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1998-0029-F; 2019-1613-S

FOIA Number:
S

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Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: National Security Council
Series: Jackson, Karl, Files
Subseries: Subject Files

OA/ID Number: CF00758
Folder ID Number: CF00758-023

Folder Title:
POW/MIA 1991

Stack:

Row:

Section:

Shelf:

Position:

G

28

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
(George Bush Library)

Doc. No. / Type	Subject/Title	Date	Restriction	Classification
01. Memo	From Peter S. Watson to George Van Eron, Re: POW/MIA Correspondence Procedures (2 pp.)	2/4/91	(b)(1)	C

OPEN

Collection:

Record Group: Bush Presidential Records
Office: National Security Council
Series: Jackson, Karl, Files
Subseries: Subject Files
WHORM Cat.:
File Location: POW/MIA 1991

Pinksheet Number: MM047
OA/ID Number: CF00758-020
Date Closed: 5/28/1998
FOIA/Sys Case #: 1998-0029-F
Re-review Case #:
P-2/P-5 Review Case #:

Processed by: McKenzie Morse
Processed by:
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SENATE REQUEST FOR RECORDS RELATED TO POW/MIAs

DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION

DOCUMENT/FILE

Jackson files

DATE RETRIEVED

BY

COMMENTS:

DOCUMENT REVIEW

REVIEWED BY

WHL

DATE

2-7-92

RELEVANT or

NON-RELEVANT

COMMENTS:

COPY REQUIREMENT

YES

NO

(CIRCLE ONE)

TOTAL

DONE

DATE

COMMENTS:

RETURNED TO NSC

DATE RETURNED

FILED BY

DATE

COMMENTS:

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/S PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9100237
RECEIVED: 10 JAN 91 16

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: MILLER, CLARENCE E

DOC DATE: 18 DEC 90
SOURCE REF: 199960

KEYWORDS: USSR
POWS
CO

CHINA P R
MIAS

PERSONS: GORBACHEV, MIKHAIL S

SUBJECT: URGES PRES TO RAISE THE POW / MIA QUESTION FM WW II & KOREAN WAR
W/ PRES GORBACHEV DURING FEB 1991 SUMMIT IN MOSCOW

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR SCOWCROFT DUE DATE: 14 JAN 91 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: BURNS

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION
BURNS

FOR CONCURRENCE
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DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

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DOC 1 OF 1

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199-960

JOHN MILLER
1ST DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

1406 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6311

DISTRICT OFFICE
1935 I EIGHTH AVENUE
POULSBRO, WA 98370
(202) 697-3112

145 THIRD AVENUE SOUTH
EDMONDS, WA 98020
(206) 672-4224
(800) 722-5521
TOLL FREE

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

December 18, 1990

COMMITTEES
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
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HUMAN RIGHTS AND
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY
AND TRADE
MERCHANT MARINE AND
FISHERIES
SUBCOMMITTEES
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
AND THE ENVIRONMENT
MERCHANT MARINE

0237

Mr. Miller

President George Bush
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I applaud your recent efforts to assist the Soviets with humanitarian aid, and I am encouraged by our expanding relationship with the Soviet Union. However, I am disappointed with the current efforts being made by your office, the Department of State, and the Defense Intelligence Agency regarding American prisoners-of-war and those missing-in-action (POW/MIA) from World War II, the Korean Conflict, and the ensuing Cold War.

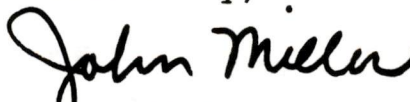
After reading numerous declassified federal documents, I have concluded that American soldiers may have been detained in prisons and labor camps in the Soviet Union and China. In the past year, I have communicated with federal agencies hoping to determine the ultimate fate of these thousands of American who are still unaccounted for.

Specifically, I wrote you on October 3, 1990, requesting that you ask Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to respond to charges that American prisoners-of-war after World War II and the Korean Conflict were held, and may still be held, in the Soviet Union. On October 15, 1990, I received a cursory reply from your Assistant on Legislative Affairs, Mr. Frederick McClure. Furthermore, in your recent meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, apparently the POW/MIA topic was once again not raised.

I understand you will be meeting with President Gorbachev in Moscow in February, 1991. I urge you to raise the POW/MIA question with President Gorbachev during this summit, and I would appreciate a specific response on your plans for this issue.

In this age of glasnost, I do not see any political jeopardy in simply asking the Soviets for information. The families of our missing servicemen, as well as the American public, have waited decades for answers regarding their loved ones, and I believe this matter can suffer no further delay.

Yours truly,



John Miller
Member of Congress

JM:ac

January 3, 1991

Dear Congressman Miller:

On behalf of the President, I want to thank you for your recent letter regarding American POWs and MIAs from World War II, the Korean Conflict, and the Cold War.

We appreciate your contacting us again to share your concern that American soldiers may have been detained in prisons and labor camps in the Soviet Union and China and to request that the President raise this issue during his next meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev. I have forwarded your correspondence to the President's foreign policy advisors and have asked that they respond to your letter directly.

