

August 25, 2000

Bill Bell
2521 South 67th Street
Fort Smith, AR 72903

Mrs. Marie V. Gould
70707 Frank Sinatra Drive #81
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

Dear Mrs. Gould,

Recently I was contacted by the National Chairperson of the National Alliance of Families, Mrs. Delores Alfond, regarding some information possibly related to the case of your husband, MAJ Frank A. Gould. According to Mrs. Alfond, you were in possession of some letters from an unidentified Source in Laos. Mrs. Alfond also informed me that the letters were written in the Lao language and that you were seeking assistance in having them translated.

Since my conversation with Mrs. Alfond I have received two letters and three cassette tape recordings. I have translated the letters and I am forwarding them to you at this time. Due to a busy schedule, I have not finished the tape recordings, but I will forward them to you as soon as possible.

Based on the contents of the letters I feel compelled to caution you concerning the aspect of a possible scam to solicit money from you by the Sources in Thailand. Having worked on the POW/MIA issue in Southeast Asia for many years the theme of the letters sounds all too familiar to me. I can certainly appreciate your personal situation, and fully realize that you would like to do everything possible to learn the fate of your loved one, but I truly believe that working through private intermediaries will not result in any degree of success. I suggest that you forward the letters to the Defense Prisoner of War and Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) for professional analysis and investigation in the field. In the interim I would suggest that you not forward any more funds to the Sources who provided the letters to you.

Sincerely,

Bill Bell