

THE U.S. VETERAN

AUGUST 19, 1994

DISPATCH

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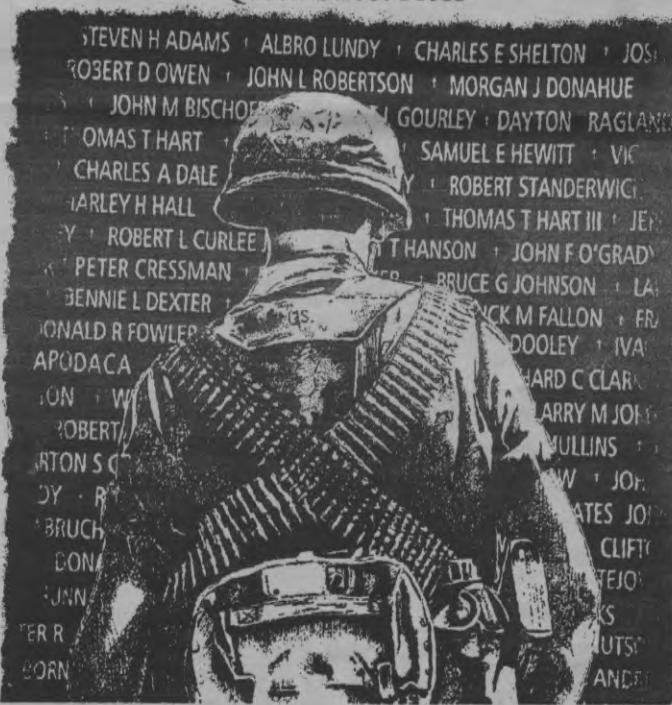
THE U.S. VETERAN DISPATCH

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Fundamental Unalienable Rights Every American Should Know!

"Because of what appears to be a lawful command on the surface, many Citizens, because of respect for the law, are cunningly coerced into waiving their rights, due to ignorance." U.S. v. Minker, 350 U.S. 179, 187

According to the Supreme Court, "WAIVERS OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS, NOT ONLY MUST BE VOLUNTARY, THEY MUST BE KNOWINGLY INTELLIGENT ACTS, DONE WITH SUFFICIENT AWARENESS OF THE RELEVANT CIRCUMSTANCES AND CONSEQUENCES." Brady v. US, 397 US 742 at 748 (1970)

Your Rights were not granted by the Constitution. They were granted by your Creator. Your Rights are your inborn and absolute prerogative to be happy, free and left alone if that is your desire. The government may NOT impose a charge or a fee for the exercise of a Right! You have a natural right to be your own boss and to control your own destiny, without governmental restraint or interference. All forms of regulatory, monetary or physical restraint are contrary to, and a violation of, your fundamental Right to liberty. You also have an unalienable right to be happy, as long as your happiness does not infringe upon the rights of others. Any infringement upon your happiness is a violation of your most sacred, fundamental Right. Our Creator did not send us in this world to be unhappy or subservient. The only purpose of government in America is to increase your happiness, to protect your freedom, to protect your property and to protect your privacy. Your government is your servant and your protector and when it becomes your oppressor, it has violated the highest law in the land, our Constitution! Rights are acknowledged in the Declaration of Independence and protected by the Constitution. The purpose of the Constitution was not to grant our Rights, but to prohibit the government from infringing upon them!

Following is a summary of some of your Rights: The Rights enumerated in the Declaration of Independence include: (1) Life (2) Liberty (3) The Pursuit of Happiness. The Supreme Court has expanded these Rights to include but not be limited to: (4) The Right to Privacy (5) The Right to Property (6) The Right to Travel, unrestricted, throughout the states (7) The Right to Labor in a Lawful Occupation (8) The Right to keep the fruits of your labor (9) The Right to Safety.

The Ninth Amendment of our Constitution states, "THE ENUMERATION IN THE CONSTITUTION OF CERTAIN RIGHTS SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED TO DENY OR DISPARAGE OTHERS RETAINED BY THE PEOPLE." This means that your Rights are not limited to only to those expressed in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, or expanded by the Supreme Court. Remember a Right, according to Webster's Dictionary, is "an individual's absolute prerogative to correctness, justice and to that which is honorable...what one fairly has coming." Under the Common Law, you have the Right and freedom to do anything you please...as long as you do not encroach upon the Rights of others, and you keep all agreements entered into knowingly, voluntarily and intentionally. Also, because "We the People," as Absolute Sovereigns, have "all of the Rights of the King of England" and that's a lot of Rights!

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Colorado POW/MIA Coalition
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Thank you for your support in this effort focused directly toward our live men. Any organization willing to provide support are invited to do so.

COMMENTARY

Frank Gaffney, Jr.

One would think that if a picture is worth a thousand words, 2,000 photos recently displayed at a national convention in Crystal City should be worth 2 million words. In fact, these pictures should translate into much more than a voluminous book's worth of wordage. They should clear the way for a final, honest accounting of what happened to the hundreds of men left behind at the end of the Vietnam war.

The photographs, which were presented publicly for the first time at the annual Washington meeting of the National Alliance of POW-MIA Families, were taken more than 20 years ago by the North Vietnamese army and news agency. They show American prisoners of war, aircraft crash sites and pilot identification cards.

Some of the subjects are among those prisoners who returned at the end of the war. But many others are servicemen — photographed alive or dead — who are still officially considered "unaccounted for."

Incredibly, these materials were secretly withheld from the public — including family members of some of those servicemen appearing in these photographs who claim the U.S. government had not previously informed them about the existence of these photos, *even though* the Defense Department now acknowledges having them for more than two years. The National Alliance obtained these formerly "TOP SECRET" photos from a former agent of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

The explanation for this stunning withholding of information relevant to the POW-MIA issue may lie in the fact that these photos represent damning new evidence of the extent to which the American and Vietnamese governments have covered up critical information on missing U.S. servicemen. Among other things, they document the great lengths to which North Vietnam went to document its inventory of captured or dead American prisoners and their equipment — to the point of labeling and warehousing prisoners' uniforms, flight helmets and aircraft identification numbers.

In addition, hundreds of pilot identification cards — including those of men still listed as missing — are shown in pristine condition. There are also photos depicting Vietnamese searching through crash sites together with Soviet bloc advisers, indicating there is much more information in Hanoi and Moscow that can and must be made public.

Importantly, these photos also appear to put to rest several, long-disputed issues:

- Some American servicemen officially listed as missing in the Vietnam conflict were captured alive. Consequently, it is no longer possible to accept Hanoi's ex-

Smoking gun in MIA cover-up?



cuses — or those of its apologists — to the effect that it has no knowledge of the fate of these individuals.

- American servicemen listed as missing or deceased "with body unrecoverable," were at one point in the hands of Vietnamese and Soviet bloc officials. The remains of such servicemen can no longer be considered irretrievably lost.
- The Vietnamese government was meticulous in its record-keeping about captured or deceased American pilots. Claims that Hanoi has been fully forthcoming with what little documentation it had concerning U.S. POW-MIAs — or, alternatively, that worm- or water-damage or carelessness resulted in everything else being lost — should be seen for what they are: part of a long-running, cynical manipulation of such information by Vietnam.
- Vietnamese excavation teams examined downed aircraft even in extremely remote areas. This proves that most crash sites now being excavated by joint American and Vietnamese military teams at great cost to U.S. taxpayers were scoured during the war and any prisoners, or their bodies, were removed long ago. Conse-

quently, the illusion of great cooperation from Hanoi in investigating these sites should cease to be a justification for future steps toward normalizing bilateral relations.

• The U.S. government has still not come clean about all that it knows concerning our unaccounted-for servicemen. Notwithstanding its professed commitment to declassify all relevant information, the Clinton team appears to be continuing the practice of past U.S. administrations in resisting full disclosure, for example, of electronic intercepts that support the National Alliance's photo collection on two points: (1) American servicemen were abandoned in Vietnam at the war's end and (2) that fact was assiduously covered up in the years since. And Clinton personnel choices make an early end to the cover-up unlikely: a virulent anti-war activist, Charles Searcy, was the president's choice to run POW-MIA affairs at the Pentagon, and the most respected field investigator, Garnett Bell, was replaced by young officers who have no background in the issue or in Southeast Asia. Addressing the questions raised by

Hanoi's photographs should be the sole focus of meeting like that between Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his Vietnamese counterpart in Bangkok this month. This effort should be accompanied by a new and independent evaluation of all available information related to the missing Americans. Clearly, unless and until Hanoi and Washington are fully forthcoming, there must be no further progress toward establishing full diplomatic and economic relations with communist Vietnam.

At a minimum, the National Alliance's photo exhibit ought to be displayed in the House and Senate office buildings, where it would be readily accessible to members of Congress, journalists and the public at large. It is especially important that this reminder of unfinished business be kept squarely in mind as President Clinton puts a new generation of Americans in uniform at risk of a similar fate in places like Bosnia, Haiti and the Golan Heights.

Frank J. Gaffney Jr. is the director of the Center for Security Policy and a columnist for The Washington Times.

Unless Hanoi and Washington are fully forthcoming, there must be no further progress toward establishing full diplomatic and economic relations with communist Vietnam

Black Market Photographs of American War Casualties Displayed at National Alliance of Families Meeting

By Donna Long
The U.S. Veteran Dispatch

Despite a call by the Pentagon for a Justice department investigation of the public release of black market photographs of American war casualties in the name of "protecting POW/MIA family members," hundreds of POW/MIA families spent three days pouring through the photographs that were on display at the National Alliance of Families convention held at the Crystal City Hotel on July 14, 15, and 16.

"I think it's criminal they (the Pentagon) haven't released these photos before," Errol Bond, father of Air Force Capt. Ronald Bond, missing in Laos since 1971, told the news media.

Bond, who added that he didn't believe a "damn thing" the government said anymore, echoed the outrage expressed by family members who viewed what the Pentagon describes as "restricted" photographs.

POW/MIA activist Joe Jordan, who purchased copies of the 5,297 photographs for \$35,000 from the same source that purchased them in 1992 on the black market in Hanoi with an estimated \$100,000 provided by the Defense Intelligence Agency, told the families that he believed the photos provided more POW/MIA evidence than had been released in 30 years.

"If they put me in jail for exposing the truth - so-be-it", Jordan said.

Ted Sampley, publisher of THE U.S. VETERAN DISPATCH, which published some of the photographs in its June 17 issue, said he welcomed a Justice Department investigation.

"The photos prove that both Hanoi and the Pentagon have been lying to the American people and the POW/MIA families," he said, noting that it was only after he notified DIA that he was going to publish the photographs that DIA provided copies of the photographs to some of the family members.

