war are to be released at a rate no slower than the rate of troop withdrawals. We have now withdrawn over one-half of our forces. It is now time for the other side immediately to release the next group of US POW's to bring the total of all those released up to at least 50% of the total number scheduled for release.

2. The United States has scrupulously observed all the provisions of the Agreement including withdrawals and ceasefires.

3. The United States did not accept during the negotiation and will not accept now, the linking of the release of American prisoners to any other aspect of the Agreement.

4. The President has instructed the Secretary of State to demand clarification from the NVN delegation on a most urgent basis. He has instructed the Secretary to raise this subject with the North Vietnamese Foreign Minister as a matter of highest priority before other business is conducted at the conference.

DF

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 8, 1974

General

I have taken care of the clearance of the attendees (listed at Tab 1).

Bud

SA 99

B-212

493

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

INFORMATION

February 7, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: SVEN KRAEMER SK

SUBJECT: The National League of Families Meeting with Secretary Kissinger - February 9, 1974

Attached are two items relevant to Saturday's meeting: (1) the League's list of attendees (Tab B of the Sieverts' talking points memo forwarded to you earlier) and (2) possible additional talking points (for possible attachment to Tab A of the Sieverts' memo). These additional talking points are based on issues raised in the League's resolutions of last fall as forwarded in their letter of August 14 which is attached for your information.

attachments

DF

Note for White House Guards

The representatives of the National League of Families listed on the attached letter will be arriving by Air Force bus at the Southwest Gate at approximately 11:15 a.m. on Saturday, February 9, for an 11:30 a.m. meeting with Secretary Kissinger in the Roosevelt Room.

The League's Executive Board has warned that there may be attempts by dissident League members not on the attached list, to get into Saturday's White House meeting. The Board requests that the White House guards under no circumstances admit anyone not specified on the attached list, unless verifiably cleared previously by the Board as transmitted through the NSC.

The NSC requests the the following USG officials also be cleared for the 11:30 a.m. meeting:

Mr. Frank Sieverts, Department of State
Dr. Roger Shields, Department of Defense

Sven Kraemer, NSC
395-3543

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
1608 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 628-6811

February 5, 1974

Mr. Frank Sieverts
Department of State, Room 7336
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Frank:

Following is a list of names you requested of those who will attend the meeting with Dr. Kissinger on Saturday, February 9, 1974 at 11:30 a.m.:

*Scott Albright, Executive Director
Father of Air Force officer - MIA/Laos 13 Dec 1968

*Iris Powers, Chairman of the Board
Mother of Army officer - MIA/SVN 2 April 1969

Robert A. Brett, Board Member
Father of Air Force officer- MIA/Laos 29 Sept 1972

*John B. Coker, Board Member
Father of Navy POW returned

*Maureen Dunn, Board Member
Wife of Navy officer - MIA/China 14 Feb 1968

Bertha Estes, Board Member
Mother of Navy officer - MIA/NVN 19 Nov 1967

Earl Hopper, Board Member
Father of Air Force officer - MIA/NVN 10 Jan 1968

George J. Creed, Board Member
Brother of Air Force officer - MIA/Laos 13 Mar 1971

Norma Mitchell, Board Member
Wife of Air Force officer - MIA/Laos 22 May 1968

*Nancy Perisho, Board Member
Mother of Navy officer - MIA/NVN 31 Dec 1967

Mitchell Sadler, Board Member
Father of Air Force officer - MIA/Laos 30 Jun 1970

Marian Shelton, Board Member
Wife of Air Force officer - MIA/Laos 19 April 1965

George Shine, Board Member
Father of Air Force officer - MIA/NVN or Laos 2 Dec 1972

Earlyne Thomas, Board Member
Wife of Air Force officer - MIA/NVN 18 Dec 1972

Edward H. White, Board Member
Father of Air Force officer - MIA/Laos 24 Nov 1969

E. C. Mills, Board Member
Father of Navy officer - MIA/NVN 21 Sept 1966

*Sara Frances Shay, Secretary-Treasurer
Mother of Air Force officer - MIA/Laos 8 Oct 1970

*Helene L. Knapp, Ex Officio Board Member
Wife of Air Force officer - MIA/NVN 24 April 1967

*Darlene Sadler, Ex Officio Board Member
Wife of Air Force officer - MIA/Laos 30 Jun 1970

*Evie Grubb
Wife of Air Force officer - POW (Died in Captivity)

Ann Hart, Regional Coordinator
Wife of Air Force officer - MIA/Laos 21 Dec 1972

Charles Havens, Legal Advisor to the National League of Families

Scott Albright

SCOTT ALBRIGHT
Executive Director

SA:mjh

Other Issues

Among the issues which may be raised at this meeting are a number of items proposed at the League's convention last summer and reflected in subsequent League correspondence. Such League proposals include the following: (1) Administration officials should point to the accounting discrepancies rather than saying that "all POW's have been returned;" (2) the President should appoint an individual in the White House Executive Staff with a primary responsibility for MIA accounting; (3) the U. S. should not grant most-favored- nation status to the USSR or the PRC until the Communist super-powers have demonstrated their insistance that the DRV vigorously assist U. S. efforts to secure a full accounting of the MIA's throughout SEA and (4) unless the United Nations is able to secure an acceptable MIA accounting in 90 days, the U. S. share of the UN budget should be reduced to 7% (our share of the population of all UN member states.

We recommend that you respond to these proposals by reaffirming that the President and every member of the Administration remain committed to seeking the fullest possible accounting of all the men and that the White House and the Departments of State and Defense have, through a great variety of means, endeavored to make this clear to our public, the Congress, the media and the families while the Administration's diplomatic efforts have also continued vis-a-vis every appropriate party including the DRV, the USSR and the PRC.

SH 99 B-213

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 6, 1973

MEETING WITH CAPTAIN JAMES B. STOCKDALE, U.S.N.

Monday, April 9, 1973
3:30 p.m. (30 minutes)
Oval Office

From: General Scowcroft

I. PURPOSE

To meet privately with a senior Vietnam POW returnee.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS PLAN

A. Background: Captain James Bond Stockdale, U.S.N., the senior naval officer among the prisoners of war was shot down on September 9, 1965 while on a bombing mission over North Vietnam. Subjected to torture while in prison and an acknowledged leader among his fellow prisoners, Captain Stockdale has been outspoken in his strong support for his country and his President. His wife Sybil was a co-founder and leader of the National League of Families of POWs/MIAs in Southeast Asia and as such was a consistent supporter of the Administration's policies.

B. Participants: Captain James Stockdale, U.S.N. and General Scowcroft. (Additional biographical information is provided on attached sheet.) (Tab A)

C. Press Plan: Ollie Atkins photo only. Meeting not to be announced.

DF

III. TALKING POINTS

1. Congratulations on your release and welcome home. I also congratulate you for having been selected for promotion to Rear Admiral.

2. I wanted personally to express my admiration for the courage and dedication with which you bore such severe hardships while a POW. I would like to thank you personally for your words of support since your return.

3. You have set a magnificent example and I and all Americans are tremendously proud of you and your fellow prisoners and families. You have all sacrificed so much and during all of these difficult years you kept faith with your country.

4. Please tell your wife Sybil, in my behalf, that I am deeply appreciative of her special efforts as a responsible leader of the National League of Families and as a consistent supporter of the Administration's policies.

5. Your steadfastness and courage, your support of our efforts to achieve peace with honor in Vietnam, contributed greatly to the achievement of an honorable peace.

6. I want you to know, and to assure you, that we will insist -- and Hanoi and its allies fully understand this -- on the full accounting and release of every single one of our men who served, every one of our men missing or held prisoner throughout Indochina.

7. We are now seeking to learn about our men and we hope that more will return. We will not forget them and we will leave no stone unturned in their behalf.

8. I look forward to meeting you and your family as well as all of the other returnees at the White House on May 24.

## CAPTAIN JAMES B. STOCKDALE

(U. S. Navy)

James Bond Stockdale, the senior naval officer among the prisoners of war, was shot down September 9, 1965, while on a bombing mission over North Vietnam. He was flying an A-4 and was Commander of the Attack Carrier Air Wing 16, operating from the USS ORISKANY.

He was born December 23, 1923 in Abingdon, Illinois. Captain Stockdale graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1946 and received a master's degree in Foreign Affairs from Stanford University, Stanford, California in 1962. He served aboard the subchaser PCS-1392; at the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, Maryland; and in squadrons based at Norfolk, Virginia and in California.

Captain Stockdale's wife Sybil lives in Coronado, California, with their four sons. He was selected for promotion to Rear Admiral.

SA 99 B-214

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 6, 1973

MEETING WITH BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN P. FLYNN

Monday, April 9, 1973
5:00 p.m. (30 minutes)
Oval Office

From: General Scowcroft

I. PURPOSE

To meet privately with a senior Vietnam POW returnee.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS PLAN

A. Background: Brigadier General John P. Flynn, U.S.A.F. was shot down while on a combat mission over North Vietnam on October 27, 1967. A leader among his fellow prisoners, he has made statements strongly supportive of your policies since his return.

B. Participants: Brigadier General John P. Flynn, U.S.A.F. and General Scowcroft. (Additional biographical information is provided on attached sheet.) (Tab A)

C. Press Plan: Ollie Atkins photo only. Meeting not to be announced.

DF

III. TALKING POINTS

1. Congratulations on your release and welcome home, and congratulations on your well deserved promotion on April 6 to Brigadier General.

2. I wanted personally to express my admiration for the courage and dedication with which you bore such severe hardships while a POW. I would like to thank you personally for your words of support since your return.

3. You have set a magnificent example and I and all Americans are tremendously proud of you and your fellow prisoners and families. You have all sacrificed so much and during all of these difficult years you kept faith with your country.

4. Your steadfastness and courage, your support of our efforts to achieve peace with honor in Vietnam, contributed greatly to the achievement of an honorable peace.

5. I want you to know, and to assure you, that we will insist -- and Hanoi and its allies fully understand this -- on the full accounting and release of every single one of our men who served, every one of our men missing or held prisoner throughout Indochina.

6. We are now seeking to learn about our men and we hope that more will return. We will not forget them and we will leave no stone unturned in their behalf.

7. I look forward to meeting you and your family as well as all of the other returnees at the White House on May 24.

## BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN P. FLYNN- U.S.A.F.

Brigadier General Flynn was born on July 17, 1922 in Cleveland, Ohio. He attended George Washington University, Washington, D.C., receiving his MA Degree in 1964. Entering the Army Air Corps on February 18, 1943, his service included 18 combat missions during World War II and 113 combat missions in Korea, in addition to numberous other assignments until his assignment in Southeast Asia on July 24, 1967. He was assigned to 388 Tactical Fighter Wing, Korat Air Base, Thailand, when his F-105 aircraft was hit by a surface-to-air missile on October 27, 1967, while on a mission over North Vietnam. He was subsequently captured and interned by the North Vietnamese.

Brigadier General Flynn and his wife Mary have three children. They live in Shalimar, Florida. He was promoted to Brigadier General on April 6, 1973.

### Statement by Brigadier General Flynn at Keesler Air Force Base March 17, 1973

"I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the courage and the integrity of our President. We knew that he was faced with tremendously difficult decisions such as the bombing of Hanoi and we supported those decisions. And he is in our prayers, daily. And I'd also like to tell you about our men. Our men were magnificent."

SA 99 B-217

~~1153~~
URGENT ACTION

MEMORANDUM

March 5, 1973

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: SVEN KRAEMER SK

SUBJECT: President's Meeting with POW Returnees Jeffrey and Singleton - March 6, 1973

Attached at Tab A are suggested talking points and background information for use by the President in his meeting scheduled for March 6, 1973 with the two POW returnees, Major Jeffrey and Captain Singleton, and their wives.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you provide the President with the attached talking points for his meeting with Jeffrey and Singleton.

DF

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ GDS

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 5, 1973

MEETING WITH POW RETURNEES JEFFREY AND SINGLETON

Tuesday, March 6, 1973
10:00 a.m. (10 minutes)
EOB Office

From: General Scowcroft

I. PURPOSE

To greet informally the first Vietnam POW returnees to tour the White House to our knowledge.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS PLAN

A. Background: At the request of Congressman Olin Teague, a special White House tour was arranged for these two POW returnees and their wives. Even though there are plans for an event to honor all the POW returnees, it is suggested that you meet informally with these officers and their wives. Such a meeting would protect against press criticism that they had been at the White House but that the President did not take the time to see them.

B. Participants: Major Robert D. Jeffrey and his wife Emery, Captain Jerry A. Singleton and his wife Barbara, and General Scowcroft. Both returnees are Air Force officers, both were shot down over North Vietnam late in 1965 and both were returned to U.S. control on February 12, 1973. Both wives at one point visited Paris to plead the POW/MIA case with the North Vietnamese representatives and both couples reside in Dallas, Texas. (Additional biographical information is provided on attached sheet.)

C. Press Plan: Allie Atkins photo only. Meeting not to be announced.

III. TALKING POINTS

1. I wanted to take this opportunity, when you are visiting my home, the White House, to welcome you here and to welcome you home to America.

2. I and all Americans are tremendously proud of you and your fellow prisoners and families who sacrificed so much and who, during all these years, kept the faith with their country.

3. Your steadfastness and courage, your support of our efforts to achieve peace with honor in Vietnam contributed greatly to the achievement of an honorable peace.

4. I want you to know that we will insist -- and Hanoi and its allies fully understand this -- on full accounting and release of every one of our men who are missing or held prisoner throughout Indochina.

5. We know that more men will be released in the days ahead, and I look forward to meeting with all of our returning men and their families at some point in the future.

## CAPTAIN JERRY A. SINGLETON

Captain Singleton was born on March 20, 1940, in Weatherford, Oklahoma. He graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy and was commissioned a second lieutenant in June 1962. Upon leaving the Academy, Captain Singleton entered helicopter pilot training. He was assigned to the 38th Air Rescue Squadron, Takhli AB, Thailand on October 4, 1965. While on a search and rescue mission over North Vietnam on November 6, 1965, his helicopter was downed by hostile fire, and he was captured and interned by the North Vietnamese. Captain Singleton was listed as missing in action until January 17, 1967, when information was received which changed his status to captured. He returned to United States control on February 12, 1973. He and his wife, Barbara J., have one son and reside in Dallas, Texas.

## MAJOR ROBERT D. JEFFREY

Major Jeffrey was born July 23, 1939, in Los Angeles, California. He graduated from Northrop Institute of Technology, Inglewood, California in 1959 and entered the Air Force January 25, 1960. Then a captain, Major Jeffrey was assigned to the 433rd Tactical Fighter Squadron, Ubon Air Field, Thailand, on December 16, 1965. Four days later, his F-4C aircraft was hit by enemy ground fire while on an operational mission over North Vietnam. He was listed as missing in action until January 17, 1967, when information was received which changed his status to captured. He was returned to United States control on February 12, 1973. Major Jeffrey and his wife, Emery J., reside with their son in Dallas, Texas.

