

The Insider



Volume XI Issue 11

November 1996

NORTH KOREAN SECRETS

Headline in September 1996 in the Baltimore Sun Newspaper read, "U.S. suspects North Korea failed to return all POWs". "Eisenhower aides believed hundreds were left behind.." AP Washington - Documents made public yesterday showed intense concern within the Eisenhower administration over secret reports that hundreds of prisoners of war had been left behind in North Korea at the end of the fighting.

And testimony before the House National Security personnel subcommittee brought forth several theories on their fate. One document, dated Dec. 22, 1953, recounts a conversation between President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Army Secretary Robert T. Stevens about internal reports that more than 900 POWs were left behind. (Remember that in 1953 this information was classified, TOP SECRET.) The President made the statement that he was not sure that if he had fully appreciated the situation he would have felt it wise to go into the forthcoming conference," the memo says, apparently referring to a peace talks over ending the Korean War. "Perhaps we should have insisted on their return as a precondition to the conference."

Peace talks with North Korea had ended with an armistice earlier that year at Panmunjon. When Eisenhower asked Stevens what evidence the military had, Stevens reported that the Army had the names of "610 Army people that have just disappeared from the camps. The Air Force has over 300." Although it kept the issue quiet, the Eisenhower administration appears to have taken the reports seriously.

A memo from Deputy Secretary of Defense Reuben B. Robertson Jr. dated Oct. 27, 1956, asks the military service secretaries to improve the information they have on unaccounted-for cases to help in negotiations with China and North Korea. The Robertson memo describes a presidential order signed the previous year that "committed all facilities of our government to establish contact with, support and obtain the release of all our prisoners of war." The memo refers to POWs "who may still be held by the Communists."

Eventually the issue drew public attention. One of the documents, a memo dated June 20, 1958, notes passage of a sense-of-Congress resolution that the Eisenhower administration would continue to seek the return of 450 still-missing Americans. The North Korean government has said it is not holding any Americans now.

Col. Philip Corso, a former military aide to Eisenhower, testified at the House hearing that he had access to numerous intelligence reports on unaccounted-for POWs, including a report of two, possibly three trainloads of 450 POWs each being sent to the Soviet Union for interrogation. Jan Sejna, a Czech military defector, testified that hundreds of American POWs were used as guinea pigs in medical experimentation's. END AP.

Headlines on September 28, 1993 in the New York Times Newspaper read, "Report Says Soviet Took POWs From Korea". AP Washington - A report by the United States on American servicemen missing in the Korean War sketches a chilling picture of American airman being hunted by Soviet intelligence teams and shipped off to labor camps. The report, which was provided to Russian officials at a recent meeting in Moscow, says that several hundred American Korean War prisoners were secretly taken into the Soviet Union in the 1950s and never returned. Moscow has



This information service is designed to help President Clinton's appointees and other officials understand that there are unresolved problems of Americans who were captured alive and taken prisoner (POWs), but who were not released.

Official Notice

1996 Evidence Kit

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

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

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

always denied this.

The United States has not indicated that it has conclusive evidence of specific American prisoners having been held at specific sites in the former Soviet Union. Rather, it cites a range of evidence that an operation to move

POWs to the Soviet Union was carried out. The charge, based on a report titled "The Transfer of U.S. Korean War POWs to the Soviet Union," was made by Americans on an American-Russian commission on war prisoners at a recent meeting in Moscow.

American researchers concluded from newly available Russian documents, interviews with former Soviet military and intelligence officers, and United States records that the Soviets used a well-practiced system for transferring the Americans, the report said. The Soviet operation appeared to have two main objectives: capturing American aviators who could provide useful information about American aircraft and Air Force operations and taking some who would be useful in the Gulag forced labor system. In many cases, the report said, captured American aviators were interrogated by Soviet military intelligence officers at Pos'yet, just across the North Korean border in Russia and taken north to Khabarovsk, described as a transit point for prisoners - Americans as well as South Koreans and possibly others.