Jordan said that among the pictures were

115 military identification cards, photos of 34 deceased American servicemen, live American POWs in captivity, three ID's of men supposedly killed in Germany, and photos of Vietnamese and East Europeans scavenging crash sites and the bodies of dead Americans.

One of the photographs of a crash site being scavenged incensed Bill Bell, the former director of the U.S. POW/MIA Office in Hanoi, who was "promoted" out of his job after testifying before the Senate Select Committee in 1991 that some American POWs had been left behind after the Vietnam War ended in 1973.

"We spent a month at that site in 126 degrees... one American suffered a heat stroke. We spent several hundred thousand dollars and only found one piece of plexiglass," Bell said.

Bell said that if Hanoi was "bending over backwards" to cooperate, as U.S. politicians were claiming at the time, "Why didn't we receive that photograph?"

"It's obvious that the politicians who went over there were the ones bending over - but it wasn't backwards", Bell added.

Bell said that in 1991 he informed the U.S. Government that 8 x 10 glossy photographs from Vietnam's archives could be purchased for \$1.10 each - photos that could help his office in its POW/MIA investigation.

"There was no interest whatsoever," he said, adding that politicians used the issue of "increased funding" to deny his request for funds to purchase copies of the photographs.

Bell said the U.S. POW/MIA office was never allowed to investigate a site without being accompanied by Vietnamese security and without giving the Vietnamese "plenty of time" to prepare the site and the witnesses.

"Once, in 1988, we split up... slipped out while they were eating... they threatened to throw us out of the country," he said.

Asked about being removed from his job within three months after testifying before the Senate POW/MIA select committee that some American POWs had been left behind

at the end of the war, Bell said, "Senator John Kerry says he'll make sure nothing happens to you and the next the you know - you are on a banana peeling."

The Pentagon has lied to us and continues to lie to us... and Hanoi is in the same boat," said Dolores Alfond, sister of an MIA and chairman of the Alliance of Families.

Mrs. Alfond held up one of photographs which shows an American POW being paraded through the streets by an armed Viet Cong guard. Next to the photograph, she placed the picture of a Vietnamese postage stamp.

"It's the same picture. People are probably mailing letters in Vietnam with this stamp... it dishonors our men... it's an absolute disgrace," she said.

Major Mark Smith, a former POW, who retired from the Army after filing a lawsuit claiming that evidence he had helped gather proving that Americans were still being held captive in Laos in the 1980's was ignored by the U.S. Government, said the postage stamps were still being sold in Vietnam.

Smith, who lives in Thailand and continues to seek information on POWs, cautioned those at the forum about talking about sources. Smith said a Thai major, who was working on gathering intelligence on American POWs in Laos, was executed on April 2 because his identity had become known.

"Laos offered 120 thousand dollars for the man. On April 2, he was brought across the river (from Thailand to Laos) and at 3 p.m. he was shot... that's the cost of revealing sources," Smith said. Senator Bob Smith, (R-NH) said that although he did not condone the manner in which the photographs had been disclosed to the public, the pictures prove that Hanoi has not been "fully cooperating", as some U.S. Government officials claim.

"No one should dispute the fact that these photos, and the other information which has been obtained from Vietnamese Archives, conclusively show that Vietnamese officials know more than they have told us to date,"

he said.

Smith said the September 1972 document discovered in the Russian Archives is authentic and "bluntly states" that Hanoi was holding far more American POWs in 1972 than it released in 1973.

"Our government has yet to aggressively demand convincing explanations on this document from Vietnamese officials... instead our intelligence agencies in Washington debunked the document's accuracy right before the trade embargo was lifted... as if to imply that the U.S. knows more about the POWs who didn't come home than the Vietnamese do," Smith said.

Senator Smith said the reason the document was debunked was because it showed there were two prison systems in Vietnam. He said that instead of "digging up" crash sites for remains, the U.S. Government should be demanding access to Hanoi's prison system. He said it was "disgraceful" that the Clinton Administration put its interests in normalizing relations with Vietnam above the need to get a serious explanation on the 1972 document.

Smith said that two amendments he offered had recently passed in the U.S. Senate. The amendments call for the declassification of Korean War and Cold War POW/MIA records that are still classified and for the secretary of defense to certify that all Vietnam-era records have also been declassified.

Major General Wold, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense of the POW/MIA office, who appeared briefly at the forum, told the families that what his office wanted to hear was the truth.

"My intent... my goal... is to seek the truth," he said, adding that every level of his office "sensed the urgency" in providing the fullest possible accounting from all wars.

After stating that he was working on implementing a joint-recovery of remains with North Korea, Wold was politely, but pointedly, told that he should be asking for live POWs first - not remains.

POW/MIA Demonstration Produced 12 arrests Including a 74-year-old MIA Mother

U.S. Veteran Staff and wire report

POW-MIA activists pressed their grievances about alleged cover-up of information about the fate of Americans lost in the Indochina and Korean Wars with a White House demonstration Saturday, July 16, that produced a dozen arrests.

Organizers acknowledged they had not sought the required permit for the demonstration. They announced in advance activists would chain themselves to the White House fence and court arrest to protest the Clinton administration suppression of thousands of Communist-made photographs of U.S. prisoners of war.

The activists said the photographs documented decades of Vietnamese deceit on the fate of the men.

"What this proves is that there has been continuing deceit by the Vietnamese," said Dolores Apodaca Alfond of Bellevue, Wash., chairperson of the National Alliance of Families head of the National Alliance of Families.

Alfond, whose brother is still missing in

action was one of the activists arrested. She accused U.S. authorities of engaging in a coverup of evidence that Americans may still be alive in captivity.

The 12 detained included a 74-year-old mother in a wheelchair, Jane Duke Gaylor, of El Dorado, Kan. She has been trying for 24 years to learn the fate of her flight technician son, Charles Duke Jr., who disappeared in Vietnam in 1970. She accuses the government of withholding for a decade information indicating he could be alive.

By evening, all had been freed after spending about three hours at a police station and cited by the National Park Police for demonstrating without permit, which carries a \$50 fine.

"They didn't seem to want to arrest us, asking us about six times if we would leave" and again at the paddy wagon, said Alfond.

Ms. Gaylor, who suffers from emphysema, was taken in a police sedan, and was among the first to be freed. "It was some experience, but everyone was very nice to me," she said. "I will return again and again and again" until her questions are answered.

About 100 demonstrators, including members of the Washington, D.C. Vietnam-

ese-American community, marched outside the White House fence with an American flag carried upside-down in the international signal of distress. They chanted and carried placards with such messages as "No More Dead Bones, Give Us Live POWS," "Jog Clinton's brains on POW-MIAS," and "Send Clinton to Work in Vietnam in a Cage." A similar group demonstrated in Lafayette Square across Pennsylvania Avenue, which was closed to all but a single traffic lane.

The 90-minute demonstration and arrests climaxed a three-day meeting of several hundred Alliance members at the group's annual forum.

Participants said it produced:

-- Demands that the Clinton administration stop the suppression of evidence pertaining to U.S. POW/MIA's including thousands of Communist-made photographs.

-- Hope for learning the fate of a few of the Americans unaccounted for from the 1950-53 Korean War, some of whom were believed sent to work in the former Soviet Union.

-- Demands that accounting of Americans missing in Korea be given equal priority in expected high level negotiations with North

Korea over its suspected nuclear arms project.

-- Emerging cooperation between POW-MIA activists and the Vietnamese-American community to press for democracy, freedom and truth in communist-ruled Vietnam.

Those arrested included: Jane Duke Gaylor, mother of MIA Charles Duke, Dolores Apodaca Alfond, national chairperson of the National Alliance of Families and sister of MIA Capt. Victor Apodaca, Kathy Borah Duez, sister of MIA Lt. Daniel Borah, Diane Borton Ziegler, sister of MIA PFC Curtis Borton, Jr., R. David Morrissey, Jr., son of MIA Lt.Cdr. David Morrissey, Jerry Kiley, Vietnam vet and board member of the Last Firebase, Donna Long, widow of a Vietnam vet and staff member of the Last Firebase, Jim Copp, Vietnam vet and member of the Last Firebase, Ruth Downing, co-director of the POW/MIA Grassroots Assn., Lynn O'Shea, National Alliance of Families staff member, Vron Mishler, Vietnam vet and POW/MIA activist, and Wynne Lewis, POW/MIA activist and author of "Meet Me At The Wall."

Al Santoli

Asia Policy Vacuum

A new chapter of peace in Asia," was recently proclaimed by officials from the United States, Russia, China, Vietnam and 14 Asian-Pacific nations who met in Bangkok on July 25 at the inaugural ASEAN Regional Forum. The U.S. delegation, led by Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, praised the forum as an important development for stability and new post-Cold War institutions as advocated by President Clinton.

The diplomats' jubilation was overshadowed by a nearly unanimous repudiation by Asian nations of enforceable human rights standards. The Clinton administration's lack of resolve to promote democratic institutions in the world's economically most dynamic and potentially volatile region, is like added tinder to the fires of future conflict. Once again, the vacillating Clinton Doctrine of "economic competitiveness" has disregarded an important principle of conflict resolution: Governments that fail to respect the basic rights of citizens seldom respect their neighbors or international conventions.

Ominous events in the region surrounded the Bangkok forum. Thai police harassed human rights organizations that criticized the region's massive arms race. Muslim Indonesian troops violently suppressed Christian prodemocracy marchers in East Timor. Burma's elected leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, began her sixth year in detention while the junta burned refugee camps on the Thai border. As the threat of war looms on the Korean Peninsula, fighting has escalated in Cambodia. Chea Sim, a former Khmer Rouge official now allied with

Hanoi, consolidated his power as acting chief of state in Cambodia, as his People's Party has undermined the non-communist's election victory.

At the Bangkok forum, Asian officials rejected calls for discussions on abuses in Burma and East Timor. U.S. officials were curtly reminded that western government selectively pursue and, at times, permit subversion of human rights sanctions to promote their own economic interests. This contradiction is most apparent in the Clinton administration's attitude toward Burma and Vietnam. U.S. policy calls for diplomatic and economic isolation of the Burmese junta, and State Department officials have criticized Thailand and other Asian governments for their trade relations with Rangoon. However, the junta's military buildup and ongoing violent suppression of democracy is funded, in part, by millions of dollars from ongoing business relations with American corporations such as Amoco, Texaco and Pepsico. More dangerous to regional stability, in addition to purchasing weapons from China to suppress ethnic minorities, the junta is allowing the Chinese navy access to ports facing the Indian Ocean.