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FROM OFF PET OF

# NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

| DOC MO | DOC DA | RECD MO | RECD DA | RECD HR | LOG NBR | INITIAL ACTION O |
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**SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION**

TO: PRES ____ FROM: ~~ROGERS~~ Haldeman X ____ UNCLAS ____ LOG IN/OUT ONLY ____

KISSINGER ____ RICHARDSON ____ LOU ____ NO FORN ____ NODIS ____

SCOWCROFT X SCHLESINGER ____ C X EYES ONLY ____ EXDIS ____

ELIOT ____ S ____ CODEWORD ____

TS SENSITIVE ____

SUBJECT: Talks Pres Meeting w/ First POWs returnees to Visit W.H.

REFERENCE: S/S ____ OTHER ____ NOT XEROXED ____

**DISTRIBUTION/INITIAL ACTION ASGMT**

| INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION | ACTION | INFO | REC CY FOR |
|---|---|---|---|
| ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/SCOWCROFT | | | |
| STAFF SECRETARY | | | |
| FAR EAST | | | |
| SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA | | | |
| MID EAST / NO. AFRICA / SO. ASIA | | | |
| EUROPE / CANADA | | | |
| LATIN AMERICA | | | |
| UNITED NATIONS | | | |
| ECONOMIC | | | |
| SCIENTIFIC | | | |
| NET ASSESSMENT GROUP | | | |
| PROGRAM ANALYSIS | | | |
| NSC PLANNING | | | |
| CONGRESSIONAL | | | |
| OCEANS POLICY | | | |

ACTION REQUIRED

MEMO FOR HAK ..... ( )
MEMO FOR PRES. ..... ( )
REPLY FOR ____ ( )
APPROPRIATE ACTION ..... ( )
MEMO ____ TO ____ ..... ( )
RECOMMENDATIONS ..... ( )
JOINT MEMO ..... ( )
REFER TO ____ FOR: ____ ( )
ANY ACTION NECESSARY? ..... ( )
CONCURRENCE ..... ( )
DUE DATE:

COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)

IF NO ACTION, RETURN W/PROFILE FOR FILES. IF CONVENIENCE CY NEEDED, PLEASE INDICATE: ☐

**SUBSEQUENT ROUTING/ACTIONS**

| DATE | FROM | TO | S | SUBSEQUENT ACTION REQUIRED (OR TAKEN): | CY TO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3/6 | Hold | Scowcroft | X | ~~[illegible]~~ Pres for info (3/6) | |
| MAR 6 1973 | ~~[illegible]~~ | Pres | C/P | Info | |
| 4/02 | | | C | Noted by Pres/orig retained in WH | |
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**NSC/S DISP INSTR**

DISPATCH ____ NOTIFY ____ & DATE ____

SPECIAL DISPOSITION) ____

OR RECORD COMMENT:) ____

CY RQMTS: SEE ABOVE PLUS: ____

CROSS REF W/ ____ JOINED BY LOG # ____

SEE # ____ FOR FINAL ACTION & FILING.

SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: ✓

MICROFILM & FILE RQMTS:

M/F'D ~~[illegible]~~ BY ____

CYS FOR ) SA ____
) HP ____
ORIG ) WH ____
TO ) PA ✓
) SS ____
) NS ____
) EP ____
DESTROY) DY ____

APR 06 1973

* GPO: 1973-489-668

SA 99 B-221

**ACTION**

~~SECRET~~ Feb. 23, 1973

MEMO FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: WINSTON LORD

Attached for your signature is a memo to Admiral Murphy transmitting the Chinese report on Lt. Dunn. You said that you would call Murphy and explain verbally as well that despite these facts, Mrs. Dunn does not want the case of her husband closed.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That you call Murphy and dispatch Tab A.

~~SECRET~~

DF

~~SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM FOR

Rear Admiral Daniel J. Murphy
Military Assistant to the
Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT: Lt. Joseph P. Dunn, USNR

When he was in Peking, Dr. Kissinger raised the question of Lt. Joseph Dunn, who has been missing in action since February 14, 1968. Attached is the Chinese aide memoire on this case which reconfirms earlier information held by the U.S. Government. Dr. Kissinger and I have both spoken to Mrs. Dunn and given her the facts of the aide memoire. Both the Chinese text and an unofficial translation are enclosed.

Brent Scowcroft
Brigadier General, U.S. Air Force

Attachments

BS:WL:ms:2/23/73
~~SECRET~~

# 备　忘　录

关于美国飞行员约瑟夫·邓恩的下落问题，中国方面查阅了过去的记录，情况如下：

一九六八年二月十四日上午十时四十一分，中国方面在海南岛地区上空，曾击落、击伤侵入中国领空的美国飞机各一架。被击落的A—1H型美国飞机掉落在距海南岛万宁县海岸约十一浬（约二十公里）的海面上。中国海军护卫艇当时奉命在该地区搜索三、四天之多，但未找到任何东西。

一九六八年三月五日，中国方面在华沙大使级会谈中就上述美国飞机入侵事件向美国方面提出严重抗议。同年三月六日、六月十九日美国方面通过同一渠道查询被击落的美国飞机的飞行员邓恩的下落。中国方面于十一月十五日答以无可奉告。

现经再次向中国有关当局了解，仍无有关邓恩下落的任何材料。

# AIDE MEMOIRE

With respect to the question of the downing of the American pilot, Joseph Dunn, the Chinese side has examined its past records and the circumstances are as follows:

At 10:41 a.m. on February 14, 1968 the Chinese side brought down an American aircraft which had intruded into China's territorial airspace in the area of Hainan Island. The downed American aircraft, an A-1H, fell into the sea about 11 miles (approximately 20 kilometers) from the coastline of Hainan Island's Wan-ning Hsien [county]. Chinese naval security vessels at that time searched the said area under orders for over 3-4 days, but found nothing.

On March 5, 1968 during the Warsaw Ambassadorial-level talks, the Chinese side issued a serious protest to the U.S. side over the aforesaid intrusion by the American aircraft. The same year, on March 6 and on June 19 the U.S. side passed on requests for an investigation of the status of the pilot of the downed American aircraft, Dunn. On November 5 the Chinese side replied that there was nothing to report.

We have again asked the responsible Chinese authorities for what they may know, and as before there are no materials [there is no information] concerning the downing of Dunn.

SA 99 B-222

Gen S - FYI
(Sven Kraemer is watching this for us.)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 20, 1973

ADMINISTRATIVELY ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. PAT BUCHANAN

FROM: BRUCE KEHRLI

SUBJECT: POW Returnees' Statements

The President reviewed the attached compilation of POW Returnees' Statements and noted that you might want to compile the best "one liners" on support of country, flag and President.

One example that was mentioned was the POW who said something to the effect that "glad we came back on our feet rather than on our knees".

Ann Morgan is working with the NSC to update the compilation of statements by POW's as they come out. The next batch will go into his weekend reading and you might want to include the "one liners" at that point.

cc: Brig. General Scowcroft
Ann Morgan

DF



SA 99

MEMORANDUM

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

ADMINISTRATIVELY ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

March 17, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE STAFF SECRETARY

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

SUBJECT: P-2309 - POW Returnees' Statements

Presidential Action Memo P-2309, dated March 10, 1973, requested a collection of POW returnees' statements for review by the President. Accordingly, we have prepared at Tab A a brief compendium of the strongest such statements received to date. As additional statements are made we will, from time to time, supplement this compendium with the new material.

ADMINISTRATIVELY ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

# U.S. POW RETURNEE STATEMENTS

Captain Jeremiah A. Denton Jr., USN
Clark Air Force Base
February 13, 1973

"We are honored to have the opportunity to serve our country, under difficult circumstances. We are profoundly grateful to our Commander-in-Chief, and to our nation for this day. God bless America."

Colonel Robinson Risner, USAF
Clark Air Force Base
February 13, 1973

"It's almost too wonderful to express on behalf of all the other men who have been prisoners. I would like to thank you all. I would like to thank our President and the American people for bringing us home to freedom again. Thank you ever so much."

Captain James A. Mulligan, Jr., USN
Clark Air Force Base
February 13, 1973

"It has been our privilege to serve you Americans these many years and during this time our faith in our God, our country and in our families has never wavered. Today I'd like to thank the President of the United States, the people of the United States and our families for maintaining their faith with us and making this wonderful day possible. Thank you very much."

Colonel James H. Kasler, USAF
Clark Air Force Base
March 4, 1973

"We went to Vietnam to do a job that had to be done. And, we were willing to stay until that job was complete. We wanted to come home, but we wanted to come home with honor. President Nixon has brought us home with honor. God bless those Americans who supported our President during this long ordeal. We know better than any citizen has ever known how great it is to be an American. It's good to be home."

Lt. Colonel Alan L. Brunstrom, USAF
Travis Air Force Base
March 1, 1973

"For all of us up there we felt very proud of our country, we were very grateful to our President, and to the American people and that is not the kind of words that people put into your mouth. That came from the hearts of everyone."

Captain David F. Gray, Jr., USAF
Maxwell Air Force Base
March 7, 1973

"A loving God made me an American and to America I return. A loving President preserved my honor and with honor I return. A loving wife waited with strong heart and to her I return. Thank you, Heavenly Father. Thank you, President Nixon. Thank you, Lynda. Thank you, America."

Captain William P. Lawrence, USN
Naval Hospital, Memphis
March 7, 1973

"It is impossible for me to find the words to describe our feelings as we reunite with our families after a separation of six and more years. But during those years we never lost our hope, and our spirit was never diminished, because we knew that our great nation led by our great President would never rest until every POW was free. And I would like to assure you that every POW is eternally grateful for the magnificent effort which was performed by the U. S. public in their behalf. And though we three today have finally realized our hopes and dreams of so many years, we will continue to pray for those brave Americans who are still in captivity and until they are finally reunited with their loved ones. We are very proud today to be American fighting men returning home in honor and dignity. And we know far better than anyone else what a great privilege it is to be an American and to live in the United States."

Captain Harry T. Jenkins, USN
Naval Hospital, San Diego, California
February 23, 1973

"I haven't changed my mind nor do I think I stayed there in vain. I think we came out of there with honor. I heard someone say we didn't go there just to get released, we went there for a purpose and I'm in hopes that purpose was served to each his own.

***

"Our society is supposed to be governed by the will of the majority. I am a little disgruntled that what I believe has been described as the small minority has seen fit to loudly oppose this majority ruling once it has been made. I think they have every right to express their opinion, but I think once this majority decision has been made that they've done nothing but hinder the mechanism that has been set in motion. I do not consider my time as having been in vain there at all even more so after I have come home and seen the welcome and have been informed of the prayers and thoughts and support of what has also been described as the 'silent majority.'"

Lt. Commander Ralph Gaither
Navy Hospital, Jacksonville, Florida
February 28, 1973

"We are military men, we're military motivated toward fighting for our country, we fought for our country, we did it honorably. I believe each man in the United States has an obligation to serve his country from the time he is born. Whatever our President decides to do in reference to law is up to him.

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"I would like to make one comment if I might, that is that I realize the importance of our governmental agencies in effecting our release and peace in Vietnam. However, I personally feel that there is an immeasurable dept which I owe -- which we all owe-- to the American public in general, because I believe that our President could not have achieved his goals had it not been for the support of the people in our country."

Colonel Gordon A. Larsen, USAF
Clark Air Force Base
March 7, 1973

Question: "How do you feel about your experience and your imprisonment in the war? Do you think, the way things have turned out, it was worthwhile for you?"

Answer: "There was never a doubt. We went there to do something and we did it, along with a lot of other people. I've been surprised at some comments, I've read from some others, but we have won a fantastic victory against Communism and those who do not know it, in my estimation, are ignorant. They simply do not know what is going on. It's a fantastic victory and I'm proud to be part of it. And if I had to do exactly what I did, I would do it again happily and with no grudge. And if it means spending another six and a half years, it would be after my first 55 missions began. As I say, I have absolutely no regrets: I have no apprehensions about the outlook. We were going to go home complete victors, and that's the way I feel that we are going home."

Lt. Colonel Armand J. Myers
Lackland Air Force Base, Texas
February 28, 1973

"Wherever I looked I saw signs saying 'welcome home' 'we love you' and the smiles, the cheers, and those delightful kisses left no doubt it was genuine. But in a deeper sense I think what the people are really saying is 'we love America.'

"I'm told that the prisoner issue is one of the few things in recent years on which the entire country was united. I think that we POWs, through some sort of transference, have become a symbol of that unity we would like to see in America once more -- the unity we had before this was precipitated so many diverging view points on what the role of America should be. I am proud of the part I had in the fight against Communism. And the past seven years have convinced me more than ever of the need to continue the fight, preferably by peaceful means."

Colonel William D. Burroughs, USAF
Clark Air Force Base, Philippines
February 6, 1973

"I spent a lot of time in prayer. I spent a lot of time in thinking of what would sustain me and what was necessary, and the sustenance had to come from inside but it had to be real, based on something real. I had two things that I fell back on personally, and that was trust in my country and faith in God."

Colonel Ronald E. Byrne, Jr., USAF
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
March 3, 1973

Question: "What was your guiding light?"

Answer: "Mine was faith. Faith in God, faith in my family faith in my country, faith in the leaders of our great land. I said before one time that this faith was justified, and it really was."

Colonel Gordon A. Larson, USAF
Clark Air Force Base
March 4, 1973

"We now know what freedom really is and how great that role was that we left so many years ago. It was our faith in God, our country and our families that sustained us through these long years. We are overjoyed to be here. On behalf of all of us, God bless you all."

Colonel Normal C. Gaddis, USAF
Clark Air Force Base
March 4, 1973

"During our incarceration, we kept faith in the divine providence, in our nation and in our fellow prisoners.

Lt. Commander Paul Galanti
Portsmouth Naval Hospital
February 28, 1973

Question: "Are you 100 percent satisfied with the way the Nixon Administration handled the war? The release of the prisoners and so forth?"

Answer: "Yes."

Question: "Can you expand on that?"

Answer: "From what I've been able to see, I was just fantastically impressed with the courage that President Nixon displayed in an election year, reopening the bombing war against North Vietnam and I strongly feel that had it not been for such a powerful decision that it might still be dragging out for years."

***

Question: "Do you feel that the divisiveness over the war here at home prolonged the war? What do you think of the divisiveness?"

Answer: "Commander Mulligan, Captain Mulligan, excuse me, expressed that better than I ever could the other day. We could not understand over there where we just Americans like everybody else once a week we would get up and say the Pledge of Allegiance; we could not understand how people could be so unpatriotic as to condemn the Government in time of war and like Captain Mulligan said, and I think it's a beautiful phrase -- I think it's time we start raising flags instead of burning them."