Thank you again for your interest in writing.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Frederick D. McClure
Assistant to the President
for Legislative Affairs

The Honorable John Miller
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

FDM:SLM:

bcc: w/ copy of inc to NSC - for direct response
bcc: w/ copy of inc to Dept. of State - FYI
bcc: w/ copy of inc to Dept. of Defense - FYI

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: DECEMBER 21, 1990

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE JOHN MILLER

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO RAISE THE POW/MIA
QUESTION FROM WORLD WAR II AND THE KOREAN
WAR WITH PRESIDENT GORBACHEV DURING THE
FEB 91 SUMMIT IN MOSCOW

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
FREDERICK MCCLURE	ORG	90/12/21	Fm A9610403 TC	
NSCS:ITT REFERRAL NOTE: _____	Q	910108 TC		1/1
99205 REFERRAL NOTE: _____	I	910109		C 11/01/91 TC
99200 REFERRAL NOTE: _____	I	210109		C 11/01/91 TC
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		1/1		1/1
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1240 _____
MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

- ```

*ACTION CODES: *DISPOSITION *OUTGOING *
* * *CORRESPONDENCE: *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION *A-ANSWERED *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL * OF SIGNER *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE *C-COMPLETED * CODE = A *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET *S-SUSPENDED *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC * OUTGOING *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY * * *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE * * *
*X-INTERIM REPLY * * *

```

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE  
(ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT-2590  
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING  
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS  
MANAGEMENT.

# Lawyers Committee for Human Rights

Michael H. Posner, Executive Director  
William G. O'Neill, Deputy Director  
Arthur C. Helton, Director, Refugee Project

330 SEVENTH AVENUE, 10TH FLOOR N  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10001  
(212) 629-6170  
TELEX: 5106005783  
(LCHRNYC)  
FAX: (212) 967-0916

*Peter —  
This sounds like  
something you and  
Nancy might want to  
talk  
Karl 3-18*

March 14, 1991

Dr. Karl Jackson  
Special Assistant to the President  
Senior Director for Asian Affairs  
National Security Council  
Room 493  
Old Executive Office Building  
17th and Pennsylvania Avenues, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20506

Dear Karl:

In furtherance of our discussion last week, enclosed is a proposal to establish a coordinating and data collection mechanism to assess compliance with the screening and review procedures under the Comprehensive Plan of Action, as well as to monitor the conditions in which Vietnamese asylum seekers are held in the region. I am sending a copy also to Peter Watson, and will seek to follow up with Nancy Berg Dyke shortly.

Regards,



Arthur C. Helton

cc: Peter Watson, Esq.  
Director of Asian Affairs  
National Security Council

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Jay Topkis  
Sigourney Weaver  
Ruth Wedgwood  
Lois Whitman  
William D. Zabel  
Selig Zises

#### COUNSEL

Susan Berkwitz-Malefakis

Proposal to Establish U.S. Government Fact-Finding,  
Data Collection and Policy-Coordination Mechanisms  
to Assess Compliance with the Comprehensive Plan of Action  
Concerning Indochinese Refugees

It is clear that there is no systematic mechanism within the U.S. government to undertake fact-finding, data collection and policy coordination on certain issues of compliance by governments that are the subject of the Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA) concerning Indochinese Refugees established in Geneva in 1989. For example, systematic data is not available concerning the quality of screening and review determinations in the procedures that have been established in the region, as well as the conditions under which Vietnamese and Lao asylum seekers are held pending and subsequent to determination.

In particular, there is some concern that the status determination procedures are unfairly rejecting bona fide refugees, as reflected in a recent judicial review decision in a Hong Kong court. There are also reports of onerous and deteriorated conditions in the camps and detention facilities in which Vietnamese are held. The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has monitoring and protection responsibilities in the region, but limited resources constrain systematic data collection.

To achieve a systematic data collection effort with a view toward well-informed and comprehensive policy-making, an inter-

agency policy coordinating committee should be established in Washington on issues of CPA compliance. A critical adjunct to this coordinating activity would be the tasking of a team of individuals or consultants in the region who would be in a position to assess the quality and accuracy of screening and review procedures, as well as to report upon the conditions in which asylum seekers are held in camps. Coordination with responsible non-governmental organizations should also be considered.

**NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL**

February 28, 1991

Cindy: Peter Watson has further guidance re POW/MIA mail.

If we receive mail re POW/MIA addressed to the President, forward it to Charlie Horvath, Presidential Corres., Room 80.

If addressed to Jackson or Watson, continue to forward to DOD via Secretariat.

Patty

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

04-Feb-1991 14:23 EDT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR:

George Van Eron

( VANERON )

FROM:

Peter S. Watson  
(WATSON)

SUBJECT:

POW/MIA Correspondence Procedures

As you and I have discussed, both Karl and I have recently been on the receiving end of a fairly steady stream of mail re the POW/MIA issue -- especially dealing with the subject of normalization of relations with Vietnam.

Subsequent to our conversation, I have discussed this situation with Bill Sittmann, W.H. Special Correspondence, State and DoD. Bill confirms that ongoing NSC policy prohibits staff from personally replying to this correspondence, and definitely wants it referred to the operative agencies. In this regard, DoD remains the Executive Agent for this issue, and Bill advises that mail should be forwarded to them for direct reply.

