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7	46	5/11/1972	<input type="checkbox"/>	Foreign Policy	Memo	From Bill Rhatican to Colson RE: public support polls on Vietnam and analysis. 4 pgs.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 11, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chuck Colson
FROM: Bill Rhatigan *WR*
SUBJECT: Vietnam War - Public Support

Letters: (as of 3:00)
Pro: 4,029
Con: 1,764
Comment: 13

Telegrams: (as of 4:00)
Pro: 15,776
Con: 6,228
Comment: 510

No further backlog

The following steps were taken today:

1. Andre Letendre has completed 2,000 telephone calls. He guarantees 100,000 letters and telegrams. He has moved into 1701 to focus on six Jaycee state conventions this weekend. He will try one of two approaches: either individual telegrams (15,000) or "the longest telegram" -- one telegram signed by as many Jaycees as possible.
2. Billy Graham has agreed to ask his constituency to pray for the success of the President.
3. Mike Balzano reports that he has contacted 60 prominent ethnic leaders, who have contacted members of numerous ethnic organizations and have spread the word in a chain fashion throughout the country.

He is preparing an article containing the names and statements of five prominent ethnic leaders from the major ethnic groups (5 groups in all -- 25 individuals). The article from each group will be sent to the appropriate ethnic press. This is being coordinated with Ken Clawson.

4. Aging

Mr. Dick Williams, Chairman of the Board of an Episcopalian Nursing Home in D.C. and Section 202 Project Chairman, talked with the Rt. Rev. Addison Hosea, Episcopalian Bishop of Lexington, Ky., who has agreed to contact other Episcopalian Bishops. Also, Bishop William Moody, President of the Episcopalian Theological Seminary of Kentucky was contacted.

Mr. Williams contacted Dr. Darrell Crain, President of the Medical Society of D.C., who promised to contact local Republican doctors and call the National AMA in Chicago. In addition, Mr. Randolph Rouse, President of the National Steeplechase & Hunt Association, is very much in favor of the President and agreed to contact chapters all across the country.

5. Veterans

American Legion - Yesterday they went out with a mailing of 1400 to key elected and staff personnel (adjutants, commanders, etc.) telling them to get to the Hill. Generally good feedback on state and national level. Making efforts to step up Congressional pressure in the next few days. They are starting a significant push on the swing Senators today. This afternoon a specific mailer on this topic is being sent out and their legislative personnel will step up their efforts.

VFW - Cooper Holt and Julian Dickinson are presently in Williamsburg, Virginia, and cannot be reached. They have received a lot of favorable mail today. Resolutions supporting the President have been passed in Florida, Arkansas, Wisconsin, Indiana, and other states. They are making an active effort to contact members of Congress and other public figures in opposition to the President. Generally good reaction. Much grass roots support.

DAV- National Commander Edward T. Conroy is running in a Congressional primary as a Democratic candidate. It is expected that we will not be getting a great deal of political support from him. John Keller will contact their state commanders on our behalf. He is going to be cautious, but

expects that he will accomplish some good for us. The state commanders will be doing most of the speaking while Conroy runs in the primary, and we can expect good reaction. They are still making calls and asking for telegrams to the White House and Hill.

GI Forum - This is a big one. National President Joe Juarez is sending a telegram of support to the President and to the Congress. He is making calls to his members especially in California and Texas in an attempt to generate grass root support. He expects good reaction. The GI Forum is 100% Spanish-speaking veterans. The Illinois State Chapter just sent a telegram of endorsement.

Blinded Veterans - Have pretty much exhausted their potential. Limited, but good, reaction.

Catholic War Veterans - 85% in favor of President. Looks good. We should be getting telegrams from them today. Will make renewed effort to ask membership to contact Hill. National Commander indicates that he is getting best reaction from N. Y., N. J., Pa., Ohio, and Ill.

Fleet Reserve - generally good reaction. Expect best reaction from the West Coast, Tidewater, and North Central areas. Another flash was put in the mail yesterday from the Washington office urging telegrams. Expected that many of the members will send letters because of their retired status.

Marine Corps League - putting out a release today (see attachment). Release will be inserted in the Congressional Record by Larry Hogan and Bob Dole. Generally good reaction on phone calls. Feel they have done what they can because of limited facilities.

Naval Reserve - sent out mailing to 300 chapters. Started working on Congress today.

Assn. of the U. S. Army - sent out 1600 statements of position to their chapters asking their membership to contact Hill and press.

Paralyzed Veterans - Have sent additional telegrams to the Hill and to the press voicing their support of the President's position.

Amvets - Have not been mentioned in detail because their leadership is currently at a conference in Milwaukee. Tony has placed phone calls to them and is awaiting an answer. They have been working on phone calls and telegrams, etc. to the White House and the Hill and he expects they still are, but will forward more definitive information upon receipt.

Those organizations not mentioned have all been informed and to varying degrees have promised cooperation.