Gen. Georgii A. Lobov, commander of the Soviet 64th Fighter Aviation Corps, based at Andung, China, just across the Yalu River from North Korea, during the war, was quoted in the report as having said the Soviets formed and used a special Air Force unit with the mission of capturing pilots of American F-86 fighter jets. "His mission was to force down Saber jets in order to capture the pilots alive," the report said, a reference to F-86 jets, in summarizing General Lobov's remarks. "Nine expert pilots were assigned to this mission, each of whom was required to sign a secrecy statement." The F-86 was the most advanced fighter in a war, that was the first modern jet combat. It had a superior gun sight that Russian designers wanted to duplicate. END AP

Headlines on May 5, 1996 in the Washington Post Newspaper AP by Robert Burns read, "Smuggling of American POWs Alleged" - "Soviet Defector Reported Korean War Practice, Document Reveals" - Less than two years after the Korean War, a high-level Soviet defector told White House officials that American prisoners of war in North Korea had been taken se-

cretly to Siberia to be exploited for Soviet intelligence purposes, according to a newly declassified U.S. government document. The document dated Jan. 31, 1955, and stamped "SECRET" is not proof that smuggling of POWs—long denied by the Soviets and now by the Russian government—actually happened. But it adds weight to claims that it did (happen).

It is the first document to surface from the White House files of President Dwight D. Eisenhower that names a Soviet official as a source of U.S. suspicions about POW transfers to the former Soviet Union. To this day the government says Moscow has not fully answered questions about POW disappearances during a war, in which Soviet intelligence was active in North Korea.

Yuri A. Rastvorov, who defected to the United States in 1954 from his post at the Soviet mission in Tokyo, told Eisenhower administration officials in a private Jan. 28, 1955, meeting that "U.S. and other U.N. POWs were being held in Siberia" during the 1950-53 Korean War, according to the newly released memo, which is a one-page summary of what Rastvorov said in the encounter.

The document is on file at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library in Abilene, Kan.; requests for its declassification were denied in 1991, but last month in response to renewed requests by the Associated Press and others, it was released. The memo said Rastvorov claimed to have learned of the POW movement from "recent arrivals—1950-1953—from the Soviet Union to the USSR's Tokyo mission." This apparently was a reference to Soviet mission staff. There was no indication that Rastvorov participated in any POW transfers.

The Pentagon, which has been investigating Soviet involvement with Korean War prisoners, has been aware of the Rastvorov memo since 1993 and considers it credible, said Norman Kass, who directs POW work with the Russians at the Defense Department's POW-MIA Office. "This represents one more piece" of evidence "from someone we assume to be reliable and certainly knowledgeable" on the issue Kass said in an interview.

Kass said he wanted to verify directly with Rastvorov that the statements attributed to him in the memo are accurate. "We are interested in knowing exactly what he did know," Kass said. Rastvorov apparently knew plenty.

Donald Jameson, who was a branch chief in the Soviet division of the CIA's Operations Directorate in the 1950s recalled that Rastvorov told him, too, that a number of American POWs from the Korean War had been taken to the So-

viet Union. "My impression is that it was a few—10 to 15; they were aviators mostly," Jameson said in an interview. He said Rastvorov proved to be a reliable and valuable source and was one of the most important defectors during the Cold War. "he had a lot to say about relations between the Soviet Union and Korea," Jameson said.

Rastvorov took a new name and identify provided by the CIA after his arrival in the United States. Efforts to contact him for this story were unsuccessful. Rastvorov was at the Soviet mission in Japan from June 1950—the same month the Korean War broke out—until he defected to the United States in January 1954. He ostensibly was a Foreign Ministry official but actually was a spy, according to a biography released by the Justice Department in August

NO FOREIGN DISTRIBUTION

WARNING: This document contains information affecting the national defense of the U.S. within the meaning of the espionage laws, title 18 USC sections 793 & 794. The transmission or the revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

1954.

