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DISCUSSION PAPER

MIA/POW ACTIVITIES

ISSUES

- FINAL DETERMINATIONS OF STATUS BLOCKED BY REFUSAL OF COMMUNISTS TO PERMIT SEARCH AND IDENTIFICATION TEAMS TO PERFORM THEIR DUTIES.
- SOME 1300 INDIVIDUALS CARRIED AS "MISSING IN ACTION" OR AS "PRISONERS OF WAR."
- INFORMATION PERSISTS THAT AMERICANS ARE BEING HELD CAPTIVE IN SEA-
 - SOME FACT
 - SOME FICTION
 - MOSTLY PURE HOPE ON PART OF FAMILIES FED BY FACT AND FICTION
- LAWS REGARDING DESIGNATION/CONTINUATION OF MIA/POW STATUS TEND TO PRESSURE SERVICE SECRETARIES TOWARD PRESUMED DEAD DESIGNATION.
 - STRONG RESISTANCE FROM MOST FAMILIES .
 - CONGRESS ON BOTH SIDES OF FENCE .
 - SERVICES LEGALLY HAMSTRUNG .
 - SELECTED MEMBERS DESIRE REDESIGNATION BUT CANNOT REQUEST CHANGE FOR VARIOUS REASONS.
- CERTAIN FACTIONS ARE USING THE EMOTION OF THE ISSUE FOR PERSONAL GAIN.
- FINALLY -- QUESTION ASKED BY FAMILIES -- "HAS COUNTRY FORGOTTEN OR IS THIS ALL WE CAN DO? IF SO - WE MUST SAY SO."

NEED

- VEHICLE WHEREBY ADMINISTRATION CAN REVIEW PAST ACTIONS -- VERIFY CURRENT STATUS AND PROCEDURES AND RECOMMEND FINAL COURSE OF ACTION.

RECOMMENDATION

- DESIGNATION OF PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE.
 - 16/20 MAN COMMISSION
 - INDEPENDENT OF ADMINISTRATION/FAMILIES
- OBJECTIVE.
 - REVIEW/RECOMMEND COURSE OF ACTION FOR RESOLUTION OF MIA/POW ISSUES.

COMMENTS

- IDEA HAS SUPPORT
 - FAMILIES
 - CONGRESS
 - DEFENSE
 - WHITE HOUSE
 - STATE DEPARTMENT?
 - NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL?

DISCUSSION

- ACTIONS REQUIRED
 - FINAL APPROVAL BY STATE DEPARTMENT/PRESIDENT
 - DETERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP
 - 6/8 CONGRESS/SENATORS
 - 8/10 LEADERS
 - CHAIRMAN

DISCUSSION (CONTINUED)

- STAFF SUPPORT
- FUNDING
- FACILITIES
- DATE/METHOD OF ANNOUNCEMENT

MGMWSHT HSB
2-016614E245 09/02/74
ICS IPMMTZZ CSP
9145619447 MGM TDMT NEWBURGH NY 200 09-02 0907P EDT
ZIP 20500

W U Mailgram
western union



THIS MAILGRAM WAS TRANSMITTED ELECTRONICALLY BY WESTERN UNION TO A POST OFFICE NEAR YOU FOR DELIVERY

JOHN MARSH
CARE THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON DC 20500

SINCE OUR SMALL GROUP REPRESENTING THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES MET WITH MR FORD PRIOR TO HIS RISE TO THE PRESIDENCY, THERE HAS NOT ONLY BEEN COMPLETE SILENCE REGARDING THESE MEN BUT WE HAVE HAD TO SUFFER THE TERRIBLE REALIZATION THAT THOSE WHO FLED THIS COUNTRY ARE OF MORE CONCERN THAN THOSE WHO SERVED. THIS NEW ADMINISTRATI ON'S MEMORY MUST BE OF VERY SHORT DURATION IF THEY CANNOT RECALL THE ACTS OF VIOLENCE THE BURNING OF THE FLAG THE SINGING OF HELL NO WE WON'T GO WHILE OUR MEN FOLLOWED THE ORDERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE. MR FORD PROMISED IN THAT MEETING THAT HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT. WE WATCH NOW WITH INCREASING ANGER THE VARIOUS GROUPS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD. NONE OF THEM REPRESENT AMERICANS DYING IN COMMUNIST PRISON CAMPS. PLEASE ASK PRESIDENT FORD WHERE OUR MEN STAND IN HIS PRIORITY

GEORGE L BROOKS MIA FATHER 16 CREST HAVEN DR NEWBURGH NY 12550

21:07 EDT

MGMWSHT HSB



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 3, 1975

M

TO: COUNSELLOR MARSH

I have attached a memorandum for the President which outlines, in brief form, my meeting with the National League of Families conferees last weekend.

For your information, I have also attached a copy of the 27 January 1975 Senate resolution regarding MIA interest, and two other recent publications on the matter.

I will continue to work with State and Defense representatives on this matter and will endeavor to keep you informed as we proceed towards a final decision.

Attachments

R-
✓ Read
read 2/24/75
Dick



RICHARD L. LAWSON

Major General, United States Air Force
Military Assistant to the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

FEB 3 1975

m i d

WASHINGTON
February 1, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: GENERAL LAWSON ~~(P)~~

SUBJECT: Meeting with MIA Families

Following our discussion on Saturday morning regarding the MIA meeting here in Washington, D. C., I met with the VIVA-National League of Families conference.

I had agreed only to meet in privacy with the Board of Governors of the League. However, upon arrival at the meeting site, I was strongly urged to meet with the total membership. In addition, it was requested that three members of the Press, who were in attendance at the Saturday afternoon session, be permitted to stay during my remarks and the question-answer session. In view of the emotional state of the entire group, I agreed to comply with their request.

In accordance with your guidance, I passed the following information to the families:

(1) The request for the establishment of a Presidential Task Force was being carefully reviewed by a number of agencies of government. During the course of that study, certain alternative proposals had been developed and were also being reviewed. I assured them that regardless of the name or organizational structure established for the group - the product would be forwarded to and read by you and this seemed to greatly relieve their concern.

(2) At my request, your proclamation of National MIA Awareness Day was read to the group by the Executive Director of the League. I stated that it had been passed to the media for immediate release and should be available nation-wide.

An extensive question and answer session followed. I have summarized those areas which I believe would be of interest to you - along with my response.

The Task Force

Q. There was great interest in this area. The families were concerned about possible organization options, potential nominees, and projected announcement date.

