



Normalized Relations

Bill Clinton gave full diplomatic recognition to Vietnam!! We worked hard trying to stop it-we lost. Now what? Well, we must now do more, better, harder with less. I know we can keep the live POW issue in front of the President and demand that he account for the last known alive POWs.

What I would suggest that we do is stick to the facts, present them clearly and demand that respected publications consider these fact when seeking to investigate the question: "What happened to the Americans who were captured alive, but were not released?" With this clear objective in mind, I wrote the following letter to the editor:

Editor, The Baltimore Sun, Fax 410-332-6977 July 16, 1995

Dear Editor,

I have read your coverage of President Clinton decision to normalize relations with Vietnam closely, as I am a Vietnam veteran who has worked diligently since 1981 to help the families of the MIAs press for an accounting. Repeatedly, you have put forth factual errors and mislead your readers in what appears to be an editorial quest to support Mr. Clinton's decision. No views that opposing Mr. Clinton's decision have yet been approved by you to be printed. Why

not?

On three occasions over the last several days you have put forth the notion that several, most, or some of the MIA cases are losses over the sea and will not or cannot be resolved. Senator McCain promoted that most of the outstanding discrepancy cases were losses over water and the Vietnamese should not be forced to account for these losses at sea. Lt. Col. Tim Bosse put forth the statement that there are 400 servicemen missing over water. All of these notions, put forth by respected individuals, are false.

Message 020150Z FEB 73, a press briefing by the JCRC, who headed the U.S. government's search and recovery efforts for the 2,335 Americans missing in Southeast Asia dated 2 FEB 73. This once SECRET document details that there were 144 crash sites over the sea involving 271 individuals - not 400 MIAs.

On one occasion you printed a detailed breakdown on a Vietnamese Mortician's knowledge of remains he said he helped process prior to his defection in 1979. Your editors said he only processed 200 U.S. MIA remains and heard about 200 others that he did not see or have first hand knowledge about. As the Vietnamese have turned over 333 remains your editors surmised that all of the remains the Mortician processed have been returned. Your assumptions are false.

The Mortician testified before Congress and said he personally processed 452 remains. His testimony was filmed and is in a VIDEO called "We Can Keep You Forever", a documentary by the BBC, available through the Veteran of the



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Official Notice

1995 Evidence Kit

A group of current and former intelligence officers has put together an educational package of material called the "Evidence Kit" written for educators and elected officials. With the "Evidence Kit" you can show history professors at Colleges and High Schools the evidence of live POWs, so they might teach their students about the POW/MIAs. With the "Evidence Kit" you can meet with your Congressman & Senator to show them the proof & evidence of live POWs. Included in the "Evidence Kit": 4300 live sighting reports; returned POWs debriefings; CIA & DIA reports; 309 discrepancy cases; select bio-sheets; how and where to get newly declassified POW intelligence reports. With the kit you can hold "show trials" to present the live POW data to the press and the public. Buy your history teacher, congressman, and senator a live POW "Evidence Kit".

To order, send \$25.00 for each "Evidence Kit" to:

Michael Van Atta, Director
The POW Educational Fund
P.O. Box 735
Stewartstown Station, PA 17363
or phone
(717) 993-5498

Vietnam War (1-800-VIETNAM). I was a paid consultant in the production of the VIDEO and am listed in the credits. The Mortician also passed three Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) lie detector tests. DIA also verified the accuracy of the Mortician's

knowledge using other sources. The Vietnamese have admitted to U.S. investigators that they collected and stored U.S. MIAs remains to be used as bargaining chips in gaining concessions from the US. CILHI, the U.S. military remains processing point, reports in its annual audit that remains are still being turned over by Vietnam that show scientific evidence that they were in long term storage. So, when your editors put forth that the Mortician only knew of 200 remains, this was false. When your editors put forth the notion that all the remains the Mortician processed have been returned, this is false.

(NOTE: At the National League of MIA Families meeting in Washington, DC July 21, 1995 it was presented by Winston Lord the Assistant Secretary of State that since 1990 Hanoi has not returned any remains that showed evidence of long term storage. Although I question the accuracy of Lord's statement, if true, then this is evidence that Hanoi is still with holding remains - 452 processed by the Mortician up to 1979 and only 333 returned, since 1973 through to date, thus 119 remains unexplained, unreturned and unidentified.)

