The original documents are located in Box 43, folder “Vietnam - United Nations Membership” of the John Marsh Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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September 4, 1976

Dear Mr. Lodge:

Just a short note to thank you for your recent mailgram concerning your view that Vietnam should not be permitted to receive UN membership at this time.

I have taken the liberty of sharing your mailgram with those here at the White House working on this issue.

With every good wish, I remain,

Sincerely,

John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counsellor to the President

Mr. William G. S. Lodge
504 Shannon Road
Papillion, Nebraska 68046

cc: BScowcroft
    MMHitler
CONSIDERING THE LACK OF POSITIVE RESPONSE BY THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT ON THE AMERICAN POW-MIA SITUATION OVER THE PAST 3 1/2 YEARS WE STRONGLY PROTEST THE ADMITTANCE OF VIETNAM TO THE UNITED NATIONS AT THIS TIME WE WOULD HOPE THAT PRESIDENT FORD, MINDFUL OF HIS PLEDGE TO THE MIA FAMILIES IN JULY, WILL NOT CONCEDE IN THIS AREA OF LEVERAGE WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT.

WILLIAM G S LODGE
504 SHANNON RD
PAPILLION NE 68046

1913 EST

MGMCMP MGM
TO REPLY BY MAILGRAM, PHONE WESTERN UNION TOLL FREE ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT:

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FROM TELEX:  6161  FROM TWX:  910 420 1212
September 4, 1976

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Pomajzl:

Just a short note to thank you for your recent mailgram concerning your view that Vietnam should not be permitted to receive membership to the UN at this time.

I have taken the liberty of sharing your mailgram with those here at the White House working on this issue.

With every good wish, I remain,

Sincerely,

John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counsellor to the President

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Pomajzl
2031 Nicklaus Way
Fremont, Nebraska 68025

cb
cc: BScowcroft
    WHitler
IN 3½ YEARS THERE HAS BEEN NO PROGRESS TOWARD A GENERAL AND OVERALL ACCOUNTING OF OUR MISSING IN ACTION, THEREFORE VIET NAM SHOULD NOT RECEIVE US MEMBERSHIP AT THIS TIME. WE HOPE PRESIDENT FORD WILL REMEMBER THE PLEDGE HE MADE TO MIA FAMILIES IN JULY AND WILL NOT LIGHTLY CONCEIVE THE POSSIBILITY THAT OUR MIAS COULD BE USED BY VIET NAM AS LEVERAGE.

MR & MRS STEVE POMAJZL
2831 NICKLAUS WAY
FREMONT NE 68025

13147 EST

MGM COMP MGM
TO REPLY BY MAILGRAM, PHONE WESTERN UNION ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT:

FOR YOUR LOCAL NUMBER, SEE THE WHITE PAGES OF YOUR TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

OR

DIAL (TOLL FREE) 800-287-2241

(Except in New Jersey 600-622-2271)

OR DIAL WESTERN UNION'S INFOMASTER SYSTEM DIRECTLY:

FROM TELEX ...................... 6161 FROM TWX ...................... 910 420 1212
September 4, 1973

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Veys:

Just a short note to thank you for your recent mailgram concerning your view that Vietnam should not be permitted to receive membership at this time.

I have taken the liberty of sharing your mailgram with those here at the White House working on this issue.

With every good wish, I remain,

Sincerely,

John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counsellor to the President

Mr. and Mrs. Al Veys
Veys Food Land
6607 Sunshine Drive
Omaha, Nebraska 68107

cc: BScowcroft

cc: MMitler
DEAR PRESIDENT FORD RESPECTIVELY ASK THAT YOU VETO THE ENTRY OF VIETNAM INTO THE WORLD COMMUNITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THEY ACCOUNT FOR OUR MEN STILL LISTED AS MISSING IN ACTION OR POW.

SINCERELY,
MR AND MRS AL VEYS

13118 EST
MGMCOMP MGM
September 4, 1976

Dear Mrs. Veys:

Just a short note to thank you for your recent mailgram concerning your view that Vietnam should not be permitted to receive membership to the UN at this time.

I have taken the liberty of sharing your thoughts with appropriate people here at the White House, who are working on this matter.