A. I indicated that a number of organization options were under study, including the League's own input; an inter-agency council; a small, 3-5 man committee; and, even the designation of a single individual to review the situation. From the tone of the questions and general mood of the family group, I would conclude that only the inter-agency group would be rejected by them. All of the others would be acceptable and the small group (3-5) was most appealing. They demonstrated a deep-seated concern against using anyone from the principal Departments (State and Defense). Obviously, there is some mistrust there. I believe that any of the individuals on our list would have been acceptable to them. Regarding the decision date - I indicated that approximately six weeks would be required to finalize the decision and make necessary preparations prior to announcement.

Status Changes

Q. I was asked several questions on policies regarding status changes. I answered all in the same fashion.

A. The action is, by law, assigned to the Service Secretaries. I know of no changes in policy which are either in-planning or underway regarding this subject. It is clear to me that this is one of the most volatile aspects of this matter. At attachment #1, I have included a series of tables which outline the financial impact of a status change on three typical cases, for your information. As you can see, there are significant changes, however, all families have been very fairly treated in this regard.

Presidential Meetings

Q. There were a number of questions which pertained to meetings with you. Fortunately, the group became embroiled in

a floor debate over who should be permitted to see the President, i. e., Board member or individual; what type of meeting - ceremonial or a sit-down discussion of views; and date of meeting - now, February or after some action has been completed concerning a commission.

A. I was content to let this one stay on the floor. After the discussion became heated, I did interject that I would stay in contact with their leadership, and if a consensus opinion developed, I would certainly review the request with the President's Appointments Secretary.

Presidential Statements

Q. There were several questions which related to Presidential proclamations, statements and announcements. They were very concerned that no publicity was being accorded their cause and indeed noted they had to pay for ads in order to properly present their case.

A. I indicated that the matter of publicity was primarily the result of decisions by the news media. At this point, one of the reporters present stood, identified himself and ask "How many people are we talking about - 90 or 100 thousand?" (I would guess that he had his numbers mixed with the Clemency Program, but he answered their question far better than I could have.) I gave the reporter the handout at attachment #2. It also covers your questions regarding the relationships of different numbers being quoted as incident to the program.

The remainder of the meeting (almost 2 1/2 hours), consisted of specific questions relating to selected people and places. I have directed each of these to appropriate agencies for answer.

The study group is now completing its work on the additional organization options. That effort will be coordinated with the activities associated with the statements being prepared regarding legal termination of the Vietnam conflict. Every effort will be made to have a decision package ready for you in time to include the announcement regarding the MIA organization within the body of your termination statement.

2 Attachments

COMPARISON OF COMPENSATION AND SURVIVOR BENEFITS

Assumptions:

- Grade: 0-3 (Captain or Navy Lieutenant)
- Years Service: 8
- Married, 2 children under 18
- MIA for 5 years
- Full coverage under Social Security

Full Pay and Allowances While Member is in a Missing Status:

- (Tax free -- includes Flight Pay, Hostile Fire Pay and Family Separation Allowance)
- Monthly: \$1,799.62 (October 1, 1974)

Approximate Survivor Benefits if Missing Member's Status Changed to Dead:

- Monthly Benefits: \$876.00
- Social Security (Payable until children reach age 18 - or 23 if a full time student - \$523.00)
- Veterans Admin Department Indemnity Compensation (benefit for children payable until age 18, or 23 if full time student)

\$301 + \$26 per child
\$353

Lump Sum Benefits:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| - Serviceman's Government Life Insurance (SGLI) | \$20,000 |
| - Death Gratuity | 3,000 |
| - Retroactive Social Security | 31,000 |
| - Refund of FICA Tax | 3,000 |
| - Unused Leave (accrued prior date of loss not included) | 7,299.60 (maximum accrual-150 days) |

\$64,000.00 (Approximate)

Other Death Benefits:

- Travel and shipment of household goods to location within 1 year of status change
- Unpaid pay and allowances (includes USSDP account - 10% savings)
- Medical care (military and civilian)
- Commissary, exchange, clubs, theater
- Continued legal and survivors assistance
- VA home loan guarantee and educational assistance for children and widow
- Funeral travel expenses for next of kin

COMPARISON OF COMPENSATION AND SURVIVOR BENEFITS

Assumptions:

- Grade: 0-3 (Captain or Navy Lieutenant)
- Years Service: 8
- Married, no children
- MIA for 5 years
- Full coverage under Social Security

Full Pay and Allowances While Member is in a Missing Status:

- (Tax free -- includes Flight Pay, Hostile Fire Pay and Family Separation Allowance)
- Monthly: \$1,799.62 (October 1, 1974)

Approximate Survivor Benefits if Missing Member's Status Changed to Dead:

- Monthly Benefits: \$301 until wife reaches age 60, then variable depending on average income of husband (VA Indemnity Compensation)
- Social Security (Payable after wife reaches age 60)

Lump Sum Benefits:

| | |
|--|--|
| - Serviceman's Government Life Insurance (SGLI) | \$ 20,000 |
| - Death Gratuity | 3,000 |
| - Refund of FICA Tax | 3,000 |
| - Unused Leave (leave accrued prior date of loss not included) | 7,299.60 (maximum accrual is 150 days) |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$33,000.00 (Approximate) |

Other Death Benefits:

- Travel and shipment of household goods to location within 1 year of status change
- Unpaid pay and allowances (includes USSDP account - 10% savings)
- Medical care (military and civilian)
- Commissary, exchange, clubs, theater
- Continued legal and survivors assistance
- VA home loan guarantee and educational assistance for children and widow
- Funeral travel expenses for next of kin

COMPARISON OF COMPENSATION AND SURVIVOR BENEFITS

Assumptions:

- Grade: 0-3 (Captain or Navy Lieutenant)
- Years Service: 8
- Unmarried - no dependents
- MIA for 5 years

Full Pay and Allowances While Member is in a Missing Status:

- (Tax Free -- includes Flight Pay and Hostile Fire Pay)
- Monthly: \$1,730.62 (October 1, 1974)

Lump Sum Benefits:

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| - Serviceman's Government Life Insurance (SGLI) | \$20,000 |
| - Death Gratuity | 3,000 |
| - Retroactive Social Security | 255 |
| - Refund of FICA Tax | 2,418 |
| - Unused Leave (accrued prior to date of loss not included) | 9,900 (max 150 days) |
| - USSDP account -(10% savings) | 83,500* |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$119,073 (Approximate) |

* Approximate savings accumulated for 0-3 without dependents

Other Death Benefits:

- Travel and living allowances to site of funeral or memorial services
- Memorial service allowance of \$450.00

*Approximate Survivor Benefits if Missing Member's Status Changed to Dead:

- There are no benefits available for survivor's of unmarried serviceman with no children

STATISTICAL DATA REGARDING U. S. SERVICEMEN MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

| | |
|---|-------|
| As of 27 January 1973 | 1,929 |
| Repatriated (From a Missing Status*) | 564 |
| | <hr/> |
| Remaining | 1,365 |
| | |
| Losses (May, June 1973) | 4 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 1,369 |
| | |
| Changes in Status to Deceased (27 January 1973-4 January 1975) | 438 |
| | <hr/> |
| In Missing Status As of 4 January 1975 | 931 |

* 1 Repatriated from Deserter Status
1 Repatriated from KIA Status
Total Repatriated - 566

such act in the case of any household whose members are all 60 years of age or older or in the case of any household in which over one-half of the income is provided by members 60 years of age or older, and for other purposes.

