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JRC LIAISON BANGKOK TH SA WASHINGTON DC
SECNAV WASHINGTON DC OSAF WASHINGTON DC//PA//
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CHINFO WASHINGTON DC HQ AFESC TYNDALL AFB FL//
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SECTION 01 OF 02

NSC FOR CHILDRESS

SUBJ: PRESS GUIDANCE FOR IDENTIFICATION AND RETURN OF REMAINS

1. REMAINS OF FOUR MISSING AMERICANS RECOVERED IN INDOCHINA HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AND WILL BE RETURNED TO NEXT-OF-KIN. THE REMAINS ARE SCHEDULED TO DEPART HAWAII ON NOVEMBER 17, 1988.

2. THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE WILL BE MADE IN WASHINGTON, (AND IS EMBARGOED UNTIL) 1400, EST, NOVEMBER 16, 1988: QUOTE: FOUR REMAINS RETURNED FROM INDOCHINA HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED.

AT THE REQUEST OF THE NEXT OF KIN, ONE NAME IS BEING WITHHELD. THE OTHER THREE REMAINS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE FOLLOWING U.S. SERVICEMEN:

NAME	RANK	SVC	LOSS DATE
LOSS COUNTRY	DOB		HOR
KENNETH J. YONAN	CAPT	USA	APR 24, 1972
SOUTH VIETNAM	JULY 18, 1947		CHICAGO, IL
M. D. MCMICAN	LTJG	USN	JUN 2, 1965
NORTH VIETNAM	DEC 29, 1940		TOPPENISH, WASH.
GERALD M. ROMANO	LTJG	USN	JUN 2, 1965
NORTH VIETNAM	MAR 29, 1942		NEW YORK, NY

THE REMAINS WILL DEPART HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE IN HAWAII WITH A FULL MILITARY HONORS CEREMONY AT 0800 A.M., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1988, HAWAII TIME, AND TRAVEL TO TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA, FOR THEIR FINAL JOURNEY HOME. CAPT YONAN'S REMAINS WERE AMONG 27 REMAINS REPATRIATED BY THE VIETNAMESE ON APRIL 6, 1988. FOUR OF THOSE 27 REMAINS HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED. THE OTHER THREE REMAINS WERE AMONG 25 REMAINS REPATRIATED BY THE VIETNAMESE ON JULY 13, 1988. FIVE OF THOSE 25 REMAINS HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN IDENTIFIED. OTHER REMAINS FROM THOSE REPATRIATIONS ARE STILL UNDERGOING ANALYSIS IN AN ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE IDENTIFICATIONS. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT APPRECIATES THE COOPERATION OF THE VIETNAMESE THAT RESULTED IN THE ACCOUNTING FOR THESE AMERICANS AND HOPES THE SUCH TURNOVER OF INFORMATION AND REMAINS ALONG WITH JOINT INVESTIGATIVE EFFORTS WILL CONTINUE. END QUOTE.

3. SERVICE MANPOWER/PERSONNEL OFFICES SHOULD PREPARE AND FORWARD TO SERVICE PA, CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS AND BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON THE INDIVIDUALS IDENTIFIED FOR USE IN RESPONSE TO QUERY.

4. THE FOLLOWING GENERAL GUIDANCE IS PROVIDED:

A. DISCUSSION WITH MEDIA SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT POW/MIA ACCOUNTING IS A HUMANITARIAN MATTER AND NOT LINKED WITH ANY OTHER ISSUE.

B. ADDRESS THE POSSIBILITY OF LIVE AMERICANS BEING HELD AGAINST THEIR WILL USING ONLY THE OFFICIAL USG POSITION, OUTLINED IN ANSWER 4 BELOW.

C. EMPHASIZE THAT THE USG IS DEEPLY COMMITTED TO ACHIEVING THE FULLEST POSSIBLE ACCOUNTING FOR ALL MISSING AMERICANS.

5. THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ARE PROVIDED FOR USE IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC QUERY:

Q1. HAVE THE NEXT OF KIN OF THESE INDIVIDUALS BEEN NOTIFIED?

A1. YES.

Q2. HOW MANY REMAINS RECOVERED FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA HAVE BEEN

\$\$\$ SAVE DOLLARS, TIME, & TRAVEL \$\$\$

\$\$\$ VIDEO TELECONFERENCING IS AVAILABLE \$\$\$

\$\$\$ CALL 697-8840 FOR INFORMATION/RESERVATIONS \$\$\$

ACTION DAMO(8) (M)
INFO SAPA(10) DACS(7) SASA(2) SCB REVIEW(1)

IDENTIFIED AS MISSING AMERICANS THUS FAR?

