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To: AllPOWMIA@aol.com <AllPOWMIA@aol.com>
Date: Wednesday, February 03, 1999 7:59 AM
Subject: POW Russia - POWs

Advocacy And Intelligence Index
For Prisoners Of War/Missing In Action, Inc (AllPOWMIA)
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THE POW/MIA E-MAIL NETWORK (c)
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Subj: Russia/POWs
Date: 99-02-02 09
From: MIKE BERGE

Washington Times
1/31/99

The State department needs to reveal everything they have on POW-MIAs

The Jan 12 article "State Department accused of stifling POW-MIA probe," reconfirms the Administration's Don't ask, don't tell policy regarding the search for information on American POWs reportedly taken to the former Soviet Union. However if true, the quote from a Russian parliamentarian--that during a meeting in Moscow last month "we were told by your government, your State Department, not to pursue these issues"--borders on criminal negligence. Even this is not new news.

In June 1992, Russian President Boris Yeltsin arriving in the US made a stunning revelation that American POWs had been taken to the Soviet Union. During an interview with NBC's Dateline, Yeltsin stated, "Our archives have shown this to be true. Some of them were transferred to the territory of the former USSR and were kept in labor camps. We don't have complete data and can only surmise that some of them may still be alive." An immediate concerted effort to debunk Yeltsin's revelations was launched. First the Administration claimed that Dateline had translated Yeltsin's remarks incorrectly. After NBC verified the translation, Yeltsin was then accused of having drunk too much Vodka on the trip over and had misspoken. However, Yeltsin's remarks corroborates testimony by Czech General Jan Senja, the highest-ranking East-bloc defector during the cold-war. Gen. Senja testified before Congress that he had seen numerous American POWs from Vietnam who were taken to the Soviet Union through the Czech Republic. A former member of the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs told us that after Yeltsin returned to Russia in 1992, a cable was sent (by whom, we are not sure) warning him that further revelations on POWs could jeopardize aid to Russia.

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When the famous "1205 document" was found in the Russian archives by a private researcher, a Russian archivist stated that there were a large number of similar documents in Russia's archives but that the Americans weren't interested in them. The Russian archivist was immediately silenced. The "1205 document" was a Russian intelligence report on a North Vietnamese communist meeting in which the Vietnamese revealed that they were holding a much larger number of American POWs than the ones who were released in 1973.

There is good reason to doubt the seriousness of the Administration's efforts to investigate these reports. We received a copy of a US intelligence report quoting an interview from Pravda with a WWII American POW in Russia. The alleged POW was US Army Sergeant Jim Patrick, who had been captured at the Elbe River in Germany in May of 1945. The person had all the right credentials. According to the Pravda article, Sgt. Patrick had contacted the US Embassy in Moscow in hope of returning to the US. He was rebuffed. We contacted the Defense Department's POW/MIA Monitoring Office (DPMO). We were told that it was unable to find the Pravda article, so the investigation was dropped. What happened to Sgt. Patrick? Don't ask, don't tell.

Although a plethora of intelligence reports about these POWs exist, the Central Intelligence Agency claims to have relatively few related documents. This is difficult to believe. Both Presidents Bush and Clinton issued executive orders to declassify all information on POW/MIAs. However, the CIA, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and others in defiance of these orders, have yet to release this information. Now, the DPMO is reportedly decimating the capability of the unit in DPMO that provides research and investigative support to the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission. Is all this surprising? It is in keeping with the administration's policy of Don't ask, don't tell!

Delores Apodaca Alfond	Michael D. Bengt
National Chair	Washington Representative
National Alliance of Families	National Alliance of
Families for POW-MIAs	
for POW-MIAs	Falls Church, VA
Bellevue, Wash	

- end -

During the Vietnam War, a number of pilots who had intricate knowledge of many of our top secret programs, including our missile programs, electronic warfare systems, and our newest radar evading aircraft (F-111), were foolishly sent to Vietnam to be shot down and captured by the communists. Of special interest was how we rendered the Russian SAM missile defense of Hanoi relatively ineffective. Intelligence reports indicate that the North

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Vietnamese were turning over American POWs with "special talents" to the Russians as payment on their war debt. Correspondingly, the Russians made giant leaps in improving their technology in these related areas. The Russian technicians and pilots in open source documents gave special thanks to their "American friends" for this advancement in technology (authors)

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