S. 308

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the Senator from California (Mr. TUNNEY) was added as a cosponsor of the bill (S. 308) to provide one free physical per year for medicare recipients.

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. CHILES) were added as cosponsors of the bill (S. 308) to allow one free physical examination per year for medicare recipients.

S. 317

At the request of Mr. WEICKER, the Senator from Kansas (Mr. DOLE) was added as a cosponsor of the bill (S. 317) to establish a Joint Committee on Intelligence Oversight.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 3

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the Senator from Oregon (Mr. HATFIELD), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. STEVENSON), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. MONDALE), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. STAFFORD), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ABOUREZK), and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARY W. HART) were added as cosponsors of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 3) to require the submission and approval by the Congress of fees on oil imports.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 12

At the request of Mr. ROTH, the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ABOUREZK), the Senator from California (Mr. CRANSTON), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. DOLE), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS), and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. PERCY) were added as cosponsors of the resolution (S. Res. 12) amending the standing rules of the Senate providing for open meetings of conference committees.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 18

At the request of Mr. MOSS, the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) was added as a cosponsor of the resolution (S. Res. 18) to amend rules XXV and XVI of the standing rules of the Senate with respect to jurisdiction over energy research and development matters, and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 1

At the request of Mr. MONDALE, the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. HUMPHREY) was added as a cosponsor of the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 1) in support of International Women's Year 1975.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 5—SUBMISSION OF A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE PRESIDENT TO ESTABLISH A COUNCIL ON MIA'S

(Referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.)

PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL ON MIA'S

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, today I am introducing a Senate concurrent resolution to express the sense of the Congress that a Presidential Council on MIA's be established. Since the status of servicemen listed as missing in action in Indochina became an issue, there have been a number of promises and implied promises that the fate of these men would be investigated and explained. Yet today, on the second anniversary of the signing of the Paris peace accord, there are still 80 servicemen listed as missing in action with no official explanation of their whereabouts.

A resolution of the MIA question is likely to be achieved by diplomacy and executive action. The need for, and accomplishment of, diplomatic and executive actions often come and go quickly. By the very nature of such actions, there is little opportunity for debate or consideration such as might be given in Congress. Therefore, it is my feeling that a council at the Presidential level would be more capable of providing meaningful advice to the President and the Secretary of State as to what sort of action would be most beneficial to resolving the MIA question. That is why I am introducing this concurrent resolution today.

It is my hope that the Presidential Council on MIA's would be able to take an active role in structuring our diplomatic and Executive actions in the best manner to resolve the MIA question. By being a part of the executive branch at the White House level, such a council would hopefully be in a better position to achieve meaningful action.

In addition, a Presidential Council on MIA's would be better able to study the wishes of the families of servicemen missing in action. One of the goals of such a council should be to make recommendations on better forming our policies toward MIA's and their families. This objective is stated in the resolution I am introducing.

Mr. President, the families of servicemen missing in action continue to be in a great deal of uncertainty about the fate of their kin. I strongly feel that we, as a nation, should not simply forget about these men and their families. A full accounting of the MIA's should be an integral part of our national foreign policy. Such an objective is the intended result of this legislation. I hope we can pass this concurrent resolution promptly so that the MIA's will not be unaccounted on the third anniversary of the Paris accord.

I request unanimous consent that the resolution be printed in the Record at this point.

There being no objection, the resolution was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 5

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring):

Whereas, January 27, 1975, marks the second anniversary of the signing of the Paris Agreement, and

Whereas, the Communist block countries in Southeast Asia are not abiding by Articles 8a and 8b of the Paris Agreements or the Laotian protocol in accounting for our MIA's, and

Whereas, there appears to be a lack of effective action being taken or proposed to achieve a full accounting of MIA's.

Therefore, be it resolved that it is the sense of the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives that the President establish a Presidential Council on MIA's to study the cases of MIA's and their families, to propose courses of action to achieve a full accounting, and to make recommendations concerning Federal policies related to MIA's.

SENATE RESOLUTION 33—SUBMISSION OF A RESOLUTION URGING A MEETING OF HEMISPHERE FINANCE MINISTERS

(Referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.)

Mr. BENTSEN (for himself and Mr. McGEHE) submitted the following resolution:

S. RES. 33

Whereas economic issues are increasingly critical to the stability of Western Hemisphere relations, and

Whereas economic factors directly affect National priorities and foreign policies, and

Whereas the economies of the Nations of the Western Hemisphere are increasingly interdependent, and

Whereas current economic conditions, such as inflation, unemployment, raw materials and energy shortages and balance of payments deficits, threaten not only the orderly economic growth of the Hemisphere but also Hemisphere security, and

Whereas it is desirable that improved Hemisphere economic cooperation be achieved, consistent with the National interests and legitimate aspirations of each Hemisphere State, in order to combat more effectively the economic problems confronting the hemisphere, and

Whereas a discussion of Hemisphere economic issues would compliment the March 1975 meeting of Hemisphere foreign ministers,

Be it resolved that it is the sense of the Senate that the President urge the convening as soon as possible of a meeting of Hemisphere finance ministers to develop means of furthering economic cooperation among the various States on the basis of a Hemisphere partnership, to suggest equitable and effective coordinate action to the extent possible in meeting the medium- to long-range economic growth needs of the States of the Hemisphere.

SENATE RESOLUTION 36—SUBMISSION OF A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DISAPPROVAL OF THE PLAN OF THE INDIAN CLAIMS COMMISSION IN THE CASE OF THE GRAND RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS

(Referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.)