A2. INCLUDING THESE INDIVIDUALS, 200 AMERICANS (172 FROM VIETNAM, 26 FROM LAOS, AND 2 FROM PRC) PREVIOUSLY MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA HAVE BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR.

Q3. HOW MANY AMERICANS ARE STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR IN INDOCHINA?

A3. WITH THESE IDENTIFICATIONS, THERE ARE STILL 2,383 AMERICANS MISSING OR OTHERWISE UNACCOUNTED FOR IN INDOCHINA.

Q4. WHAT IS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON THE POSSIBILITY THAT AMERICANS MAY STILL BE HELD CAPTIVE IN INDOCHINA?

A4. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE THUS FAR BEEN UNABLE TO PROVE THAT AMERICANS ARE STILL DETAINED AGAINST THEIR WILL, THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US PRECLUDES RULING OUT THAT POSSIBILITY. ACTIONS TO INVESTIGATE LIVE-SIGHTING REPORTS RECEIVE, AND WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE, NECESSARY PRIORITY AND RESOURCES BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT AT LEAST SOME AMERICANS ARE STILL HELD CAPTIVE. SHOULD ANY REPORT PROVE TRUE, WE WILL TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO ENSURE THE RETURN OF THOSE INVOLVED.

Q5. WHY DOES THE U.S. GOVERNMENT OPERATE ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT AMERICANS ARE HELD CAPTIVE?

A5. SINCE THE FALL OF SAIGON IN 1975, THE U.S. HAS RECEIVED OVER 8,800 REPORTS RELATED TO THE POW/MIA ISSUE, MOST OF THEM FROM INDOCHINESE REFUGEES. OF THE TOTAL REPORTED, 1,116 ARE FIRSTHAND LIVE-SIGHTING REPORTS. APPROXIMATELY 88 PERCENT OF THESE HAVE BEEN RESOLVED: APPROXIMATELY 66 PERCENT THROUGH CORRELATION WITH AMERICANS WHO WERE IN INDOCHINA BUT HAVE SINCE RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES. ANOTHER 22 PERCENT ARE KNOWN OR SUSPECTED FABRICATIONS BY THE SOURCE. HOWEVER, SOME 136, OR APPROXIMATELY 12 PERCENT OF THE REPORTS ARE UNDER CONTINUING HIGH-PRIORITY INVESTIGATION IN AN ATTEMPT TO CONFIRM THE INFORMATION. OF THESE 136 REPORTS, 51 PERCENT PERTAIN TO INDIVIDUALS SIGHTED IN A CAPTIVE ENVIRONMENT AND 49 PERCENT PERTAIN TO INDIVIDUALS SIGHTED IN A NON-CAPTIVE ENVIRONMENT. ALL REPORTS PERTAINING TO THE POW/MIA ISSUE ARE THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED ON A PRIORITY BASIS. ADDITIONALLY, WE ARE ACTIVELY PURSUING MANY DISCREPANCY CASES. THESE ARE CASES OF AMERICANS FOR WHOM THERE WAS STRONG EVIDENCE THAT THEY SURVIVED THEIR INCIDENT AND WERE CAPTURED OR OTHERWISE CAME UNDER VIETNAMESE CONTROL OR ABOUT WHOM THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES SHOULD HAVE INFORMATION.

Q6. DO YOU ANTICIPATE THAT THESE IDENTIFICATIONS WILL BE CHALLENGED BY THE FAMILIES?

A6. LONGSTANDING U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY PROVIDES FOR THE NEXT OF KIN TO SEEK A PRIVATE EXPERT OPINION. WE HAVE COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN OUR IDENTIFICATION AND REVIEW PROCESS. FOLLOWING THE ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE U.S. ARMY CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION LABORATORY, THESE CASES WERE REVIEWED BY FORENSIC CONSULTANTS WHO AGREED WITH THE LABORATORY'S FINDINGS. ALL INFORMATION HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO THE NEXT OF KIN, AND THEY HAVE BEEN THOROUGHLY BRIEFED ON THE FINDINGS.

Q7. WHEN WAS THE LAST REPATRIATION OF REMAINS?

A7. ON NOVEMBER 3, 1988, THE VIETNAMESE REPATRIATED 23 REMAINS WHICH ARE CURRENTLY UNDERGOING ANALYSIS.

Q8. HOW MANY REMAINS HAVE THE VIETNAMESE REPATRIATED SINCE THE VESSEY MISSION TO HANOI, AND HOW MANY OF THOSE HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED?