Colonel John Flynn, USAF
Clark Air Force Base
March 14, 1973

"This is the most exciting moment for all of us here. I would just like to state simply that as a group, we have been priviledged to serve our country under difficult circumstances. We would also like to thank our President, the services and the people of the United States for the effort and lives that have been expended in our behalf. I would like to particularily acknowledge the courage and integrity of our President. We knew that he must have been faced with many difficult decisions and circumstances, such as the bombing of Hanoi. He held our support and our prayers, always, and we knew about the efforts of millions of American people. We knew about the bumper stickers, we knew about the silences in football games, we knew about the buttons on the lapels. It sustained us. It had a tremendous impact on our morale. We never lost faith in our country. And finally, I would like to say that I have been in better places, but I have never been with better people. Our men performed magnificently. They were first class soldiers. They were first class citizens and they asked me to thank you for your support and to say, 'God Bless', to all of you."

SA 99 B-223 1446

March 16, 1973

Secretariat:

If this is in the system, let me know & I'll return folder.

Louise

1446

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

March 10, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: WILLIAM L. STEARMAN WLS

SUBJECT: Increased Meetings of PW Sub-Committee

Presently the FPJMC PW Sub-Committee meets only every other day. This, as we will soon see, can cause delays in effecting POW releases and does not provide sufficient time for a discussion of the MIA question. There will only be another 8 or 9 meetings before the FPJMC disbands and these will probably be mostly devoted to POW releases.

DOD has been reluctant to do anything about this. I believe we should press for daily meetings of the Sub-Committee for the reasons listed above.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you ask DOD to recommend to General Woodward that he try to get the FPJMC PW Sub-Committee to meet every day -- or at least more frequently than every other day.

Done

DF



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ GDS

# NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

| DOC MO | DOC DA | RECD MO | RECD DA | RECD HR | LOG NBR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 10 | 3 | 16 | 17 | 1446 |

INITIAL ACTION O

**SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION**

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KISSINGER ____ RICHARDSON ____ LOU ____ EYES ONLY ____ EXDIS ____

SCOWCROFT X SCHLESINGER ____ C X CODEWORD ____

ELIOT ____ S ____ SENSITIVE ____

TS ____

SUBJECT: Increased mtgs of PW Sub-committee

REFERENCE: S/S ____ OTHER ____ NOT XEROXED ____

**DISTRIBUTION/INITIAL ACTION ASGMT**

| INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION | ACTION | INFO | REC CY FOR |
|---|---|---|---|
| ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/SCOWCROFT | ■ | | |
| STAFF SECRETARY | | | |
| FAR EAST | | | X |
| SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA | | | |
| MID EAST/NO. AFRICA/SO. ASIA | | | |
| EUROPE/CANADA | | | |
| LATIN AMERICA | | | |
| UNITED NATIONS | | | |
| ECONOMIC | | | |
| SCIENTIFIC | | | |
| NET ASSESSMENT GROUP | | | |
| PROGRAM ANALYSIS | | | |
| NSC PLANNING | | | |
| CONGRESSIONAL | | | |
| OCEANS POLICY | | | |

ACTION REQUIRED

MEMO FOR HAK ..... ( )
MEMO FOR PRES. ..... ( )
REPLY FOR ____ ( )
APPROPRIATE ACTION ..... ( )
MEMO ____ TO ____ ..... ( )
RECOMMENDATIONS ..... ( )
JOINT MEMO ..... ( )
REFER TO ____ FOR: ____ ( )
ANY ACTION NECESSARY? ..... ( )
CONCURRENCE ..... ( )
DUE DATE:

COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)

IF NO ACTION, RETURN W/PROFILE FOR FILES. IF CONVENIENCE CY NEEDED, PLEASE INDICATE: ☐

**SUBSEQUENT ROUTING/ACTIONS**

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**NSC/S DISP INSTR**

DISPATCH ____ NOTIFY ____ & DATE ____

SPECIAL DISPOSITION) ____

OR RECORD COMMENT:) ____

CY RQMTS: SEE ABOVE PLUS: ____

CROSS REF W/ ____ JOINED BY LOG # ____

SEE # ____ FOR FINAL ACTION & FILING.

SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: ____

MICROFILM & FILE RQMTS:

M/F'D ____ BY ____

CYS FOR ) SA ____
) HP ____
ORIG ) WH ____
TO ) PA ____
) SF ____
) NS ____
) EP ____
DESTROY) DY ____

MAR 19 1973

* GPO: 1973-489-668

SA99 B-226

MEMORANDUM

OPE

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

843

INFORMATION

~~SECRET~~

February 21, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. KISSINGER

FROM: JOHN H. HOLDRIDGE

SUBJECT: Phasing of Withdrawals and POW Releases

So far we have withdrawn about 40% of the U.S. troops present in South Vietnam at the time of the cease-fire. The Koreans have already withdrawn about 45% of their forces.

On the other hand, only 28% of the U.S. military and civilian prisoners scheduled for release have actually been freed.

We might want to suggest to DOD that troop withdrawals be brought more closely into phase with POW releases -- allowing, of course, for the next scheduled release of U.S. POW's.

DF

~~SECRET~~

GDS by Auth John Holdridge

843

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Date: March 12, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR John Holdridge

FROM: DICK CAMPBELL

Is the attached memo OBE? If not, please update and resubmit for HAK's info.

OBE

# NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

| DOC | | RECD | | | LOG NBR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MO | DA | MO | DA | HR | |
| 2 | 21 | 2 | 21 | 77 | 843 |

INITIAL ACTION O

**SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION**

TO: PRES ✓ FROM: ROGERS
KISSINGER
SCOWCROFT
RICHARDSON
SCHLESINGER
~~ELIOT~~ Eldridge

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EYES ONLY
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EXDIS

SUBJECT: Phasing of Withdrawals and POW Releases — Vietnam

REFERENCE: S/S OTHER NOT XEROXED

**DISTRIBUTION/INITIAL ACTION ASGMT**

| INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION | ACTION | INFO | REC CY FOR |
|---|---|---|---|
| ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/SCOWCROFT | | | |
| STAFF SECRETARY | | | |
| FAR EAST | | | |
| SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA | | | |
| MID EAST / NO. AFRICA / SO. ASIA | | | |
| EUROPE / CANADA | | | |
| LATIN AMERICA | | | |
| UNITED NATIONS | | | |
| ECONOMIC | | | |
| SCIENTIFIC | | | |
| NET ASSESSMENT GROUP | | | |
| PROGRAM ANALYSIS | | | |
| NSC PLANNING | | | |
| CONGRESSIONAL | | | |
| OCEANS-POLICY | | | |

ACTION REQUIRED
MEMO FOR HAK ( )
MEMO FOR PRES. ( )
REPLY FOR ( )
APPROPRIATE ACTION ( )
MEMO TO ( )
RECOMMENDATIONS ( )
JOINT MEMO ( )
REFER TO FOR: ( )
ANY ACTION NECESSARY? ( )
CONCURRENCE ( )
DUE DATE:

COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)

IF NO ACTION, RETURN W/PROFILE FOR FILES. IF CONVENIENCE CY NEEDED, PLEASE INDICATE: ☐

**SUBSEQUENT ROUTING/ACTIONS**

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| 2/21 | | HAK | C/X | [illegible] | |
| 3/12 | | Hall | S | To the OBE 3/15 | |
| 3/12 | | | | OBE/L per JGH | |

**NSC/S DISP INSTR**

DISPATCH NOTIFY & DATE
SPECIAL DISPOSITION)
OR RECORD COMMENT:)
CY RQMTS: SEE ABOVE PLUS:

CROSS REF W/ JOINED BY LOG #

SEE # FOR FINAL ACTION & FILING.

SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: ✓

MICROFILM & FILE RQMTS:
M/F'D BY
CYS FOR ) SA
) HP
ORIG WH
TO ) JA
) SF
) NS
) EP
DESTROY) DY

MAR 15 1973

★ GPO: 1973-489-668

SA 99 B-227

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 14, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: BRUCE KEHRLI

FROM: LES JANKA

SUBJECT: POW Statements

Attached is an excellent statement made by a returning POW at Clark AFB last night.

You will want to add it to the package we sent to you earlier today.

Colonel Flynn is the senior POW held by the Communists and was the "camp commander" for our POW's in North Vietnam

DF

Colonel John Flynn, USAF
Clark Air Force Base
March 14, 1973

"This is the most exciting moment for all of us here. I would just like to state simply that as a group, we have been priviledged to serve our country under difficult circumstances. We would also like to thank our President, the services and the people of the United States for the effort and lives that have been expended in our behalf. I would like to particularily acknowledge the courage and integrity of our President. We knew that he must have been faced with many difficult decisions and circumstances, such as the bombing of Hanoi. He held our support and our prayers, always, and we knew about the efforts of millions of American people. We knew about the bumper stickers, we knew about the silences in football games, we knew about the buttons on the lapels. It sustained us. It had a tremendous impact on our morale. We never lost faith in our country. And finally, I would like to say that I have been in better places, but I have never been with better people. Our men performed magnificently. They were first class soldiers. They were first class citizens and they asked me to thank you for your support and to say, 'God Bless', to all of you."

SA 99 B-228

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

ADMINISTRATIVELY ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

March 14, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE STAFF SECRETARY

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

SUBJECT: P-2309 - POW Returnees' Statements

Presidential Action Memo P-2309 dated March 10, 1973, requested a collection of POW returnees' statements for review by the President. Accordingly, we have prepared at Tab A a brief compendium citing examples of such statements, many of which express support for the Administration's policies in Vietnam.

DF

ADMINISTRATIVELY ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

# U.S. POW RETURNEE STATEMENTS

Captain Jeremiah A. Denton Jr., USN
Clark Air Force Base
February 13, 1973

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February 13, 1973

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March 4, 1973

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Clark Air Force Base
March 7, 1973

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February 6, 1973

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March 3, 1973

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Clark Air Force Base
March 4, 1973

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March 4, 1973

"During our incarceration, we kept faith in the divine providence, in our nation and in our fellow prisoners.

Lt. Commander Paul Galanti
Portsmouth Naval Hospital
February 28, 1973

Question: "Are you 100 percent satisfied with the way the Nixon Administration handled the war? The release of the prisoners and so forth?"

Answer: "Yes."

Question: "Can you expand on that?"

Answer: "From what I've been able to see, I was just fantastically impressed with the courage that President Nixon displayed in an election year, reopening the bombing war against North Vietnam and I strongly feel that had it not been for such a powerful decision that it might still be dragging out for years."

***

Question: "Do you feel that the divisiveness over the war here at home prolonged the war? What do you think of the divisiveness?"

Answer: "Commander Mulligan, Captain Mulligan, excuse me, expressed that better than I ever could the other day. We could not understand over there where we just Americans like everybody else once a week we would get up and say the Pledge of Allegiance; we could not understand how people could be so unpatriotic as to condemn the Government in time of war and like Captain Mulligan said, and I think it's a beautiful phrase -- I think it's time we start raising flags instead of burning them."

MEMORANDUM

ACTION

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

March 13, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

THROUGH: LES JANKA

FROM: SVEN KRAEMER SK

SUBJECT: POW Returnees' Statements

The brief compendium of POW returnees' statements attached at Tab A is provided for your use in responding to Bruce Kehrli's request for such samples for the President's reading. A cover memorandum to Bruce Kehrli is attached at Tab I.

I have garnered these examples from our office collection of press conference transcripts. I am sure that, if desired, more such statements could be discovered in the many other transcripts held by the POW people in the Pentagon.

Recommendation:

That you sign the memorandum to Bruce Kehrli at Tab I, forwarding the collection of POW statements attached at Tab A.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 10, 1973

ADMINISTRATIVELY ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: BRUCE KEHRLI BAK

SUBJECT: POW Statements

The President requested that you pull together a list of the best POW statements on the Administration's policies.

You will probably want to work with Dick Howard on this project, as I know he has some information in this area.

Please forward the list, including the statements and the name of the POW making the statement, by March 14 - close of business.

cc: H.R. Haldeman
Dick Howard

SA 99 B-230

Ed - File
1 Case Lad

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

URGENT ACTION

March 10, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: SVEN KRAEMER

SUBJECT: President's Meeting with POW Returnee Colonel Risner - March 12, 1973

Attached at Tab A are suggested talking points and background information for use by the President in his meeting scheduled for March 12, 1973 with POW returnee Colonel Robinson Risner, U.S.A.F.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you provide the President with the attached talking points for his meeting with Colonel Risner.

DF

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 10, 1973

MEETING WITH COLONEL ROBINSON RISNER, U.S.A.F.

Monday, March 12, 1973
3:00 p.m. (30 minutes)
Oval Office

From: General Scowcroft

I. PURPOSE

To meet informally with a senior Vietnam POW returnee.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS PLAN

A. Background: Colonel Robinson Risner, U.S.A.F., who was shot down over North Vietnam in September 1965, was the senior officer of the second plane-load of U.S. POW returnees to arrive at Clark AFB. At Clark and in subsequent statements, he has been outspoken in his support of his President and his country. Risner was put under unusually strong pressure by the Communists while in prison and was forced to make anti-war statements at that time. Colonel Risner's sister, Mrs. Allen Bernett, has written you a warm letter of support. (The letter is attached.) Even though there are plans for an event to honor all the POW returnees in the future, it is suggested that you meet informally with Colonel Risner.

B. Participants: Colonel Robinson ("Robbie") Risner, U.S.A.F., and General Scowcroft. Colonel Risner's wife, Kathleen, and his five sons reside in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. (Additional biographical information is provided on attached sheet.)

C. Press Plan: Allie Atkins photo only. Meeting not to be announced.

III. TALKING POINTS

1. Welcome to the White House and welcome home to America.

2. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you personally for your eloquent statement of support at Clark AFB and for your subsequent statements as well. I know what special pressures you were under while you were held prisoner. You have set a magnificent example and I very much appreciate your words of support.

3. I and all Americans are tremendously proud of you and your fellow prisoners and families who sacrificed so much and who, during all these difficult years, kept the faith with their country.

4. Your steadfastness and courage, your support of our efforts to achieve peace with honor in Vietnam, contributed greatly to the achievement of an honorable peace.

5. I want you to know that we will insist -- and Hanoi and its allies fully understand this -- on the full accounting and release of every one of your brothers who have served, every one of our men who are missing or held prisoner throughout Indochina.

6. We know that more men will be released in the days ahead, and I look forward to meeting with all of our returning men and their families at some point in the future.

## COLONEL ROBINSON RISNER

(U.S. Air Force)

Colonel Risner was born January 16, 1925 in Mammoth Springs, Arizona. He graduated from Central High School, Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1942. He served as a pilot during World War II and was recalled to active duty February 16, 1951 during the Korean War. He has served in numerous assignments and was serving as Commander of the 67th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Kadena AB, Okinawa, when his unit was placed on temporary duty to Southeast Asia. The unit was at Korat AB, Thailand, when his F-105D aircraft was shot down by hostile fire during a combat mission over North Vietnam on September 16, 1965. He was subsequently captured and interned by the North Vietnamese. His wife Kathleen and his five sons reside in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

### Statement by Colonel Risner Upon Arriving at Clark AFB - February 13, 1973

"It's almost too wonderful to express on behalf of all the other men who have been prisoners. I would like to thank you all. I would like to thank our President and the American people for bringing us home to freedom again. Thank you ever so much."