DoD advises that their point of referral for such correspondence from us is: Col. Cliff Stanley  
Advisor, POW/MIA Affairs  
EAP/EAPR  
Pentagon 4C839

In the event that DoD determines that certain correspondence should be better answered by State, they will forward it to them directly, i.e. it will not be sent back here for rerouting to State. Bill Sittmann advises that the exception to this process is mail regarding POW/MIA matters involving the Gulf. Mail on that issue is being handled by Sandy Charles, and is being dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

In conclusion, and as I understand your instruction to me, when we get POW/MIA mail, we should send it down to the Secretariat with a note attached to the effect: " POW/MIA -- please direct to DoD", and your office will send it to Col. Stanley. (In that regard, I am sending you some recent mail Karl and I have received).

Please advise me if you have any questions. Many thanks for your assistance.

DECLASSIFIED  
PER NSC WAIVER, August 6, 2010  
By MM NARA, Date 9/8/2016

CC: Karl Jackson  
CC: Patty A. Daniel  
CC: Cynthia M. Hindle

( JACKSON )  
( DANIEL )  
( HINDLE )

UNCLASSIFIED  
NSC/S PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9101099  
RECEIVED: 12 FEB 91 17

*Pow/mia*

TO: SITTMANN

FROM: BRADY, P

DOC DATE: 12 FEB 91  
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: VIETNAM  
CONGRESSIONAL

POWS  
WH REFERRAL

PERSONS: STEWART, WALTER J

SUBJECT: SR-51 ADOPTED ON 6 FEB RE CONTINUED RELEASE BY VIETNAM OF POWS

ACTION: FOR RECORD PURPOSES DUE DATE: 15 FEB 91 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: NONE

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

JACKSON

PAAL

ROSTOW

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DISPATCHED BY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSMEM

CLOSED BY: NSMEM

DOC 1 OF 1

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1099

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 12, 1991

NOTE FOR BILL SITTMANN:

The attached resolution by the Senate  
is for your information. No action  
by the President is required.

Thanks.



Phillip D. Brady

WALTER J. STEWART  
SECRETARY

SUITE S-208  
THE CAPITOL  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7100  
(202) 224-3622

United States Senate  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

91 FEB 12 PM 1:20

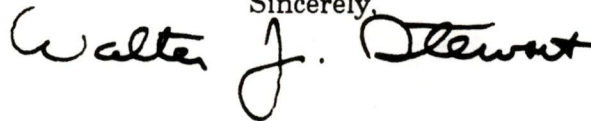
February 7, 1991

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Section 2 of S. Res. 51, I am transmitting a copy of the resolution adopted by the United States Senate on February 6, 1991.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  


Walter J. Stewart

Enclosure

# *In the Senate of the United States*

February 6, 1991

Whereas almost 16 years have passed since the end of the Vietnam war;  
Whereas the Senate, in a resolution adopted on May 1, 1987, called upon the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to "release the remaining prisoners held as a result of their previous association with the Government of South Vietnam prior to 1975" and to permit prisoners to join their families abroad;

Whereas during the past three years the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has released significant numbers of political prisoners from "re-education camps" and has permitted many former prisoners to join their families abroad; and

Whereas at least 150 officials of the former Government of South Vietnam nonetheless remain in "re-education camps" in Vietnam, and thousands of former prisoners still have been unable to reunite with their families in the United States and elsewhere: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that--

(1) the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam should continue to release the remaining political prisoners held as a result of their previous association with the Government of South Vietnam prior to 1975;

(2) the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam should permit the expeditious departure of those former prisoners wishing to depart Vietnam; and

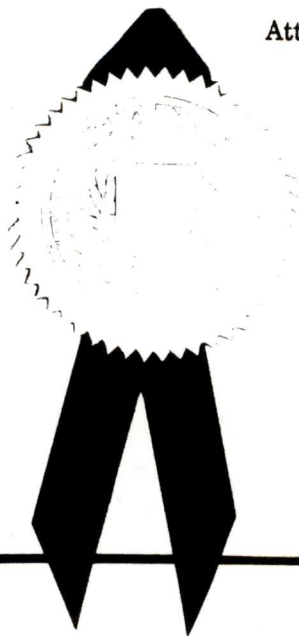
(3) the President and the Secretary of State should continue to give highest priority to efforts to speed and facilitate the reunion of former prisoners with their families in the United States.

Sec. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the President.

Attest:

*Walter J. Stewart*

Secretary.



TO: HAGIN, J

FROM: VAN ATTA, MICHAEL

DOC DATE: 09 JAN 91  
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: POWS  
LAOS  
USSR

MIAS  
VIETNAM  
WH REFERRAL

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: INFO COLLECTED FM OFFICIALS OF VIETNAM & LAOS ON AMER MISSING IN  
SOUTHEAST ASIA

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR SITTMANN DUE DATE: 19 JAN 91 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: RICE LOGREF:

FILES: WH NSCP: CODES:

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FOR ACTION  
RICE

FOR CONCURRENCE  
BURNS  
JACKSON

*WATSON*

FOR INFO  
EMERY  
EXECSEC  
GOMPERT  
ROSTOW

*Peter —  
Please get to Condi immediately. Do you think  
we should see them? No one higher than a Senior  
Director should see them, especially under the present  
circumstances.*

*Karl*

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DISPATCHED BY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSGLM CLOSED BY: DOC 1 OF 1

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

1/16

TO: *Bill Sittman*

FROM: ANTONIO BENEDI  
Deputy Director for Scheduling  
Office of Presidential Appointments  
and Scheduling

*How should we  
handle the attached  
request.*



Joseph W. Hagin II  
Deputy Assistant to the President  
for Appointments & Scheduling  
The White House  
1600 Pa. Ave. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

January 9, 1991

RECEIVED  
JAN 14 1991  
SCHEDULING  
OFFICE

RE: 10-Soviets will be in Washington, D.C. on May 9-10 1991,  
who want to meet with the White House on Prisoners of War.