A8. SINCE THE VESSEY MISSION, THE VIETNAMESE HAVE REPATRIATED 100 REMAINS AS FOLLOWS: THREE IN SEPTEMBER 1987, FIVE IN NOVEMBER 1987, SEVENTEEN IN MARCH 1988, TWENTY-SEVEN IN APRIL 1988, TWENTY-FIVE IN JULY 1988, AND TWENTY-THREE IN NOVEMBER, 1988. THUS FAR, 27 HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE REMAINS OF MISSING AMERICANS: THE THREE IN SEPTEMBER, THE FIVE IN NOVEMBER, SIX FROM THE MARCH REPATRIATION, FIVE FROM THE APRIL REPATRIATION, AND EIGHT FROM THE JULY REPATRIATION. SINCE 1974, SOME 265 REMAINS HAVE BEEN RECOVERED FROM VIETNAM. OF THOSE, 172 HAVE BEEN DETERMINED TO

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BE THE REMAINS OF MISSING AMERICANS. THE REMAINDER HAVE BEEN DETERMINED TO BE SOUTHEAST ASIAN MONGOLOID OR ARE STILL UNDERGOING ANALYSIS. THE U.S. HAS REQUESTED THAT THE VIETNAMESE PROVIDE US WITH ANY REMAINS WHICH MIGHT POSSIBLY BE THOSE OF AMERICANS MISSING IN ACTION AS A PART OF OUR COMMITMENT TO OBTAIN THE FULLEST POSSIBLE ACCOUNTING.

Q9. WHAT OTHER ACTIVITIES ARE BEING UNDERTAKEN TO HELP RESOLVE THE POW/MIA ISSUE?

A9. TECHNICAL EXPERTS FROM THE JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER (JCRC) AND THE U.S. ARMY CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION LABORATORY (CILHI), ALONG WITH LAOTIAN COUNTERPARTS, CONDUCTED SURVEYS OF CRASH SITES IN LAOS DURING THE PERIOD SEPT 27 - OCT 1, 1988. FINDINGS FROM

THOSE ACTIVITIES ARE BEING EVALUATED AND WILL BE USED TO CONDUCT UPCOMING EXCAVATIONS. THE NEXT JOINT U.S./LAO EXCAVATION IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN DECEMBER 10, 1988. IN VIETNAM, JCRC AND CILHI TECHNICAL EXPERTS, ALONG WITH THEIR VIETNAMESE COUNTERPARTS, INVESTIGATED SEVERAL CASES OF AMERICANS MISSING IN ACTION IN AREAS TO THE NORTH AND SOUTHEAST OF HANOI BETWEEN SEPT 25 AND OCT 5 1988 AND AGAIN BETWEEN OCT 24 AND NOV 3, 1988. FINDINGS FROM THESE INVESTIGATIVE EFFORTS ARE BEING EVALUATED AND ARE BEING USED TO PLAN FUTURE ACTIVITIES. COOPERATION FROM BOTH COUNTRIES WAS GOOD. WE LOOK FORWARD TO INCREASED JOINT ACTIVITIES WITH BOTH THE VIETNAMESE AND LAO GOVERNMENTS TO RESOLVE THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

Q10. WERE TWO OF THESE INDIVIDUALS LOST IN THE SAME INCIDENT? WHAT WERE THE CIRCUMSTANCES?

A10. LTJG MCMICAN AND LTJG ROMANO WERE AMONG FOUR CREWMEMBERS OF AN EA1F AIRCRAFT THAT WAS SHOT DOWN BY GROUND FIRE WHILE CONDUCTING A SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSION. THE VIETNAMESE UNILATERALLY INVESTIGATED AND RECOVERED WHAT THEY BELIEVED TO BE THE REMAINS OF ALL FOUR CREWMEMBERS FROM THAT INCIDENT AND REPATRIATED THEM IN JULY. IN PROCESSING THESE REMAINS AT THE CILHI IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THE REMAINS CORRELATED TO ONLY THREE OF THE FOUR CREWMEMBERS. THE FAMILY OF THE THIRD CREWMEMBER HAS ASKED THAT THE NAME BE WITHHELD PENDING FINAL DISPOSITION ARRANGEMENTS. THE UNITED STATES WILL ASK THE VIETNAMESE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE FOURTH CREWMEMBER.

6. QUESTIONS BEYOND THE SCOPE OF THIS GUIDANCE SHOULD BE REFERRED TO OASD/PA. POC IS LCDR E.H. LUNDQUIST, USN, A/V 223-1073 OR COMM (202) 693-1073; POC FOR MEDIA QUERIES IS LTC KEITH SCHNEIDER, USA, AV 227-5131 OR (202) 697-5131. BT