Filed — Letter of Col. Robbie Risner

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MS

POWs
ause

Tulsa Okla
Feb 25, 1973

Office of the White House
The President of the U.S.
Richard M. Nixon.

Dear Mr. President:
I just wanted to express my gratitude along with hundreds of others, for your dauntless courage, your stick-to-itiveness, your patience, most of all, your plain old American patraitism, which is so hard to find among our peers today. My prayers are with you Mr. President, and will be until all our boys are out of Viet Nam or accounted for. I know how one such as P.O.W. Col. Risner's sister. I have spent many hours in prayer for him and for guidance for you. His Name is Col. Robbie Risner. I'm sending a clipping out of the Tulsa World. I've also a key [illegible]

SA 99 B-231

731

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 8, 1973

Dear Mrs. Ambraz:

Mr. Kissinger has asked me to reply to your letter of January 24, asking him to inquire if your son, Lieutenant Kenneth L. Nosk, is being held as a prisoner of war in the People's Republic of China.

On receiving your letter, we asked the Department of Defense to review your son's case. This review considered all available information, which revealed that your son was carried by the Department of the Air Force in a missing status from March 29, 1951 until December 18, 1951, when the evidence then available was considered sufficient to establish your son's death. The evidence was subsequently reviewed by the Secretary of the Air Force, who most regretfully determined that your son had been killed in action.

As you know, we have discussed the question of American prisoners with the Chinese on several occasions, and we have no evidence that the Chinese are holding any prisoners from the Korean War.

I sympathize deeply with your heartfelt hope, and most sincerely wish that this response could have been different.

Sincerely,

Brent Scowcroft

Brent Scowcroft
Brigadier General, USAF
Military Assistant
to the President

Mrs. Simon P. Ambraz
2301 Gulf of Mexico Drive
Apartment 36N
Longboat Key, Florida 33577

DF

MEMORANDUM

731

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

March 5, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: JOHN H. HOLDRIDGE JHH/JMC

SUBJECT: Suggested Reply from You to Mrs. Ambraz Concerning the Possibility that Her Son is Being Held a POW in the PRC

At Tab A is a suggested reply from you to Mrs. Simon P. Ambraz, who wrote Dr. Kissinger recently asking him to look into the possibility that her son, Lieutenant Kenneth L. Nosk, is being held in the PRC as a POW from the Korean War (Tab B). The draft reply, based on information supplied by Defense, states that Defense regretfully has concluded that Lieutenant Nosk was in fact killed in action during the Korean War.

Recommendation:

That you sign the draft reply to Mrs. Ambraz at Tab A.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

10 February 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR Brigadier General Brent Scowcroft
Military Assistant to the President
The White House

Pursuant to your request, attached is a proposed reply for Mr. Kissinger to use in responding to Mrs. Simon P. Ambraz.

Joseph R. Wolatoski
Colonel, USA
Military Assistant

Attachment

Dear Mrs. Ambraz:

Thank you for your letter of January 24, 1973. Your support of the President's efforts to obtain an honorable resolution to the Vietnam conflict and his continual efforts to obtain lasting peace in Asia and throughout the world is sincerely appreciated.

On receipt of your letter regarding your son, Kenneth L. Nosk, I immediately asked the Defense Department to conduct an inquiry to determine whether or not a change could be made in his status. Regretfully, the results of this inquiry, which considered all available information, indicates that no change in your son's status is warranted. Available records indicate that your son was carried by the Department of the Air Force in a missing status from March 29, 1951 until December 18, 1951. When evidence, considered sufficient to establish the fact of your son's death, was reviewed by the Secretary of the Air Force, a determination was made by him that your son was in fact killed in action. I understand your heartfelt hope regarding your son and I sincerely wish that my response could have been different.

Please be assured that President Nixon has not forgotten any American POWs held any where in the world and that he will continue to do all he possibly can to obtain the release of every single one of them.

Sincerely,

Henry A. Kissinger

Mrs. Simon P. Ambraz
2301 Gulf of Mexico Dr., Apt. 36N
Longboat Key, Florida 33577

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 2, 1973

Mr. Shupe,

May we please have a draft reply to the attached.

Thanks.

Bill Gulley

WH 1271

Draft

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

January 31, 1973

FOR BILL GULLEY

FROM: Jeanne W. Davis

RE: Mrs. Abraz Correspondence to HAK Concerning Her Son

Would you please forward Mrs. Abraz' letter to Defense for preparation of a reply.

Jan 24/73

Mrs. Simon P. Ambraz
2301 Gulf of Mexico Dr., Apt. 36 N
Longboat Key, Fla. 33577

Dr. Henry A. Kissinger
White House.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Kissinger,

Salute and felicitations. on your tremendous accomplishment in ending the Vietnam war —

May I bring to your kind attention — the plight of the P.O.W.'s still held in China — from the Korean war — after 22 years — I still have reason to believe, my son Lt. KENNETH L. NOSK, Sanitized-D — is a captive there, too.

I would ask you to use your good offices, with the President — to help obtain the release of these poor forgotten men —

My prayers & gratitude

Sincerely

Helen Carolina Ambraz

WH 1271

# NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

| DOC MO | DOC DA | RECD MO | RECD DA | RECD HR | LOG NBR | INITIAL ACTION OFF |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 10 | 2 | 14 | 9 | 731 | Holdridge |

**DOC SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION**

TO: PRES _____ KISSINGER _____ HAIG Davis

FROM: ELIOT _____ ROGERS, W _____ LAIRD, M Mlatoski, Joseph R

U X LOU _____ C _____ S _____ TS _____

LOG IN/OUT ONLY _____ NO FORN _____ BUO _____ EYES ONLY _____ CODE WORD _____ SENSITIVE _____ NODIS _____ EXDIS _____ LIMDIS _____ RES DATA _____

SUBJECT: Suggested reply to Mrs Simon P. Ambraz re son, Kenneth L. Nosk, a POW

REFERENCE: S/S _____ OTHER _____ NOT XEROXED _____

APP'TS: PRES _____ HAK _____ TALKER _____ MEMCON _____ DATE REQ. _____

**SECRETARIAT DISTRIBUTION/ACTION**

| INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION | ACTION | INFO | REC CY FOR |
|---|---|---|---|
| ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/HAIG | | | |
| STAFF SECRETARY | | | |
| FAR EAST | X | | X |
| SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA | | | |
| NR EAST/NORTH AFRICA | | | |
| EUROPE/CANADA | | | |
| LATIN AMERICA | | | |
| UNITED NATIONS | | | |
| ECONOMIC | | | |
| SCIENTIFIC | | | |
| LR PLANNING | | | |
| PROGRAM ANALYSIS | | | |
| NSC PLANNING | | | |
| CONGRESSIONAL | | | |

ACTION REQUIRED

MEMO FOR HAK ( )
MEMO FOR PRES. ( )
REPLY FOR Scowcroft SIGNATURE (X) ( X )
FOR DISTRIBUTION/DISPATCH ( )
MEMO _____ TO _____ ( )
RECOMMENDATIONS ( )
JOINT MEMO ( )
REFER TO STATE ( )
ANY ACTION NECESSARY ( )
CONCURRENCE ( )
DUE DATE: 2/20

COMMENTS: (Including Special Instructions)
(X) See notes

**INTERNAL/INTERIM ROUTING**

| DATE | FROM | TO | S | ACTION REQUIRED | CY TO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2/14 | JHH | JDN | | | |
| | JDN | Froebe | | Froebe handles POW's lost in the Korean War. | |
| 3/6 | | BS | X | Sgn Reply to AMBRAZ (3/9) | |
| 3/8 | | | C | Scowcroft sgd ltr to Ambraz | |

**DISPOSITION**

CROSS REF WITH _____ NOTIFY _____ DATE 3/8
SEE LOG _____ DISPATCH: LETTER/MEMO Ambraz Done
JOINED BY LOG _____ COPIES: (AS MARKED ABOVE) _____
SPECIAL FILE RQMT: ____ SA, ____ HP, ____ HM
SPECIAL DISPOSITION COMMENTS: _____
SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: YES ✓ NO ____

MICROFILM DATA
DO _____ INIT _____ DATE _____
ORIG) NSC ✓
TO ) PAF _____ WHC _____ SUBF _____

☆ GPO: 1972-455-92

SA 99 B-232

March 7, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: DAVE PARKER

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT (S)

Attached, at long last, is DOD's submission (such as it is) concerning the President's desire to do something for the returning POW's.

Unfortunately, as you can see, they only dealt with part of the problem. I plan to call this to DOD's attention immediately, but I suspect we are too late for anything further to be of use.

The attached proposal, however, also has merit, and I think should be a part of the whole program.

Attachment

cc: John Holdridge

DF

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON D C 20301

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Presidential Certificate/Ribbon for Prisoners of War (PW) and Men Missing in Action (MIA)

I have considered the proposal for special Presidential recognition of returning prisoners of war and believe this action appropriate for the President. I also feel that this recognition should be extended to the next of kin of prisoners who died in captivity and men missing, who do not return.

The enclosure contains three draft certificates. One is suitable for presentation to returned prisoners of war. The second and third certificates would be presented to the next of kin of these men who died in captivity and men missing, who do not return, respectively. These certificates are modeled on the Presidential Certificate of Appreciation (Department of Defense Instruction 1348.22) in recognition of honorable Armed Forces service. Each person who was in a prisoner of war status at any time since 1961 would be eligible for the award subject to confirmation of the character of his service by the individual's parent Service. Personnel listed as MIA's by the individual Services would be eligible for the MIA award.

Also enclosed is a recommended service ribbon design to accompany the certificate of appreciation. An appurtenance in the form of an Arabic numeral affixed in the center of the ribbon would indicate years of imprisonment completed with no credit for partial years. For prisoners who died in captivity and men missing, who do not return, no appurtenance would be attached.

E.L.R.
3/6/73

Enclosures:
a/s

# CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ACKNOWLEDGES THE PERSONAL SACRIFICE OF

Private John Jones, USA

AS A PRISONER OF WAR

On behalf of a grateful nation, I extend my sincere appreciation for your steadfast devotion to the high ideals of service and country which you displayed while a Prisoner of War during the Indo-China Conflict. Throughout your period of imprisonment, your spirit of sacrifice under conditions of hardship was never forgotten by your fellow citizens. Your contribution toward achieving Peace with Honor was of the greatest importance and was exceeded only by those who gave their lives in service to our country.

My best wishes to you for happiness and success in the future.

Seal of
President
of U. S.

COMMANDER IN CHIEF

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ACKNOWLEDGES THE PERSONAL SACRIFICE OF

Private John Doe, USA

On behalf of a grateful nation, I extend to his family my sincere appreciation for his steadfast devotion to the high ideals of Service and Country which he displayed while a Prisoner of War during the Indo-China Conflict. Throughout his period of confinement, his spirit of sacrifice under conditions of hardship was an inspiring example to his countrymen. His contribution toward achieving Peace with Honor was of the greatest importance and was not exceeded in significance either by his contemporaries or by those national heroes of the past in whose traditions he served so faithfully.

My deepest sympathy to you in your grievous loss.

COMMANDER IN CHIEF

Seal of
President
of U. S.

# CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ACKNOWLEDGES THE PERSONAL SACRIFICE OF

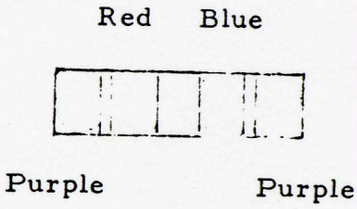
Private John Doe, USA

On behalf of a grateful nation, I extend to his family my sincere appreciation for his steadfast devotion to the high ideals of Service and Country which he displayed during the Indo-China Conflict. His spirit of sacrifice was an inspiring example to his countrymen. His contribution toward achieving Peace with Honor was of the greatest importance and was not exceeded in significance either by his contemporaries or by those national heroes of the past in whose traditions he served so faithfully.

My deepest sympathy to you in your grievous loss.

COMMANDER IN CHIEF

Seal of
President
of U. S.




Recommended ribbon clearly separates Blue from Purple

SA99 B-233

MEMORANDUM

General Scowcroft: Bill Gulley has action.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 6, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM: DAVID NP PARKER

With an eye towards assigning a date for the President to receive the POW's and their families here at the White House sometime this spring, we are most interesting in securing as rapidly as possible your evaluation as to which POW the President should ask to come to the White House or make a telephone call to to announce this date.

Col. Reisner is the first one who comes to mind simply because he was the one who called the President from the Phillipines and it was at that time that the President said he wanted to have all the POW's to the White House. However, we should check Reisner closely and make sure that if in fact he is the one anointed that we won't run into problems at a later point with him.

Another one who comes to mind would be Col. Denton or possibly Captain Jenkins who has written the President concerning his internment.

We also have to give some thought as to what POW should be brought on board as a consultant to work out the problems that will naturally occur in development of such an event and we would need your recommendations on this as soon as possible.

Would you please give both of these matters high priority attention as it is the President's intention to announce this date no later than Saturday morning.

Thank you.

DF

SA 99 B-235

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~

February 28, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER HK

There is little concrete information to report regarding developments on the POW issue.

Secretary Rogers has met with the North Vietnamese Foreign Minister. The meeting has just broken up and we do not as yet have a report on the substance of the discussions. We have learned, however, that the Foreign Ministers of the GVN and PRG also attended the meeting. I will report to you on the meeting as soon as we hear from Rogers.

The DRV and PRG members of the Joint Military Commission attended a meeting of the Commission today, but produced no POW list. The spokesman for the North Vietnamese delegation did say that a Colonel Hoa arrived in Saigon from Hanoi today and "may be" carrying a new prisoner list. The spokesman said that if the US side gives clear proof of their good will in carrying out the Agreement, everything will get under way without trouble.

News sources in Saigon have reported that for the first day since the Agreement there have been no American withdrawal flights out of Saigon.

In view of the situation as it now appears, I recommend that you do not hold a press conference today.

DF

~~SECRET~~

SA 99 B-236

THE WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM

TIME SENT

WHITE HOUSE LDX NR 277

CIA ____ DIA/G ____
STATE X DIA/H ____
NMCC ____ DASA ____
ANMCC ____ NPIC ____
NSA ____

'73 FEB 28 PM 12:59

WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM

NUMBER OF PAGES 2

DESCRIPTION/COMMENT:

FROM: GEN SCOWCROFT

TO: TED ELIOT

URGENT

RECEIVED BY:

DATE/TIME:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
73 MAR 23 PM 1 02

DP
1.3(a)(4)

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sect. 3.4
NSC 9/20/93 F9301250
By MKC NARA, Date 9/27/93
SA 99

"In a private meeting between Secretary of State Rogers and Foreign Minister Trinh, the Foreign Minister stated his government intended to fully carry out the provisions of the Paris Agreement dealing with POW's. In this connection, he gave the assurance of his government that all POW's held by his government would be released within the 60-day period set forth in the Agreement. With regard to the next phase of release of the POW's, which under Article 8(b) of the Ceasefire Protocol and Article 4 of the Prisoner Protocol is due this week, Foreign Minister Trinh said that the matter would be discussed at once in the Joint Military Commission in order to work out the detailed arrangements.