Your editors must be predisposed to promote Mr. Clinton's decision in a positive light as they are not looking at the facts. Here are a few simple exercises that will lead you to some of the real facts about the MIAs who were alive in the hands of the Vietnamese who were not released or accounted for before Vietnam was recognized by Mr. Clinton.

1. Call the Secretary of Defense office fax 202-273-4878 and get the February 17, 1995 list of 266 MIA cases that the Secretary said were MIA cases where Hanoi knew the whereabouts of the MIA, but has not accounted for them.

2. Call the Secretary of Defense office fax 202-273-4878 and get the list of 67 MIAs Henry Kissinger gave Hanoi after the last live

and Cambodia. They will be supported by the governments concerned and by land, sea and air assets of the Pacific Command. Search efforts will include aerial reconnaissance and a program to solicit the cooperation of civilians communities in providing information about crash and grave sites. When a suspected site is found, a team from the JCRC will be sent to investigate. People providing information leading to the location of these sites will be rewarded. The centers operations are similar to those of a missing person bureau with the requirements of accumulation, collection, analysis and interpretation of hundreds of reports that help in casualty resolution.

The date of this press release is 27 Jan 73, not just a commitment made yesterday but one made, now more than 22 years ago, one that remains uncompleted today.

Now comes Michael D. Janich who on 28 June 1995 presented before Congress his view of the facts as a civilian employee for JCRC, Stoney Beach (DIA) and the JTF-FA. If you do not have a copy of his testimony contact Rep. Dornan's office and ask for a copy.

Mr. Janich reports poor cooperation by the Vietnamese; Gen. Needham restrained accurate accounting by pressing his authority to cut investigations short; demanding/commanding that cases be marked resolved when the investigation was incomplete, inaccurate and poorly performed. People who had no language skills, who could not communicate with the Vietnamese were put in charge of closing cases and promotions were tied to a quota of closed cases. People who did not meet the quota of closed cases were abusively treated by Needham.

Mr. Janich sites specific cases where the investigation was incomplete and inaccurate. He presents that a significant number of flawed investigations were conducted under Gen. Needham's command. Does anyone have this guy, Needham's, home address and phone number? -- I know a few people who would like to call on him and pay him a visit, etc.

Repeatedly the Vietnamese refused to provide knowledge they clearly held on specific U.S. MIAs. Some official U.S. investiga-

tors were pulled from their room in the middle of the night and threatened at gun point. Some private teams have been pulled from their rooms in the middle of the night and threatened at gun point. The actions by the Vietnamese absolutely do not signal improved cooperation. Sincerely,

Michael Van Atta 717-993-5498
 Director of the
 POW Educational Fund, Inc.
 P. O. Box 735
 Stewartstown, PA 17363

Prisoners of War Missing in Action

A group of current and former intelligence officers has established an educational fund to provide government officials and the general public with hard factual proof that Americans were captured alive, in war, and were not released. The group publishes a monthly newsletter called

The Insider

that reviews CIA documents and provides insight through review of POW sightings and discrepancy cases of captives who were not released. For subscriptions or information, please contact:

Michael Van Atta, Director
The POW Educational Fund
P.O. Box 735
Stewartstown Station, PA 17363
or phone
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-3- Of the 196 MIAs DPMO identified as "high priority cases" 24 remains have been recovered, 117 are said to be dead with evidence, but no body, to solve them and 55 are in the last known alive, still unsolved cases.

-4- The DPMO presented that they have started in October 1994 a case by case review of each of the outstanding 2002 POW/MIA cases to establish (enemy) knowledge. That review was complete, however the results were not published or presented, but the plan was to present the results to the host country-Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia - not the U.S. public.

-5- Completely absent from the DPMO's presentation was the normal reporting on the number of live sighting reports and the investigative schedule to go see if live Americans could be located. A great deal of time was devoted to identification of remains at crash sights, but none to live POWs.