Philip Corso, a former Army intelligence officer who was a National Security Council staff member in the mid-1950s, said it was he who arranged and conducted the interrogation of Rastvorov that is described in the 1955 memo. Corso told a Senate investigations committee in 1992 that Rastvorov confirmed to him the transfer of POWs and told him they were used for intelligence purposes. But no records verifying Corso's account had been made public until the release last month of the formerly secret Jan. 31, 1955 memo. In telephone interviews in 1994 and 1995, Corso recalled in detail his encounter with Rastvorov and said the defector told him several hundred American POWs had been sent to Siberia in rail cars during the war. Corso has maintained that the Eisenhower administration chose not to force the issue with Moscow out of concern that a confrontation might escalate into all out war. END AP

On April 25, 1996 in the New York Times Newspaper headline read "Decades Later, Tales of Americans in Soviet Jails" by James Brooke - Khabarovsk, Russia—Time has stopped Vladimir Trotsenko's shoulders, but his

This information service is designed to help President Clinton's appointees and other officials understand that there are unresolved problems of Americans who were captured alive and taken prisoner (POWs), but who were not released.

memories are as clear as his cobalt blue eyes: the American flyer, his right arm in a new cast, in a Soviet military hospital ward. The American, he recalled, would slowly repeat, "America—San Francisco, Cleveland, Los Angeles, Chicago."

Curious, Mr. Trotsenko, a paratrooper recovering from a knee injury, would hopple down the third-floor hospital corridor to gaze at the four imprisoned Americans. The airman with the broken arm would point to a crewman in a body cast and would make cradling motions with his arms, indicating that the man had left two small children back home. The year was 1951, and the place was Military Hospital 404 in Novosysoyevka, 300 miles south of here. Stalin was in his last years, the Korean War was raging and the Cold War with the United States was on. "I did not talk about this for 43 years," Mr. Trotsenko, spray at 68, said as his wife, Nina, served blini and borscht at their wooden dacha outside this city, the largest industrial center of Russia's Far East.

In 1994 he noticed a small advertisement in a local newspaper placed by a new group, a Russian-American commission on prisoners of war. Admitting that he was "tortured" about whether "to call or not to call," he finally did. As fears of official retribution ease, more and more Russians are following Mr. Trotsenko's lead and are talking to American Government researchers seeking traces of Americans who vanished into the Gulag during seven decades of Communism. Responding to advertisements for information, calls and letters trickling to the United States Embassy in Moscow and the new consulate in Vladivostok.

A woman calls saying she knows the Russian widow, children and grand-children a former American prisoner of war. A former camp guard recalls hearing about an American prisoner from the Korean War held under maximum security in 1983. An Estonian remembers meeting a black American pilot in a labor camp in 1955. A retired military driver reports seeing an American Prisoner—"robust and taller than average"—in an Arctic camp in 1970. A former inmate says that while working in a forced labor gold mine in 1979 he witnessed the death of Philip V. Mandra, a United States Marine sergeant from

queens, who was reported missing in action in Korea in 1952.

Numbering in the thousands, the list of Americans sent to Soviet labor camps is long and varied. They include left-wing Americans who emigrated to the Soviet Union in the 1930's only to be arrested as spies during Stalin's xenophobic sweeps; hundreds of dual nationals sent to Siberian labor camps after Stalin annexed Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia in 1940; about 500 American military prisoners kept after World War II by Stalin as bargaining chips, about 30 F-86 pilots and crewman captured during the Korean War and transferred to the Soviet Union in a secret aircraft industry intelligence operation; and as many as 100 American airman who survived downing of spy planes over Soviet territory during the cold war.

"Clearly, there were a lot of Americans around the gulag, but it is unimaginable that any of the World War II prisoners are still alive," said Paul M. Cole, who wrote a three-volume report for the Rand Corporation in 1994 on American prisoners from World War II, the Korean War and the cold war who were held in the Soviet Union.