Dear Joe,

Attached is a list of 10-Soviets who will be in Washington,  
D.C. on May 9-10, 1991.

They will bring with them, information they have collected  
from officials of Vietnam and Laos on Americans missing in  
Southeast Asia.

They are seeking the United States assistance, with the  
mujahidin, in accounting for missing Soviets.

I am seeking your assistance in putting together a deal,  
where high level White House involvement can receive:

- a) The information on U.S. MIA's, from the Soviets.
- b) The request for assistance on Soviet MIA's.

Please review the attachment:

- 1) My letter to Condoleezza Rice on October 19, 1990.
- 2) The State Departments response, for you, on December 13.
- 3) My letter to the Director of DIA on October 19, 1990.
- 4) The DIA response on December 10.
- 5) Two news stories on the Soviet deal on POW's (part 1 & 2)
- 6) A review of Soviet Press, access to MIA information.

Your assistance in evaluating this alternative, and placing  
the information before the appropriate decision makers for  
official consideration and appropriate response will be  
appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Michael Van Atta*

Michael Van Atta (201)701-0238  
P. O. Box 302  
Chatham, N.J. 07928

# NATIONAL VIETNAM VETERANS COALITION

Post Office Box 9504  
Washington, D.C. 20016  
(202) 338 NVVC

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Edward W. Rogers  
Britt Small  
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William Bennett  
*General Secretary*

John R. Holland  
*Chief of Staff*

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Theodore (Doc) ...

Bruce (Doc) Rehmer

Lou Ross

Michael Van Atta

TO: Coalition Officers  
and Board Members

FROM: J. Thomas Burch, Jr.  
Chairman

DATE: November 23, 1990

RE: Soviet/Afghan Visit to U.S.  
April 26 - May 10, 1990

1) Enclosed for your information is the agenda for the visit of Soviet/Afghan veterans in the United States.

2) Also enclosed is the translation of the most recent communication I have from them, setting forth the members of their delegation. Valerii ... of the Committee ... American POW's. The delegation will also include three members of the Soviet Press.

JTB/dmr

The composition of the delegation.

1. Valerii Nikolaevich Ochirov (b. March 24, 1951), people's deputy of the USSR, vice chairman of the Committee of the USSR Supreme Soviet on defense and state security; Hero of the Soviet Union; colonel.

2. Pavel Vladimiorovich Shet'ko (b. November 12, 1962), people's deputy of the USSR; chairman of the Supreme Soviet committee on internationalist combatants.

3. Valerii Viktorovich Skripchenko (b. February 14, 1952), people's deputy of the Russian Republic and the Sverdlovsk Provincial legislature; vice chairman of the executive committee of the Sverdlovsk legislative; representative of the chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Republic B.N. Yeltsin.

4. Mikhail Petrovich Goryunov (b. May 9, 1960), chairman of the Urals International Fund of Veterans of Afghanistan, first secretary of the district Komsomol for Sverdlovsk.

5. Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Kotenyev (b. September 9, 1952), chairman of the Union of Afghanistan Veterans.

6. Anatolii Georgevich Sokolov (b. May 23, 1959), director of the program "Ural-Vostok" (Urals-East), for the Urals Interfond.

7. Mikhail Borisovich Leshchinskii (b. April 16, 1945), political commentator for USSR radio-TV (For several years he directed the reporting from Afghanistan).

8. Boris Bogdanovich Romanenko (b. July 1, 1952), technician for USSR radio-TV).

9. Pavel Leonidovich Kozlov (b. April 22, 1962), member of the board of directors, Urals Interfond, doctor.

10. Svetlana Vadimovna Aishpor (b. January 19, 1961), representative of the Urals Interfond, employee of the Trade and Industry Chamber.

With regards.

Mikhail Goryunov  
Chairman of the  
Urals International Fund of Veterans  
of Afghanistan

Concerning the Visit of the Supreme Soviet  
Delegation to the USA

Dear Thomas

We sincerely thank you for this enormous work on behalf of our common interests, which you have carried out since the departure of your delegation and for the preparatory work for our visit to the USA.

We are transmitting to you the composition of our delegation. Our delegation is a delegation representing the members of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the Russian Republic, and includes the Vice Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Committee on defense and state security, the chairman of USSR Supreme Soviet committee on internationalist combatants, a representative of the Russian parliament, leaders of the Afghan veterans' movement and a group from the USSR state radio-TV.