NEWS RELEASE (Camp H. M. Smith, HI) The U.S. government has started an extensive search and recovery effort for 2,335 Americans still missing, or deceased but unrecovered, in Southeast Asia; a majority of these resulted from aircraft lost in remote, dense jungle areas controlled by enemy forces. Admiral Noel Gayler, Commander in

Chief Pacific, has responsibility for military aspects of the search and recovery. A joint task force designated Joint Casualty Resolution Center (JCRC), presently being established at Nakhon Phanom, Thailand, has on-scene responsibility for this operation; the operation carries the code name of "Valor Home." Fact Sheet: Valor Home, a detailed tabulation of the number and locations of men missing or deceased but unrecovered in Southeast Asia is represented in the chart at the bottom of page 10.

Of the 2335 total cases recorded, 1,892 are associated with the 996 crash sites reflected above, the remaining 443 cases are associated with surface combat losses, for the most part, the crash or grave sites of those deceased Americans who have not been recovered, are located in remote, dense jungle areas controlled by enemy forces, in some cases, these locations must yet be pinpointed.

The Commander in Chief Pacific, Admiral Noel Gayler has organized a 139-men joint task force designated JCRC commanded by a Brigadier General, to plan and conduct the operation...Plans call for vigorous search operations by field teams consisting of both American and local civilian personnel from Laos, the Republic of Vietnam

Crash Sites	Country	Missing In Action	Deceased Not Recovered	Total
363	NVN	427	101	528
239	SVN	407	547	954
234	LAOS	359	174	533
16	CAMBODIA	24	25	49
144	AT SEA	49	222	271
996		1266	1069	2335

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POW release March 31, 1973 - 31 of these MIAs the U.S. knew Hanoi had in their hands, have yet to be returned.

3. Call the Secretary of Defense office fax 202-273-4878 and ask for the list of 55 MIAs that Hanoi turned over to Kissinger on January 27, 1973 stating that these U.S. MIAs had died in captivity - 30 are still unaccounted for today.

4. Call the Secretary of Defense office fax 202-273-4878 and ask - what areas of Vietnam has the U.S. asked for access and been denied permission to investigate live sightings.

5. Call Mr. C.W. McCain 703-602-2202 Ext.245 and ask him if he has received eye witness reports in May 1995 of three live Americans under the control of a Vietnamese Military Unit in Vietnam. Ask about the "BAC SI" of collection managers CMDR. Chip Beck and Joeann Travis for the DPMO 703-602-2022 Ext.259

6. Call Dr. Steven Baskin 410-671-2378 and ask him if in March 1995 he was told by one of the head Vietnamese Doctors in Hanoi that they have not turned over the medical records of Americans who were treated by Vietnamese Doctors during and after the Vietnam War.

7. Call Tim Reed 301-774-7143 and ask him if he was arrested and detained in April 1995 while in Vietnam investigating a live sighting report in a restricted area.

8. Call Dr. Arnold Schechter and ask him why he was detained and searched at Noi Bai airport and his briefcase was confiscated on July 1, 1995. Schechter lead the first U.S. sponsored scientific team to Vietnam to work on the effects of Agent Orange. I thought there was full cooperation by Vietnam. Is that not what Mr. Clinton said?

9. Call the CIA in Washington, DC 703-482-1100 and ask for the for a CIA case officer in the FOIA department. Obtain a copy of the "Daily Intelligence Briefing Reports" for each day that the President was provided a daily written report on live Americans in Vietnam from March 31, 1973 to today.

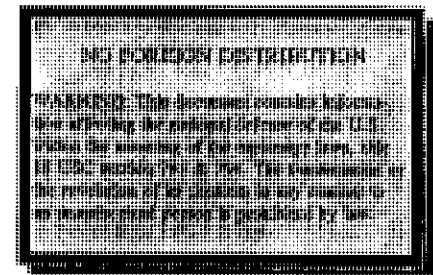
10. Get a list of the names of the 55 cases that are still outstanding "discrepancies" and tell the story about how

they were captured alive and put in Vietnam prisons and not released.

If you follow up on these leads you will learn a lot about what is going on behind the falsehoods you have printed that support normal ties with Vietnam. The advisors to Mr. CLINTON have lied to him and/or he is fibbing to us.