With every good wish, I remain,

Sincerely,

John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counsellor to the President

Mrs. Mary Veys
Veys Food Land
6607 Sunshine Road
Omaha, Nebraska 68107

cc: BScowcroft
   Hitler
DEAR PRESIDENT FORD WE RESPECTIVELY ASK THAT YOU VETO THE ENTRY OF VIETNAM INTO THE WORLD COMMUNITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THEY ACCOUNT FOR OUR MEN STILL LISTED AS MISSING IN ACTION OR POW.

SINCERELY,

MRS MARY VEYS

13119 EST

MGHCMP MGM
September 4, 1976

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Nekuda:

Just a short note to thank you for your recent mailgram concerning your view that Vietnam should not be permitted to receive UN membership at this time.

I have taken the liberty of sharing your mailgram with those here at the White House working on this issue.

With every good wish, I remain,

Sincerely,

John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counselor to the President

Mr. and Mrs. James Nekuda
3707 Marie Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68147
cc: cc: BScowcroft
DEAR PRESIDENT FORD:

SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE PARIS PEACE AGREEMENT WE HAVE NOT SEEN A SATISFACTORY ACCOUNTING OF OUR AMERICAN MEN STILL LISTED AS MISSING IN ACTION OR POW. WE THEREFORE REQUEST THAT YOU VETO THE ENTRY OF VIETNAM INTO THE UNITED NATIONS, UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THESE MEN ARE ACCOUNTED FOR.

SINCERELY,

MR AND MRS. JAMES NEKUDA

13:12 EST

MGMCOMP MGM

TO T

MIL (Adams Brandt)
September 10, 1976

Dear Mr. Ferber:

Just a short note to thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning your view that Vietnam should not be permitted to receive UN membership at this time.

I have taken the liberty of sharing your letter with those here at the White House working on this issue.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counselor to the President

Mr. C. Kelly Ferber
Commander
Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States
Department of Minnesota
Box 13146
Rice Street Station
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55117

cc: Milt Hitler
    Brent Scowcroft (original of letter to President)

d1
September 7, 1976

Gerald Ford, President
United State of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C.

ATTENTION: Mr. John Marsh, Assistant to the President

Dear President Ford:

I understand that the vote for admission to the United Nations for Vietnam will come up this week.

Based on the resolutions from our recent State Convention opposing such an action by the United States Government, we respectfully request that you direct the United States Representative to the United Nations to veto the entry of Vietnam into the United Nations.

Very truly yours,

C. Kelly Ferber, Commander
State of Minnesota, V.F.W.

CKF:jf
September 11, 1976

Dear Mrs. Charney:

Just a short note to thank you for your recent telegram to the President concerning your view that Vietnam should not be permitted to receive UN membership at this time.

I have taken the liberty of sharing your telegram with those here at the White House working on this issue.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counsellor to the President

Mrs. Bette Charney
Coordinator
Minnesota Chapter National League of Families
7635 Phoenix Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55427

cc: Milt Mitler
    Brent Scowcroft (original of telegram)


dl
I represent 55 Minnesota families who have loved ones missing in action and are unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. The families are related to 29 military men that are unaccounted for in Southeast Asia. Three and a half years have passed since the signing of the Paris Peace Agreement, and there has been no progress in getting a "full" accounting of American POW's and MIA's. Therefore, we consider it inappropriate for Vietnam to receive UN membership.

Two Minnesota men, Commander Thomas Kolstad and Col. Lawrence Goldberg, were on the list that Hanoi provided to the US Embassy in Paris on Monday. The Kolstad and Goldberg families are not accepting this so-called good will gesture. All they know is that their loved one's name appeared.
ON A PIECE OF PAPER INDICATING THAT THEY WERE DEAD THE LIST PROVIDED
NO PROOF THAT THESE MEN ARE DEAD WE HOPE PRESIDENT FORD MINDFUL OF
HIS OBLIGATIONS AS COMMANDER AND CHIEF WILL VETO HANOI'S BID FOR UN
MEMBERSHIP
BETTE CHARNEY
STATE COORDINATOR MINNESOTA CHAPTER NATIONAL
LEAGUE OF FAMILIES 7635 PHOENIX ST MINNEAPOLIS MN 55427
UNITED NATIONS (UPI) -- The Security Council agreed today to postpone a decision on the application of Vietnam for membership in the United Nations until after the U.S. elections.

The decision was taken behind closed doors in informal consultations at the suggestion of France.