Family members of Americans missing in Korea and in the cold war downings are increasingly demanding answers from the bilateral research group, the U.S.-Russian Joint Commission on POW/MIA's. I definitely believe that some survived," said Patricia Lively Dickinson, a Delaware resident, who believes that her brother, Jack D. Lively, a Navy airman who was shot down in 1951, was one of the four Americans that Mr. Trotsenko saw at the military hospital. "I feel that Jack's files are in the KGB files." Bruce Sanderson, a North Dakota steel worker, also believes that his father, Lt. Warren Sanderson, survived the shooting down of his reconnaissance plane near Vladivostok in 1953. "In 1955, a repatriated Japanese POW identified a picture of my dad," said Mr. Sanderson, who was born a few months after his father was shot down. "He could still be alive. It was just in 1992 that the Russians freed the last 80 Japanese POWs from World War II."

Formed in 1992, the POW commission
(Continued on page 5)

This information service is designed to help President Clinton's appointees and other officials understand that there are unresolved problems of Americans who were captured alive and taken prisoner (POWs), but who were not released.

Project: Unauthorized Entry

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

Ever thought of going to look for the live POWs?

Call us today, because you can help.

A two week trip costs about \$3500.

CONTACT

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

has little to show for the millions of dollars spent, family members and former researchers assert. It has yet to find any missing American, dead or alive, in the former Soviet Union. END NEW YORK TIMES

CONCLUSION: There are many missing Americans, from all wars, including the Korean War, who were alive in North Korea, who were shipped to the Soviet Union. There is no reason, now more than 40 years after the conflict ended, to withhold an accounting for the missing prisoners (who were shipped to the Soviet Union).

Joint operations between the Russians and Americans are recovering answers, from witnesses and records. According to the New York Times, June 23, 1960 UPI-An ex-Communist colonel says, Soviet Russia sent 5,000 combat

specialists into Korea during the Korean War to do almost everything for the North Koreans "but pull the trigger for them." Writing in the current issue of Life magazine, 39-year old Pawel Monat, tells of his duties as Polish military attaché in North Korea...Monat says: "Russian pilots did most of the Communist flying in the air battles between MIGs and U.S. Saber jets, Soviet anti-aircraft batteries, planted all over North Korea, shot down U.S. planes, Soviet combat engineers constructed bridges, roads and tunnels, to keep ammunition and other supplies moving to the front...And whatever success the North Koreans had against the UN forces, was due to the hundreds of Soviet advisors who trained them..." END NEW YORK TIMES

CONCLUSION: The Russians are beginning to open their archives at the KGB, that contain records on Soviet involvement in North Korea and Soviet actions involving capture American POWs.

According to an article in the New York Times in August 1960 entitled The "Communist Spy Network Is Gigantic, Complex." The Soviet's KGB—Committee for State Security operated out of a huge espionage center in Saint Antonius Hospital in the Soviet Berlin-Karlshorst restricted area. Officially it was known as the KGB Residency, second only to the supreme spy center in Moscow. In the Karlshorst restricted area, the KGB had some 600 buildings manned by 9000 permanent specialists in everything from forging of U.S. documents to contact with the underworld. The KGB's sabotage-espionage unit of Karlshorst called "The Dept. of Illegal Activity" supported front and other underground organizations in the West. One Dept. of Foreign Countries, its operatives referred to it as the "Reconnaissance Dept." Officially it had as its "function the spying in military and political fields and subverting anti-Soviet political organizations, parties and groups." Dept. "SK" was in charge of surveillance and control of Soviet diplomatic and trade representations and the control of Soviet citizens abroad.

In October 1996 the Federal Security Service, the domestic arm of the former KGB turned over the first of 15,000 pages of archives to a Washington-based Museum, according to the Baltimore Sun Newspaper.

CONCLUSION: The Russians have begun to cooperate in providing records on captured prisoners and are telling the story of what happened to them after they were captured alive. North Korea should be willing to provide documents showing the names of Americans that were transferred to the Soviet Union.

(Continued on page 6)

Joint operations between the United States, Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia are helping to locate missing Americans at grave sites, crash sites and in cemeteries. Archives and museums are being opened to U.S. investigators seeking to learn the whereabouts of missing Americans. Cooperation has led to several accountings in cases where Americans were prisoners, at one point in time. Cooperation in S.E. Asia is working, along with a dialog of understanding.