Sincerely,
Michael Van Atta

In addition to putting facts in front of publishers and editors, if there is anyone who has evidence and fact of live POWs they should contact Congress and speak to the



staff in the office of Ben Gilman and Bob Dorman to seek the opportunity to present their views before a Congressional Committee. In that light I presented the following outline of testimony that I could give from personal first hand knowledge, but, alas, my requests were ignored. I present this information here to be judged by you as to worth:

July 9, 1995

Rep. Ben Gilman (NY),
Chairman of the House International Relations Committee

Tel. 202-225-3776

Fax. 202-225-2541

RE: Hearing July 12, 1995

"I REQUEST PERMISSION TO TESTIFY"

Dear Congressman Gilman,

Following the conclusion on the Senate Select Committee report in January 1993 and at the request and suggestion of Sen. Kerry and Sen. McCain I began to send teams of MIA families, veterans and just

average Americans to Vietnam to conduct ground searches for missing Americans.

The code name for this civilian operation was "OPERATION UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY". Between March 1993 and May 1995 I sent 16 search teams into Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, all with one objective: to locate records, information, witnesses, or documents on any live Americans in SE Asia. Following each mission intelligence collected was provided to the DIA, CIA and State Department. (DIA provided me with a briefing before these missions started and I provided a debriefing to DIA following each mission.)

Team #15, sent March 1995, was two U.S. Doctors who met with Dr. Le Cao Dai the head of the 10-80 Committee (the Vietnamese Committee that handles the consequences of the Vietnam War). Dr. Le Cao Dai was asked directly if the medical records on American POWs who were treated at hospital #108 in Hanoi had been turned over to the JTF-FA. His response was, "No, that these and other medical records kept by Vietnamese Doctors and medical staff who treated captured Americans were not turned over. These medical treatment records were in storage and under the Committee's control."

Team #15 provided a debriefing to military and civilian intelligence agencies specifically outlining who had these medical records and who controlled their release. The medical records would describe the exact POW treated and the treatment given. Hanoi still withholds these medical records.

Team #16, sent in May 1995, was two Americans and one foreign national who speaks Vietnamese. They were sent into a restricted area where there were multiple live sighting reports of live Americans. They were acting as tourists. Their mission was to locate witnesses and/or live Americans reported in the area. They located a Doctor who

was well aware of three live Americans in the area, near/beside a military compound. The Doctor guided them to the location of the three Americans. Within 1500 meters of the target they were arrested, detained and questioned for several hours.

The ability of one of the team members to speak Vietnamese was kept secret from their captors and when a civilian political officer arrived to supervise their detention a conversation between the chief of police and the civilian political officer was overheard - their concern was how the team had gotten so far past the first check point to the second check point before they were arrested. The team had a cover story as to why they were in the restricted area (searching for a Doctor to treat a little girl they had found who was ill). Later their Vietnamese captors acknowledged that they had sent a police officer to verify their cover story of an ill little girl who needed medical treatment and confirmed its accuracy. After several hours of interrogation they paid a fine and were released. This live sighting data was turned over to the CIA and all the Clinton officials in charge of the POW issue. No public release of the live sighting location or the location of the eye witness (a Doctor) has or will be made at this time as this is an active investigation that has not yet been completed.

If you would like to have these team leaders and team members testify at your hearing, they would do so, as they all live and work in the Washington, DC area. One restriction is that they must all have their identities protected. I will be glad to present the findings of PROJECT UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY in open hearings as I personally set up, recruited, trained and supervised these civilian intelligence collection missions. I managed all the intelligence collected and distributed it to the various U.S. intelligence

(Continued on page 5)

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On July 25, 1995 for Hershel Golber, Deputy Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) wrote:

(The) VA does not have jurisdiction in searching for POWs or service members (who are) MIA. However, we have referred your letter to International Security Affairs (ISA) POW-MIA, The Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-2400.

CONCLUSION: The process of reporting live information is one that is clearly misunderstood by those who are in charge of investigating it and no clear policy or path to deliver live sighting information to responsible U.S. government officers is commonly agreed to or understood. The CIA, JIFFA, DPMO, State Department and Congress clearly do not agree on who is in charge, as demonstrated by the finger pointing at some other agency, as the one who should handle sensitive data. The CIA clearly dropped the ball by refusing to act on the data or if the CIA passed the data to the DPMO, the DPMO simply sat on the data until kicked in the butt, to act (after several advisors to the President wrote and asked what are you doing about this live sighting information?)