The president of the council, Ambassador Mansur Rashid Kikhia of Libya, announced the postponement through an official spokesman. He said in a brief statement that the council had decided to defer its consideration of the application until November so that the General Assembly could discuss the matter simultaneously during its forthcoming 31st session.

He said that the mission of Vietnam had agreed to the postponement.

The council had scheduled a meeting of its admissions committee for Tuesday morning, but Kikhia announced late Monday that it had been cancelled and that council would instead hold informal consultations.

The cancellation was prompted by President Ford's decision to block admission of Vietnam to the United Nations.

UPI 09-14 01:35 PED
UNITED NATIONS (UPI) -- THE SECURITY COUNCIL TODAY DECIDED TO POSTPONE A DECISION ON VIETNAM'S APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED NATIONS UNTIL AFTER THE NOV. 2 U.S. ELECTIONS.

THE DECISION TO POSTPONE ACTION ON VIETNAM'S MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOLLOWED BY ONE DAY U.S. AMBASSADOR WILLIAM SCRANTON'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD VETO THE APPLICATION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR COUNCIL PRESIDENT MANSUR RASHID KIKHIA OF LIBYA ANNOUNCED THE POSTPONEMENT, SAYING THE COUNCIL HAD DECIDED TO DEFER CONSIDERATION OF THE APPLICATION UNTIL NOVEMBER SO THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY COULD DISCUSS THE MATTER SIMULTANEOUSLY DURING ITS 31ST SESSION.

HE SAID THAT VIETNAM AGREED TO THE DELAY.

IN HIS BRIEF STATEMENT, KIKHIA DID NOT MENTION THE U.S. ELECTIONS, BUT DIPLOMATIC TALK IN THE U.N. HAS CENTERED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE UNITED STATES COULD NOT AGREE TO VIETNAM'S ADMISSION BEFORE THE ELECTIONS. SCRANTON'S ANNOUNCEMENT MONDAY LEFT NO DOUBT ABOUT THE U.S. POSITION.

SCRANTON SAID PRESIDENT FORD ORDERED THE VETO BECAUSE VIETNAM HAD NOT GIVEN A FULL ACCOUNTING OF AMERICANS MISSING IN ACTION DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.

A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL'S ADMISSION COMMITTEE WAS SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS THE APPLICATION TODAY, BUT KIKHIA ANNOUNCED LATE YESTERDAY THAT IT HAD BEEN CANCELED AND THE COUNCIL INSTEAD WOULD HOLD INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS.

DIPLOMATIC SOURCES PREDICTED THAT EFFORTS WOULD BE MADE IN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS TO ENCOURAGE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN VIETNAM AND THE UNITED STATES FOR A SOLUTION TO THE MIA PROBLEM.

UPI 09-14 04:57 PDT
Jimmy Carter agrees with President Ford's refusal to allow Vietnam to join the United Nations and says the men appointed to the Supreme Court by Ford and Richard Nixon are doing a good job.

It apparently is part of an effort by the Carter campaign to put a more conservative foot forward in the second week of the candidate's travels in search of votes. But that hasn't slowed Carter's criticism of Ford's leadership.

The President defended his stay-at-home strategy today, saying that as long as the Democratic-controlled Congress is in session he has to "make sure it doesn't go off the deep end." Ford said in an interview: "When we do have an opportunity following the time Congress adjourns, we certainly will be campaigning. With Congress in session, it is vitally important that someone be here to check on their activities."

The President spoke on NBC-TV's "Today Show." Carter began Monday in the South, then chased the sun across the country, ending his day in Arizona.

Ford; the second week of the campaign began like the first week - with the President studiously remaining away from the campaign trail.

Although he was not seeing any potential voters, plenty of them were seeing him as he signed bills at ceremonies designed to put him before the television cameras and emphasizing his White House residency.

Ford, who has left the White House only once since the fall campaign season began on Labor Day, plans to leave Washington on Wednesday for a speech at his alma mater, the University of Michigan. He planned to meet with his speech writers today to polish the Michigan address. In his interview today, Ford said he will use his Michigan speech to review his record and he promised some surprises.

Questioned in the Oval Office by reporters in New York who used a long-distance television hookup, the President gave this as the thrust of his upcoming speech: "While we've faced some tough problems in the last two years, we have recorded accomplishments. We have restored trust in the White House; we have turned the economy around; and we have achieved peace, and we have the capability and will to maintain it." He'll also talk about domestic problems: jobs; home ownership; better health; crime control; more recreation; better education. Then we'll point at some of the things we should do in foreign policy."