The unholy relationship between U.S. captains of industry and despotic regimes, often in diametric opposition to American diplomatic initiatives, has added to other erosion of American credibility and influence. Mercantilist contempt for morality in U.S. foreign policy was most recently demonstrated in Beijing. American business leaders sided with Chinese communists by publicly humiliating Secretary of State Warren Christopher for his attempt to link human rights to trade relations. And as the U.S. Navy is being radically downsized, China is using its \$24 billion annual trade surplus with the United States to build an aggressive blue water navy.

Embarrassed by the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) invitation to Burmese officials to observe the Bangkok forum, Clinton administration spin doctors emphasized parleys with high level Vietnamese officials to further political normalization. However, by embracing the Hanoi regime, the administration and congressional leaders forfeited the moral high ground. In May, during an official visit to Rangoon, Hanoi's "reformist" Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet signed a joint communiqué expressing "solidarity" and shared economic and political interests with the Burmese junta. Within days of the Bangkok forum, Vietnamese Communist Party leader Do Moul repeatedly stated that normal-

ized relations with the United States will not include any linkage to human rights or multiparty democracy.

One party rule in Vietnam reinforced by the military varies little from Burma. Leaders of non-violent democratic opposition, such as Nobel Prize nominee Nguyen Dan Que and Professor Doan Viet Hoat are isolated in remote prison camps. Buddhist and Christian clergy are tightly controlled. In June, a senior Buddhist monk in the Mekong Delta committed self-immolation and a number of monks were arrested for protesting religious oppression.

Perhaps, the most damaging loss of respect for the Clinton administration involves its failure to hold the Vietnamese accountable for missing American servicemen. The recent revelation of thousands of photos from Vietnamese military archives shows the meticulous manner in which Vietnamese and Soviet bloc advisers documented downed American aircraft, and the many answers they are still holding. In addition, Pentagon officials recently admitted that around two-thirds of all remains "spontaneously" returned by Hanoi show traces of chemical preservation and storage.

Declassified U.S. intelligence records show that during the late 1970s and early 1980s allied Asian governments shared human and technical intelligence regarding live American prisoners held in Vietnam-controlled Laos. Today, these governments for their own interests are pleased that the U.S. trade embargo is lifted. However, our allies and adversaries are mindful that the U.S. government has abandoned its citizen-soldiers and has subjected their families and the American public to elaborate deception. This callous breach of trust has further eroded our superpower aura.

To restore credibility and respect, the administration must formulate and implement a cogent Asia-Pacific strategy that integrates long-term economic, defense and human rights concerns. An important first step in restoring U.S. integrity would be to hold U.S. and Vietnamese bureaucrats to the fullest possible accounting of missing U.S. servicemen. In addition, systematic respect for human rights in Vietnam, as well as Burma should be a precondition for MFN and full diplomatic relations.

Al Santoli is the author of "Everything We Had: An Oral History of the Vietnam War" and "Leading the Way: How Vietnam Veterans Rebuilt the U.S. Military."

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DEMOCRACY IN VIETNAM WORKSHOP

U.S. Veteran Staff Report

Washington, D. C. - About 30 Vietnam Veterans, concerned citizens and Vietnamese Americans attended a workshop at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel on July 15 to discuss how to promote democracy in communist controlled Vietnam.

The workshop, which was sponsored by the Veterans Alliance For Democracy in Vietnam, was conducted by Dr. Walter E. Boek, PhD, president of The College of Democracy and National Graduate University, located in Arlington, Va.

Dr. Boek, who also is the author of two books on democracy (THE EVOLUTION OF A DEMOCRACY and HOW TO ESTABLISH A DEMOCRACY) had the participants in the workshop divide up into four groups, with Vietnamese, veterans and concerned citizens represented in each group. The groups were then given a question to discuss among themselves, and after an al-

lotted time period, an elected representative of each group presented their group's answer.

The questions, which began with what the characteristics of a democratic government are and how a democratic government in Vietnam could be established, brought the following consensus of opinion:

Vietnam can become a democracy, but only if its people are educated about a democratic government, allowed basic human rights (which include freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion and the right to private ownership of property), and given the right to select their own government through multi-party free elections. In order to achieve those rights, Vietnam must receive help from outside the country from international human rights organizations, Vietnamese Americans and American organizations, such as the Veterans Alliance for Democracy in Vietnam.

Everyone at the workshop agreed that

although only about one million of Vietnam's 70 million people are members of the communist party that now rules Vietnam, the communist regime rules with a ruthless, iron fist that will only tighten and strengthen unless it is thrown out of power.

"Vietnam will become another China if its leaders are allowed to strengthen their power and continue to control and oppress its peoples," one Vietnamese-American explained.

Thousands of Vietnamese are in prison in Vietnam today for the crime of seeking basic human rights. Amnesty International recently listed Vietnam among the top three countries in the world with the worst record of human rights.

To help stop the evolution of Vietnam into another Chinese style slave state, the Veterans Alliance of Democracy in Vietnam has published a 64-page booklet, drawn from Dr. Boek's, HOW TO ESTABLISH A DEMOCRACY. The booklet, which is written in Vietnamese and English,

is being smuggled into Vietnam by visiting Americans and businessmen traveling to Vietnam.

"It's a first step ... but an important step in helping the people of Vietnam help themselves," said Ted Sampley, chairman of the Veterans Alliance.

Sampley said that the POW/MIA issue will benefit greatly when a democratic and free Vietnam is finally achieved. He said that a democratic government will have no reason to hold political prisoners or continue to hide the truth about our prisoners of war and missing in action.

"When Vietnam's wall of tyranny is finally torn down, we will find the truth and the truth will set free all of the oppressed people in Vietnam, including any American prisoners of war that are still being held."

Sampley said that overthrowing the communist regime in Vietnam won't be easy, but pointed out that the majority of Vietnamese are in their twenties now - an age that is ripe for a revolution.

Evidence of Live American POWs Hidden for Over a Decade by USG

By Donna Long
U.S. Veteran Dispatch

We called him "The Masked Mortician" - the portly Vietnamese man of Chinese descent who appeared at a press conference in July 1980 wearing a full-face motorcycle helmet to hide his face from a room packed with news reporters, POW/MIA family members and activists.

Surrounded by U.S. Army officials, he stated, through an interpreter, that Hanoi had warehoused over 400 sets of remains of American servicemen after the end of the Vietnam War. An Army official added that the Pentagon believed his story because he had not only passed a polygraph, but his information had been independently corroborated by U.S. intelligence sources.

The revelation was a bombshell and reporters quickly began asking questions about the warehoused remains. Why was Hanoi holding them? Where were they being held? What was the U.S. Government going to do with the information?

Then someone asked, "Did you see any live American POWs being held after 1973?" The mortician answered, "Yes, three special prisoners - one dark haired and two light-haired".

The press conference was abruptly ended and the mortician was quickly whisked out of the room.

The Pentagon later skillfully defused the mortician's statement about having seen live American POWs after the war by casting doubt on who he had actually seen. Yes, they were trying to find out who it was he saw, but after all, they pointed out, he had called them "special prisoners", not "American POWs".

The mortician was never to be seen in public again and the media soon lost interest in both the warehoused remains and the three prisoners he had testified about.

Several months after the news conference, I identified the mortician as the man who had been at the press conference by picking him out of a line-up at Camp Lejeune (the Marine Corps Base in Jacksonville, N.C.). Former POW Marine PFC Robert Garwood, who was on trial charged with desertion at the time, had said he believed he knew the identity of the "masked mortician" and that he was more than just a "mere mortician". Garwood, however, couldn't be positive in his identification of the man and the issue of the man's identity was dropped.

It wasn't until some 11 years later that the mortician's statement of seeing the three "special prisoners" was raised again.

In November 1991, Garnett "Bill" Bell, then head of the U.S. POW/MIA Office in Vietnam, testified in a closed session before the Senate Select committee on POW/MIA that composite drawings, based on detailed descriptions provided by the mortician, had been made of the three prisoners. It was later revealed that based on the descriptions and other evidence, Bell testified that he believed that one of the "blond" men might be Charles Duke, and the second could either be Kit Mark or Jimmy Malone. It was also later learned that the third man, the "dark-haired" man the mortician said he had also seen, had



"The Masked Mortician" testified before a Congressional panel that Hanoi had warehoused over 400 sets of remains of American servicemen after the end of the Vietnam War. An Army official added that the Pentagon believed his story because he had not only passed a polygraph, but his information had been independently corroborated by U.S. intelligence sources.

been identified as Robert Garwood.

Duke, a former Air Force mechanic, and Mark, were civilian employees working in Pleiku, South Vietnam fixing airplane engines for the Dynalectron Corporation. Duke was trying to earn enough money to go to veterinary school. On May 30, 1970, the day before Duke was scheduled to go home, he and Mark reportedly left Pleiku on their Hondas for a short trip to a village about nine miles north of Pleiku. They never returned.

Pvt. Jimmy Malone, an Army radio operator, disappeared on May 4, 1966 in South Vietnam, while on an assignment to pick up his platoon's mail at a temporary position located in Binh Hoa Province.

All three men are listed as missing in action.

The mortician, who was deposed by the Senate POW/MIA select committee on December 19, 1991, testified that he had seen the two "blond men" often between 1972 and 1979, and he believed their guards were "Law Division" men. He said he had been told they were serving or working in Vinh Phu. He said there were "many" pilots and Americans working on "airplanes and something else" at the Da Phuc Airport in the

Province of Vinh Phu after the end of the Vietnam War.

On July 24, 1992, Mrs. Jane Duke Gaylor, Charles Duke's mother, received a copy of the composite drawing of the man Bell believed could be her son. Outraged that the information that her son could have been alive in 1979 had been withheld from her for almost a decade, the (then) 71-year-old mother waved the drawing in front of President Bush, who was speaking at a National League of Families annual meeting, and shouted "No more lies".

The following year, Mrs. Gaylor traveled to Vietnam with Patricia O'Grady Parsels, the daughter of an MIA, and Patty's husband, former POW John Parsels, to try and learn more about the fate of her son.

Then, on July 16, 1994, Mrs. Gaylor, who suffers from emphysema, chained her wheelchair to the White House Fence and was arrested, along with 11 other POW/MIA families and POW activists, for demonstrating without a permit. As the 74-year-old mother was being wheeled away to a waiting police car, she defiantly raised her frail fist in the air and shouted, "I will return again,

again and againuntil all my questions are answered".