Cooperation on the issue of missing Americans can be established, but only through a dialogue, wherein open communication is permitted. There is, now, no open channel of communications or continuing dialogue on missing Americans in North Korea and one needs to be established. There is no longer the intelligence priority to keep the POW/MIA issue TOP SECRET or incognito. To permit an atmosphere of openness to occur, a written plan needs to be approved by both the American and North Korean sides, to form a bipartisan, humanitarian joint commission on POW/MIAs, wherein the following steps can be taken:

1. A willingness to open access to record groups, archives, museums and data, can now be established in an open and straight forward exchange of information.

The United States maintains two records groups on North Korea to which access can be permitted. A North Korean team of Archivists can be permitted to come to the United States and to review and copy these records. In cases where a document is located that is considered to be of major historical significance to the North Korean government, arrangements to return the original document to the DPRK can be facilitated. It is my privilege to help facilitate such an exchange and access to these historical archives.

---A. One record group is maintained at the National Archives II located at 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001. The head archivists, Richard Boylan, maintains a Korean War record group of 4500 boxes of captured enemy documents. Each box contains about 1,000 pages. Some of the documents (which I have reviewed) are original documents signed by Kim Il Sung. Such records should have major historical significance to the rich and honorable

history of North Korea. All of these documents are records, that are original documents, written in the Korean language.

---B. Another record group is maintained at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library in Abilene, Kansas 67410. The head archivists, David J. Haight, who maintains high level documents concerning the Korean War armistice and POW issues (which I have reviewed). Such records should have major historical significance to the history of North Korea.

CONCLUSION: An exchange of documents can be arranged and a mechanism should be established to permit this archival research to occur.

2. A willingness or atmosphere of cooperation, in recovering the remains of Americans war dead who are buried in North Korean soil, needs to be scheduled and permitted.

---A. A written plan outlining the goals and objectives needs to be agreed to.

---B. A time table and time line spelling out, when this will occur, needs to be outlined.

---C. The terms under which American remains recovery will be permitted and who will be in charge of granting permission to allow this to occur, needs to be outlined in a written agreement.

3. A willingness to permit a joint North Korean and American team to conduct research in areas where reports say live Americans are still living in North Korea.

---A. Should a live American be located in North Korea he should be questioned as to his desire to return to the United States. Should it be his will to stay in North Korea, he should be permitted. Should it be his will to come to the United States, he should be permitted.

---B. A procedure permitting a non-disclosure and an agreement should be signed wherein no retaliation or retribution or responsibility for permitting such returnees to leave North Korea, will be permitted or acceptable that will embarrass the North Korean or the United States government.

Headlines in the Philadelphia Inquirer Newspaper dated October 25, 1994 read: "POW escapes from North Korea" "The man is the first prisoner of war to flee since the Korean War

ended. Now 64, he was held for 43 years." Lt. Cho Chang-ho, 64 was found semi-conscious in a small wooden boat by a South Korean fishing vessel attracted by flash lights in the Yellow Sea off the Southwest coast of the Republic of Korea, early October 23, 1994. On February 14, 1995 U.S. officials debriefed Lt. Cho and he stated: ---1. He observed approximately 700-800 South Korean Army POWs and approximately 70-80 American POWs at the 5th Corps HQ.

---2. All of these South Korean and American POWs were moved on foot from Changane to Sinan, Kangwon-do (30-40 miles away).

---3. After arriving in Sinan, the American POWs were separated from the South Koreans and taken by truck to an unknown destination.

---4. He heard from South Korean POWs that there was a large number of American POWs, together with South Korean POWs at the Usl and Choima camps.

CONCLUSION: North Korea kept some prisoners, which it did not release in 1953, following the Korean War, and agreements called for the exchange of all live POWs were not followed.

From the CIA comes one page of a document on North Korea POWs, page 0008.