"The President has directed Secretary Rogers to proceed with the other business of the Conference as scheduled as soon as the arrangements for the next phase of the prisoner release are completed."

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

LDX

February 28, 1973

MEMO FOR: Theodore L. Eliot, Jr.
Executive Secretary
Department of State

FROM: Brent Scowcroft

Per our conversation, attached is a copy of the statement issued by Ron Ziegler at the press briefing today, which has been sent by flash wire to the Secretary in Paris.

Attachment

BY WIRE [ Sanitized ] 1.3(a)(4)

~~SECRET~~/SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY

February 28, 1973

TO: Ambassador Sullivan for Secretary Rogers

FROM: General Scowcroft

Following is the text of the statement issued by Ron Ziegler at the press briefing today as I indicated to the Secretary on the telephone:

"In a private meeting between Secretary of State Rogers and Foreign Minister Trinh, the Foreign Minister stated his government intended to fully carry out the provisions of the Paris Agreement dealing with POW's. In this connection, he gave the assurance of his government that all POW's held by his government would be released within the 60-day period set forth in the Agreement. With regard to the next phase of release of the POW's, which under Article 8(b) of the Ceasefire Protocol and Article 4 of the Prisoner Protocol is due this week, Foreign Minister Trinh said that the matter would be discussed at once in the Joint Military Commission in order to work out the detailed arrangements.

"The President has directed Secretary Rogers to proceed with the other business of the Conference as scheduled as soon as the arrangements for the next phase of the prisoner release are completed."

Warm regards

SA 99 B-243

TALKING PAPER

SUBJECT: Information Pertaining to PW/MIA Situation in Laos

BACKGROUND

- There are approximately 350 U.S. military and civilians listed as missing or captured in Laos. Of this total, approximately 215 men were lost under such circumstances that the enemy probably has information regarding their fate.

PATRIOTIC LAO FRONT (PLF)

- The PLF list of 10 personnel captured in Laos (provided by DRV on 1 February 1973).

-- List purported to be a statement by the Pathet Lao of captured personnel in Laos (9 Americans, 1 Canadian) (Enclosure 1)

-- However, the list consisted of personnel captured by the North Vietnamese in Laos rather than the Pathet Lao.

--- Four of the ten men were held in PW camps in Hanoi with Americans captured in NVN.

-- The PLF list did not state whether these men were dead or alive, or whether they are to be released.

-- The PLF list is incomplete. Examples of personnel not on this list are enclosed (Enclosures 2-6).

STATEMENTS BY THE PATHET LAO ON U.S. PW'S:

- On 3 October 1967, the Pathet Lao Radio announced that between 17 May and 16 September 1967 they "captured about a dozen U.S. pilots."

- On 13 April 1971, Prince Souphanouvong stated, in an interview with a Swedish correspondent, that U.S. PW's received humane care and had been taken to safe places.

- In July 1971, Soth Phetrasy stated that when the United States stops the bombing in Laos, the Pathet Lao would provide a list of U.S. PW's.

DF

- In a 2 February 1972 interview with an American, Soth Phetrasy stated that "some tens of prisoners" were being held by the Pathet Lao (the French phrase used was "quelques dixaines").

RADIO BROADCASTS

- In addition, Radio Pathet Lao broadcasts have made repeated claims of downing U.S. aircraft (2,463 as of 7 January 1973) (Enclosure 7). This would indicate some accounting of the personnel involved could be made.

CRASH SITES

- There are approximately 300 crash sites in Laos, the majority of these along the infiltration corridors and adjacent to the DMZ area. Because of the presence of North Vietnamese forces, it can be reasonably assumed that the North Vietnamese would have some knowledge on the fate of missing/captured personnel in these areas.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF LISTS

- The PLF acknowledge only 9 Americans on their 1 February 1973 list. This represents 2.5% of the PW/MIA personnel in Laos. In contrast, the DRV list represents 45% and the PRG list represents 20% of the PW/MIA personnel.

SUMMARY

- The PLF list does not represent U.S. PW's captured by the Pathet Lao.

- There is evidence that the Pathet Lao have information on captured/missing U.S. personnel and should be able to provide a list of alive U.S. PW's and information on the fate of many others.

- The North Vietnamese, because of their presence in parts of Laos, should have more information than provided to date on captured/missing U.S. personnel.

- Information from the Pathet Lao regarding captured/missing U.S. personnel may be forthcoming with a ceasefire or cessation of U.S. bombing in Laos.

PERSONNEL ON THE 1 FEBRUARY 1973 PATHET LAO LIST

| NAME | SERVICE | INCIDENT DATE |
|---|---|---|
| *BEDINGER, HENRY J. | USN | 22 NOV 69 |
| *BRACE, ERNEST C. | CIV | 21 MAY 65 |
| BUTCHER, JACK M. | USAF | 24 MAR 71 |
| GOTNER, NOBERT A. | USAF | 3 FEB 71 |
| LEONARD, EDWARD W. | USAF | 31 MAY 68 |
| *LONG, STEPHEN G. | USAF | 28 FEB 69 |
| MATTIX, SAM | CIV | 27 OCT 72 |
| OPPEL, LLOYD | FOREIGN NATIONAL | 27 OCT 72 |
| RIESS, CHARLES F. | USAF | 24 DEC 72 |
| *STISCHER, WALTER MORRIS | USAF | 13 APR 68 |

*Known to have been captured in Laos but were subsequently confirmed as having been moved to North Vietnam.

# FILE RECORD SUMMARY

1. NAME HRDLICKA, David L.

SERVICE/RANK USAF/Capt

DATE OF INCIDENT 18 May 1965

COUNTRY Laos

PROVINCE Houa Phan

2. INFORMATION REGARDING THE ABOVE NAMED INDIVIDUAL:
Subject's aircraft was shot down about 15 km east-southeast of Sam Neua. Villagers were seen rolling up the parachute and appeared walking away with subject.

3. INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE OTHER SIDE ON THE ABOVE NAMED INDIVIDUAL
A photograph of subject was released by the Pathet Lao. In addition, a recording allegedly made by subject requesting pardon and release from Prince Souphanouvong was broadcast on 22 May 1966.

4. REMARKS OR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (AS APPROPRIATE)
Subject's aircraft type was an F-105.
For photograph (see attached).

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a recording allegedly made by subject requesting pardon and release from Prince Souphanouvong was broadcast on 22 May 1966.

# FILE RECORD SUMMARY

1. NAME LUNA, Carter P.

SERVICE/RANK USAF/Lt Col

DATE OF INCIDENT 10 March 1969

COUNTRY Laos

PROVINCE Savannakhet

2. INFORMATION REGARDING THE ABOVE NAMED INDIVIDUAL:

Subject's aircraft was hit by ground fire, and the two crewmen bailed out at 1218 local time. The aircraft pilot, who was subsequently recovered, saw subject reach the ground safely about 1.5 km south of Ban Kok Nak village and move into protective cover. Subject retained voice contact with SAR forces by radio until 1425 hours, at which time the aircraft pilot heard enemy troops close to the position where he believed subject was hiding.

3. INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE OTHER SIDE ON THE ABOVE NAMED INDIVIDUAL

NOT APPLICABLE

4. REMARKS OR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (AS APPROPRIATE)

Subject's aircraft was an F-4D. The recovered pilot was Capt A. P. Rutyna.

# FILE RECORD SUMMARY

1. NAME CREED, Barton S.

SERVICE/RANK USN/LT

DATE OF INCIDENT 13 March 1971

COUNTRY Laos

PROVINCE Saravane

2. INFORMATION REGARDING THE ABOVE NAMED INDIVIDUAL:

Subject's aircraft was struck by ground fire. Ejection and a good chute were observed and voice contact was subsequently established with subject on the ground, who reported having a broken arm and leg. Subject's position was approximately 6 km south of Tavouac village. At about 1230 local time subject broadcast, "Get me out now, they are here." No further transmissions were heard. On the following day SAR forces noted that the parachute had been moved.

3. INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE OTHER SIDE ON THE ABOVE NAMED INDIVIDUAL

NOT APPLICABLE

4. REMARKS OR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (AS APPROPRIATE)

Subject's aircraft was an A-7E. No other personnel were involved in this incident.

# FILE RECORD SUMMARY

1. NAME SHELTON, Charles E.

SERVICE/RANK USAF/Capt

DATE OF INCIDENT 29 April 1965

COUNTRY Laos

PROVINCE Houa Phan

2. INFORMATION REGARDING THE ABOVE NAMED INDIVIDUAL:

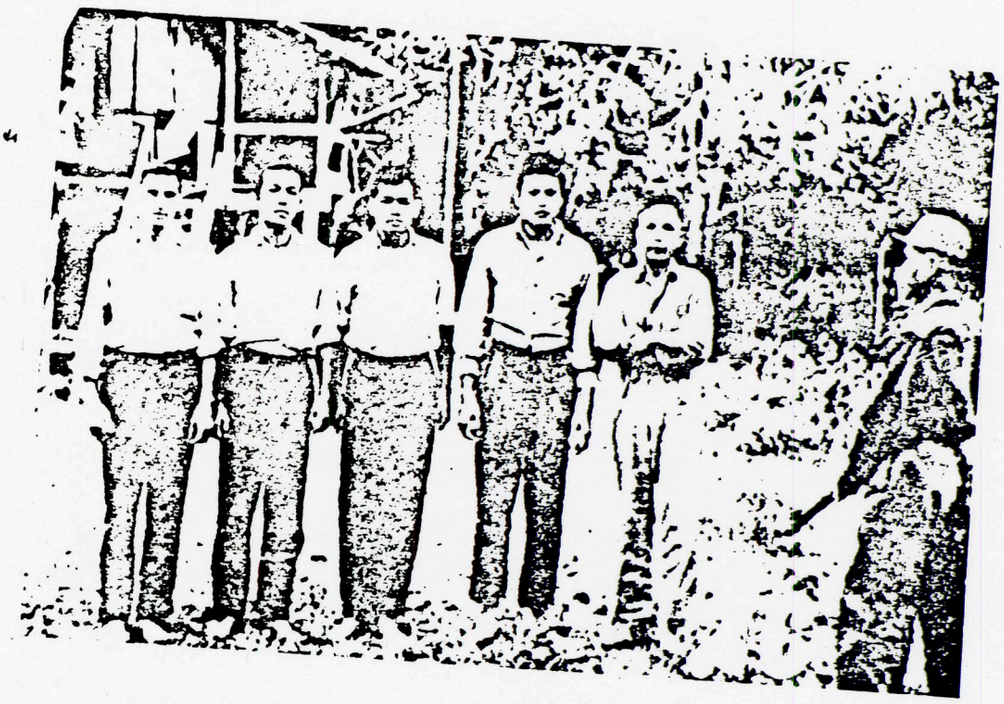
Subject's aircraft was shot down by ground fire. He ejected successfully and a good parachute was observed. Radio contact was established with subject on the ground about 15 km east-northeast of Sam Neua.

3. INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE OTHER SIDE ON THE ABOVE NAMED INDIVIDUAL

A villager witnessed the crash and observed the capture and arrest, of subject by Pathet Lao forces.

4. REMARKS OR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (AS APPROPRIATE)

Subject's aircraft type was an RF-101C.



A photograph (see attachment, [illegible] ng
caption "...a C-46 of the Air America Company was shot down and the crew of five were captured." The five crewmembers are shown and identified by name.

REMARKS OR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (AS APPROPRIATE)
Since confinement, subject may have grown a dark red beard.

# FILE RECORD SUMMARY

1. NAME DEBRUIN, Eugene H.

SERVICE/RANK Civilian

DATE OF INCIDENT 5 September 1963

COUNTRY Laos

PROVINCE Savannakhet

2. INFORMATION REGARDING THE ABOVE NAMED INDIVIDUAL:

Subject was the pilot of a C-46 aircraft that was downed 7 km west of Tchepone. 1 Chinese and 3 Thai personnel were also aboard the aircraft.

3. INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE OTHER SIDE ON THE ABOVE NAMED INDIVIDUAL

A photograph (see attachment) has been released with the following caption "...a C-46 of the Air America Company was shot down and the crew of five were captured." The five crewmembers are shown and identified by name.

4. REMARKS OR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (AS APPROPRIATE)

Since confinement, subject may have grown a dark red beard.

DØ1Ø616 Radio Pathet Lao ((Clandestine)) in Lao to Laos
Ø415 GMT 1 Dec 72 D

((Text)) According to KPL, as reported earlier, on the night of 11 November to the morning of 12 November the armed forces and people of Luang Prabang launched a surprise artillery attack on the Luang Prabang Airfield, destroying nine U.S. piratic aircraft. An additional report indicates that the armed forces and people destroyed another U.S. plane on the same day. All told, the armed forces and people destroyed 10 U.S. piratic planes, thus raising the number of U.S. aircraft shot down or destroyed from 17 May 1964 to 19 November 1972 to 2,433. Ø1Ø415 AP/VIOLETTE/PS Ø1/Ø642Z Dec

Radio Pathet Lao (Clandestine) in Lao to Laos 0345 GMT 3 Jan 73 D

(Excerpt) According to KPL, on 19 December 1972 the Luang Prabang armed forces and people attacked the Luang Prabang airfield and destroyed five T-28's and cargo planes. On 19 December the Borikhansay armed forces and people also destroyed one U.S. helicopter at Pha Loum while it was dropping U.S.-fostered spies and commandos in the area. Fourteen enemy troops were also killed on the spot. In addition to annihilating 24 enemy troops in their attacks against the enemy positions in Pak Song from 14 to 20 December, the Bolovens armed forces and people also shotdown three U.S. pirate planes on 16 December. It was also reported that on 1 and 20 December the Savannakhet armed forces and people also shot down four U.S. T-28's in Phalane district.

According to KPL, as reported earlier on 22 December the armed forces and people in Khammouane Province shot at U.S. pirate helicopters while they were dropping commandos in the Pha Hom area in the province. In addition to putting 38 enemy troops out of action, the Khammouane armed forces and people also destroyed one helicopter.

Therefore, from 17 May 1964 to 22 December 1972 our armed forces and people shot down or destroyed on the ground 2,457 U.S. planes.

Pathet Lao (KPS) (Clandestine) in Lao to Radio Pathet Lao 0100 GMT 7 Jan 73 D

(Text) According to KPL, on 27 December 1972 the Sam Neua armed forces and people, using infantry rifles, shot down a U.S. helicopter in the Nam Nuen area while it was dropping enemy spies. Therefore, from 17 May 1964 to 30 December 1972 our armed forces and people throughout the country have shot down or destroyed on the ground 2,463 U.S. planes.

SA 99 B-244

MEMORANDUM 7884

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

INFORMATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

November 8, 1972

OBE

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. KISSINGER

FROM: JOHN H. HOLDRIDGE JHH/EMS

SUBJECT: Further on the Issue of PRC Prisoner John Downey

We have recently learned that the mother of John Downey -- who you recall is an American held by the PRC since Korean War days -- is very ill and confined to a convalescent home. As you know, Chinese authorities last December commuted John Downey's sentence from life to five additional years as of that time.

