



**NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF FAMILIES
FOR THE RETURN OF AMERICA'S MISSING SERVICEMEN**
WORLD WAR II • KOREAN WAR • COLD WAR • VIETNAM WAR

POWs - MIAs

JUNE 14, 1994

BITS 'N' PIECES

URGENT - ALERT - URGENT - ALERT - URGENT - ALERT - URGENT - ALERT

GENERAL JAMES WOLD, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POW/MIA AFFAIRS, INFORMED THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF FAMILIES THAT THE DPMO WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THIS YEAR'S MEETING. IN A LETTER DATED JUNE 7TH, ADDRESSED TO CHAIRPERSON DOLORES ALFOND, GENERAL WOLD STATED "REGRETTABLY, WE ARE UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN YOUR FUNCTION THIS YEAR." GENERAL WOLD WENT ON TO SAY "THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BRIEFINGS TO THE FAMILIES OF VIETNAM WAR-ERA MISSING AMERICANS WILL BE PRESENTED DURING THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES (NLF) ANNUAL MEETING. THIS VENUE HAS PROVEN TO BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE FAMILIES AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT BECAUSE THE NLF MEETING PROVIDES THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WITH THE MOST EFFECTIVE ACCESS TO THE GREATEST NUMBER OF FAMILY MEMBERS AT A MINIMAL COST TO THE FAMILIES."

IN A LETTER TO SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM PERRY, DOLORES ALFOND ASKS SECRETARY PERRY TO "INTERCEDE INTO THE ILL-ADVISED DECISION TO DENY OUR FAMILY MEMBERSHIP OUR YEARLY UPDATE." MRS. ALFOND REMINDED SECRETARY PERRY THAT THE DECISION TO "YANK THESE BRIEFINGS THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HAS GIVEN TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF FAMILIES FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS CERTAINLY IS NOT IN KEEPING WITH THE CLINTON 'OPEN' POLICY." IN CLOSING MRS. ALFOND STATES "THE DECISION AS IT STANDS, APPEARS THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS 'BITTING ORGANIZATIONS AGAINST ONE ANOTHER BY SHOWING FAVORITISM TOWARD ONE ORGANIZATION BY CLEARLY GIVING PREFERENCE TO ONLY VIETNAM ERA POW/MIAS FORGETTING OUR POW/MIAS FROM WWII, THE KOREAN WAR AND THE COLD WAR. WITH THIS DECISION IT SEEMS QUITE EVIDENT THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION IS PLANNING AN IMMEDIATE TERMINATION OF THE AMERICAN POW/MIA ISSUE."

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF THE ALLIANCE THAT GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES HAVE REFUSED TO MEET WITH US. WHY? IS THIS A BLATANT ATTEMPT ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT TO BOLSTER THE LEAGUE? IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT THE LEAGUE OF FAMILIES RECEIVED A COPY OF THIS LETTER. WE FIND THIS UNUSUAL AS THE ALLIANCE DOES NOT RECEIVE COPIES OF LETTERS SENT TO THE LEAGUE.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS CONTACT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM PERRY BY PHONE AT (703) 695-5261 OR FAX AT (703) 697-9080. ALSO CONTACT YOUR SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN. WHY HAS THE DPMO SNUBBED THE MEMBERSHIP OF NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF FAMILIES?

ACT FAST.

PLANS ARE PROCEEDING TOWARD THE FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ALLIANCE OF FAMILIES, WITH OR WITHOUT GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION. WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED FUNDS FOR THIS YEAR'S MEETING. OUR GOAL TO BRING MAJOR MARK SMITH TO WASHINGTON D.C. IS WITHIN REACH. MAJOR SMITH, IN STATING HIS POSITION SAYS "I CALL FOR RELEASE OF ALL INFORMATION HELD BY OUR GOVERNMENT, ON THOSE OF US WHO RETURNED AS POWS IN 1973. THIS INCLUDES INDIVIDUAL DEBRIEFINGS. WHEN WE STAND UP AND WRAP OURSELVES IN THE CLOAK OF 'HONORABLE HERO,' THE AMERICAN PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW, WHO WE REALLY ARE. THEY ALSO NEED TO KNOW, WHO WE SAW IN CAPTIVITY, WHO DID NOT COME BACK." MAJOR SMITH PLANS TO PRESENT DETAILED INFORMATION AT THE ALLIANCE MEETING

DON'T MISS IT!!!!

FORMER PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER IS ON HIS WAY TO NORTH KOREA. THE ALLIANCE HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE CARTER INSTITUTE, ASKING THE FORMER PRESIDENT TO PLEAD THE CASE OF KOREAN WAR POW/MIAs. IN PRIVATE TALKS THE NORTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO SPEAK OF POWS. HOWEVER, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN THE THE KOREAN WAR POW ISSUE IS A UNITED NATIONS PROBLEM.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"THOUGH WE'VE COME A LONG WAY, THERE IS MUCH, MUCH MORE TO DO. THE DECK IS STACKED AGAINST US. OUR ADVERSARIES ARE WELL ENTRENCHED AND WELL FINANCED AND SCARED S***LESS OF ANY CHANGE IN THE STATUS QUO. IN THE LONG RUN, WE WILL PREVAIL. WE HOLD THE TRUMP CARD FOLKS, AND WHEN THE DUST CLEARS, AND THE DENSE MORNING FOG BURNS OFF, WHEN WE CLEAR OUR WIRE OF SAPPERS, AND THE GUNSHIPS GO HOME, BY GOD WE'LL STILL BE THERE. BECAUSE WHAT WE SEE TO DO IS RIGHT." -- AUTHOR UNKNOWN

WHEN REVIEWING YOUR CASE FILES, DO YOU EVER FIND CASE NUMBERS OTHER THAN YOUR OWN? DO YOU EVER WONDER WHO THOSE CASE NUMBERS BELONG TO? THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF FAMILIES HAS A DATA BASE REFERENCING CASE FILES TO SPECIFIC POW/MIAs. IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHO A CASE FILE NUMBER BELONGS TO CONTACT LYNN AT (718) 846 4850 (CARTER 6:00 PM EDT)

ON TUESDAY JUNE 7TH, 1994 THE VIETNAMESE TURNED OVER, TO U.S. OFFICIAL, 16 BOXES SAID TO CONTAIN THE REMAINS OF AMERICAN SERVICEMEN MISSING FROM THE VIETNAM WAR. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS VILLAGERS TURNED OVER FOUR SETS OF REMAINS. THE BALANCE WER'N RECOVERED DURING EXCAVATION AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS.

WINSTON LORD LEADS A DELEGATION OF 30 TO VIETNAM FOR TALKS SET TO BEGIN JULY 1, 1994. AMONG TOPICS OF DISCUSSIONS DURING THE FOUR DAY VISIT IS PROGRESS ON THE MIA ISSUE AND STEPS TOWARD OPENING DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS. REUTERS REPORTS THE DELEGATION WILL INCLUDE LEADERS OF WAR VETERANS GROUPS.

MR. LORD, MAY WE SUGGEST YOU DISMISS THE LIVE POW ISSUE. A SUBTLE CHANGE IN TERMINOLOGY IS TAKING PLACE IN WASHINGTON D.C. AND WITHIN THE MEDIA. SLOWLY, THEY ARE ELIMINATING ANY REFERENCES TO POWs. WHEN THE LETTERS POW DO APPEAR IT IS USUALLY IN THE FORMAT MIA/POW. WRONG!

IT IS POW/MIA AND DON'T LET ANYONE FORGET!!!!!!!!!!!!