It's title, "Summary: A first-hand observation revealed that unidentified 'Caucasians' working on a possible collective farm in North Korea in 1979." "Synopsis: In fall 1979 during a Sunday excursion (BLANK) Pyonyang //3900N-12545E//, some laborers were observed in rice paddies near a collective farm. Of the 50, one was definitely identified as Caucasian; eight to ten others also appeared to be Caucasian. Their age was conjectured to be about 50. No guards were observed. (BLANK) in discussing this sighting speculated with some degree of certainty that these were American prisoners of war. Several (BLANK) had been in Korea a while and behaved as if such a sighting were commonplace. (BLANK) he observed the unidentified Caucasians 12 Oct. 79."

Headline in the Courant Newspaper September 15, 1993 reads, "Bloomfield (N.J.) man says he saw U.S. POWs in North Korea" and "Agency to probe Bloomfield man's claim of prisoners in North Korea." Serban Oprica who emigrated to the United States from Romania in 1985 said that the Romanian government has sent him to North Korea, an engineer, to help build the country's first television factory. More than 8,000 American soldiers have never been accounted for by the North Koreans. Of these 389 were known to have been POWs. END COURANT STORY

CONCLUSION: There are U.S. Intelli-

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

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

gence reports of live Americans described as prisoners of war who are in North Korea. Some are of an age group, that indicates, that they may be POWs transferred to North Korea from the Vietnam War.

The CIA provided the Defense POW/MIA unit on March 9, 1988 a memorandum, entitled: Subject: Alleged Sightings of American POWs in North Korea from 1975 to 1982. The memo states: "In response to your request, we have searched our internal files and the Agency's extensive bibliographic holdings for all information on the presence of American POWs in North Korea during the period 1975-82. We have uncovered three separate reports of such sightings, which are attached:

---1. The first report is dated April 1980, indicates that (BLANK) sighted two Americans in August 1986 while undergoing training at the Maram safehouse complex on the outskirts of P'yongyang. According to a (BLANK) later told him that about 10 military pilots captured in North Vietnam were brought to North Korea.

---2. The second report, also dated in April 1980,

This information service is designed to help President Clinton's appointees and other officials understand that there are unresolved problems of Americans who were captured alive and taken prisoner (POWs), but who were not released.

apparently describes the same incident as related (BLANK).

—3. In the third report, dated March 1988 (BLANK) indicated sighting as many as 11 Caucasians, possibly American prisoners from the Korean War, in the fall of 1979 on a collective farm north of P'yongyang. (Note: Source of this report is by Serban Oprica.)

CONCLUSION: Americans captured as prisoners of war in the Vietnam War were shipped to North Korea, as the CIA intelligence (source reports) indicate.

Headline in The Washington Post Newspaper, dated June 15, 1996 read, "Analyst Says North Korea May Hold POWs" by John Mintz and Thomas W. Lippman. It states: "A Pentagon analyst who evaluates reports of prisoners of war and soldiers missing in action has concluded 10 to 15 American soldiers from the Korean War and possibly the Vietnam War are alive in North Korea and may be held as POWs. A Pentagon spokesman said a two-page report summarizing these conclusions by In Sung Lee, a veteran analyst at the Defense POW/MIA Office, is a draft memo that does not reflect the official position of DPMO or the Department. The Pentagon added it can neither confirm nor rule out the conclusions." (MORE) END Washington Post Story.

I.O. Lee of the DPMO, Defense POW/MIA Office, wrote a memo dated 3/26/96, marked, FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY, entitled "Background Paper Accountability of Missing Americans From the Korean War, Live-sighting Reports" and it reads as follows:

The U.S. Government has received numerous reports concerning Americans living or detained in North Korea after the prisoner exchanges with North Korea in 1953. Based on (the) number of unaccounted for personnel captured by the Communist forces and not returned from the Korean War and a number of recent live American sightings in North Korea... (there are) a small group of defectors and a large group of 10-15 possible POWs.

A small group of four personnel is comprised of American soldiers who defected to North Korea in 1960's. Based on U.S. Army files, North Korean literature and North Korean

movie, entitled "Nameless Heroes", these defectors appear to be in North Korea on their own volition. They are Private Larry A. Abshier, Private First Class James J. Dresnok, Specialist Four Jerry W. Parrish, and Sergeant Charles R. Jenkins. (People magazine, dated April 15, 1996, carried a story with their photos written by Richard Jerome, Jear Eskin, Bonnie Bell and Andrew Marton.)