The chairman of the Supreme Soviet would like to transmit a letter of greeting in his official capacity to Vice President Quayle, president of the United States Senate. We would like you to assist us in organizing a meeting with Vice President Quayle. We think that it would be a good followup to the meetings of the delegation of the National Vietnam Veterans Coalition of the USA with Premier Ryzhkov, his first deputy premier, the commander-in-chief of the ground forces and other officials in July 1990.

As soon as possible you will receive a list of Soviets POWs and MIAs (335 people). In the near future, V.N. Ochirov must receive information on American POWs from the Council of Ministers, the Ministry of Defense and the representative of the Lao and Vietnamese embassies. I asked him for that (material) in a meeting in the Kremlin and contracted for his participation in the work of the joint (?) committee for the liberation of POWs.

I have an interesting proposition for you. We received permission to establish on Soviet state radio-TV, a television hookup between Moscow and Washington or Los Angeles between December 1990 and April 1991. Two hours of air time will cost \$26,000. If you are interested in the hookup idea, we could start work on attracting advertising sponsors to carry out the project. We could attract government leaders, leading politicians and prominent (private citizen) activists. As a result thereof, our common activities and the problems of veterans might become more significant and unifying for our peoples.

# NATIONAL VIETNAM VETERANS COALITION

Post Office Box 9504  
 Washington, D.C. 20016  
 (202) 338 NVVC

J. Thomas Burch, Jr.  
 Chairman

John J. Molloy, Jr.  
 Edward W. Rogers  
 Brett Small  
 Vice Chairmen

William Bennett  
 General Secretary

John R. Hoffman  
 Chief of Staff

## AFGHAN VET TOUR - 1991

### TENTATIVE AGENDA

Comments:

#### Board of Directors

|                             |      |       |    |                                  |                                |
|-----------------------------|------|-------|----|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| William Bennett             | Fri  | April | 26 | Arrive Los Angeles               | Probably arrive late afternoon |
| Michael Booth               | Sat  | April | 27 | Los Angeles                      |                                |
| J. Thomas Burch, Jr.        | Sun  | April | 28 | Los Angeles                      |                                |
| Sibley Cooky                | Mon  | April | 29 | Los Angeles                      |                                |
| Tony Diamond                | Tue  | April | 30 | Depart Los Angeles, arrive Tulsa | Probably arrive late afternoon |
| Lamont C. Gaston            |      |       |    |                                  |                                |
| T. L. (Tank) Lanford        | Wed  | May   | 1  | Tulsa                            |                                |
| Martin J. Marjave           | Thur | May   | 2  | Depart Tulsa, arrive Illinois    | Probably arrive mid-afternoon  |
| John J. Molloy, Jr.         |      |       |    |                                  |                                |
| Theodore (Ted) J. Mortenson | Fri  | May   | 3  | Near Rockford, Ill.              |                                |
| Bruce (Doc) Rehmer          | Sat  | May   | 4  | Depart for Lake Geneva, WI       |                                |
| Lee Rom                     | Sun  | May   | 5  | Return to Chicago                |                                |
| Michael Van Atta            | Mon  | May   | 6  | Chicago                          |                                |
|                             | Tue  | May   | 7  | Depart Chicago, arrive Wash.     |                                |
|                             | Wed  | May   | 8  | Washington                       |                                |
|                             | Thur | May   | 9  | Washington                       |                                |
|                             | Fri  | May   | 10 | Depart Wash. for Moscow          |                                |

September 15, 1990



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

December 13, 1990

Dear Mr. Van Atta:

Thank you for your letter of October 19 concerning your recent trip to the Soviet Union, and for forwarding a copy of the letter you wrote to the President on July 27. I am replying on behalf of Condoleeza Rice of the National Security Council staff.

The issue of Soviet prisoners of war in Afghanistan is a humanitarian one. When he visited Moscow in June of 1988, then President Reagan publicly said that the U.S. would be willing to assist in gaining the release of Soviet prisoners. We have repeatedly urged Afghan Resistance leaders to release the Soviet prisoners of war they hold, and expressed our view that all parties should abide by the relevant international conventions. We are encouraged by some indications that the Soviets are discussing this issue directly with the Afghan Resistance. Although the Soviets have promised to press the Afghan regime for information on mujahidin prisoners, the information has not been provided. The Resistance is unlikely to release Soviet prisoners without reciprocal moves by the Afghan regime.

President Bush fully shares your concern for Americans who are missing and unaccounted for. The U.S. Government is committed to the return of anyone who may still be held captive, and to obtaining the most complete accounting possible for those still missing.

Sincerely,

Alexander Vershbow  
Director

Office of Soviet Union Affairs

Michael Van Atta  
P.O. Box 302  
Chatham, N.J. 07928

Condoleezza Rice  
National Security Council  
c/o The White House  
1600 Pa. Ave. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

October 19, 1990

Dear Condoleezza,

I made a trip to the Soviet Union (July-10 to July-24) to try and get the Soviets to account for U.S. MIA's and POW's from the Vietnam War.

In exchange for their help we tried to put together a deal where we would seek to get the release of Soviet POW's in the hands of the mujahideen.

Attached is a letter that I sent to President George Bush on July 27, 1990, to which no response has yet been recieved.

I turn to you for assistance in contacting some of the mujahideen leaders that you are in contact with, to get this deal started. If you can help me get 1-Soviet POW released, the Soviets, who are in contact with me, will locate and secure the release of 1-live American, who is missing from the Vietnam War.