Mr. PHILIP A. HART submitted the following resolution:

S. RES. 36

Resolved, That the Senate hereby disapproves the plan, for the use and distribution of the Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians judgment funds awarded by the In-

Hanoi's Inaction Stalls Search for MIA

By Ronald Yates

Chicago Tribune

ference in South Vietnam, .States about MIAs and they want the bodies of the loved
that the government of feel that, if they hold out ones back.

MIA families wasting time, ex-POW claims

By **ROBERT DIETRICH**
TRIBUNE Military Writer

One of the longest-held

endured North Vietnamese
brutality through "faith and
trust in God."

January 3, 1975

The Honorable Strom Thurmond
4241 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Thurmond:

I sincerely hope your recent trip to Southeast Asia was both productive and enjoyable. I would be interested in hearing from you any reactions and suggestions resulting from your discussions that could possibly help us in working for an honorable determination of the fate of our men.

May I urge you to re-introduce your bill S. 3862 in the next session. I have also asked Congressman Bob Wilson to re-introduce his H.R. 16520 in the House.

I have talked with many family members and can assure you that a great majority support the provisions of your bill and will work diligently for its passage.

Many thanks to you for your continuing interest and efforts to help us get an honorable determination of the fate of our men.

Best wishes for a successful new year to you and your family.

Very truly yours,

E. C. Mills
Executive Director

ECM:dib



SUGGESTED JOINT RESOLUTION FOR SENATE AND HOUSE

WHEREAS, January 27, 1975 will mark the second anniversary of the signing of the Paris agreements, and

WHEREAS, there seems to be a stand off wherein the North Vietnamese and the Vietcong say the U. S. is not living up to the agreements, and

WHEREAS, the Communist block countries in Southeast Asia are not abiding by Articles 8a and 8b of the Paris agreements nor the Laotian protocol in returning our POWs and accounting for our Missing in Action,

THEREFORE, Be It Resolved:

That it is the sense of the U. S. Senate and the U. S. House of Representatives that we ask all parties signatory to the Paris agreements and the Laotian protocols to abide by these international agreements.

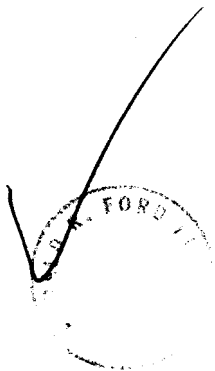
Be it further resolved that this Congress ask the President and the Secretary of State, who was the U. S. representative at the Paris Peace talks, to take the necessary steps, including renegotiation if this is deemed necessary, to get an honorable determination of the fate of all U. S. servicemen and civilians missing in Southeast Asia.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

8

Attached brought
to our atten. by
Dick Lawson —



been listed in medical publications for hyperkinesis-learning disability, which is also known as minimal brain dysfunction. The symptoms range from mild to uncontrollable. About half the children are treated with drugs "the matter of management."

Feingold's interest in the possible links between hyperkinesis and additives was roused when some of his allergy patients had behavioral changes when he put them on special diets. Feingold studied the research on immunology and wondered: "Was it possible that the artificial flavorings and colorings were causing the behavioral disturbances? The time factor favored it. The additives, particularly the flavorings, had not been used in any great quantity until after World War II. Most of the synthetic additives, aside from colors, were less than 35 years old. Could the mass of convenience foods and the great tangle of additives have anything to do with the recent alarming incidence of H-LD?"

"There seemed to be circumstantial evidence. A Standard & Poor's graph projecting the dollar-value increase in artificial flavors looked very much like a graph indicating the rising trend of H-LD for the same period. A soft-drink graph displayed a certain parallel to the increased incidence in hyperactive children, and the synthetics were often used in the soft beverages."

Rather than becoming another prescription-happy physician—your respectable junkie who unthinkingly believes drug company pitches—Feingold conducted studies among groups of children. He created the "K-P" diet (many sample diets are included in the book), the initials coming from the Kaiser-Permanente health program he is associated with in San Francisco. The diet takes the children off, first, all foods artificially flavored and colored; and second, all fruits and vegetables containing natural salicylates (tomatoes, cucumbers, apples, grapes, oranges and peaches, among others).

Feingold reports many case histories showing surprising successes. One child had all hyperkinetic symptoms disappear within three weeks. Others showed similar positive results. In all, about 50 percent of the children on the K-P diet responded favorably, and 75 percent were taken off drugs.

Feingold's book has the ring of alarm to it, as well it should. He is suggesting that we not only may be making millions of our children sick but that we then turn around and support doctors, pharmacists and drug companies to "manage" the illness.

Such a message is likely to be dismissed as heresy among the true believers who trust the fake food companies and the Food and Drug Administration. Feingold can be quickly put down by those in power; his studies were "unscientific," they were of limited range, and besides who is he—just a tinkering allergist—to say he has the answers. Doesn't Feingold know that we must see the bodies falling dead in the street, before there is "absolute proof?", and action can be taken?

That is a standard response: citizens must prove something is dangerous rather than the manufacturer prove it is safe. Indeed, when Feingold wrote the FDA asking this supposed protector of the public health to require the use of the words "No Artificial Color or Flavor" on foods to so inform the shopper, the FDA wrote back saying nothing doing. "We know of no credible scientific evidence to distinguish between a natural flavor and its synthetic counterpart with respect to any safety questions," an FDA official said. "For these reasons any representations to the contrary—i.e., that there is such a link or that there is a safety difference between natural and artificial counterparts—would be false or misleading. Similarly, any use of a symbol raising or referring to such connotations would be equally misleading."

This is classic FDA thinking. Don't stir up the public. Leave their hackles unraised. It also reveals how quick the agency bats down someone like Feingold who was doing on his own what the FDA should have been doing long ago: testing hyperactive children and their diets. Assuredly, Feingold is a lone doctor, and his experiments may lack foolproof certitude, but is he suspect because of that?

For the parents who wrote so many letters to Morton Mintz when his Feingold story ran, the answer is no. Too many citizens suspect that they cannot trust the food companies, and they know that the FDA is uncaring or underfunded, or else it would be leading the way to find answers, not telling Feingold to go away merely because he wants the consumer to see clearly that the food he is buying is fake.

For now, Feingold's book is a valuable warning. It is alerting us not only to his own findings—that colorings and flavorings are a possible cause of hyperactivity among some children—but also to the unsettling fact that if parents want to act to protect their child, they will likely have to do it on their own. The best help they may get is not from the medical community, the FDA nor the food companies, but from this book.

CALIFORNIA'S EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM

Mr. CRANSTON. Mr. President, the February 26 edition of the New York Times carries a perceptive and complimentary article about California's unique program in early childhood education, spearheaded by the State superintendent of public instruction, Dr. Wilson A. Riles.