While the start of a new Presidential term and a possible settlement in Vietnam might incline the PRC to a general release of American prisoners (which would include Vietnam War captives Flynn and Smith), the Chinese may prefer to handle Downey's case separately given his relation to the Korean War. The fact of Downey's aged mother being seriously ill may be the issue which will elicit a positive response from the Chinese. This personal consideration is the type which would strike a responsive emotional chord in Chinese terms, and may provide a rationale that Peking would need to make the release.

You will be the best judge, of course, about the timing of any approach you might wish to make to the PRC on this matter and the most useful channel.

CLASSIFIED BY Richard H. Solomon
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO
YEAR INTERVALS AND DECLASSIFIED ON DEC. 31, 1978

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DF

# NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

| DOC MO | DOC DA | RECD MO | RECD DA | RECD HR | LOG NBR | INITIAL ACTION OFF |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11 | 8 | 11 | 8 | 12 | 7884 | |

**DOC SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION**

TO: PRES ✓ KISSINGER ✓ HAIG

FROM: ELIOT ROGERS, W LAIRD, M HOLDRIDGE

U LOU ✓ C S TS

LOG IN/OUT ONLY

NO FORN BUO EYES ONLY CODE WORD SENSITIVE

NODIS EXDIS LIMDIS RES DATA

SUBJECT: Status Report on PRC POW John Downey

REFERENCE: S/S OTHER NOT XEROXED

APP'TS: PRES HAK TALKER MEMCON DATE REQ.

**SECRETARIAT DISTRIBUTION/ACTION**

INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION

| | ACTION | INFO | REC CY FOR |
|---|---|---|---|
| ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/HAIG | | | |
| STAFF SECRETARY | | | |
| FAR EAST | | | |
| SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA | | | |
| NR EAST/NORTH AFRICA | | | |
| EUROPE/CANADA | | | |
| LATIN AMERICA | | | |
| UNITED NATIONS | | | |
| ECONOMIC | | | |
| SCIENTIFIC | | | |
| LR PLANNING | | | |
| PROGRAM ANALYSIS | | | |
| NSC PLANNING | | | |
| CONGRESSIONAL | | | |

ACTION REQUIRED

MEMO FOR HAK ( )
MEMO FOR PRES. ( )
REPLY FOR SIGNATURE ( )
FOR DISTRIBUTION/DISPATCH ( )
MEMO TO ( )
RECOMMENDATIONS ( )
JOINT MEMO ( )
REFER TO STATE ( )
ANY ACTION NECESSARY ( )
CONCURRENCE ( )
DUE DATE:

COMMENTS: *(Including Special Instructions)*

**INTERNAL/INTERIM ROUTING**

| DATE | FROM | TO | S | ACTION REQUIRED | CY TO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11/8 | | HAK | C/1 | Info | |
| 2/21 | | | C | ORE/Campbell | |

**DISPOSITION**

CROSS REF WITH NOTIFY DATE

SEE LOG DISPATCH: LETTER/MEMO DD

JOINED BY LOG COPIES: (AS MARKED ABOVE)

SPECIAL FILE RQMT: SA, HP, HM

SPECIAL DISPOSITION COMMENTS:

SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: YES NO

MICROFILM DATA

FEB 26 1973

INIT DATE

ORIG) NSC
TO ) PAF
WHC
SUBF

☆ GPO: 1972-455-92

SH 99 B-245

File

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

2/21/73

GENERAL SCOWCROFT:

You have asked for fast staffing of the Presidential letters to MIA families.

Sven Kraemer and I had worked on the drafts with Mike Smith. John Holdridge has now cleared the drafts and the idea of sending such letters. Win Lord concurs.

At Tab A is the proposed draft for the families of the MIAs still missing.

At Tab B is a letter for the families of MIAs whose deaths have been confirmed.

RECOMMEND YOU CLEAR FOR USE AS PROPOSED:

Tell Kehrli OK ___ /Ro

Other _____

for
Les Janka

Bruce Kehrli
Have we cleared
2/21/73 5:20 pm

DF

Dear /////////:

The joy the American people feel on the return of our Prisoners of War is tempered by the knowledge that your (rank and name) is not among those who are now returning. You have endured a long and trying vigil, and I know how difficult it will be for you and your family to further bear the anguish of this uncertainty.

However, I want to give you my fullest assurance that we shall not rest in our efforts -- regardless of how long it may take -- untilwe have obtained the most complete accounting of every American serviceman listed as Missing in Action. As you may know, the Paris peace agreements specify that all the parties to the conflict shall help each other and take any such measures necessary to get information about those MIAs. We intend to see that these agreements are scrupulously adhered to, for the courage of our men and women who served in southeast Asia demands nothing less.

In the meanwhile, you may be certain that Mrs. Nixon and I are thinking of you, and that you and your loved ones, together with (rank and name), are very much in our prayers.

With kindest good wishes,

Sincerely,

RN

RN:RLE:MBSmith
Cleared by DGergen, Les Jenka, Sven Kraemer

Dear //////:

It is with great sadness that I have learned of the official confirmation of the death of your (husband) (Captain John Doe). The hope you held out for so long and the immense ordeal you have suffered makes the news of his loss especially tragic.

I know there is little I can say to ease your sorrow. But I do want to assure you that he has left a legacy which cannot die so long as men are willing to make the highest sacrifice for freedom so that others may live in a world at peace.

Mrs. Nixon joins me in extending our deepest sympathy and our hope that the profound respent your husband has earned will sustain and comfort you in this time of mourning. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

RN

RN:RLE:
Cleared by Dave Gergen/Les Jenka/Sven Kraemer

SA 99 B-237

President has seen

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~

February 27, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER

While the situation is confused, it appears that North Vietnam is holding up on further release of American POW s. The DRV spokesman for the North Vietnamese delegation to the Joint Military Commission has declared that further release of POW's held in North and South Vietnam will depend on:

(1) strict application of the ceasefire and US acceptance of greater responsibility for enforcing the agreement;

(2) simultaneous return of civilian and military prisoners;

(3) guarantee of improved working conditions for the four party Joint Military Commission.

Thus far nothing has been conveyed through official channels. The two meetings of the Joint Military Commission scheduled for yesterday were not held, but the only official explanation for any delay in the POW release was a problem of transportation in bringing the prisoner lists from Hanoi to Saigon.

At this point, we are awaiting official confirmation of the exact state of affairs from the Embassy in Saigon and US MACV.

With respect to the point on the simultaneous return of civilian and military prisoners, the agreement clearly separates the two issues. Release of civilian prisoners was left to negotiations between the two Vietnamese parties, and has no relevance to the return of ~~military POWs~~ AMERICAN PRISONERS.

~~SECRET~~

DF

~~TOP SECRET~~/SENSITIVE
EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

February 27, 1973 VIA GUAY CHANNEL

To: COLONEL GUAY

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER

Please pass the following message to your customer:

The United States protests in the most emphatic fashion against the delay in the release of American prisoners as stipulated in the Agreement.

The United States has scrupulously observed all the provisions of the ceasefire. Furthermore, On February 23 the U.S. on its own notified the North Vietnamese side of the acceleration of the mine sweeping operation. On February 26 the U.S. on its own informed the North Vietnamese that the United States had made strong representations in Saigon against the acts of violence committed against members of the North Vietnamese delegation to the Four-Power Commission. In addition, the US has been

The Agreement clearly states that these prisoners of war are to be released at a rate no slower than the rate of troop withdrawals. We have now withdrawn over one half of our forces. It is now time for the other side immediately to release the next group of U.S. POW's to bring the total of all those released up to at least 50% of the total number scheduled for release.

~~TOP SECRET~~/SENSITIVE
EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

In view of the totally unjustifiable and provocative acts of the North Vietnamese side, the United States wishes to inform the North Vietnamese side that pending a clarification of the issue of the release of prisoners the United States:

1. Will conduct no further business at the Paris Conference;
2. Will suspend mine clearing operations;
3. Will suspend troop withdrawal.

The United States reserves the freedom to take further action particularly if the illegal infiltration and violation of Article 7 to the Agreement continues. The United States wishes to point out that it is still committed to an improvement and eventual normalization in relations with North Vietnam and that it hopes this matter can be settled very rapidly.

SA 99

B-238

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

EYES ONLY

February 26, 1973

Henry:

I think that the attached package from DOD would be of considerable interest to the President. He has gotten a great deal of psychic return out of the POW behavior and this should make a modest contribution in that regard.

In the event that you concur, I have drafted a memo which would forward the DOD report to the President.

Brent Scowcroft

Attachment

EYES ONLY

DF

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

EYES ONLY ATTACHMENT

INFORMATION

February 27, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER HK

SUBJECT: Statements by Returning POWs

I thought you would be interested in reading the attached report to Secretary Richardson refuting the allegation that the Pentagon helped prepare positive arrival statements for returning POWs. The report states categorically that no guidance was given on the substance of arrival statements and that returnees subsequently contacted were outraged at press allegations of manipulation.

The report also cites two examples of POW gratitude to their President expressed in Hanoi:

-- One returnee sent you a telegram which said: "In a cell in Hanoi, carved on the wall is God Bless you Richard Nixon."

-- Newsweek carried a picture supplemented by the words: "Even before the first plane load left Hanoi, Air Force Captain Galand Kramer flashed a hand-fashioned cloth reading, 'God Bless America and Nixon'."

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

February 22, 1973

P'll send copy to Haig
LSN
2/27

EYES ONLY

Sec has seen
26 FEB 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

A few recent news stories have carried a suggestion that the Pentagon is responsible for the exact content of the arrival statements of our returnees, including favorable reference to the President.

The simple fact of the matter is that the returnees, who are a tightly knit and highly disciplined group, had long planned their own arrival. They decided themselves the manner in which they would debark, including the smart salutes, and what would be said.

General James has confirmed this fact with Dr. Roger Shields and in personal calls to the senior returnees themselves, who are frankly outraged at the suggestion of manipulation and would welcome the opportunity to address the question publicly. Colonel Lynn, CINCPAC's Public Affairs Officer in charge at Clark and a member of the team which went into Hanoi, and Colonel Wengel, my own representative on the scene at Clark, could not be more emphatic on the point that no guidance or suggestions were given on the substance of arrival statements and that none was in fact solicited. The returnees made it clear that they had it all worked out.

LCDR Purrington, now at Chelsea Naval Hospital, sent a telegram to the President 22 February, which said: "In a cell in Hanoi, carved on the wall is God Bless you Richard Nixon." (Tab A) That cell is pretty far removed from the Pentagon. Another interesting bit of evidence can be found in the current NEWSWEEK, which carries a picture supplemented by these words: "Even before the first plane load left Hanoi, Air Force Captain Galand Kramer flashed a hand-fashioned cloth reading, 'God Bless America and Nixon'."

LM

Attached at Tab B is a copy of the public affairs briefing sheet given to each returnee on boarding the aircraft in Hanoi. Also attached is a public affairs briefing sheet provided to each man at Clark prior to his departure for Travis.

I have absolutely no evidence that any military officer -- public affairs, medical or any other -- has acted during HOME COMING in other than a professional, creditable manner.

Jerry W. Friedheim
Acting Assistant Secretary

Attachments

The following telegram was sent from the Chelsea Naval Hospital to the White House at 221500Z February 1973 by LCDR Purrington in response to a letter from the President:

"In a cell in Hanoi, carved on the wall, is God Bless you Richard Nixon. Thank you Mr. President for your most gracious and thoughtful letter."

I AM Lt Cdr Baker, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, ASSIGNED TO WORK WITH YOU ON YOUR HOMECOMING.

THE AMERICAN PUBLIC IS INTENSLY INTERESTED IN YOUR RETURN—AND YOUR ARRIVAL AT CLARK WILL BE A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL NEWS EVENT. THERE ARE SOME 200 NEWS MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES AWAITING YOUR ARRIVAL AT CLARK AB.

THE MEDIA HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT YOU WILL NOT HAVE TIME TO TALK WITH THEM ON ARRIVAL. BUT, FROM THE MOMENT WE TOUCH DOWN TO THE TIME YOU ARRIVE AT THE CLARK HOSPITAL YOU WILL BE PHOTOGRAPHED BY SOMEBODY. YOUR ARRIVAL WILL BE TELEVISED AROUND THE WORLD AND LIVE TO THE UNITED STATES.

THERE IS NO ELABORATE CEREMONY PLANNED FOR YOUR ARRIVAL. YOU WILL BE GREETED BY ADMIRAL NOEL GAYLER, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF PACIFIC, LT GEN WILLIAM MOORE, COMMANDER 13TH AF AND AN NCO FROM ONE OF THE SERVICES. ONCE YOU GREET THEM YOU'RE ON THE MEDEVAC BUS AND OFF TO THE HOSPITAL.

THE PHOTOGRAPHERS ON BOARD WITH US ARE MILITARY PHOTOGRAPHERS WHO ARE TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS FOR BOTH MILITARY AND NEWS PURPOSES. IF YOU PREFER NOT TO HAVE YOUR PHOTOGRAPH USED FOR NEWS PURPOSES, PLEASE LET ME OR THE PHOTOGRAPHERS KNOW. YOUR DESIRES WILL BE HONORED.

WELCOME BACK. IT'S GREAT TO HAVE YOU HOME.

by LDX

APPENDIX 2

PUBLIC AFFAIRS BRIEFING FOR RETURNEES
BEFORE THEY LEAVE OVERSEAS AREAS

Your return from captivity is a major international news story. News media everywhere ... here, at the places where your medevac aircraft will stop on the way home, at the hospital where you will be assigned and at your families' home ... are intensely interested in you individually and collectively.

To insure that your personal and medical welfare is paramount and to prevent possible interruptions in your debriefing process, news media representatives have already been told that you will not be able to talk with them either here, or enroute home or at the hospital until the doctors and intelligence people give approval and until you yourself indicate that you desire to talk with reporters.

Public Affairs Officers here and along the way home will provide unclassified information to the media to help satisfy their desire for news about you. You may expect that still and motion picture photographs will be taken as you depart this area and as you board the medical evacuation aircraft, unless you specifically request to the contrary. If you have specific reasons for not wanting to be photographed during these times, please let me know so that an effort can be made to accommodate your desires.

A Military Public Affairs Escort Officer will be aboard your aircraft to answer your questions, provide guidance and otherwise assist you during the flight home. He has been given direct authority from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) in Washington to serve and assist you regardless of your branch of Service and his. If medical authorities permit you to disembark from the aircraft at enroute stops, the Public Affairs Officer will provide specific instructions concerning news media who may be present.

The media at enroute stops will have been briefed in advance that you will not talk with them or hold interviews. They have a job to do, so they may, nevertheless, attempt to get you to answer their questions. Because your debriefings have not yet been completed and to insure the fullest protection to any other U.S. Serviceman still held by the enemy or still listed as missing in action, answers to news media questions should be limited to very brief statements about such things as feelings about being on the way home and your anticipated reunion with your family and friends at home.