On July 21, 1995 I attended the National League of Family meetings in Washington, DC as a guest of an MIA family and observed and attended several presentations and briefings. The following items are noteworthy because they are factual reporting, that call into question the level and degree of cooperation Hanoi has provided on the POW/MIA problem.

-1- Hanoi has turned over 167 MIA remains since the JTF-FA took over the accounting process in 1991, 99 collected in joint efforts and 68 turned over by Hanoi (most collected by an amnesty program where Vietnamese citizens turn in remains they have collected and saved). Under Clinton only 30 remains have been identified, 8 since the trade Embargo was lifted in February 1994. (NOTE, these results do not demonstrate any increase in cooperation as the President said.)

-2- Some of the MIA families expressed that there is the appearance of distortion and that a political spin is being put on technical analysis. The MIA families are not happy. The families believe that the press has been misled by the DPMO's number reporting system into believing that there are only 55 unsolved cases and this is inaccurate.

The Insider

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Commander JTF-FA, one of Clinton's advisors who promoted the decision to open full diplomatic ties with Vietnam.

July 7, 1995

Thank you very much for your letter providing information on three alleged live Americans in Vietnam. The Defense Prisoner of War/ Missing in Action Office (DPMO) is the U.S. Government agency responsible for analysis and evaluation of live sighting information. I have forwarded your letter to them for review and appropriate follow up. Once we have the names of the Vietnamese witnesses and the location of the alleged Americans, JTF-FA will assist in the conduct of the investigation. Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.

On July 14, 1995 (after originally having provided the CIA on May 18, 1995 with the direct knowledge that TEAM #16 had discovered live sighting information in late-April 1995 that three live Americans were at a specific location) the DPMO finally debriefed members of TEAM #16, who could speak Vietnamese. The 2 1/2 hour debriefing, requested 2 1/2 months earlier, when the information was fresh and current, is typical of the foot dragging, delays and low priority placed on live sighting information. In fact, several agencies of the U.S. government had to be contacted and all the advisors of the President on the POW/MIA matter, before the DPMO permitted TEAM #16 to be debriefed.

NOTE, that between the time the live sighting information was obtained and that date DPMO debriefed the team members, President Clinton Normalized relations with Vietnam.

Another fine example of the Low Priority assigned to POW/MIA accountability and the efforts by the CIA/DPMO to hide live sighting data until it is forced to act.

On July 6, 1995 James Hall, Chief of the U.S. Liaison Office in Hanoi, Vietnam wrote:

Thank you for your June 25 letter regarding live sighting of Americans in Vietnam. The U.S. Government has an established procedure to pass information on live-sightings of what are believed to be unaccounted-for Americans. Information should be passed to the JTF-FA. This is the organization with the operational responsibility for fullest possible accounting. I have taken the liberty of passing your letter to JTF-FA. You can contact JTF-FA directly by writing to the following address: JTF-FA, Box 64044, Camp H. M. Smith, Hawaii 96861-4044 Tel.808-477-3001 Fax.808-477-5501. I urge you to contact JTF-FA directly and pass whatever information you have. We appreciate your cooperation.

On July 17, 1995 John M. Shalikashvili, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff wrote:

Thank you for your recent letter and information gathered by the search teams in Vietnam. The resolution of the POW/MIA issue is an extremely important one for our Nation. Our goal has been, and will continue to be, the fullest possible accounting of our missing personnel in Southeast Asia. As you know, the DIA, at the request of the DPMO, investigates all live sighting reports in SE Asia. I have directed that your information be forwarded to the DPMO for review.

On July 13, 1995 Senator Jesse Helms wrote:

Thank you for your letter dated June 25 regarding missing Americans in Vietnam. I have forwarded your letter to the CIA. The CIA will be contacting you directly with a response to your inquiry. Thank you for contacting me to express your concern.