I am deeply pleased to see recognition given this outstanding program, and in view of its importance, I ask unanimous consent that the editorial be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the editorial was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

PREVENTIVE EDUCATION

American education has devoted too much of its resources to massive remedial instruction, and not enough to the prevention of failure. Wasteful of manpower and funds, this policy is even more severely flawed in human terms. The frustrations suffered by children who cannot keep up with their peers are hard to erase, even with superficially effective remedial work.

Since the existing approach is so demonstrably unsatisfactory, the decision of California's education authorities to replace it with preventive pedagogy is a triumph of common sense. The new Early Childhood Education program in that state relies on the oldest recipe—intimate personal attention to every child.

Specifically, the program calls for the availability in each classroom of one adult for every ten children, to make sure day after day that no youngster is left behind in those early years, between ages 4 and 5. It is then, as all expert testing shows, that the foundations are laid for reading, numbers, the comprehension of new ideas and the responsibilities toward oneself and one's neighbors.

Precisely such strategies have long been applied to the most successful private schools and to a few recent programs for the disadvantaged. The crucial difference in the California plan, however, is that it is intended across the board rather than exclusively for either the rich or the poor. The program thus avoids the high risk of failure that confronts any approach that does not benefit most children.

The new plan must still skirt two graveyards of educational innovation: quick

claims of easy victory and obsessive reliance on instant statistical feedback. Wilson Riles, California's unorthodox Superintendent of Public Instruction, has wisely allowed individual schools to draw their own pedagogical roadmaps.

That means time will be required to determine the best ways of conducting preventive education.

Since the program relies heavily on a combined force of teachers, paraprofessionals and volunteers, its success depends on each school ingenuity in establishing cohesion in a staff of such disparate background and capacities. In addition, the experiment will represent a challenge to the teacher-training institutions to shift their focus to the actual classroom scene.

The California experiment gives new urgency to enactment of the Child and Family Services bill, the successor to the Child Development bill vetoed by former President Nixon. The combination, in home and school, of early diagnosis and preventive care in child rearing, nutrition and education places emphasis on joyous learning rather than on painful remedies for failure.

THE GENOCIDE CONVENTION

Mr. PROXMIRE. Mr. President, we as Americans, have been blessed with a country whose success in economic and other terms is unprecedented in the history of the world. We have been extremely fortunate in all respects. We hold, as a country, a position of such power and high standing that any action we take, whether it involve domestic or international policy, will be carefully scrutinized by the rest of the world and will not pass unnoticed or without some effect on the policies of other countries. We must set high standards through example. The ratification of the Genocide Convention would be such an example.

In a statement to a subcommittee of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate, Francis Goldman, president of B'nai B'rith, stated:

When the General Assembly of the United Nations approved the Genocide Convention, its action met with almost universal applause. The Genocide Convention was regarded as a historic milestone in the effort of civilized peoples to bring international law and practice abreast of the conscience of mankind. Our great country has always been in the forefront of this vital struggle. We cannot now abandon the fight, for it is in our security interests as well in the interest of justice and freedom. We must retain the faith of freedom loving and democratic peoples throughout the world. Such action by ourselves and other free peoples of the world will bring nearer the day when all peoples will demand and receive the protection of the international rule of law. We owe it to ourselves and posterity to make every effort to achieve this goal.

The issue involves more than just the prevention of Genocide. Again, I urge ratification as at least a partial fulfillment of our responsibility to all nations.

MIA'S IN INDOCHINA

Mr. STENNIS. Mr. President, in a Senate speech nearly a year ago, March 19, 1974, I discussed the situation with respect to MIA's—the missing-in-action in Indochina—and the problems which had evolved for the families of the MIA's. In the intervening year the situation has not changed materially and the problems



remain, intensified by a year of fruitless waiting.

The MIA problems are many and complex, but I think there are two overriding questions involved:

First: What can be done to expedite the accounting for MIA's which was promised in the wake of the Vietnam agreement but has not yet been received? Of course this broad question embraces whether any of those listed as "missing" might conceivably be held in Indochina prisons.

Then, in view of this continuing uncertainty, should the military service secretaries go ahead with their proceedings in which the status of individuals now classed as missing can be changed to presumed dead?

New initiatives by the executive branch and new legislation by the Congress may be required if answers are to be provided for these and other MIA questions.

As one step along the way, however, I have written to President Ford urging that he appoint a top-level citizens' commission to study the present MIA situation. Creation of such a commission has been requested by the league—that is, the League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia—and the request has been supported by veterans' groups and by a number of our colleagues here and in the House.

I think a careful, dispassionate objective study of the current MIA situation by a respected group of concerned citizens would be helpful to the President, the Congress, and the MIA families, some of whom now feel that no one else is concerned about their problems.

I hope the President will follow this course of action. I ask unanimous consent that my letter to him may be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

FEBRUARY 27, 1975.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I know you have been asked, by the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, among others, to appoint a special Commission, with top-level membership, to consider MIA problems. I surely hope you will decide to appoint such a Commission.

As Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I have closely followed POW and MIA developments since before the Vietnam agreement in 1973. It is clear to me that MIA families were promised a full accounting for Americans missing in Indochina, and they have not yet received that accounting.

Despite this uncertainty, however, the Service Secretaries have power (which has been challenged in the Courts) to change the status of MIAs from missing to presumed dead. In their frustration, many MIA families feel that this administrative power may be used at any time to write-off all the MIAs and the entire MIA problem. I am confident that there is no such intent, but I can understand the concern of these MIA families.

I do not in any way minimize the difficulties involved for an MIA Commission. Clearly, there is no easy way to secure an accounting for MIAs, especially given the erosion of the cease-fire agreement, and the other MIA problems are also complex. I believe, however, that all interested parties would profit from a careful, dispassionate,

objective study of all the questions involved. The findings and recommendations of such a Commission could point the way to Congressional action, as well as to executive initiatives, which could help solve these problems and ease some of the understandable concerns of MIA families.

May I urge you, once again, to give this matter favorable consideration.

With personal good wishes,

Sincerely,

JOHN C. STENNIS.

ON "HELPING" SOUTH VIETNAM

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. President, I do not think we can read too much about the meaning of the administration's request for additional military aid for South Vietnam, and the adverse consequences should that request be approved. Such hopeless action would only prolong the suffering and repression of the people of Vietnam. Yet the administration has never attempted to understand this conclusion. Instead, President Ford and his advisors prefer to repeat the traditional words and phrases that have accompanied so many similar proposals conceived by the growing attitudes and policies of militarism. They call this the justification of their request, but they have never bothered to define these words or explain what these clichés really mean—to Vietnam or to the United States.