Please feel free to use your Public Affairs Escort Officer. He has been assigned because of his experience in working with news media and to help make your trip as easy and comfortable as possible.

SA 99 B-239

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

957

ACTION

~~SECRET~~/SENSITIVE

February 26, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. KISSINGER

FROM: JOHN H. HOLDRIDGE W.L.J. for

SUBJECT: Delay in POW Releases

The DRV appears to be delaying the next release of U.S. POW's by introducing the extraneous issue of liaison flights between Hanoi and South Vietnam and has also apparently linked alleged U.S. non-compliance with the Agreement to the POW release.

On February 26, the Deputy Chief of the DRV FPJMC delegation told his U.S. counterpart that in order to effect the return to Saigon of the DRV officer sent to Hanoi to prepare for the second phase of release -- and to bring back the new POW list -- weekly liaison flights would have to be scheduled between the regions in South Vietnam and between Saigon and Hanoi.

The U.S. Deputy Chief suggested that the officer return on a U.S. C-130 or with the next scheduled ICC flight. The DRV Deputy Chief said that the ICC flight would be used and the DRV officer would return to Saigon on February 28 with the arrangements for the next release. The U.S. representative pointed out that the DRV had never raised the necessity of a liaison flight and added that the U.S. would regard this delay as "a serious policy matter" and not a technicality. He then proposed that the DRV simply designate a time and place for the release and release the list at the time of pick up. The DRV representative agreed to forward this suggestion to Hanoi if the U.S. would regard the present difficulty as technical and agree to provide liaison flights between Hanoi and Saigon. The U.S. Deputy Chief refused.

With the concurrence of Ambassador Bunker, it was agreed that the U.S. will offer to pick up the DRV liaison officer and the POW list in Hanoi on February 27, but that the issue of liaison flights -- which is not related to the POW issue -- be discussed by the FPJMC Chiefs on February 28.

GDS by Auth J. Holdridge

~~SECRET~~/SENSITIVE

DF

When this position was communicated to the DRV Delegation Chief (on the evening of February 26), the latter raised a long list of complaints and linked all these matters to the POW release. He added that the DRV liaison officer would arrive in Saigon on February 28. This, then, is the earliest we can expect the POW list and information on release arrangements.

It appears that the DRV is clearly stalling on the next release -- possibly in order to pressure us into meeting some of their demands. (For example, during the February 19 meeting in Haiphong on mine countermeasures, the DRV side implied that if they don't get certain equipment -- which we don't believe they need -- the next POW release will not go so smoothly.)

RECOMMENDATION:

Should the other side continue to stall on the release after the DRV liaison officer has arrived with the next release list and arrangements (that is, this Wednesday), we should, through appropriate channels, notify the other side that we will cease all further troop withdrawals until at least half of all U.S. POW's scheduled for release have been freed. (We have now withdrawn slightly over 50% of our troops -- 11,792 have been withdrawn and 11,724 remain.)

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

# NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

| DOC MO | DOC DA | RECD MO | RECD DA | RECD HR | LOG NBR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 26 | 2 | 28 | 17 | 557 |

INITIAL ACTION O

**SOURCE / CLASS / DESCRIPTION**

TO: PRES ____ KISSINGER X SCOWCROFT ____

FROM: ROGERS ____ RICHARDSON ____ SCHLESINGER ____ ELIOT ____ HOLDRIDGE

UNCLAS ____ LOU ____ C ____ S X TS ____

LOG IN/OUT ONLY ____ NO FORN ____ EYES ONLY ____ CODEWORD ____ SENSITIVE X

NODIS ____ EXDIS ____

SUBJECT: Status Report on Delay in POW Releases

REFERENCE: S/S ____ OTHER ____ NOT XEROXED ____

**DISTRIBUTION / INITIAL ACTION ASGMT**

| INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION | ACTION | INFO | REC CY FOR |
|---|---|---|---|
| ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/SCOWCROFT | | | |
| STAFF SECRETARY | | | |
| FAR EAST | | | |
| SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA | | | |
| MID EAST / NO. AFRICA / SO. ASIA | | | |
| EUROPE / CANADA | | | |
| LATIN AMERICA | | | |
| UNITED NATIONS | | | |
| ECONOMIC | | | |
| SCIENTIFIC | | | |
| NET ASSESSMENT GROUP | | | |
| PROGRAM ANALYSIS | | | |
| NSC PLANNING | | | |
| CONGRESSIONAL | | | |
| OCEANS POLICY | | | |

ACTION REQUIRED

MEMO FOR HAK ..... ( )
MEMO FOR PRES. ..... ( )
REPLY FOR ____ ( )
APPROPRIATE ACTION ..... ( )
MEMO ____ TO ____ ..... ( )
RECOMMENDATIONS ..... ( )
JOINT MEMO ..... ( )
REFER TO ____ FOR: ____ ( )
ANY ACTION NECESSARY? ..... ( )
CONCURRENCE ..... ( )
DUE DATE:

COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)

IF NO ACTION, RETURN W/PROFILE FOR FILES. IF CONVENIENCE CY NEEDED, PLEASE INDICATE: ☐

**SUBSEQUENT ROUTING / ACTIONS**

| DATE | FROM | TO | S | SUBSEQUENT ACTION REQUIRED (OR TAKEN): | CY TO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2/26 | ~~[illegible]~~ HOL | HAK | X | Decision (3/3) | |
| 2/28 | | | | Handled by other channels. | |
| 2/28 | | | C | N FAR. | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

**NSC/S DISP INSTR**

DISPATCH ____ NOTIFY ____ & DATE ____
SPECIAL DISPOSITION) ____
OR RECORD COMMENT:) ____
CY RQMTS: SEE ABOVE PLUS: ____

CROSS REF W/ ____ JOINED BY LOG # ____

SEE # ____ FOR FINAL ACTION & FILING.

SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: ✓

MICROFILM & FILE RQMTS:

M/F'D ____ BY ____

CYS FOR ) SA ____
) HP ____
ORIG ) WH ____
TO ) SA ✓
) SF ____
) NS ____
) EP ____
DESTROY) DY ____

1973

* GPO: 1973—[illegible]89-668

B-240

Brent Scowcroft

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 23, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM: DAVID PARKER

Would you please advise me as to what materials the Joint Chiefs have sent the President regarding their proposals for the POWS to have here sometime this spring.

It is imperative that I get this information as soon as possible so I can dove-tail it with the other proposals that we have that are getting pushed on to get in.

DF

SA99 B-24

Gen S-Fyi

RE: MIAs

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

February 2, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR SENATORS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

I have prepared the attached information to insure that you are informed concerning the very important and serious problem of accounting for our servicemen who are missing in action in Southeast Asia.

I want to assure you personally that we in the Department of Defense will moticulously explore all avenues and exhaust all clues in our quest to account for each individual lost in Southeast Asia. Also, I want to reaffirm that we consider each of our missing equally as important as our prisoners who are returning.

Your interest and support in our endeavor is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Roger E. Shields

Roger E. Shields
Assistant for PW/MIA
Matters

DF

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

February 2, 1973

# ACCOUNTING FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO ARE LISTED AS MISSING IN ACTION

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a description of the efforts being made to acquire as full an accounting of our missing in action personnel as possible.

The United States Government will make every possible effort to acquire an accounting for our servicemen missing in action in Southeast Asia.

In this regard, the Agreement which was signed in Paris on January 27, 1973, provides in Article 8 that:

"... (b) The parties shall help each other to get information about those military personnel and foreign civilians of the parties missing in action, to determine the location and take care of the graves of the dead so as to facilitate the exhumation and repatriation of the remains, and to take any such other measures as may be required to get information about those still considered missing in action."

In addition, the Protocol to the Agreement "Concerning the Return of Captured Military Personnel and Foreign Civilians and Captured and Detained Vietnamese Civilian Personnel" states in Article 10, "With Regard to Dead and Missing Persons" that:

"(a) The Four-Party Joint Military Commission shall ensure joint action by the parties in implementing Article 8(b) of the Agreement. When the Four-Party Joint Military Commission has ended its activities, a Four-Party Joint Military team shall be maintained to carry on this task." Disagreements will be referred to the International Commission on Control and Supervision (Article 17 of the Agreement).

It is reemphasized that the U.S. Government will do everything in its power to insure that all parties adhere to the true sense of the Agreement. To this end, Major General Gilbert H. Woodward, United States Army, has been appointed as the United States Representative on the Four-Party Military Commission which will have representation from the United States

South Vietnam, North Vietnam and the Viet Cong. General Woodward has had extensive experience in negotiations of this type as the Senior Member United Nations Command, Military Armistice Commission, United Nations Command/United States Forces Korea during the period leading up to and at the time of the USS PUEBLO crewmembers' release. The task of the Four-Party Military Commission will be to implement appropriate provisions of the Agreement, including Article 8 quoted above. As the U.S. Representative, General Woodward is responsible for obtaining from other members of the Commission all MIA information held by them, and will coordinate with them the investigations by U.S. teams of incidents surrounding the loss of each of our MIA personnel.

The United States Joint Casualty Resolution Center (JCRC) has been established at Nakhon Phanom (NKP), Thailand and is assigned the mission of resolving the status of U.S. missing personnel. Personnel from the JCRC will locate and investigate crash sites or grave sites throughout Southeast Asia as arranged through the Four-Party Joint Military Commission. The organization of the JCRC will provide the expertise for these investigations, utilizing air search and ground search teams and a central identification laboratory with a pool of specialists to inspect located crash and grave sites and recover remains.

It is expected that endeavors in remote areas will normally include air and ground searches for crash sites. U.S.-led teams in conjunction with an air search will thoroughly investigate assigned areas of operation for suspected crash and grave sites. If a crash or grave site is located, personnel from the Central Identification Laboratory (graves registration specialists) and crash site investigators will be utilized for a detailed on-scene investigation.

In the more inhabited areas, personal contact with the local people following extensive information programs and coordination will be a primary technique. Grave registration specialists with interpreters, exploiting information gained from all sources and with authority to grant suitable rewards for useful information will conduct the major efforts in those area where the location of crash or grave sites is more likely to be known and reasonably accessible.

Certain areas require that highly qualified U.S. personnel lead the ground searches because many are in highly remote areas or in the vicinity of roads or trails which are heavily booby trapped and endangered

by unexploded ordnance. It is anticipated that recovery detachment teams will include indigenous personnel recruited, trained, and utilized in each country of interest with the cooperation of the host government.

While the Department of Defense will strive to accomplish this massive task of accounting for the missing military personnel in the shortest possible time, it must be realized that it will not be done quickly or easily. For example, in the case of a missing aircraft which crashed in the sea or uninhabited jungle, it is likely neither side in the recent conflict would know the whereabouts of the crash.

The Secretary of Defense and all Defense Department personnel realize and accept the obligation to do their best in performing this important task. This we owe to the families of the missing in action personnel. We intend to fulfill that obligation.

SA 99 B-246

2:00 p.m., Saturday, February 24, 1973
(The Roosevelt Room)

Meeting with The National League of Families

DF

# AIDE MEMOIRE

With respect to the question of the downing of the American pilot, Joseph Dunn, the Chinese side has examined its past records and the circumstances are as follows:

At 10:41 a.m. on February 14, 1968 the Chinese side brought down an American aircraft which had intruded into China's territorial airspace in the area of Hainan Island. The downed American aircraft, an A-1H, fell into the sea about 11 miles (approximately 20 kilometers) from the coastline of Hainan Island's Wan-ning Hsien [county]. Chinese naval security vessels at that time searched the said area under orders for over 3-4 days, but found nothing.

On March 5, 1968 during the Warsaw Ambassadorial-level talks, the Chinese side issued a serious protest to the U.S. side over the aforesaid intrusion by the American aircraft. The same year, on March 6 and on June 19 the U.S. side passed on requests for an investigation of the status of the pilot of the downed American aircraft, Dunn. On November 5 the Chinese side replied that there was nothing to report.

We have again asked the responsible Chinese authorities for what they may know, and as before there are no materials [there is no information] concerning the downing of Dunn.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 20, 1973

General Scowcroft:

In the attached letter, Helene Knapp asks pointed questions about Administration plans to account for those POW's and MIA's not on present lists.

She further advises that the Board of Directors will be meeting in Washington February 23-25 and they would like a detailed briefing during the meetings.

Who should properly take action on this letter (copies went to Shields and Sieverts).

Lora

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
1608 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 628-6811

February 20, 1973

Brig. Gen. Brent Scowcroft
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear General Scowcroft:

More than three weeks have now elapsed since the signing of the Paris agreement on Vietnam, and since the U.S. Government received the first lists of American captives held by the other side.

From the outset, the National League of Families has been gravely concerned by the fact that:

1 - The names of dozens of our men who had been carried as prisoners-of-war by their own Government (on the basis of good evidence) did not show up on the lists. Fifty-three men are in this category.

2 - The names of only a handful of our "missing" men appeared on the lists of POWs who are being repatriated. Only 51 former MIAs, out of a total of 1334, were so identified.

3 - The list of 7 military POWs in Laos, out of a total of 317 men captured or reported missing there, is totally unbelievable.

In the hope that we might obtain supplemental lists of prisoners, and in order to give our Government an unimpeded opportunity to pursue this objective through normal negotiating and diplomatic channels, the League of Families refrained from making any sharp attack on the credibility of the lists furnished by the other side. Nevertheless, we did and do believe that the lists are woefully inaccurate and incomplete.

Furthermore, as the weeks have passed and no supplemental lists have been forthcoming, our members have become increasingly alarmed that the other side might erroneously conclude that the lists will go unchallenged by the American people. We cannot allow this to happen, and our organization does not intend to keep silent indefinitely.

In view of this growing concern, and in keeping with our mutually cooperative efforts, we therefore believe the League should receive a full and complete status report at this time, specifying what, if actions on the part of our Government have been productive, and what, if any actions are still in progress that may yet prove productive in expanding the lists of American prisoners held by the other side. It would be helpful, also, to know what additional steps have been taken to assure the fullest possible accounting of the missing, and to obtain more detailed information about the circumstances surrounding the fate of those men who are listed as dead.

Our Board of Directors will be meeting in Washington, D.C., on February 23, 24 and 25, and we respectfully request that we be furnished a detailed briefing during the course of these meetings.

Sincerely,

Helene L. Knapp

Helene L. Knapp (Mrs. Herman L.)
National Coordinator

HLK/eee

cc: Dr. Roger E. Shields
Mr. Frank Sieverts

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
1608 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

Brig. Gen. Brent Scowcroft
The White House
Washington, D.C.

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
1608 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 628-6811

February 23, 1973

Brig. Gen. Brent Scowcroft
The White House
Washington, D.C.