THE FOLLOWING WAS WRITTEN BY MRS. GAYLOR IN DECEMBER 1993, PRIOR TO HER TRIP TO VIETNAM TO SEARCH FOR INFORMATION ABOUT HER ONLY CHILD.

My son, Charles Duke, has been missing in Vietnam since 1970. Many American people may think I am crazy, chasing ghosts, can't accept reality. Some may criticize me. Some - many - do not understand. They only hear what is on the news and may not understand how in the world I could believe that some missing Americans, missing for over twenty years, may still be alive now. I do not definitely know if there are any men still alive now. But I do know that our government knew we were leaving some behind in 1973. And they also knew that there was more evidence that some were alive, than there was that they were all dead, when Presi-

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POWs

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dent Nixon declared in 1973 that "all the POWs are home".

I have researched this POW/MIA issue for over twenty-three years. Most of the American people do not understand. The news they hear in the media is the government continuing to say "the MIAs are all dead and there's no evidence that any are still alive". It is our country's policy to deny the existence of evidence that Americans were left behind alive in captivity at the end of the Vietnam War. It has been the policy since President Nixon declared that he had brought all the POWs home in 1973. If my son was not missing, no doubt, I would not know the truth either. When my son was reported missing in 1970, I was very naive. I believed every word my government said to me. I'll admit, some things they did and said did not seem right, and I wondered about them. What a hurt and disappointment it was to me when I finally began to realize what was really going on - that the real truth about our missing men was not being told.

I did not hear one word about my son, except that he was missing, until November 6, 1991, when Bill Bell, intelligence analyst, who at that time was the chief officer in the U.S. POW/MIA Office in Hanoi, testified before the Senate Select Committee. He testified in an open session on November 6, and then in a closed session, he identified my son by name, and also Kit Mark, who was missing with my son, as possibly being two men portrayed in composite drawings of two prisoners seen in Hanoi after 1973.

In 1979, a Vietnamese refugee came to America. He was a Vietnamese official who had been expelled from Vietnam in 1979. He was of Chinese ancestry, even though he had been born in Vietnam. He was expelled because Vietnam was having a problem with China, and people with a Chinese background were being expelled. When he came to America he was polygraphed numerous times, passed the polygraph tests, was deemed a credible witness, and put into the witness protection program. He testified he saw three Americans alive in Hanoi between 1972 and 1979. They were not locked up in a cell, but they had a guard with them at all times. He said two of them worked at a jet air base outside of Hanoi. He said they were Americans. This credible witness assisted a specialist from the USAF office of special investigations to prepare composite sketches with detailed physical descriptions of the three Americans - one dark-haired and two fair-haired individuals.

Efforts in 1979 failed to identify the three Americans. The dark-haired man has since been identified as Robert Garwood, the only returned POW since 1973. Garwood was immediately charged with desertion when he returned from Vietnam in 1979, later convicted of collaboration, and dishonorably discharged from the Marines, even though he had been captured by the Vietnamese. The other two men have not as yet been definitely identified.

In 1991, Bill Bell testified in the closed session before the Senate Select Committee about the composite drawings. I later received copies of the xeroxed and color composite sketches. One has a remarkable



Charles Duke Aire Force picture at about 20 years old

Composite sketch of one of three men seen by the mortician seen alive in 1979

Charles Duke

resemblance to my son. The parents of both Kit Mark and Jimmy Malone say the drawing of the other light-haired man bears a close resemblance to their sons.

I have researched and located declassified CIA documents dated in 1990. The documents state that Major Phan Zeo, with the Vietnamese Ministry of Defense at Number 3 Duang Thank Street in Hanoi, would know the identity, current status, and location of the two light-haired Americans. I have been asking to receive this information for the past two years. I am told by the government that there is not enough resemblance to my son in the sketch. They also debunk Bill Bell's testimony. Yet, everyone I have shown the sketch and photos to all say there is a remarkable resemblance.

I do not know who in the government determined there was not any resemblance to my son. I received this information from DIA, DOD, NSA, the State Department, and other government agencies. I am 73 years old. I do not have the luxury of waiting another 23 years. Living under the stress I am in, it may be only a few more years. The people in the government have told me they do not know the identity of the two Americans. Well, if one of them is not my son, he damn well is someone's son.

I also do not understand - have they questioned Major Phan Teo - now a Lt. Colonel and a member of the Vietnam Office For Seeking Missing Persons (VNOSMP)? If he has been questioned, what did he say? If he hasn't been questioned, why hasn't he been?

The policy of my government is "there is no evidence of live Americans." President Nixon said they were all dead in 1973. In 1976, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, before leaving office in 1977, transformed the POW issue from a diplomatic poker game to a basic humanitarian obligation.

On November 12, 1976, the Vietnamese and Americans met once again in Paris. The Americans opened the meeting with a statement defining the "new look". The Vietnamese asked if the Americans considered the MIA issue and repatriation of remains connected to the Paris agreement, and if so, how?

According to a State Department telegram

(Paris, 3318) dated November 12, 1976, the Vietnamese said "We are prepared to fulfill fully, and I repeat fully, our obligation under Article 8B (the section pertaining to POW/MIAs), but we consider that the U.S. side should fulfill its obligation to contribute to binding up the wounds of war, and the reconstruction of Vietnam".

President Nixon sent a secret letter to Vietnam by Henry Kissinger promising Vietnam over \$4 billion in reconstruction and aid. This secret promise was not revealed until 1977. The POW/MIA issue did not (and still doesn't) receive in depth and accurate coverage by the news media. Most of the information in the news comes directly from the U.S. Government, which claims "there is no evidence that any men are alive". No wonder the American people do not understand the issue!

The POW/MIA families do not have the money to finance a fight for the truth. Some family members have committed suicide. Some have gone bankrupt trying to prove we have not been told the truth and that the whole issue has been grossly mishandled. This trip to Vietnam is very expensive for me. I can't afford it, but I know, and feel, I must do this. I ask you, if it was your son, what would you do?

This is a huge complicated picture puzzle. The POW/MIA issue is only a very small part of the wrong doing in our country. The government gets by with all of its lies and corruption because we let them.

I feel God has put me in this position - my son missing - and I feel compelled by God to speak out. This is very heartfelt. I live in this country. I love this country. But I feel we, as Americans, should take back control of our country.

I may not get my son back, but possibly we can help future Americans who are lost in another country - possibly your grandchildren.

Our government was making plans to bomb Vietnam again (after Operation Homecoming) because they knew we had not received all of our men back, and then two weeks later they said all the men were dead. There is corruption now, and there has been

corruption on the POW/MIA issue for at least the past five administrations. We, as Americans, must take control and end the lies and corruption.

I know I may not get my son back. If he is dead we can't make him alive again. I know some men may be dead and that maybe they are all dead. But I also know that too much evidence has leaked out that they weren't all dead at the end of the war for us to just roll over and forget them.

The U.S. Government is only looking for remains. From all the evidence I have seen, they have not negotiated for any live men. Patty and myself are going to search for Charles and her father, John, but we pray we might just push the door open a small bit for all our missing Americans. We know we do not have the right or the power to negotiate with the Vietnamese, but the Vietnam War has split this nation for far too long. Five administrations have started down the same path. May God be with us on our path.

I want to see my son at least one more time - to hug and kiss him and tell him I love him so very much. I feel I have failed him. That if I had not been so naive back in 1973, I may have been able to bring him home then.

After Operation Home Coming, I saw a coded document in my son's file. When I asked about it, what it meant, I remember Frank Siverts of the State Department telling me that it meant nothing. Now, my government tells me I never saw that document - that there is not now (and there has never been) a coded document in my son's file. BUT I KNOW I SAW IT! I can still see it in my mind. And although I could not understand what it said because it was coded, I now know that it did mean something - otherwise, why would they tell me that it never existed - that I never saw it?

EDITOR'S NOTE: When Mrs. Gaylor was in Vietnam in 1993, she saw Lt. Col. Phan Teo, but was unable to question him about the two Americans she was told he would have knowledge about. Mrs. Gaylor is attempting to arrange another trip to Vietnam to personally meet with Phan.

The McCain Brief

By Ted Sampley
U.S. Veteran Dispatch

None of the Senators who served on the 1991-92 Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs were as vicious in their attacks on POW/MIA family members, veterans and activists than the senator from Arizona and former prisoner of war, John McCain.

Not even Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), the former head of the pro-Hanoi Vietnam Veterans Against the War and co-chairman of the POW/MIA Select Committee, showed such contempt for those who have fought and are still fighting to pry the truth about America's POW/MIA's out of Hanoi and Washington as has McCain.

During its 15 months of existence, the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs ignored the repeated requests of POW/MIA activists to investigate an issue which is vital to resolving the POW/MIA riddle. That being the intelligence exploitation of U.S. prisoners of war by Soviet, Chinese, Cuban and Vietnamese psychological warfare experts. Activists questioned whether the success of the communist program in Korea had been duplicated in Vietnam.

"While we all assume the very best about our servicemen who were held in captivity," one POW/MIA activist wrote to Kerry, "there is a historical precedence of Soviet, Chinese and North Korean exploitation of American prisoners of war."

Another wrote to McCain about former KGB General Oleg Kalugin's

sworn testimony before the Select Committee that a Navy pilot prisoner of war had agreed to work with the Soviets upon returning to the United States and that this "turned" POW has since appeared often on U.S. television.

"As you know senator, the Soviets are renowned for their use of blackmail and deceit in turning the willing and unwilling into tools for their espionage," the activist wrote. "Are you this former Navy pilot/POW turn spy?"

Several senators became outraged that anyone would dare to question the "loyalty" and "patriotism" of a United States Senator war hero and former POW. They rushed to the floor of the senate and one after the other read aloud for the record declaring total confidence in the loyalty of McCain. Others senators gave only blank stares.

Instead of investigating evidence of U.S. POWs shipped to the Soviet Union and China, the Select Committee gave in to the demands of Sens. McCain and Kerry and spent its remaining valuable time and resources on investigating alleged instances of what McCain and Kerry said were "fraud," and "predator fund-raising activities," on the part of POW/MIA family and activist groups.

It is fact that some of the same KGB agents and their associates, often the latter posing as foreign journalists, were involved in attempting to exploit American POWs for intelligence and propaganda purposes in both Korea and Vietnam. To cite as just one example, Australian communist journalist Wilfred Burchett, well known to American

POWs for such activity in Korea, later appeared in the same role in Vietnam.

Pentagon files regarding exploitation of U.S. prisoners of war in Indochina are kept secret; except from the hierarchy of the U.S. intelligence community; some high U.S. government officials. The communist exploiters, of course, have their own files on U.S. POWs. As it stands, the American people will never know the truth about this exploitation in Vietnam, unless some official body subpoenas the files from the Pentagon.