According to North Korea defectors, PFC Dresnok is married to a North Korean and has a daughter. One of the North Korean defectors met SGT Jenkins in a coffee shop in Pyongyang. SGT Jenkins told the North Korean defector that he is now ready to return to America. The American deserters live in the "foreigner's apartments", Chukehon-dong, Mangyongdae-kuyok, west-side of Pyongyang.

A second group of Americans is comprised of US service members, most likely POWs, from the Korean War and possibly Vietnam War era. There have been numerous reports of both American and British POWs in North Korea. One of the compelling reports received over the years was a sighting reported to DOD by a Romanian in 17 Feb 1988.

On October 1979, Mr. Oprica, a former Romanian, now a naturalized U.S. citizen, along with other Romanians employed at a North Korean factory in Pyongyang was on a North Korean Government sponsored sight seeing trip. During this bus trip, the bus driver appeared to be disoriented and drove the bus through a collective farm. During this trip, he observed 7-10 Caucasians, including one individual with blue eyes, working in the fields. The workers appeared to be in their 50's. Mr. Oprica was told by a female passenger that the Caucasian farmers were American prisoners of war. Mr. Oprica was unable to recall who the lady was and how she determined the Caucasian farmers were American POWs. On 24 Nov. 95, another passenger on the bus, Mr. Florin Tomescu, was finally located in Romania and interviewed. He confirmed seeing Caucasians working on a farm and the location of the collective farm was somewhere between Pyongyang and the city of Nampo.

Since the Oprica/Tomescu sightings, a variety of additional sightings reports have been

received, culminating in a recent flurry, (last 60 days) of very compelling reports. The following summarizes these reports:

1. All "American POWs" were under the direct control of the Ministry of People's Armed Forces (MPAF) and were residing in various sections within the Pyongyang city area and they were always escorted and moved in a vehicle with a license plates belonging to the MPAF, the reconnaissance bureau, or Ministry of Social Safety.

2. "Black and white" Americans were seen shopping together in a foreigners only, western goods store. The number of Americans sighted generally range from 10-15, with a few recent citing as many as 40-50. One defector cited that since 1978, he learned that over 60 American POWs lived in Pyongyang. Some are married to Koreans and have children.

3. One defector stated that in the film "Nameless Heroes" a black POW played a role of a house servant for the American policy officer, Dr. Kelton. The "Nameless Heroes" film has 20-21 segments and, the DPMO is in the process of obtaining them to determine if this information is accurate.

4. Several defector reports cite that there have been numerous Americans teaching English and American customs at the foreign language department in Amnokgang College or a military reconnaissance school in Pyongyang. These English language instructors are sometimes identified as U.S. defectors, but frequently as

"American POWs".

5. According to escorts, many POWs desire to return to U.S.

6. The Analysis of numerous live sighting reports correlate that American POWs live in a group compounds in various locations in Pyongyang and its suburbs, and perhaps other places in DPRK. POWs movements in DPRK are apparently controlled by the North Korean Government.

7. In the summer of 1976, a North Korean defector visited a cooperative farm located in the outskirts of Pyongyang. There he met a Caucasian man of about 60 years old, 180 cm tall with a large body. The Caucasian told the defector that he was an American. He asked one of the women who the American was, and the woman told him that the American was an American POW from the Korean Liberation War.

There are too many live sighting reports, specifically observations of several Caucasians in a collective farm by Romanians and the North Korean defectors' eyewitness of Americans in DPRK to dismiss that there are no American POWs in North Korea. U.S. Intelligence Reports of Americans, including U.S. Korean War POWs, in North Korea:

IIR-2-221-2605-68 (20 November 1968)
IIR-2-221-0074-80 (7 April 1980)
IIR-2-221-0122-80 (7 May 1980)
IIR-2-221-0347-80 (9 December 1980)
CIA TDFIR-K-314/00459-86 (3 June 1986)
IIR-2-240-5002-88 (7 March 1988)

The Insider

Mail your check or money order for \$24.00 for a one year subscription (12 Issues) to:
Post Office Box 735, Stewartstown Station, PA 17363

☐ Start My Subscription ☐ Tell me more ☐ I want to help!