Project: Unauthorized Entry

The Live POW Lobby of America sponsors trips back to Vietnam and Laos to look for the Americans who were captured alive but not released. We provide maps and put you with a team of searchers in an area where there are of live sighting reports. You stay in a hotel at night but search for POWs during the day. We have a search team advisory group that will help you with every detail. We have sent 16 teams in the last 2 years into Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Russia, and Cuba.

Ever thought of going to look for the live POWs?

Call us today, because you can help.
A two week trip costs about \$3500.

CONTACT

Michael Van Atta, Chairman
The Live POW Lobby of America
P.O. Box 735
Stewartstown Station, PA 17363
or phone
(717) 993-5498

agencies.

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE COLLECTED:

1. Of 16 teams, 4 teams were arrested and/or pulled from their rooms in the middle of the night to be questioned harshly by Vietnamese military and civilian authorities.
2. All teams reportedly were restricted by Vietnamese authorities from freedom of movement and travel in areas where several live sighting reports were congested together.
3. All teams were cautioned by Vietnamese authorities not to ask questions about live Americans even though all teams carried a questionnaire in Vietnamese and En-

glish that requested information on live Americans.

4. All teams were followed by Vietnamese authorities (most likely by K-20, the Vietnamese secret police) and when the questionnaire was presented to a potential witness, these authorities would interfere, interrupt and/or stop the witness from completing his answer. (Their appeared to be a great deal of fear by the Vietnamese population of the civilian and military authorities who had cautioned them not to speak to any American about live Americans. This fear was real as several times during questioning a civilian police or political officer would jump out of the crowd and caution the information provider from continuing. The local population maintains the fear that they will face punishment for telling what they know about live Americans.)

5. In several cases where private Vietnamese citizens helped the team with transportation that was not authorized or permitted, Vietnamese authorities impounded cars and motor bikes, issued court summons and fined those who helped the team move into restricted areas.

6. Several witnesses were located who provided grave location information and/or remains but were very cautious to state that they did not want Vietnamese authorities to learn of their cooperation. Several witnesses stated that they would provide POW/MIA data only if their identities were protected.

7. One team located a monk who was in prison, in the Hanoi area from 1975 to 1989, in the same prison with three live Americans. One team was prevented from having access to a prison which was under guard. Several teams located first hand eye witnesses who reported having seen live American prisoners, held as captives, after the Vietnam War. One team located and befriended a Vietnamese civilian who pulled out a box he stated were U.S. remains he had collected and saved but was afraid to provide them to Vietnamese authorities out of fear of being arrested (the remains were provided to the team and immediately turned over to the DIA).

8. All teams who had contact with the

(Continued on page 6)

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JTF-FA office in Hanoi reported an unwillingness by the office to cooperate with the team's private civilian search efforts, but the JTF-FA in all cases had been pre-notified by Washington that the team was coming to search for live MIAs. Although Congressmen and Senators have encouraged private searches to help locate the answers to some unsolved MIA cases, the JTF-FA appears to have been ordered not to cooperate with private search efforts and to simply monitor their activity. In one case a news story that appeared in a team members local home town news paper was shown by the JTF-FA to the team member when he arrived in Hanoi (as the DIA had faxed the JTF-FA the news story). One team was tailed or followed by members of the JTF-FA in their operating target area, in South Vietnam.

I would like to present 6 questions to clear up any misunderstanding that might be presented by others who hold different views of the POW/MIA question than I do.

1. Is their cooperation inside of Vietnam in accounting for the POW/MIAs by Vietnamese authorities? NO.
2. Is their information out beyond the reach of the JTF-FA that can shed light on unresolved POW/MIA cases? YES
3. Do the practices, procedures and methods of the JTF-FA need to be modified to achieve the fullest possible accounting as possible (JTF-FAs stated objective)? YES
4. Are there cases where Americans who died in Vietnam can be located by changing the JTF-FAs methods? YES
5. Are there a continuing flow of live sighting reports? YES
6. Are live sighting reports followed up by CIA, DIA, JTFFA in a timely manor when the information is fresh? NO

Until their is a major change in Vietnamese cooperation on the POW/MIA issue and a serious attempt by the JTF-FA to get to

the information inside of Vietnam on missing Americans, THE INVESTIGATION WILL BE INCOMPLETE.