In an article appearing in *Commonweal* Edward S. Herman has questioned the words of the administration spokesmen and has attempted to translate them into terms which present a more realistic view of the likely effect of another \$300 million for South Vietnam. I would like my colleagues to have an opportunity to look behind the administration's rationale by looking deeper into the meaning of the words they use, and I therefore ask unanimous consent that the article "On 'Helping' South Vietnam" be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

ON "HELPING" SOUTH VIETNAM

(By Edward S. Herman)

\$300 MILLION MORE?

In each period of expanding American intervention in Indochina a virtually identical set of rationalizations, clichés and fabrications is set forth to justify the renewed effort to maintain in power Washington's chosen instruments of rule. In early 1975, President Ford and Defense Secretary Schlesinger have been repeating these now traditional routines, and once again the mass media report them without comment as "news," thus serving once again as propaganda instruments for the war party, still firmly in control of the executive branch of government. The Orwellian (or Bierclian) quality of these clichés has been so striking that in 1968 I could not resist putting some of them into a *Great Society Dictionary*. The following selections show that seven years later these Orwellisms are as applicable as ever:

Aggression, n.—Providing aid and comfort to the side that we oppose. (See "Assistance.")

Commitment, n.—Among the multitude of promises made and obligations incurred in the past, the one consistent with the line of action now planned. Sometimes a purely hypothetical obligation, self-imposed to lend moral sanction to actions decided upon to-

day; in this case it is referred to as a "solemn commitment." Syn.—Preference.

Help, v.—See "Save."

Independent, a.—Aligned with us. (See "Satellite.")

Save, v.—Destroy. As in, "It became necessary to destroy the town in order to save it." Syn.—Help.

Self-determination, n.—The right of a people to select a government acceptable to us.

Once again we are being urged to honor our commitments and come to the aid of an alleged victim of aggression (although we have been and still are the only non-Vietnamese direct participant in the Indochina fighting; although we committed ourselves in the Paris Agreements to non-intervention in the internal affairs of South Vietnam (chap. 2, article 4); and although our client, Thieu, has quite openly refused to abide by the peaceful means of reconciliation laid out in the Agreements, in exact repetition of Diem's behavior from 1954 on. Once again, as in 1954-1964, the North Vietnamese and PRG are alleged to be "flagrantly" violating the relevant Agreements, although even a moderately attentive reader of the newspapers knows that neither Thieu nor Kissinger took the Agreements seriously, or intended to follow through on them, except for implementing the exchange of American POW's for withdrawal of U.S. direct combat forces. At the very time of his signing the Agreements, Thieu made it clear that he would not allow the promised freedom of expression, political organization and movement of people within South Vietnam, and for two years his violations have been consistent and comprehensive. Since the ceasefire, also, continued intervention in Indochina has cost the American taxpayer a staggering \$2 billion, but once again it is claimed that only a little more aid will do the trick. For 25 years there has always been a "light at the end of the tunnel," but always some billions of dollars away!

The most basic of all the clichés, however, and the only one that I want to consider more fully, is that we are "helping South Vietnam." President Ford now tells us that we need an additional \$300 million, fast, to "help South Vietnam." "South Vietnam" sounds like a country or people, not a Southeast Asian mafia, and the request to "help" has a superficially humanitarian touch, especially when tied in with related clichés on "aggression" and our solemn "commitments." Congressmen and the media have difficulty with these phrases, since to challenge them would be to question our very ends, not merely the cost effectiveness and probability of success of our means. They would have to deal with the painful fact (spelled out below) that we are backing an unrepresentative and venal clique who survive only by our largesse and force (past and threatened), and who are actually the enemy of the South Vietnamese majority.

This situation is hardly confined to South Vietnam. The American war party (Gerald Ford a long-standing member) has gravitated toward a regular sponsorship of "friendly fascists" in the Third World. This is usually rationalized on the grounds of our "security interests"—the friendly fascists will be friendly to us, and allow us to use them for our purposes, if we will allow them to be unfriendly to ("control" and milk) their own populations. Whatever the security benefits of this tradeoff, it is not easy to argue that we were, for example, "helping Greece" when we gave consistent support to Papadopolous and his torturers between 1967 and 1973. It is by no means clear in that case, or others as well, that we were even helping our "security interests."

In Indochina, also, it is doubtful that U.S. security interests were helped one iota by our immense and costly 25-year intervention. The position of the Left is stronger now in



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date 3-31-75

TO: JACK MARSH

FROM: CHARLES LEPPERT

Please Handle _____

For Your Information _____

Per Our Conversation _____

Other: *CONTACTED McCORMACK
3-26-75. SEE ATTACHED MEMO.*

RED TAG

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 26, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JACK MARSH

THRU:

MAX FRIEDERSDORF
VERN LOEN

FROM:

CHARLES LEPPERT, JR.

SUBJECT:

Rep. John McCollister and MIA's

At the direction of Vern Loen I attempted to meet with John McCollister concerning the MIA matter he has discussed with you.

I attempted to set up a meeting with him on Wednesday, March 26. McCollister advised me that he did not want to discuss the matter with anyone except Jack Marsh. He stated further that he had discussed the matter initially with Jack Marsh and was going to be critical of some people now and therefore did not want to spread the matter around by talking to others.

Rep. McCollister said he would be happy to meet with you after the Easter Recess.

bcc: Doug Bennett
Bob Wolthuis

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Max -

Could one of your
people advise
the contents of this.

Note Classification

Washed to
McCollister June

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

~~SECRET~~

March 17, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: RUSSELL A. ROURKE
FROM: WILLIAM L. STEARMAN *WLS*
SUBJECT: Status of Follow-up on Swain Group's
Efforts on Missing-in-Action in Vietnam

Mr. Marsh told me that Representative McCollister wants to know what the Executive Branch is doing to follow up efforts of Ken Swain's group to locate U. S. missing-in-action in Vietnam. (Ted Marrs discussed this matter with Swain last October.) You or Mr. Marsh can tell McCollister the following:

Dr. Roger Shields, Defense's Chief POW-MIA representative, will be meeting again with Swain's group on March 18. Larry Ward of this group has just returned from Vietnam and should be able to report on any progress he made in getting new information on MIA identification. Dr. Shields is following up on the group's findings and, principally for this purpose, he will be going to Vietnam within the next few weeks. Progress in this endeavor largely depends on the group's personal contacts in Vietnam, most of which appear to be with Montagnards (mountain tribesmen) of the Western Highlands. It should be noted that recent intense fighting in this area may well impede further progress in developing the contacts or operations needed to further this mission.