The following people will attend a briefing at 2 PM at the White House on Saturday, February 24, 1973: Roosevelt Room

John Scott Albright - Member of the Board of Directors
George L. Brooks - Member of the Board of Directors
Robert J. Brudno - Member of the Board of Directors
John B. Coker - Member of the Board of Directors
Donnie K. Collins - Member of the Board of Directors
Phyllis Galanti - Member of the Board of Directors
Evelyn Grubb - Member of the Board of Directors
Helene Knapp - National Coordinator
Nancy Perisho - Member of the Board of Directors
Iris Powers - Member of the Board of Directors
Darlene Sadler - Acting Chairman of the Board of Directors
James F. Sehorn - Member of the Board of Directors
Sara Frances Shay - Member of the Board of Directors
Joan Vinson - Member of the Board of Directors
R. Susie Bogard - Assistant National Coordinator
Judy Irsch - Secretary-Treasurer
Charlotte Christian - Regional Coordinator
Maureen Dunn - Regional Coordinator
George Henderson - Regional Coordinator
Maerose Evans - Regional Coordinator
Donnie Collins - Regional Coordinator
Charles Havens - Counsel
Paul Wagner - Counsel
Fred Hoery
Jim Gallagher

Sincerely,

Helene L. Knapp

Helene L. Knapp (Mrs. Herman L.)
National Coordinator

HLK/eee

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
1608 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

Brig. Gen Brent Scowcroft
The White House
Washington, D.C.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 17, 1973

SA 99 B-247

General Scowcroft:

You might wish to call Dave Parker to tell him you have talked with Steve Bull and told him Mrs. Bagley is 'okay'.

Lora

He said he would be [illegible] unless I [illegible] called. RS

Dave to S. Bull

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dick Cook has forwarded to Mr. Parker a letter that Congressman Floyd D. Spence sent to the President about Mrs. Sandy Bagley of South Carolina and other South Carolina POW-MIA wives who wish to present a plaque to the President who strongly supported the efforts hemade for all those who served in SE Asia, the POW's and the MIA's during the Vietnam conflict.

Mrs. Bagley's husband, Lt. Col. Bobby R. Bagley has been held as a prisoner by the North Vietnamese for more than five years and they have a daughter who is now 16 years old.

??

Mary R.

DF

February 13, 1973

Dear Lloyd:

I wish to acknowledge and thank you for your letter to the President concerning the desire of Mrs. Sandy Bailey to present a plaque to him in appreciation of his efforts on behalf of the prisoners of war.

We will be pleased to bring your letter to the President's attention at the earliest opportunity. Please assure Mrs. Bailey that her request will be given full consideration. You will hear further as soon as possible.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,

Richard K. Cook
Deputy Assistant

Honorable Lloyd M. Bentsen
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

bcc: w/incoming to David Parker for further action.
bcc: w/incoming to Dr. Kissinger - FYI

RKC:EF:VO:vo

FLOYD SPENCE
2ND DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
120 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
AREA CODE 202, 225-2452

DISTRICT OFFICES:
FEDERAL BUILDING, 901 SUMTER STREET
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29201
AREA CODE 803, 765-5871
AND
372 ST. PAUL STREET, NE.
ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA 29115
AREA CODE 803, 536-4041

# Congress of the United States
## House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
STANDARDS OF
OFFICIAL CONDUCT

COUNTIES:
ALLENDALE CALHOUN
BAMBERG LEXINGTON
BARNWELL ORANGEBURG
RICHLAND

W. A. "AL" COOK
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

JERE B. RATCLIFFE
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

February 6, 1973

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

There are many POW/MIA wives in South Carolina who strongly supported the efforts of this country to preserve the freedom in Southeast Asia.

One of the most outstanding of these brave women is Mrs. Sandy Bagley of Sumter. Her husband, Lt. Col. Bobby R. Bagley, has been held by the North Vietnamese as a Prisoner of War for more than five years. They have a daughter who is now sixteen years old.

Mrs. Bagley has commissioned the design and casting of a handsome plaque which pays tribute to your concern for all POW's.

The plaque includes the following words:

> "To the President of the United States, Richard M. Nixon. This plaque is given to Richard M. Nixon because of his concern for all those who served in Southeast Asia, the Prisoners of War and Missing in Action during the Vietnam Conflict."

Mrs. Bagley has devoted time and money to this project, and she has been active in her support for your policies throughout. She would be honored if you could receive her plaque personally, and I would be very grateful if this could be arranged.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

With kindest personal regards and best wishes,

Sincerely,

Floyd Spence

FLOYD D. SPENCE
Member of Congress

FDS/hc

5H99 B-248

February 15, 1973
8:40 a.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR: H. R. HALDEMAN

FROM: STEPHEN BULL

Mrs. William Snyder, POW wife from San Jose, California, called the President last night and I took the call. This satisfied her.

The reason she was calling was that she had heard that other POW wives had called and spoken personally with the President and she wanted to also. This thing could get out of hand. Although you wanted to handle POW calls from the men on an individual basis, I recommend that we adopt a different policy for wives, as follows:

1. Gen. Scowcroft provide a list of special wives, such as Sybil Stockdale, to whom the President might want to speak if they call. If they call we will check those on an individual basis with you and the President.

2. All calls from other POW relatives would be handled by a staff member such as Gen. Scowcroft or Bull.

Approve_____ Disapprove_____

cc: Gen. B. Scowcroft

DF

SA 99 B-249

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 13, 1973
1:40 p.m.

FOR: BRUCE KEHRLI

FROM: STEPHEN BULL

RE: Corsages for POW Next of Kin

The President would like to have an orchid corsage sent to the closest female next of kin of each returning POW. The corsages should be sent so as to arrive before, but as close to, the reunion of the returning POW and the next of kin. The flower should be sent to each wife, but when there is no wife, it should go to the mother. If there is no mother, use the oldest sister if she is going to meet him, and beyond that use your judgment.

These flowers are to be paid for from the President's personal funds. The card should bear the simple inscription "From the President and Mrs. Nixon."

The flowers are to be ordered and sent from the following florist in Hawaii:

Hawaiian Exotic Flowers
Box 1051
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
(Phone 54106)

Cable: "EXOTIC"
784 Kinoole St., Hilo

The President wants a nice multi-colored orchid corsage, and you should speak with the florist in Hawaii in order to determine what is appropriate.

John Negroponte will provide you with lists of the POWs, the next of kin who should receive the flowers, and a date and location to which it should be sent. The first group will be arriving at Travis AFB at 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, the 14th. You are reminded that the reunion does not take place at Travis, but at the hospital nearest to the man's home town. This is where it gets tricky as to when and were you send the flowers. You will have to coordinate closely with the Hawaiian florist which the President insists be used.

DF

Attached is a complete list of the entire first increment of POWs have been returned to Clark AFB. Mr. Negroponte will have to g you the supplemental information regarding the transfer to Travi the home hospitals.

Les Janka advised me that two of the POWs are returning today b of emergency situations in the family. They are as follows:

Major Perkins (address and information on attached list)

Cmdr. Brian Woods
c/o Rear Admiral R. W. Woods
USN (Ret.)
427 Orange Ave., Apt. #1
Coronado, California 92118

- Good luck.

cc: H. R. Haldeman
L. Higby
J. Negroponte
Brig. Gen. B. Scowcroft
R. Woods
R. Ziegler

SA 99 B-250

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 14, 1973

ADMINISTRATIVELY ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. DAVE PARKER

FROM: BRUCE KEHRLI BAK

SUBJECT: POW Visits to White House

The February 14 News Summary contained the following notes:

-- Wife of POW Kramer who held up homemade "God Bless US and RN" sign obtained a divorce last June....

Referring to the above, it was noted that when this man, Kramer, comes to the White House to visit the President, he should be thanked for his support.

cc: Dave Hoopes
Steve Bull
Henry Kissinger ✓
H.R. Haldeman

DF

SA 99 B-251

Hen S - FYI

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 14, 1973

ADMINISTRATIVELY ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. HENRY KISSINGER

FROM: BRUCE KEHRLI BSK

SUBJECT: Treatment of POWs

The February 14 News Summary contained the following note:

-- One POW freed by VC reported he spent much of his 5 years captivity in shackles and solitary confinement. Several others reportedly told of beatings and ill treatment, such as salt rubbed on wounds.... CBS noted beatings and torture.... Doctor said POW Kjome "has been thru real ordeal" saying at times he's "spacy" w/gaps in his conversation and sudden changes of topics. But doctor said he'd "get over that quickly."

Referring to the above, especially the underlined portion, it was noted that this kind of story will make our assistance program harder to get.

DF

cc : H.R. Haldeman
Bill Timmons

SA 99 B-252

SENSITIVE



SITUATION: CEASEFIRE
SUBJECT CATAGORY: POWS

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

MESSAGE:
IMMEDIATE
D 112038Z FEB 73
FM JCS

INFO CSA WASH DC
CNO WASH DC
WHITE HOUSE WASH DC

UNCLAS SVC ZDK611

WAF454
DD RUEKJCS
ZNR UUUUU ZDC STATE
DD RUMVC RUEHGN RHMIAAA RUHQHQA
DE RUEHC #6172 0422023
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
D 112014Z FEB 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO RUMVC/AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE 6995
RUEHGN/AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE 4414
RHMIAAA/JRHC CLARK AFB IMMEDIATE
INFO RUHQHQA/CINCPAC IMMEDIATE
UNCLAS STATE 026172
JHRC CLARK AFB FOR FRANK SIEVERTS

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF EIGHT CIVILIANS FROM SVN

REF: TELCON REQUEST FROM CLARK

1. FOLLOWINGKIS INFORMATION ABOUT EIGHT AMERICAN CIVIL-
IANS LISTED TO BE RELEASED FEBRUARY 12

2. BROOKENS, NORMAN JOHN

A. BIO DATA. BORN PENNSYLVANIA 7/18/26, MARRIED,
US ARMY 42-67 INCLUDING SERVICE OVERSEAS. PRIV EXPER 46-

******* WHSR COMMENTS *******

HOLDRIDGE

PSN:048325 DTG:112038 TOR:0422050

SENSITIVE

DF

SITUATION: CEASEFIRE
SUBJECT CATAGORY: POWS

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

47. AID SAIGON R-6 MAINT SUPT 5/67, CAPTURED BY VIET CONG 2/68, PROMOTED TO R-5 7/70. -- AID

B. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE. UTECHT AND BROOKENS REPORTEDLY LAST SEEN BETWEEN 1500 AND 1600 HOURS FEBRUARY 4, 1968, IN CHOLON SECTION SAIGON. THEY WERE DRIVING UTECHTIS MAID HOME BY JEEP. BROOKENS AND UTECHT APPARENTLY CAPTURED BY VIET CONG AFTER STREET AMBUSH.

3. UTECHT, RICHARD WILLIAM:

A. BIO DATA. BORN WISCONSIN 9/21/24, MARRIED. US ARMY 42-66 INCLUDING OVERSEAS EXPERIENCE. PRIV EXPER FARM

EQUIP OPER 46. AID SAIGON R-7 FIELD SUPPORT OFF 2/67, ASST GEN SERS OFF 5/67. -- AID

B. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE. SEE BROOKENS.

4. RAMSEY, DOUGLAS KENT:

A. BIO DATA. BORN INDIANA 8/15/34. OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE AB 56. USAF 58-60 1ST LT OVERSEAS. STATE DEPT R-8 6/60, O-6 8/60, INTELL RESCH SPEC 12/60, EDUC-CULT EXCH OFF 7/61, VIETNAMESE LANG TRNG FSI 10/62. SAIGON 4/63, O-7 8/63, DET AID AREA DEVELOP OFF 2/65, O-6 5/66, O-5 4/70.

B. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE. FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER WORKING FOR USAID AS HAU NGHIA PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE CAPTURED BY VIET CONG. HE WAS REPORTEDLY DRIVING A TRUCK CARRYING SUPPLIES TO REFUGEES ON ROAD FROM BAO TRAI TO TRUNG LAP WHEN HIS TRUCK WAS AMBUSHED (AREA LOCATED BETWEEN 25 AND 30 MILES WEST AND NORTH OF SAIGON NEAR ROUTE 1.

5. FRITZ, JOHN JOSEPH, JR.:

A. BIO DATA. USMC SERVICE 53-57, USN SEABEE DISCHARGED APRIL 1961. JOINED LEAR, SEIGLER INC., SEPTEMBER 1968. LEAR, SEIGLER HAD MAINTENANCE CONTRACT AND FRITZ SERVED AS AIRCRAFT REPAIRMAN UNTIL CAPTURE.

B. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE. CAPTURED WITH JAMES NEWINGHAM FEBRUARY 8, 1969 WHEN TRAVELING TO WORK IN VOLKSWAGON BUS. VIET CONG AMBUSH TOOK PLACE ON ROAD 6130 IN

SITUATION: CEASEFIRE
SUBJECT CATAGORY: POWS

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

MORNING PROBABLY ON HIGHWAY 15 ABOUT 50 MILES SOUTHWEST OF SAIGON.

6. WENINGHAM, JAMES ALTON:

A. BIO DATA. VETERAN. MAINTENANCE REPAIRMAN FOR LEAR, SEIGLER.

B. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE. SEE FRITZ.

7. ROLLINS, JAMES DALADI

A. BIO DATA. WORKING FOR CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, RMK/BMJ AS FOREMAN PAINTER.

B. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE. CAPTURE IN CHOLON SECTOR IN SAIGON ON FEBRUARY 5, 1969. ROLLINS APPARENTLY

LEFT APARTMENT IN SAIGON FOR RMK/BMJ MAIN OFFICE. HE WAS RIDING A HONDA MOTORCYCLE.

8. KJOME, MICHAEL H.:

A. BIO DATA. RECENT VETERAN (AIR FORCE 56-58), ORIGINALLY FROM MINNESOTA. RETURNED TO PRIVATE LIFE AND WORKED FOR PRIVATE COMPANIES. THEN WENT BACK TO SCHOOL AND FINISHED COLLEGE. WAS TEACHING COACH IN PINE ISLAND, MINNESOTA IN 1967. AFTER JOINING PACIFIC ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS AS MANAGER AND TEACHER HE WAS ASSIGNED TO SAIGON IN MAY.

B. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE. WORKING FOR PACIFIC ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS AS MANAGER OVER ONE OF P., A., AND E'S TRAINING FACILITIES AT GO VAP, SOUTH VIETNAM. ON THE NIGHT OF HIS CAPTURE, KJOME WAS REPORTEDLY THE NIGHT WATCH OFFICER FOR THE TRAINING FACILITY.

9. WALDHALS, RICHARD G.:

A. BIO DATA. VETERAN OF VIETNAM WAR WHERE SERVED AS ARMY MEDICAL CORPSMAN. DISCHARGED FROM ARMY. ATTENDED SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY. WENT BACK TO VIETNAM IN 1971 AND IN AUGUST 1971 WAS CAPTURED BY COMMUNIST FORCES.

B. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE. REPORTED ON ROUTE

PAGE 438 SITUATION MESSAGE(S) LISTING DATE 02/18/73//049

SITUATION: CEASEFIRE
SUBJECT CATAGORY: POWS

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

BETWEEN SAIGON AND CAMBODIA. AT TIME OF CAPTURE MR. WALD-
HAUS WAS TOURIST AND UNEMPLOYED. ROGERS

BT