The Senate Select Committee made its final report to the Senate and the American people on Jan. 5, 1993 without investigating the issue of intelligence exploitation of U.S. prisoners.

Sens. McCain and Kerry got their way—the report trashed the POW/MIA activists, whose activities Hanoi officials had asked the senators to curtail. The report concluded that U.S. Prisoners of war were left behind alive in captivity but all have since died and the Vietnamese are doing all they can to help search for the remains of the dead.

The U.S. government lifted the trade embargo against Vietnam and is set to normalize relations with that communist country soon.

However, if there are no POWs/MIAs left alive in Southeast Asia, then it must be assumed that in one way or another the Vietnamese caused their deaths. Certainly, former POW McCain knows the current leaders of Vietnam are responsible for murdering many while he was in a Hanoi prison.

Because McCain has "turned" to be "Communist Vietnam's best friend and advocate" in the U.S. Congress, the U.S. VETERAN DISPATCH presents the following brief summary of McCain's dealings in the POW/MIA issue and his personal history:

In 1986, former Rep. John LeBoutillier (R-New York) attended a forum hosted by syndicated columnists Evans and Novak. Then National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane shocked the audience by admitting "there must be . . . there have to be POWs still alive in Vietnam."

Congressman LeBoutillier recorded McFarlane's remarks and provided the tape to the WALL STREET JOURNAL, which subsequently published an article about the startling admission of President Ronald Reagan's then top adviser on matters of national security.

A few weeks later, at a closed-door session of the House Task Force on POW/MIAs in Southeast Asia, Sen. McCain stepped forward publicly for the first time as an opponent of the POW/MIA issue. He viciously attacked LeBoutillier's credibility and focused his attack, not on Mr. McFarlane's incredible comments, which were never denied, but on the propriety of the former Congressman taping the Evans and Novak session.

From that day onward, McCain has diligently worked to discredit any possibility, in fact the probability, that Hanoi held back live U.S. prisoners of war after the 1973 prisoner release. He became a leader in the successful effort to get the U.S. imposed trade embargo against Vietnam lifted.

"Overcoming the trauma of the war will be a slow process for Vietnam and the United States. Establishing interest sections [diplomatic relations] would, however, catalyze a



Old Buddies Meet Again

Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) gives ex-North Vietnamese Col. Bui Tin a warm embrace during a 1992 Senate Select Committee hearing. Col. Tin interrogated McCain and other U.S. prisoners of war in Hanoi during the Vietnam War.

resolution of outstanding political and humanitarian issues," McCain told the Washington Post, March 21, 1988.

"Mr McCain, now the junior Senator from Arizona, is leading a legislative effort to force the Administration to open a lower-level American post in Vietnam, which could be preliminary to more formal relations," The New York Times reported June 1, 1988.

"I have, in a previous statement, articulated my strongly held view that it is in the national interest of the United States to have an economically viable and strong Vietnam . . . I urge my colleagues to bring our conflict with Vietnam to closure . . . I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution [Kerry-McCain amendment urging President Clinton to drop the U.S. trade embargo against Vietnam]," McCain read into the Congressional Record of the Senate, January 27, 1994.

Instances of McCain's collusion and support for communist Vietnam are many and include:

1) In 1991, upon the formation of the Senate Select Committee, Sen. McCain, who aggressively lobbied for the position, was the

choice of Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole (R-Kansas), to be vice chairman of the committee. Only stiff opposition from POW/MIA activists and American veterans stopped his appointment, which then went to Sen. Robert Smith (R-New Hampshire), who was the original sponsor in the Senate of legislation to establish the committee.

2) During the initial round of public testimony, McCain, more than any other member of the new committee, took a biased, often vicious position against POW/MIA activists and family members who appeared before the panel to testify. He was nasty and condescending towards such witnesses, and he was particularly vicious with Tracy Usry, who was chief investigator for the Minority Staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee which had earlier released "The Helms Report," critical of the U.S. government's handling of the POW/MIA issue. That report was based upon months of extensive study by Usry and other staff members.

When Usry testified that the Soviets interrogated U.S. prisoners of war in Vietnam,

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McCain

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McCain interrupted him several times arguing that "none of the returned U.S. prisoners of war released by Vietnam were ever interrogated by the Soviets." McCain's rude, argumentative interruptions, along with instant rebuttals by USG officials, prevented Usry from reading his documented statement into the record.

Col. Bui Tin, a former Senior Colonel in the North Vietnamese Army, testified on the same day, but after Usry, that because of his high position in the Communist Party during the war, he had the right to "read all the documents and secret telegrams from the politburo" pertaining to American prisoners of war. He said that not only did the Soviets interrogate some American prisoners of war, but that they treated the Americans very badly.

At no time did McCain display the same inclination to attack the credibility of Bui Tin that he did with the POW/MIA activists. In fact, during a break in the hearing, McCain walked to Bui Tin and warmly embraced him

as if he were a long lost brother.

In one breath McCain was maliciously attacking Usry, a distinguished Vietnam veteran and then in another he was bestowing warm affection upon a man that had been part of a regime responsible for the torture and murder of his fellow prisoners of war.

Shortly after that hearing and as a direct result of McCain's lobbying the other senators, Usry, along with all other members of the Minority Staff who had participated in the POW/MIA investigation, were abruptly fired.

3) In testimony before the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs on January 21, 1992, retired KGB General Oleg Kalugin reiterated his claim that three American POWs were interviewed by the KGB in Vietnam.

Kalugin, a former chief of counter intelligence for the KGB, said he sent Oleg Nechiporenko, his subordinate, to Vietnam on two separate occasions to interview American POWs for the purpose of trying to recruit them to work for Soviet intelligence in the United States. He said recruiting POWs was a "major goal" of the KGB and cited the recruitment of a British POW during

the Korean War as one of the KGB's successful cases.

Kalugin said the first time he sent Nechiporenko to Vietnam was in 1973, but he said the former KGB Colonel was not allowed to talk to American POWs. He said he sent Nechiporenko back to Vietnam between 1976 and 1978 because the Soviet Mission in Hanoi received official word from the Vietnamese government that they had Americans the KGB could interview.

Kalugin testified that Nechiporenko selected three American POWs from a "handful of U.S. servicemen" to interview. He said the three POWs (a CIA agent, a Naval officer and an Air Force officer) were picked because of their "obedience" and willingness to talk.

"At least one of them definitely gave his consent to cooperate with the Soviets and, in fact, provided us with telephone numbers in the United States where he could be reached at a certain date," Kalugin said.

Kalugin said it was a "major shock" to him when Nechiporenko denied that he had interviewed American POWs.

In addition, Kerry, with McCain's nod of approval, read a January 20 statement to the

Senate Select Committee from Hanoi. The statement, obviously written to debunk Kalugin and corroborate Nechiporenko's claim, said that only one American POW was interviewed by the KGB. According to the statement, Nechiporenko conducted that interview in January 1973 with an American named Eugene Andre Weaver, a civilian, was captured on January 31, 1968 and released on March 16, 1973.

Prior to the January 20 statement, Vietnam had denied that any American POW had ever been interviewed by the KGB in Vietnam.

However, on January 3, within days of Kalugin's allegations making headlines in American newspapers, the CIA made an unprecedented statement in which the agency said that one CIA agent, who was captured in 1968 and released in March 1973, was questioned in Hanoi "by an individual who may have been a Soviet intelligence officer."

On the same day, January 3, Russian intelligence denied Kalugin's claim and said that the KGB had only had "one contact" with a U.S. prisoner and the year was 1973.

In the January 20 statement, Hanoi said

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A Traitor Exposed

By Ted Sampley
U.S. Veteran Dispatch

To George Blake's old pals who had shared his ordeal in a North Korean prisoner of war camp, he was a hero. His courageous defiance of his brutal North Korean captors had earned him the admiration of all. Blake, a British Foreign Service official who had been captured when the North Koreans overran Seoul, treated his guards with contempt and had tried to escape on at least two occasions.

One fellow prisoner of war, British journalist Philip Deane, described in his book a beating he and Blake had received: "George Blake, who got the worst of the ordeal, smiled throughout, his eyebrows cocked ironically at his guard, his beard aggressively thrust forward."

"I find it almost impossible to believe that George Blake could have turned into a traitor," said another fellow POW ten years later, upon learning Blake had confessed that for nine and a half years he had fed the communists a steady flow of Britain's most valued secrets.

"I must admit freely," Blake stated in his confession, "that there was not an official document on any matter to which I had access which was not passed on to my Soviet contact." It was during his three years as a prisoner of the communists, Blake said in the signed statement, that he decided that Communism was a better system.

Blake, born in the Netherlands to a British diplomat and a Dutch woman, was trapped there by the German advance when the Second World War broke out in 1940. Interred

by the Nazis, he escaped, joined the Dutch resistance and was later recruited by the British as an espionage agent. He served with "valor and distinction" until 1943 when he finally escaped to Britain where he joined the Royal Navy. After the war, Blake was posted to Naval Intelligence, again serving with distinction. His reward, after studying languages including Russian, was a Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) post working under diplomatic cover as vice-consul in Seoul.

On his release, after being held by the North Koreans for three years, SIS gave Blake leave to recuperate, posting him in April 1955 to the SIS station in West Berlin as deputy director of Technical Operations. His special assignment was to study the Red Army in East Germany, looking for potential defectors amongst its officers.

It was during this assignment that Blake committed his main act of betrayal by telling the KGB about the Berlin Tunnel, which had been bored as a joint effort of the SIS and CIA so that Western intelligence could tap land lines linking East Berlin with Moscow.

Blake's tipoff to the KGB allowed the Russians to use the tunnel to plant information which deceived Western intelligence agencies. Later, when it suited them, the KGB turned the Tunnel Operation into a propaganda victory.

Blake served the KGB well when in 1959 he revealed to the KGB each new plan and move of the West in the delicate East-West Geneva negotiations on the Berlin question.

In early 1961, Howard Roman, a CIA case officer who had been handling a communist intelligence officer positioned as vice-chairman of Polish military intelligence, gave SIS a lead which revealed the KGB had in its possession a list of 26 Polish officials which the SIS considered potential targets for recruitment. The list had been compiled by SIS men in Warsaw and investigations showed it could only have come from George Blake's safe.

Blake, 38, a war hero considered by most of his Foreign Service colleagues as a "splendid chap," married to the daughter of a respected British Foreign Office official and father of two, was arrested and charged in April, 1961, under The Official Secrets Act.