For Mr. Marsh's and your information, Shields says the group is falling off from its original story about identifying living missing-in-action. They now seem to be concentrating on the recovery of remains; although they claim their Montagnard contacts have offered to check out stories of U. S. prisoners in Communist hands. Shields personally feels some remains may be recovered, but there is little chance of getting anything on living POW's. Shields also believes the Montagnards may be working

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: MIA Case #1, Doc. 7, NSC letter 9/10/92
By KBH NLF Date 12/29/92

on behalf of FULRD (an old anti-GVN Montagnard independence organization) and may insist on a U.S. guarantee for Montagnard autonomy in return for their cooperation on MIA's. While Swain and Highlands' missionaries in general probably favor such a move, it is obviously out of the question. In any case, the capture of Ban Me Thuot and the probable GVN abandonment of most of the Western Highlands almost guarantee the futility of the whole operation.

APR 14 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

M

April 11, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: DR. THEODORE MARRS

FROM: DONALD RUMSFELD



Henceforth, you are assigned responsibility in the White House for MIA matters. In this role your chief responsibility will be White House liaison with the MIA organizations and representatives. You should coordinate your efforts and activities with the appropriate personnel in the NSC as required.

cc: Jack Marsh ✓
Bill Baroody
Brent Scowcroft
Leland Kollmorgan

MAY 22 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 20, 1975

*TT
File*

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH
FROM: BOB WOLTHUIS *RKW*
SUBJECT: MIA Task Force

*Showered to
TT*

Sonny Montgomery is the major sponsor with 205 co-sponsors of H.R. 335. The bill, introduced on March 18, 1975, is pending in the House Rules Committee. No hearings have been set. Doc Morgan is a co-sponsor. Mel Price is not. The bill would set up a Select Committee in the House on M.I.A.

The Senate bill, S. Res. 142, is sponsored by Thurmond and has no co-sponsors. It was introduced April 24 and is pending in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee with no hearings scheduled. It would set up a select committee on M.I.A. in the Senate.

*Showered to TT, Is not concerned
about Congressional action.*

*5/26/75
JM*

May 16, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: BOB WOLTHUIS
FROM: JACK MARSH

We are interested in tracking the respective House and Senate Task Force resolutions on MIAs. I understand that Sonny Montgomery's resolution has 218 co-sponsors. The basic Senate resolution was sponsored by Strom Thurmond.

Would you be good enough to get us a House and Senate status report on these resolutions.

JOM:RAR:cb



May 27, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

John
MEMORANDUM FOR: THE FILES
FROM: JACK MARSH

Please note
In the President's Memorial Day Speech, the line in reference to a "Prayer for the Safety of MIA's" was inserted after the original draft, with suggested language by Sawcroft and Marsh, in reference to the MIA situation.

strings
This was an unapproved addition and was not contained in any of the earlier drafts.

Language on page 4
JOM/BJ



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 30, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: JACK MARSH
FROM: RUSS ROURKE *R*

Jack, after checking with Ted Marrs and Tom Latimer re the attached, I found it necessary and appropriate to discuss the matter with Phil Buchen.

The attached memo from Phil to you clearly states the proper White House position, viz., Don Ogilvie should advise Chairman Bell not to seek any change in the law.

R - Advise Don of memo done 6-2-11:00 al hand carried by memo to Ogilvie



MAY 28 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 28, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JOHN O. MARSH, JR.

FROM:

PHILIP W. BUCHEN

P.W.B.

At your request I reviewed the attached memo from Don Ogilvie concerning the proposed amendment of the War Claims Act to permit the payment of MIA claims by the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission ("Commission").

The Commission is an independent adjudicatory body created by Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1954, eff. July 1, 1954, 19 F.R. 3985, 68 Stat. 1279. By Public Law 91-289, enacted on June 24, 1970, the Commission's authority was amended to authorize the receipt and determination of the amount and validity of claims filed by prisoners of war for compensation for inhumane treatment. See 50 App. § 2005.

Adoption of this proposed amendment would substantially alter the original purpose of the War Claims Act. Also, it appears that the survivors of MIA's have received substantial benefits already. Accordingly, I concur with Don Ogilvie's recommendation not to seek any change in this law.

Because the Commission has informally requested the Administration's opinion on this legislative proposal, it is proper for Don Ogilvie to formally (or informally) respond.

VIETNAM CONFLICT PRISONER OF WAR CLAIMS

J. Raymond Bell, Chairman of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission (FCSC) is seeking informal Administration guidance on an amendment to the War Claims Act of 1948 proposed by Lyle S. Garlock, former Chairman of the FCSC and now one of its three Commissioners. This amendment would expand the definition of prisoners of war (POWs) under Section 6(f) of the Act to include American military personnel reported missing in action (MIAs) during the Vietnam conflict, thus providing for the payment of POW benefits to the survivors of MIAs.

Section 6(f) of the War Claims Act authorizes the Commission to provide for the payment of claims filed by American POWs or their survivors. It also entitles Americans who were POWs in Indochina, or their survivors, to \$5 for each day held prisoner after January 27, 1961, in view of the North Vietnamese violations of the terms of the Geneva Convention of 1949 regarding food and health care.

Before claims by POWs can be certified for payment by the Commission, however, the appropriate military service must determine the individual's POW status. Before claims by survivors of MIAs who may have been POWs can be certified for payment by the Commission, the appropriate military service must also determine the individual's actual or presumptive date of death.

The Commission now has completed its adjudication of all claims in which the Department of Defense has made a determination of POW status. Claims filed by survivors of MIAs for whom POW status has not yet been determined have been returned by the Commission as ineligible, since under existing legislation the Commission is not authorized to certify these claims for payments. This decision is consistent with the law but conflicts with a 1972 decision of President Nixon. The Commission's chairman at that time (Lyle Garlock) recommended to the President that for political and compassionate reasons the Commission presume that all MIAs were also POWs since the Administration was not differentiating much between POW and MIA concerns. President Nixon decided to seek sufficient appropriations (\$16.2 million) to pay claims of MIA survivors, and a legislative

MAY 21 1975

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

May 20, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JOHN O. MARSH
FROM: DONALD G. OGILVIE
SUBJECT: Vietnam POW claims

The Foreign Claims Settlement Commission has requested our informal guidance on whether to seek a change in their legislation which would allow them to pay POW benefits to MIA survivors. Under current law, POW benefits cannot be paid to the families of soldiers missing in action, unless they are officially certified by Defense as having been a POW.