Ford said this will be the theme of his campaign as well once he hits the road after Congress ends its current session Oct. 2.

After the speech: 7th graf
JIMMY CARTER AGREES WITH PRESIDENT FORD'S REFUSAL TO ALLOW VIETNAM TO JOIN THE UNITED NATIONS AND SAYS THE MAN APPOINTED TO THE SUPREME COURT BY FORD AND RICHARD NIXON ARE DOING A GOOD JOB.

IT APPARENTLY IS PART OF AN EFFORT BY THE CARTER CAMPAIGN TO PUT A MORE CONSERVATIVE FOOT FORWARD IN THE SECOND WEEK OF THE CANDIDATE'S TRAVELS IN SEARCH OF VOTES. BUT THAT HASN'T SLOWED CARTER'S CRITICISM OF FORD'S LEADERSHIP.

THE PRESIDENT DEFENDED HIS STAY-AT-HOME STRATEGY TODAY, SAYING THAT AS LONG AS THE DEMOCRATIC-CONTROLLED CONGRESS IS IN SESSION HE HAS TO "MAKE SURE IT DOESN'T GO OFF THE DEEP END." FORD SAID IN AN INTERVIEW: "WHEN WE DO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY FOLLOWING THE TIME CONGRESS ADJOURNS, WE CERTAINLY WILL BE CAMPAIGNING. WITH CONGRESS IN SESSION; IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT THAT SOMEONE BE HERE TO CHECK ON THEIR ACTIVITIES." THE PRESIDENT SPOKE ON NBC-TV'S " TODAY SHOW."

CARTER BEGAN MONDAY IN THE SOUTH; THEN CHASED THE SUN ACROSS THE COUNTRY ENDING HIS DAY IN ARIZONA.

FOR FORD, THE SECOND WEEK OF THE CAMPAIGN BEGAN LIKE THE FIRST WEEK WITH THE PRESIDENT STUDIously REMAINING AWAY FROM THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL. ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT SEEING ANY POTENTIAL VOTERS; PLENTY OF THEM WERE SEEING HIM AS HE SIGNED BILLS AT CEREMONIES DESIGNED TO PUT HIM BEFORE THE TELEVISION CAMERAS AND EMPHASIZING HIS WHITE HOUSE RESIDENCY.

FORD, WHO HAS LEFT THE WHITE HOUSE ONLY ONCE SINCE THE FALL CAMPAIGN SEASON BEGAN ON LABOR DAY; PLANS TO LEAVE WASHINGTON ON WEDNESDAY FOR A SPEECH AT HIS ALMA MATER; THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN. HE PLANNED TO MEET WITH HIS SPEECH WRITERS TODAY TO POLISH THE MICHIGAN ADDRESS. IN HIS INTERVIEW TODAY, FORD SAID HE WILL USE HIS MICHIGAN SPEECH TO REVIEW HIS RECORD AND HE PROMISED SOME SURPRISES.

QUESTIONED IN THE OVAL OFFICE BY REPORTERS IN NEW YORK WHO USED A LONG-DISTANCE TELEVISION HOOKUP, THE PRESIDENT GAVE THIS AS THE THRUST OF HIS UPCOMING SPEECH:

"WHILE WE'VE FACED SOME TOUGH PROBLEMS IN THE LAST TWO YEARS; WE HAVE RECORDED ACCOMPLISHMENTS. WE HAVE RESTORED TRUST IN THE WHITE HOUSE; WE HAVE TurnED THE ECONOMY AROUND; AND WE HAVE ACHIEVED PEACE; AND WE HAVE THE CAPABILITY AND WILL TO MAINTAIN IT. WE'LL ALSO TALK ABOUT DOMESTIC PROBLEMS; JOBS; HOME OWNERSHIP; BETTER HEALTH; CRIME CONTROL; MORE RECREATION; BETTER EDUCATION. THEN WE'LL POINT AT SOME OF THE THINGS WE SHOULD DO IN FOREIGN POLICY." FORD SAID THIS WILL BE THE THEME OF HIS CAMPAIGN AS WELL; ONCE HE HITS THE ROAD AFTER CONGRESS ENDS ITS CURRENT SESSION OCT. 2.