Blake at first was able to successfully stonewall all questions of the SIS interrogator,



Harold (Kim) Philby (left), who was a penetration agent for the KGB posted as a SIS liaison officer with the CIA in Washington before he fled to the USSR, enjoys a spies' picnic outside Moscow with George Blake (right), a SIS officer who betrayed many British projects sending many agents to their deaths. Blake had been sentenced to 42 years in prison but escaped to Moscow in 1966

tor, but later broke down and admitted his guilt. He was brought to court and tried at the Old Bailey courtroom.

Chief Justice Lord Parker took only 53 minutes to reach his decision. Blake's treason, he commented, "rendered much of this country's efforts completely useless."

Lord Parker then sentenced Blake to 42 years in prison, the longest term ever imposed under English law for espionage during peacetime. The severity of Blake's sentence was explained at the trial as one year for each of the 42 British agents whose torture and death he caused.

Blake served only five and a half years before escaping from Wormwood Scrubs Prison in West London. He vanished, only to surface in Moscow a year later.

Many believe the KGB organized Blake's escape by contracting out some of the worst of the IRA. Sean Bourke, the Irish criminal who organized Blake's escape, detailed the escape in his book, *The Springing of George Blake*.

According to Bourke, in order to escape,

Blake had to break an iron framed window, slide down a roof dropping to the ground, then climb over an 18 foot wall on a rope ladder, made by Bourke, and again dropping the final few feet. This feat was accomplished by Blake, an unathletic man, in a matter of minutes.

Bourke states that after hiding Blake in various flats in London, he was then smuggled to East Berlin by an Anglo-Irish couple who had hidden him in a secret compartment in a camping van.

Today, Blake is in Moscow married to a Russian girl named Ida. They have a son, Mischa.

Bourke, 47, died mysteriously in Ireland. He was found dead in his bed on 26 January, 1982, apparently from alcohol poisoning.

"How was it possible for a man in a key position to be a top Soviet spy for nine and a half years, without being discovered," the British press demanded at the time of Blake's conviction.

The government replied with the traditional blank stare.

McCain

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that Kalugin's allegations were "fabrications with ill purpose."

Kalugin insisted the KGB had only interviewed Americans to recruit them as spies, but said that Soviet intelligence would have had a "major interest" in interrogating American POWs because of their knowledge in technology.

4) On April 9, one week before the Senate Select Committee's trip to Southeast Asia, the committee was to hold a top secret closed-door intelligence briefing on evidence of living POWs being held against their will in Vietnam and Laos. The briefing was to be conducted by four committee analysts, including John McCreary, Bob Taylor, Bill Legro and former Rep. Bill Hendon (R-North Carolina). At the last moment, McCain showed up with four uninvited DIA analysts and insisted that they attend the meeting. These four, joined at the hip by pro-DIA McCain, proceeded to challenge every piece of information in the briefing. McCain cynically tried to compare live-sightings of POWs to UFO sightings.

5) The "Grapevine" section of TIME magazine carried a malicious attack on former Congressman Hendon, quoting an unnamed committee source alleging that Hendon is blocking a Senate Select Committee investigation of private POW groups. This unnamed committee source is believed to be Sen. John McCain.

Why is John McCain so consistently pro-Hanoi? Why is John McCain, who owes his public life to the tag "former POW," so determined to discredit all evidence which might prove Hanoi held back U.S. POWs?

6) Frances Zwenig, the \$118,000-a-year staff director of the Senate Select Committee, reported to Kerry and McCain that she was told by the Vietnamese, during a July, 1992, meeting with the Vietnamese that something had to be done about two other POW/MIA activists, former Reps. John LeBoutillier (R-N.Y.) and Billy Hendon (R-N.C.).

Not long after, McCain started demanding that the Select Committee investigate the POW/MIA activists, prompting one observer to ask, "Are the Vietnamese now directing the affairs of the Senate Select Committee?"

During December, 1992, in the wake of the controversy surrounding photographs emerging from Southeast Asia purported to be of MIA Donald Carr, Reuter's wire service reported that "Vietnam has called on the United States to bring charges against a Garden Grove [California] resident in a hoax purporting to show a missing American held against his will in Indochina."

"In a statement made available Friday by Vietnam's permanent mission to the United Nations, Hanoi urged that retired Air Force Lt. Col. Jack Bailey be put on trial to discourage fraud and build mutual confidence." "Vietnam holds the view that it is necessary to bring Bailey to trial in order to prevent similar activities and to build confidence in the Vietnam-U.S. relationship."

McCain took the lead and called for a Justice Department investigation of Bailey, a retired Air Force Lt. Col. and POW/MIA activist, who had made the photographs public. "Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who was a prisoner of war in Vietnam, has asked Attorney General William Barr to investigate possible fraud in the case," REUTERS reported.

McCain accused Bailey of faking a photograph of what was purported to be a live

POW being held in Laos. U.S. intelligence said the photograph was a fake. Bailey responded saying that if the photograph was a fake, then he had been tricked by those who supplied it to him.

Nevertheless, McCain prevailed with the Justice Department and Bailey became the subject of a long and intense Grand Jury investigation, during which he suffered several heart attacks. Bailey was eventually found not guilty of McCain's accusations, but not before much of the news media had painted him and other POW/MIA activists, in general, as cheats and con-artists running scams in the name of the POW/MIA issue.

7) McCain took advantage of the negative media attention on Bailey and began publicly attacking the fund raising efforts of other POW/MIA activists trying to resolve the POW/MIA issue. McCain said of the activists, including fellow POW and retired Navy captain, Eugene "Red" McDaniel, "the people who have done these things are not zealots in a good cause. They are criminals and some of the most craven, most cynical and most despicable human beings to ever run a scam."

McDaniel, who flew 81 combat missions in Vietnam as a Navy pilot before being shot out of the sky and held six years a prisoner of the communists, is one of this nation's leading POW/MIA advocates.

THE ADMIRAL'S SON

John McCain was born in the Panama Canal Zone on August 29, 1936. His father was Admiral John McCain II, who became commander-in-chief of the Pacific forces in 1968. Admiral McCain later ordered the bombing of Hanoi while his son was in prison. His grandfather was Admiral John S. McCain, Sr., the famous commander of aircraft carriers in the Pacific under Admiral William F. Halsey in World War II.

McCain's early years were spent in various places on both the east and west coasts. He attended Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Va., and was graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in June 1958.

His grades in electrical engineering were "satisfactory," although he had numerous demerits for breaking curfews and infractions, and he graduated the fifth from the bottom of his class. Nevertheless, in spite of his low class standing, his request for training as a pilot was granted, no doubt his father's rank of admiral and family history playing no small part.

On his 23rd mission in Vietnam on Oct. 26, 1967, he was shot down by a surface-to-air missile.

To relate the event, McCain later recalled that he was "flying right over the heart of Hanoi in a dive at about 4,500 feet, when a Russian missile the size of a telephone pole came up--the sky was full of them--and blew the right wing off my Skyhawk dive bomber. It went into an inverted, almost straight-down spin."

"I pulled the ejection handle, and was knocked unconscious by the force of the ejection--the air speed was about 500 knots. I didn't realize it at the moment, but I had broken my right leg around the knee, my right arm in three places and my left arm. I regained consciousness just before I landed by parachute in a lake right in the center of Hanoi, one they called the Western Lake. My helmet and my oxygen mask had been blown off. I hit the water and sank to the bottom. . . I did not feel any pain at the time, and I was able to rise to the surface. I took a breath



POW John McCain failed to mention what he has confided to another U.S. prisoner privately, that since the Vietnamese felt they had in their hands such a "special prisoner," a propaganda bonanza, a Soviet surgeon was called in to treat him.

called in to treat him.

MCCAIN A COLLABORATOR

The Vietnamese communist figured that because POW McCain's father was of such high military rank that they had captured the "son of royalty" or the governing circle. Thereafter the communist publicly bragged they had captured "the crown prince."

According to U.S. government documents, within a week of POW McCain being transferred to the Gai Lam military hospital, the Hanoi press began quoting him giving specific military information.

One report dated 9 Nov, 1967, read, "To a question of the correspondent, McCain answered: 'My assignment to the Oriskany, I told myself, was due to serious losses in pilots, which were sustained by this aircraft carrier (due to its raids on the North Vietnam territory - VNA) and which necessitated replacements. From 10 to 12 pilots were transferred like me from the forest to the Oriskany. Before I was shot down, we had made several sorties. Altogether, I made about 23 flights over North Vietnam.'"

In that article, McCain was further quoted describing the number of aircraft in his flight, information about rescue ships, and the order of which his attack was supposed to take place.

Later, the Vietnamese would erect a monument in Hanoi near the site of his landing in the lake, stone figure of a pilot raising his arms skyward in surrender and referring to their catch McCain, by name.

HOW MUCH MORE DID MCCAIN GIVE?

McCain has said the Vietnamese repeatedly threatened to withhold much needed operations unless he would give them more information. POW McCain received that needed medical attention, how much more military information did he have to give in exchange for the better medical treatment?

After six weeks of hospital treatment, he was delivered to Room No. 11 of "The Plantation" and into the hands of two other POWs, who helped further nurse him along until he was eventually able to walk by himself.

For the next 22 months, "special prisoner"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

McCain

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

McCain was isolated from other American prisoners and made the target of intense indoctrination programs. His KGB trained communist interrogators believed that McCain, because he came from a "royal family," would when finally released, return to the United States to some important U.S. military or government job. Communist interrogators and psychological warfare experts drooled at the thought.

McCain's interrogators were very much aware that he would be under great psychological pressure not to do or say anything that would tarnish the name of his famous military family. In fact, they considered that to be the key to eventually breaking and then "turning" him by blackmail, if necessary.

McCain admitted he met with and was interviewed by several foreign delegations, including many high ranking North Vietnamese leaders such as Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap, North Vietnam's Minister of Defense and national hero.

THE POW WAR HERO

In Congress McCain's peers tout him as a great war hero. However, when one totals McCain's 23 missions over North Vietnam, times the number of minutes he was actually over enemy territory (approximately 20 to 35 per mission), McCain's total time over Vietnam before being shot down was about seven hours. For those seven hours, McCain, the Admiral's son, was awarded two Silver Stars, two Legions of Merit, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, three Bronze Stars, the Vietnamese Legion of Honor and three Purple Hearts or nearly two medals per hour.