Please help.

Sincerely,

Michael Van Atta (201)701-0238  
P. O. Box 302  
Chatham, N.J. 07928



DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20340



U-1420/POW-MIA

10 DEC 1990

Mr. Michael Van Atta  
P.O. Box 302  
Chatham, NJ 07928

Dear Mr. Van Atta:

Your letter to the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency has been forwarded to the Special Office for Prisoners of War and Missing in Action for response.

We appreciate your personal endeavor on behalf of the Soviet POWs in Afghanistan and the U.S. unaccounted for in Indochina. However, experience has proven that direct government to government negotiations offer the best means of success in resolving the POW/MIA issue and regrettably, we are unable to assist in your efforts.

Thank you for your concern.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles F. Trowbridge, Jr." with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

CHARLES F. TROWBRIDGE, JR.  
Deputy Chief  
Special Office for Prisoners  
of War and Missing in Action

Lt. General Harry Soyster  
Director D.I.A.  
The Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301

October 19, 1990

Dear General Soyster,

I made a trip to the Soviet Union (July-10 to July-24) to try and get the Soviets to account for U.S. MIA's and POW's from the Vietnam War.

In exchange for their help we tried to put together a deal where we would seek to get the release of Soviet POW's in the hands of the mujahideen.

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Please help.

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P. O. Box 302  
Chatham, N.J. 07928

# Chatham

## Chatham man bargains with Soviets for POW's

By JENNIE RUSSOMANDO

*Editor's Note: Part Two of a two-part series. In the Nov. 7 issue of the Independent Press, it was reported that Chatham resident Mike Van Atta and nine members of the National Vietnam Veterans Coalition met with Soviet officials to arrange for the release of American Prisoners of War (POW's) of the Vietnam conflict. Mr. Van Atta's group travelled to the Soviet Union and testified before the Supreme Soviet, providing evidence of prisoners still in captivity. They attended five additional meetings with military, political and Soviet veterans officials.*

CHATHAM — Every year for nearly a decade, there have been 100 reported sightings of American POW's still being held in Vietnam. "Every year since 1981, we have received 100 accounts of these guys. They're alive, and we haven't done anything about it," Mr. Van Atta said. In addition to being a member of the board of directors of the National Vietnam Veterans Coalition, he is a part of a research group called The Insiders. The group was formed to find evidence of POW's still in captivity.

"These eyewitnesses have passed polygraph tests. They've been able to provide names and photos of these prisoners. They've also been able to draw sketches of some of them," Mr. Van Atta said. They are former guards, food service personnel and doctors who have seen them in captivity, according to him.

Mr. Van Atta's group presented this information along with other documentation to the Soviet Congress, persuading the governing body to enter into a prisoner exchange agreement. Under the terms of the agreement, Soviet officials are to negotiate with the Vietnamese for the release of 73 American POW's. In exchange, American officials are to negotiate with the Mujahideen, the group responsible for holding Soviet captives of the Soviet-Afghanistan conflict, to negotiate the release of 318 Soviet POW's. "The Soviets have similar post-capture information regarding their conflict," Mr. Van Atta said.

At a second meeting, the NVVC met with retired Soviet Lieutenant



**TOP LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS** — Chatham resident Mike Van Atta (with medals) shakes hands with Soviet Prime Minister Igor Belousoff. Attorney J. Thomas Burch is in the foreground. Members of the National Vietnam Veterans Coalition recently met with Mr. Belousoff in the Kremlin to discuss the release of POW's from Vietnam. (Photo provided by M. Van Atta.)

Colonel Gennadii Yurevich Voropaev, who served as a military advisor for seven years in Afghanistan. The veterans presented the same evidence given to the Soviet Congress. As a result, the Lt. Col. arranged for the group to meet with three Soviet generals in a complex the equivalent of the U.S. Pentagon.

Later, the NVVC met with the generals, requesting that they take the issue to the political and military levels of government. "We gave them the same information and asked for their help," Mr. Van Atta said.

The group met with three Soviet Colonels who manned anti-aircraft missile sites in North Vietnam during the conflict and other Soviet veterans. During the meeting, new information was disclosed. "Five hundred Soviets per year were sent to North Vietnam to fight against the U.S. Last April, the Soviets admitted for the first time that they awarded 24 commendation medals to Soviet advisors that shot down American planes," Mr. Van Atta said.

With the knowledge that Soviet involvement led to American deaths, Mr. Van Atta's group was able to put feelings aside to work toward the release of those still alive. "We all had the same attitude that the war is over. You can't refigure it. For me it was over 20

years ago in 1969. Why go back and argue it again? We're not at this time enemies. In the Gulf now, the Soviets are almost with Americans shoulder-to-shoulder," he said.

Mr. Van Atta said that upon its return to the states, the NVVC met with Soviet Embassy officials in Washington, D.C. He said embassy officials invited the veterans to go to the Soviet embassy in Laos to investigate American POW's believed to be held in that country. The Soviets extended their invitation to the veterans to include all of their embassies worldwide providing the Americans also work toward the release of Soviet POW's.