It is my opinion that Hanoi HAS NOT EARNED FULL DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION based upon the intelligence I have collected inside of Vietnam and presented to responsible U.S. government officials.

STATEMENT BY: MICHAEL VAN ATTA,

Tel. 717-993-5498

Previous testimony given before the U.S. Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs January 30, 1986

(NOTE, the above data was presented to several respected individuals who hold government office and are positioned to feel the impact of these statements. The following is an sample of the responses received from these individuals.) The second follow-up letter sent out is as follows:

John M. Deutch,
CIA Director,
June 25, 1995

Dear Mr. Deutch,

I sent the attached letter to the CIA on May 18, 1995 with details about Americans that were held in a military compound in Vietnam. Having sent 16 search teams into Vietnam to look for missing Americans, I felt that this information was fresh, current and specific as to location. But, no one has contacted me to obtain the details that could lead to the location of a live American nor has anyone asked to interview or debrief the three team members who collected this first hand knowledge on live Americans.

I am seeking your help in check into what is going on with this live sighting report that was current as of April 1995 about three live Americans in Vietnam.

Sincerely,
Michael Van Atta
717-993-5498

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The responses received are as follows:

FROM: Ronald H. Brown, Commerce Secretary, and one of Clinton's advisors who promoted the decision to open full diplomatic ties with Vietnam.

July 12, 1995

After reviewing the attached correspondence, it has been determined that it contains a matter which comes under the jurisdiction of the Department of State thus we have referred your data to them for review.

FROM: Dennis Harter, Director, Office for Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia Affairs at the State Department and one of Clinton's advisors who promoted the decision to open full diplomatic ties with Vietnam.
July 11, 1995.

Thank you for your letter of June 25 to myself and Assistant Secretary Lord relaying your concerns regarding the possible live sighting of American POWs in Vietnam. Since 1991 a detachment of the U.S. government personnel has been based in Hanoi to coordinate and carry out search activities for U.S. prisoners of war and missing in action (POW/MIAs) from the Vietnam War. Such activities are currently ongoing under Joint Task Force--Full Accounting (JTF-FA). U.S. investigators have now conducted more that 100 investigations of reported live sightings of Americans in Southeast Asia, including in prisons and military facilities. To date, none of these investigations of reported live sightings has resulted in evidence that American POWs are being detained. A number of private citizens have traveled to Vietnam to seek information concerning American POW/MIAs. U.S., government officials are prepared to act appropriately on all such information whatever its source and whenever it is provided. In regard to your specific account of the possible existence of live American POWs in Vietnam, we suggest you bring it to the attention of the Defense Department POW/MIA Office (DPMO) room 800, Crystal Square 4, 1745 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA 22202. You may also contact the Operations Center office at

THE INSIDER newsletter started publication in January 1982 and is written by a group of current and former intelligence officers who set up an educational fund to provide government officials and the general public with hard, factual proof that Americans were captured alive, in war, who were not released. The group publishes a monthly newsletter called **THE INSIDER** that reviews CIA documents, interviews intelligence officers, provides insight through analytical review of Prisoners of War sightings and discrepancy cases of captives who were not released. **THE INSIDER** is available in hard copy format on a subscription basis at \$24.00 for 12 issues; or using personal computers via phone modem on the military affairs section on COMPUSERVE, the POW Computer Network and the National Forget-Me-Not Association Computer Network. For a hard copy subscription, write to:

Michael Van Atta,
P.O. Box 735
Stewartstown Station, PA 17363

DPMO on 703-602-2202, ext. 262 or fax 703602-1891. We want to assure you that we will continue to press for the fullest possible accounting of American POW/MIAs in Southeast Asia.

(NOTE, that there are over 4,000 live sighting reports and the State Department that promoted the idea that progress on the POW/MIAs was one of the main reasons used to support their decision to normalized ties with Vietnam clearly states that only 100 live sighting investigations have taken place since 1991. Thus, admitting that they are taking no responsibility, passing the buck to DPMO, and promoting the false notion that since 2% of the live sightings have been investigated is progress, and suggesting that 98% of the live reports that have not been investigated would most likely produce a negative results.)

FROM: Col. William Frizell, Deputy