Compare McCain's record as a prisoner to that of Army Special Forces Captain "Rocky" Versace, who was captured by Vietnamese communist (Viet Cong) Oct. 29, 1963 in South Vietnam and who resisted his captors to the end. By the way, very few, if any, in Congress will know about Capt. Versace.

After two years of almost daily torture to get him to accept the communist philosophy of revolution, Versace, a true American hero of the Vietnam War, told his captors, once again, upon being dragged to an interrogation hut: "I am an officer of the United States Army. You can force me to come here, you can make me sit and listen, but I don't have to believe a damn word you say."

The Viet Cong decided to take no more resistance from Rocky Versace. He was for the last time dragged from his filth-ridden, mosquito-infested bamboo cage and forced to kneel with his forehead pressed in the jungle mud. Acting on the orders of Viet Cong leader Vo Van Kiet-today the Prime Minister of Vietnam, a corrupt, tyrannical, immoral regime with which Sen. John McCain is now best friends-Versace's Viet Cong captors shot him in the back of the head.

McCain doesn't talk about Rocky Versace, who was from Norfolk, Va., or Staff Sgt. Kenneth Roraback of Fayetteville, N.C., or Army Sgt. Harold Bennett of Perryville, Ark., all ordered executed by "Butcher" Kiet.

To talk about those patriots, McCain would then have to demand the return of their remains, and, ultimately, Kiet would have to explain the bullet holes in the backs of their skulls and why he had ordered the POWs murdered.

It is a fact that John McCain is no hero, he violated the military Code of Conduct when

he willfully collaborated with the Vietnamese, Soviets and Cubans. It is not yet publicly known just how much he collaborated and what kind of favors did he receive in return. If anyone in the U.S. government knows, they are not talking.

McCain would later say that the devotion of his wife sustained him through those days. After his release, he would say, "Let me emphasize that there were many, many fine women who supported what they knew their husbands believed in. My wife, Carol, was

and thus paving the way for a career in politics. Most of the articles were of a patriotic nature--"For POWs in Hanoi, Christmas Eve 1971 marked a spiritual turning point," "America--Bastion of liberty, beacon of hope," "Remember MIAs fought for valid cause," etc.

It was not long until McCain caught the attention of Sens. Barry Goldwater and Paul Fannin, both Arizona institutions and devout conservative Republicans, men who could easily be identified with "America--Bastion



McCain warmly greets Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet in Hanoi. Kiet, in 1965, not only ordered the executions of three American prisoners of war; Capt. "Rocky" Versace, SFC Kenneth Roraback, and SGT Harold Bennett, but was believed to be present at the executions.

one of those and I am very proud of her."

On Dec. 7, 1969, McCain was moved out of "The Plantation" and into the "Hanoi Hilton" with other prisoners of war.

McCain was released as a prisoner of war on March 15, 1973.

Following various medical and surgical procedures, he attended the National War College in Washington, D.C. and was later posted as commanding officer of Replacement Training Squadron 174 in Jacksonville, Fla.

In 1977, McCain was ordered to the Office of Legislative Affairs and was assigned as the Director of the Navy Senate Liaison Office, where he remained until disability retirement in April 1981.

A year earlier, in 1980, his marriage and personal life soured. His marriage to Carol, who had been seriously injured and crippled in a motor vehicle accident during his confinement in Vietnam, ended in divorce.

NEW WIFE, NEW LIFE, ENTER McCANIN THE POLITICIAN

Later that year, McCain married Cindy Hensley, whose father, Jim, was an Arizona "beer baron," owning Hensley and Co., the Anheuser-Busch distributor for Phoenix and Tempe, where McCain settled with his new wife after his retirement from the Navy in the spring of 1981.

His new father-in-law made him vice president in charge of public relations for Hensley and Co., and soon McCain was writing guest editorials for Arizona newspapers

was reported that a mysterious someone had entered his Capitol Hill office computers during the lunch hour on March 11 and had snatched, or destroyed, hundreds of letters and his mailing addresses.

He did become known for his votes on national security matters which made him a favorite of defense-related industries and their Political Action Committees (PACs), which opened the door for big campaign contributions for future political races.

He also became known for what was described in the news media as an "irreverent sense of humor" and for an occasional gaff, like the time he enraged Arizona senior citizens by referring to Leisure World, an Arizona retirement community, as "Seizure World." But his war hero status made that easily forgiven.

Actually, McCain viewed his time in the House as a launching pad for higher office, all the while closely eyeing the Senate seat occupied by the aging Sen. Goldwater, who had been the 1964 Republican presidential standard-bearer.

THE COUNTERFEIT HERO

McCain's rising political power in Arizona Republican politics was due in large measure to his friendship with Duke Tully, the publisher of the conservative and powerful ARIZONA REPUBLIC and the PHOENIX GAZETTE, with a combined daily circulation of about 400,000.

Described as "equal parts cowboy, commando, swashbuckler and elegant tycoon" by the CHICAGO TRIBUNE (Jan. 9, 1986), Tully was, according to the Chicago paper, "a George Patton who drove a Corvette, a Randolph Hearst who flew an F-16, a John Wayne in aviator glasses and Air Force dress blues."

"I tell Arizona what to think," he stated in public more than once, and it was particularly true regarding backing for the efforts of his friend, Congressman McCain.

Tully appeared to have a lot in common with his close friend, former Navy combat pilot and war hero John McCain. He boasted of his 100 missions over Vietnam, retiring from the Air Force as a lieutenant-colonel. His service, according to Tully, also included air combat in Korea, where he once was forced to crash land his P-51 Mustang fighter and spent time in a hospital as a result--so he said. His smashed front teeth were replaced with stainless steel, he also said.

He had, just like his friend John McCain, received the Purple Heart, distinguished Flying Cross and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry.

However, the day after Christmas 1985, it was revealed, according to the CHICAGO TRIBUNE, that John McCain's close friend had "an imagination as big as his ego."

In fact, the man who was the godfather to one of McCain's daughters, was a total fake.

Duke Tully, the man who had arranged to have his newspapers endorse and further the chances of McCain's first run for the House and was already touting him as Goldwater's successor, had "never even went to boot camp."

Nevertheless, the genuine American patriot, Barry Goldwater, almost a national icon, decided not to run for re-election in 1986 and McCain was elected to the Senate.

SPEAKING OF FRAUD

Otherwise, McCain after his switch to the Senate differed little on any Reagan Admini-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

McCain**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11**

stration policy.

He made few waves until suddenly he found himself on television trying to explain himself as one of the "Keating 5," five U.S. Senators who became enmeshed in the scandal involving the collapsed Lincoln Savings and Loan and the financial machinations of now convicted cheat Charles Keating. The U.S. taxpayers will feel for years the aftershocks of what has become known as the "S & L scandal" and will be paying off the billions that S & L clients found themselves swindled out of by Keating and others involved in the massive fraud.

As one of the "Keating 5" Senators, John McCain saw his chances to higher office go down the drain.

Reports from a variety of U.S. publications told of the involvement of McCain in the scandal.

ECONOMIST, Mar. 9, 1991--"Mr. McCain, despite his claims of innocence, was the only one of the five who benefited personally--family holidays in the Bahamas on

Mr. Keating's tab."

NEW REPUBLIC, Dec. 31, 1990--"The only Republican of the bunch [the five Senators], John McCain of Arizona wins credit for finally drawing the line. After the second of the two April meetings [with Federal regulators] he told Mr. [Sen. Dennis] DeConcini [D-Ariz.] and Mr. Keating that he wouldn't lean on the regulators any more. Mr. Keating called him a wimp. But before the rupture, Mr. McCain and his family were regular guests of Mr. Keating's on trips to the Bahamas. Mr. McCain reimbursed the owner of Lincoln Savings and Loan for only a small fraction of the cost of these holidays. Yet, he never reported the vacations on Senate disclosure forms, or his income taxes. He said he thought his wife had paid Mr. Keating back. This is hard to believe."

NEW REPUBLIC, Sept. 9, 1991--Calling McCain part of the "Senatorial Lincoln Brigade," the NEW REPUBLIC reported that Keating, while bankrupting his Savings and Loan, had channeled \$1.4 million to the campaigns or causes of the five Senators, who in turn pressured the Savings and Loan regulators to "back off our friend."

Ultimately, the fall of Lincoln Savings and Loan will cost the U.S. taxpayers \$2

billion. It lost \$1 million dollars a day from the time Keating bought it in 1984 until its collapse in 1989, and yet he continued to pay off McCain as "one of his assets," RE-GARDIE'S magazine reported in its April-May 1992 issue.

WHY?

What motivates McCain to attack as a pit bull everyone and anyone who has the opinion that men are still alive in the very same captivity that he himself once experienced and that certain U.S. government officials have lied about it?

During the Senate Select Committee hearings, he disguised his attacks on POW/MIA family members and activists by claiming he was on the committee to ask "the tough questions" and to grill and berate in order to get to the truth. So why did he "grill and berate" only those witnesses who said Vietnam did not return all living U.S. POWs in 1973?

Why did McCain try so hard to discredit McDaniel with a vicious attack attempting to label him a fraud and a dishonorable man who preys upon the families of those still unaccounted for from the war?

Rumors have recently circulated, in part supported by former fellow POWs, that

McCain, contrary to popular opinion, was never tortured and was friendly with other Vietnamese interrogators, in addition to Bui Tin. What caused such a relationship with the enemy and why does it continue to exist?

Was McCain compromised while in captivity?

McCain fought a hard and successful campaign to get the U.S. imposed trade embargo against Vietnam lifted despite the opposition of all major veterans organizations, the two POW/MIA family groups and the majority of the Vietnamese Americans in this country. Why does Sen. McCain, the "conservative" politician, take such strong stands for the Vietnamese communists and against such patriotic groups?

THE ANSWER

It is the opinion of the staff of the U.S. Veteran Dispatch that Hanoi is holding some embarrassing information in John McCain's interrogation files. They are holding his files and other information over his head as blackmail and to keep those files from being made public, the Senator will do anything for the Hanoi Reds.