Mr. Van Atta said that the United States government has maintained the integrity of their agreement with the Soviets. "We've sent people to meet with the Mujahideen and confirmed that they're willing to release Soviet prisoners if the Soviets demonstrate that they will obtain the release of American prisoners," he said. As inroads are made, Mr. Van Atta keeps himself apprised of the progress. "The families of both American and Soviet POW's can only hope that help will be forthcoming, and that their families will be reunited soon," he concluded.

# Local man goes on POW mission to Soviet Union

By JENNIE RUSSOMANDO

*Editor's Note: Last summer, the Independent Press reported about Chatham resident Mike Van Atta's efforts to secure the release of Prisoners of War (POW's) of the Vietnam conflict. Mr. Van Atta and other members of the National Vietnam Veterans Coalition recently returned from a trip to the Soviet Union, where they discussed the POW issue with top level officials. The nature of the trip and the inroads made will be addressed in the Independent Press in a two-part series.*

CHATHAM — As American troops contemplate a possible confrontation with Iraqi soldiers, the effects of the Vietnam conflict are still being felt by the loved ones of POW's. Chatham resident Mike Van Atta, a member of the board of directors of the National Vietnam Veterans Coalition, along with nine other members of the group recently travelled to the Soviet Union to meet with the Union of Afghanistan Veterans to discuss mutual aid in resolving both countries' live prisoner issue.

Mr. Van Atta and his group were successful in negotiating an agreement with the Soviet Congress for a prisoner exchange program. Under the terms of the agreement, Soviet officials will meet with the Vietnamese to discuss the release of 73 American POW's. In exchange, American officials will meet with the Mujahideen, the group responsible for holding Soviet captives of the Soviet-Afghanistan conflict, to negotiate the release of 318 Soviet POW's.

This agreement was reached following six meetings during which Mr. Van Atta's group presented evidence of Soviet involvement in prisoner captures during the Vietnam, Korean and World War II conflicts to government, military and Soviet Vietnam Veterans officials. "The first day we were there, we testified before the Supreme Soviet," Mr. Van Atta said.

He said they were the first civilian Americans to address the congress, presenting post-capture information. "A very specific event took place after World War II, Korea and Vietnam. A group of Americans from each of these wars disappeared. Their disappearance

was under Soviet supervision," Mr. Van Atta said.

He said that after each conflict, captured Americans met three fates. Either they were transferred into the Soviet prison system, given to the Chinese or executed. This information was contained in a CIA declassified report on Vietnam. "We knew of a very specific prison in Vinh, North Vietnam, where no men made it out of the facility," Mr. Van Atta said, adding that a Vietnamese defector provided that information to the CIA.

The veterans group also presented evidence of Soviet involvement in prisoner captures during the Korean War and World War II. Mr. Van Atta said that Air Force Lt. Colonel Dolk Simpson, a military attache in Hong Kong in 1954, debriefed a train worker. The man worked on a train carrying 700 POW's to the Soviet Union following their capture in Korea.

In addition, Foreign Service Dispatches from the State Department provided evidence of Soviet detention of Americans in World War II. "In 1955, the Russians released Polish prisoners who were debriefed by the Red Cross. The prisoners gave names of Americans captured in World War II who were still being held," Mr. Van Atta said.

He also said a match book from POW John Noble provided the group with additional evidence. Mr. Noble was taken prisoner by the Soviets in 1945; however, Soviet officials denied any knowledge of his whereabouts, Mr. Van Atta said. He said Mr. Noble was able to smuggle a note, written on a match book, to a Polish prisoner being released. That information was contained in a Foreign Service Dispatch dated Jan. 18, 1955, Mr. Van Atta said.

Moreover, an Austrian eyewitness reported seeing POW Captain A.F. Hopkins in a Soviet prison called Vercho Urulik in June 1955, Mr. Van Atta said, adding that they had evidence of 50 similar cases. He added that government documents, photographs, newspaper articles and eyewitness accounts comprise the large body of post-capture information presented to the Supreme Soviet.

Mr. Van Atta said "their congress was shocked" when the veterans group presented photographs of prisoners that appeared in the Soviet government newspaper Pravda. In 1966, one newspaper

photo identified a pilot from the Vietnamese conflict, Leo Hrdlicka, in a Soviet prison facility. "We asked them to solve these mysteries," Mr. Van Atta said.

*Editor's note: Part Two of this series will explore the nature and outcome of the five remaining meetings that took place between the National Vietnam Veterans Coalition and Soviet officials.*

Dear Insiders,

(ISSUE #23) January 1, 1991

(This information service, provides Bush appointees with facts & proof that Vietnam and Laos still hold US Prisoners in captivity, alive in their prison systems, in 1991.)

The SOVIET PRESS had access to Americans captured in Vietnam  
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1) Capt. James Grace was shot down over Laos on June 15, 1968. His capture was shown as part of a Soviet propaganda film on prisoners, showing Capt. Grace alive and under guard in 1969. But, although the Soviet Press filmed him alive in captivity, Capt. Grace was never released or accounted for. What happened?

(See DIA unidentified photo UI#77, and photo published in "Kiss the Boys Goodbye" by Monika Jensen-Stevenson & Bill Stevenson.)