If the law is changed, the Commission would pay POW benefits to MIA survivors at an average rate of about \$10,000 per family. If the law is not amended, there are not likely to be further POW claims and the President could defer or rescind at least \$10 million remaining in the program.

The attachment describes the proposed change in detail. On balance, I believe we should informally advise the Commission not to seek a change in the law at this time. I would appreciate your views.

Attachment

record was made by the Commission in appropriation committee hearings that MIAs would be presumed to also have been POWs, making their survivors eligible for payments.

Commissioner Garlock has now proposed in Commission discussions that the law be changed to authorize POW benefits to survivors of MIAs for the period from the time each man was reported missing to the date of his presumptive death but in no case later than April 1, 1973, the date the last known POW was released.

The principal arguments against the proposed amendment are:

First, a more restrictive approach was used after the Korean War when MIA survivorship awards were limited to cases with clear evidence of POW status.

Second, the proposed amendment could set an expensive precedent if veterans' organizations sought to include survivors of World War II and Korean MIAs either in this proposal or subsequently.

Third, the War Claims Act was originally intended to recompense only for the hardships suffered as a POW and not for MIA families, who receive substantial benefits under other laws.

Fourth, the proposed amendment would cause serious inequities between survivors of MIAs and the survivors of men killed in action (KIAs). The survivors of MIAs receive each man's pay and allowances until a determination of death is made by his military service. At that time they also receive certain death benefits. The survivors of KIAs, on the other hand, receive only the death benefits. Last year, this inequity was further aggravated by a U.S. District Court ruling which prevents the military services from making a finding of death determination to change the status of an MIA without affording the right of due process to survivors who would be affected by the loss of monetary and other benefits. The required review process takes considerable time, during which all pay and allowances of MIAs continues to be paid to their survivors. The liberal monetary benefits received by MIA families during this time, weakens considerably the argument that some special recompense should be provided MIA families for their extended mental anguish.

Fifth, while Congress in 1972 appropriated sufficient funds to pay POW benefits to all MIA survivors, there has been no

Congressional initiative to introduce legislation such as the Garlock proposal, that would make this possible. As a result, last September OMB reported a \$10.5M deferral of these funds under the requirements of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act. The Congress has not challenged this deferral action.

Finally, only 44 of the survivors of the 938 MIAs have sought POW benefits and claims are not being received regularly by the Commission. The Commission's letters to survivor claimants indicating their ineligibility are not being challenged.

There are two major alternatives. The Commission could either seek a change in the law or it could continue to notify MIA claimants that under the law they are ineligible for a POW benefit payment. If the law were changed, the Commission would pay POW benefits to MIA survivors averaging \$10,000 for each family from the remaining balances of the \$16.2 million appropriation. If the law were left as is, activity in the POW claims program would for all practical purposes cease. At least \$10.5M of funds would remain in deferral status until the President sought a rescission of them.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

R-

Before reply call

1. Ted

2. Latimer for
DCID view.

MAY 21 1975



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

May 20, 1975

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record was made by the Commission in appropriation committee hearings that MIAs would be presumed to also have been POWs, making their survivors eligible for payments.

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The principal arguments against the proposed amendment are:

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Second, the proposed amendment could set an expensive precedent if veterans' organizations sought to include survivors of World War II and Korean MIAs either in this proposal or subsequently.

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JUN 12 1975

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

3388

June 11, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH
FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT *B*
SUBJECT: Administration Position on MIA's

✓
*File
POW
M*

Following the President's press conference in which his reference to the POW/MIA problem was misinterpreted, the various offices at the State and Defense Departments, in conjunction with Ted Marrs, re-considered what the basic Administration line should be on this matter.

We have now returned to our previous position, i. e., the Administration will make every possible effort to provide as full an accounting as is possible for all of our men still missing in Southeast Asia.

As you know, this is the stand the President took in his Memorial Day speech. Furthermore, Ted Marrs used this same approach in his May 21 meeting with leaders of VIVA and the National League of Families of MIA's.

We believe that both of these statements have served to reaffirm the Administration's continuing interest in achieving a complete accounting for these men.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 16, 1975

JACK,

Ted Marrs advises FYI that he intends to request a meeting with the President for the incoming head of the National League of Families, Col. Hooper, shortly after the League's annual meeting. You might want to pass this information on to Hooper's Congressman, John Rhodes.

RUSS

June 9, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: TED MARRS
RUSS ROURKE

FROM: JACK MARSH

I believe it would be appropriate to submit a schedule proposal for the new Chairman of the League of Families and the Executive Director of the League for a meeting with the President. I would recommend a time of 15 minutes.

I would like to submit this schedule proposal, but it should be cleared and signed off on by Brent Scowcroft.

It is also important to note on the proposal that Congressman John Rhodes, Minority Leader, has an interest in this Presidential meeting. Also, I have talked with Rhodes and I believe it would be helpful if when the schedule proposal is approved, that we advise Rhodes and let him advise the Chairman of the Board inasmuch as he is Rhodes' constituent and the Congressman directed this individual to us. I know that Mr. Rhodes would also appreciate this very much.

Many thanks.

JOM/dl



October 24, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN

FROM: TED HARRS

It is my impression that law precludes
the action proposed in this letter.

Please advise and suggest draft response
as appropriate.

cc: Gen. Scowcroft
cc: John Marsh

TCM:pft



JAMES J. MCKEOWN, JR.

ATTORNEY AT LAW

P.O. BOX 89

JENKINTOWN, PA. 19046

(215) 886-0990

October 17, 1975

m
President Gerald R. Ford
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On November 11, 1975, from 12:00 noon until 4:00 p.m. there will be a vigil outside the White House. The purpose of this Veterans Day demonstration will be to bring to your attention a serious matter concerning the POW's/MIA's currently unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

The major objective of the participants of this demonstration and thousands of Americans like myself, is that you issue an Executive Order to suspend status changes on these unfortunate boys immediately.

This is a very small request to prevent these men who sacrificed so much for our country from being swept under the carpet and forgotten.

As I am sure you are aware, the Paris Agreement, which ended the conflict in Vietnam, requires the North Vietnamese to give a full accounting of all servicemen listed as "Missing in Action." They, the North Vietnamese, are the only ones that can benefit by the alteration of their status from "Missing" to "Presumed Dead."

One short Executive Order followed by your signature can alter the course of this tragic turn of events.

Cordially,


James J. McKeown, Jr.

JJMCK:am