Bracelets are available in black anodized aluminum engraved with the name and panel number of anyone listed on the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial

see page 15

The Fog-Line is a monthly veterans advocate newsletter, published by Dennis and Dixie Wood. The paper focuses on national and local veterans organizations, what they stand for and what they are about. The Fog-Line wants to influence people to support their local communities as well as the national groups. Regular coverage includes: POW/MIA information; Project Eagle sponsorship; Reunions; Locator; Government watch; Poems, songs and short stories from its readers. The Fog-Line's coverage includes all veterans, their families, and any organization which supports the issues and interests of these patriots. The Woods have several projects planned to benefit veterans. For information on subscribing or on future projects, contact:

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NBC attempted to explain away, in a matter of minutes, the lives of eleven American fighting men

To: Mr. Geoff Stephens
NOW/NBC News
30 Rockefeller Plaza
Suite 408, New York, NY 10112
FAX: 212-664-7355

Dear Mr. Stephens,

The 3 August 1994 "NOW" program concerning the 11 March 1968 North Vietnamese Army led attack on Lima Site 85 at Phou Pha Thi Mountain in Laos caused considerable concern among veterans here in America. Apparently you have attempted to explain away, in a matter of minutes, the lives of eleven American fighting men who gave everything they had for America. In reality, your cursory investigation of the facts in this case was almost as shallow as the POW/MIA case investigations conducted by the Commander-in-Chief U.S. Pacific Command's Joint Task Force.

Prior to summarily dismissing this case you should have carefully researched all available background information. The witness testimony you gave unswerving credence to should have been considered as only one part of a thorough investigative process. Although empirical evidence is not readily apparent in this important case, numerous leads are remaining. For example, the testimony of the American Forward Air Controller (FAC) who successfully descended the mountain and reported three unidentifiable "friendlys" departing the site during the attack, the statement of Lao Major General Singkao to a U.S. military officer to the effect that three Americans were captured during the attack and moved to Muang Son,

the Joint Casualty Resolution Center (JCRC) report of a wartime signal intercept indicating that three American prisoners had been taken to Muang Son three days after the attack, records from the archives of the Upper Laos Headquarters for Vietnamese "volunteer" forces collocated with Northwest Military Region Headquarters in Son La province Vietnam that planned both the attacks on Phou Pha Thi and Udorn Airbase, Thailand, memoirs of the former Northwest Military Region Commander, Brigadier General Vu Lap/Ta Xuan Thu, records of the T'ai ethnic minority battalion dispatched from Lang Son province Vietnam to Phou Pha Thi, records of the People's Army of Vietnam Military Intelligence School in Ha Son Binh, Vietnam, where the sappers who scaled the face of the cliff were trained, records of International Liaison Group 101 from the archives of the Vietnam Communist Party International Relations Section, records from former People's Army of Vietnam Advisory Group 6, records from the Communist Party of the former Soviet Union concerning Soviet "Spetsnaz" advisors for sapper training and aviation advisors for employment of Soviet AN "Colt" aircraft used by Vietnamese forces during the attack on Lima Site 85, and JCRC reports from Pathet Lao defectors who reported the recovery of human skeletal remains on the mountain several years after the war ended.

From a historical perspective, you might have pointed out the fact that the spring 1968 "Tet" full-scale offensive in southern Vietnam, planned in 1967, had already ended by the time the attack on Lima Site 85 began.

The main purpose of the attack on Phou Pha Thi was to lessen, as much as possible, the anticipated retaliation by U.S. air power against Hanoi, due to their blatant violation of the "Tet" 1968 ceasefire agreed to by all parties. Your coverage of the sentiments of former Communist H'mong Political Commissars and Intelligence Officers regarding their perception that Americans should not be concerned with the bones of the dead while their people continue to suffer from unexploded ordnance was interesting, but there is one thing we should all remember: Neither the people of Laos and Vietnam, or the governments of Laos and Vietnam have any direct relationship to the POW/MIA issue. The POW/MIA issue has and will continue to be controlled entirely by the Communist Party of both countries.

As for the contention of the Lao that they are able to forget the war while we Americans are not, simply because they won and we lost, perhaps they are not aware of the facts: We killed over one million communist soldiers while losing 58,000 of our own; we have 2231 men unaccounted for while they have over 300,000; we expended over 122 billion dollars of our national treasure in order to conduct the war while our defense budget for this year alone is over 260 billion dollars, and we could not have trained three million troops at Ft Hood, Texas for 10 years using blank ammunition for what we spent on the Vietnam War; we never lost any territory because we did not go there to occupy any.

Respectfully Mr. Stephens, you are wrong. The real losers of the Vietnam War

are the peoples of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Even communists have enough intelligence to see this and this is why they have never been able to put the war behind them and give us an honest accounting for our men. Unfortunately, there are those within our government who feel like losers and they are trying to "heal themselves" by putting the war into the past. These are the same individuals who destroy documents on POW/MIA, radiation and LSD experiments, and secret operations, all in the interest of "healing." I believe it is good to be healed, but at the same time I believe it is morally wrong for government officials or television producers to be ruled by their emotions and selfishly use someone else's son or husband to that end. Regardless of how our government reclassifies the status of our missing men, they are nonetheless veterans of the Vietnam War. And although it may not be the duty of American citizens in general to insist on an honest accounting for those who have not returned from a very tragic and perhaps unnecessary war, it is the solemn duty of family members and fellow veterans. Mr. Stephens, I can assure you that this nation's veterans will not yield to emotionalism, commercialism, or communism until we bring home either the men, their identifiable remains, or plausible explanations in the form of genuine investigation results explaining why neither is possible.

Sincerely,
Garnett E. Bell, President,
National Veterans Research Center,
4209 Boys Ranch Road,
Lavaca, AR 72941 Tel-501-674-5449

The Top Secret Fall of "Site 85"

The Last Firebase Veteran's Archives Project

Melvin Holland was an Air Force technician assigned in 1968 to a mile-high radar base atop a Laotian peak named Phou Pha Ti. The Americans called it Lima Site 85 - but not in public. The base and its mission, guiding B-52 bombers into Hanoi, were secret. In fact, an international agreement forbade the stationing of U.S. ground troops in Laos.

So the Pentagon simply turned Holland into a civilian - a process called "sheep dipping" in the intelligence world. On paper, Holland and others on Site 85 worked for Lockheed. Ann Holland, Mel's wife, was worried about that: when the Pentagon first offered him the assignment. But Mel, proud to be picked for such an important mission, went along with the program. Besides, the Pentagon said, Site 85 was surrounded on three sides by cliffs and guarded by 300 fierce Asian mercenaries working for the CIA. There was no danger.

In early 1968, North Vietnamese troops began building a road through the thick Laotian jungle. It was pointed right at Site 85. While the Air Force, State Department and

CIA bickered over the enemy's intent, the road kept coming. When the Air Force ordered some limited air strikes, the communists removed their dead and kept on building. U.S. Ambassador to Laos William Sullivan refused requests to remove the men from the mountain, according to official histories and memoirs of the era.

The enemy struck in March of 1968, supported by small planes whose crews dropped bombs by hand in one of the few North Vietnamese bombing runs of the war. The bombing was unusual, but not the determination of the Vietnamese troops, who scaled the cliffs and overran Site 85. U.S. planes later bombed the facility to keep its gear from falling into enemy hands. Mel Holland and 10 other Americans missing from the site were declared dead.

Even in death the truth about their loss could not be known, the Pentagon decided. Their names did not even appear on the DIA's list of POW/MIA until 1982, and Pentagon officials in Southeast Asia confirmed that in the meantime they had not even been looking for the Site 85 POW/MIA, Ann Holland says.

Infuriated, Mrs. Holland filed suit to open the Pentagon's records on her husband, and what she found made her even angrier. A Pathet Lao platoon leader reported seeing a white male wearing glasses with light-colored frames being brought to a Laotian communist headquarters soon after the battle, U.S. intelligence reported. "The Pathet Lao escorting the individual stated that he was an American whom they had captured...after he had come from the site at Phou Pha Ti," the

report noted.

Mel Holland was the only man on the mountain who fit that description, Ann Holland learned. The document was also consistent with at least three other reports that Americans had been captured in the battle. And the communist area where the man believed to be Holland was taken included communist POW camps from which no Americans returned at the end of the war.

In a Russian Interior Ministry document turned over to the U.S. government last year, Col. G.L. Lezhikov identified "Arnold Mikhalevich Holland" as having been sentenced for "counter-revolutionary activities" and noted that the name was similar to that of missing Sgt. Melvin Arnold Holland.

The reference to Holland and at least two other missing Americans marks the first specific indication from the Russian government that U.S. prisoners were shipped from Indochina to the Soviet Union during the Vietnam War. In the past, allegations of such transfers have gone unconfirmed by the U.S. or the Russian government.

"This is the first time that the Russians have made a list of people that they have found in their records who correlate with Americans missing in Vietnam," she said.

"This is a very dramatic, very significant development," said former U.S. Rep. John Miller, a Seattle Republican who helped establish the joint U.S.-Russian commission to investigate reports of missing U.S. servicemen.

Miller said the document constituted "solid evidence" of American POW transfers to the Soviet Union, rather than the hearsay and rumors that have swirled around the issue

in recent years.

Dolores Alfond, chairman of the POW/MIA group National Alliance of Families, charged that the Pentagon has done little to follow up on the Russian report about Holland. A Pentagon spokeswoman said she could not comment on the document until the Defense Department's Task Force Russia has had a chance to review its files.

It is not known if any other information on missing Americans has turned up in the Russian archives. There is no evidence that Holland or any other U.S. soldier is still being held in the former Soviet Union.

Activists said another name on the Russian list corresponded to that of a missing Navy flier who has figured in past reports of U.S. prisoners transferred from Vietnam to the Soviet Union.

In 1991, the Moscow newspaper *Commerant* reported that an American aviator whose jet was shot down over Vietnam had been sighted in Kazakhstan. POW/MIA activists said the report appeared to point to James Kelly Patterson, a Navy A-6 crewman shot down in 1967. U.S. officials checked out the *Commerant* report but were unable to confirm it.

Ann Holland, who lives in Ocean Park, Wash., says "they took something from me and I want it back."

Other Personnel In Incident: Clarence Blanton; James Calfee; James Davis; Henry Gish; Willis Hall; Herbert Kirk; David Price; Patrick Shannon; Donald Springstead; Don Worley (all missing from Lima 85); Donald Westbrook (missing from SAR 13 March) -- Source: *The Men We Left Behind*, Wire Service and *The Last Firebase Archives*

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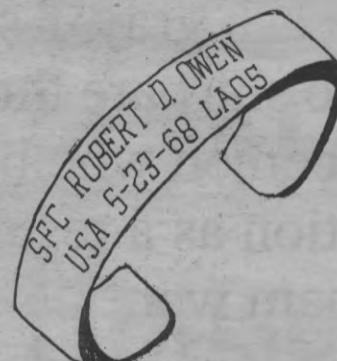
In the late 1960's, Americans concerned with the inhumane treatment American prisoners of war were receiving at the hands of their Vietnamese captors, picked up on the "Montagnard bracelet" and created the idea for the POW/MIA arm bracelet.

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