2) Ltc. David Hrdlicka was shot down over Laos and captured on May 18, 1965. His capture was monitored by several U.S. intelligence reports. Ltc. Hrdlicka was forced to make a voice tape that was broadcasted over the radio. A picture of Ltc. Hrdlicka was published in PROVDA, in August 1966, showing him alive and under guard after capture. Ltc. Hrdlicka was never released or accounted for. What happened?

(See the January 1987 film "MIA's-We Can Keep You Forever" by BBC and Lionharted Productions and CIA file photo.)

3) Lt. David M. Christian was shot down over North Vietnam on June 2, 1965. The wreckage of his A4E aircraft was located but there was no sign of Lt. Christian. In June 1965 PROVDA, discribed Christian, by the color of his eyes, the pictures he was carrying, and the contents of his pockets. Surely, the Soviet Press had access to Lt. Christian, who was never released or accounted for. What happened?

(See PROVDA 1965)

The Soviet Press had access to captured Americans who still remain unaccounted-for. It appears that these Americans were alive and in captivity based upon the stories written in the Soviet Press as well as photos published, that showed these Americans as live captives. So, what happened to them?

The SOVIET PRESS has monitored the live POW movement.  
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A) On May 26, 1981 IZVESTIYA, a Moscow newspaper, reported on a U.S. bandit raid into Laos. Banning the action as "international terrorism" IZVESTIYA explained how the U.S.

had spy satellites and SR71 reconnaissance photographs of a camp in Laos that showed indications that non-Asians were held as prisoners. "Pentagon intelligence instructors armed and trained the mercenaries" to go and look inside this POW camp in Laos. Capt. Eugene "Red" McDaniel, a former POW who was released by Hanoi in 1973, saw these photographs in 1981.

(See IZVESTIYA May 26, 1981 and the book "Kiss the Boys Goodbye" by Monika Jensen-Stevenson & Bill Stevenson.)

B) After having been shown National Archive documents, that MIA, Kelly Patterson (Red McDaniel's back seater) had survived the shoot down and had been listed as "died while captured" by the Department of Defense, Capt. McDaniel received a visit at his offices at the American Defense Institute in Washington, D.C. by Alexander Lutvi of Tass and Vitalt Gau of Prosvda. (The Kelly Patterson family and Red McDaniel were both told by the U.S. government that Kelly Patterson died in the crash and not in captivity.) The Soviets inquired about Kelly Patterson. Two weeks later, in 1986, Patterson's personal Identification card was turned over to U.S. officials by Hanoi.

(See the book "Kiss the Boys Goodbye" by Monika Jensen-Stevenson & Bill Stevenson.)

C) Dmitri Barshevsky of Gorky Studio was questioned about post-1973 footage of missing Americans and he stated that "such film exists". All American POW's were to have been released by the end of March 1973.

(See the book "Kiss the Boys Goodbye" by Monika Jensen-Stevenson & Bill Stevenson.)

D) In July 1990, ten members of the National Vietnam Veteran Coalition, were invited to the Soviet Union to discuss live POW information. After leaving the United States, all of the Americans on the trip, had their homes contacted by Sean Wood, with the Soviet news agency TASS, in New York, in what appears to be an attempt to verify each home address. Wood was only in the U.S. on a special assignment according to the TASS Agency and has returned to the U.S.S.R.. TASS can be contacted at (212)245-4250, 50 Rockefeller Plaza, N.Y., N.Y. 10020

The SOVIET PRESS can help locate information on missing  
-----  
Americans, from the Vietnam War.

Sincerely,



Michael Van Atta (201)701-0238  
P. O. Box 302  
Chatham, N.J. 07928

Peter Coker



Staff

**John LeBoutillier**

POST OFFICE BOX 230  
OLD WESTBURY, NEW YORK 11568  
TEL.# (516) 626-0831

February 1, 1991

Dear Brent,

You and the President soon will face a crucial decision: what to do with Vietnam once the Cambodian agreement is signed in Paris.

You do not want to be forced onto the wrong side of the domestic politics of the POW/MIA issue.

If you reward Hanoi for their work on Cambodia, as Dick Solomon is telling people, by normalizing relations or lifting the trade embargo or exchanging charge's d'affairs or agreeing to international loans or anything else before the POW/MIA issue is solved, the POW/MIA activists, family members and former POW's will haunt you for the rest of your political career. They will haunt you because they feel that now, after the Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan years, Hanoi is finally backed into a corner where the POW issue must be solved. These activists will call you "the man who sold out the POW's" if Hanoi is allowed out of that corner without solving the POW/MIA issue. They will picket all your public appearances; they will make your future political life miserable.

Brent, the smart political move is to thank Hanoi for their work on the Cambodian settlement but to remind Hanoi that improved relations can come only after they have answered all the questions about the POW/MIA's in both Vietnam and Laos.

In other words, Brent, stay on the right side of this emotional issue.

Also, if you weaken your stance on the POW/MIA's in Vietnam, Saddam Hussein will see that he can jerk your chain on the POW's he is now holding.

Sincerely,

*John*

John LeBoutillier

RECEIVED

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THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMPANY HAS REVIEWED THE REPORT OF THE MANAGER OF THE COMPANY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1950 AND IS PLEASED TO STATE THAT THE ACCOUNTS SHOW A PROFIT OF £100,000.

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APPROVED BY THE BOARD

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