Your Name _____

Address _____

Your City, State, Zip _____

Phone Number _____



Mail to: The Insider, P.O. Box 735, Stewartstown Station, PA 17363

This information service is designed to help President Clinton's appointees and other officials understand that there are unresolved problems of Americans who were captured alive and taken prisoner (POWs), but who were not released.

Cluster Map Now Available

Now you can have your own copy of the famous "Cluster Map" which reports on 928 sighting locations. This 11" by 17" color map was made with data taken from 16,000 source intelligence reports which have already filtered out all non prisoner or 'accounted-for' reports. All reports of Garwood, Kay, Gay, or Gougelman, as well as yachtsmen, smugglers, living freely, foreign nationals, dog tag reports, remains reports, and crash site reports have already been filtered out for you. The data is a picture of DIA's database with 928 live sighting prisoner reports, pinpointing their locations, current to April 8, 1992 sighting reports.

216 blue pins - 1970's eyewitness

484 red pins - 1980-1990 eyewitness

228 yellow - hearsay, date not reported

For your own copy send a \$10 contribution to:

The POW Educational Fund, Inc.

P.O. Box 735

Stewartstown, PA 17363

IIR-2-221-0158-88 (12 August 1988)

IIR-2-221-0050-89 (2 February 1989)

IIR-2-221-0187-89 (6 July 1989)

AMCONSUL Hong Kong, 030631Z (3 Dec 1990)

IIR-2-221-0070-92 (31 December 1991)

DIA, IIR-6-843-0010-93 (October 1992)

IIR-2-221-0166-93 (4 May 1993)

USDAO, Bucharest RO, 500-95 (27 Nov 1995)

IIR-7-312-0341-96 (8 February 1996)

IIR-7-312-0451-96 (25 March 1996)

IIR-7-312-0452-96 (25 March 1996)

IIR-7-312-0453-96 (25 March 1996)

IIR-7-312-0341-96 (22 April 1996)

CONCLUSION: There are several reports of live Americans in North Korea which need to be investigated and resolved. With the help of

the North Korean Government, the issue of live Americans in North Korea can be resolved for the missing men and their families, who still wait for answers. A positive humanitarian gesture would be to allow an American delegation to meet with live Americans who are in North Korea and bring first hand knowledge about them back to the United States, along with proof and evidence.

Americans who died in North Korea were treated by Doctors and medical records of treated POWs should be made available to account for those who died. Medical records on Americans who are currently being treated by North Korean Doctors, should be made available as proof and evidence.

CONCLUSION: Doctors who treated live Americans and the medical records of the treatment should be made available to help account for missing Americans.

An "Oral History" program, where former POW camp guards and commanders, as well as food service personnel should be allowed to be interviewed by U.S. investigators, to learn of their knowledge of POWs. Permission should be granted for an oral history program.

CONCLUSION: The memory of those who had contact with live Americans can tell what may have happened to the missing Americans. Guards, food service personnel and medical treatment people (Doctors, medics and nurses) who maintain a memory of American POWs who they touched and talked to should be allowed to tell their stories.

SUMMARY: Many areas of information, leading to finding out what happened to the captured alive American prisoners of war can be approved by the DPRK.

Sincerely,



Michael Van Atta, Chairman

717-993-5498

The POW Educational Fund, Inc.

P. O. Box 735, Stewartstown, PA 17363

Prisoners of War Missing in Action

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

The Insider

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

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

This information service is designed to help President Clinton's appointees and other officials understand that there are unresolved problems of Americans who were captured alive and taken prisoner (POWs), but who were not released.

The Insider

(717) 993-5498

Michael Van Atta

P.O. Box 735

Stewartstown Station, PA 17363



RI-- B-11, 3-2002