

THE INSIDER

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STATE OF THE UNION for President Bill Clinton's Appointees On the Question of Missing Americans - January 1993.

To all of the new political appointees of the Clinton Administration: This is most likely your first exposure to the newsletter called **THE INSIDER**. It is published monthly and is solely dedicated to presenting views and intelligence that seek to locate answers to the question - What happened to the Americans who were captured alive but not released? This information is put in your hands so that action will be taken. The data presented will help shape your views and formulate policy changes.

Your job is to inform the President on what action he should or should not take, and **THE INSIDER** helps you understand better the live prisoner issue which is held under the cover of *SECRET* classification.

THE INSIDER is your night vision goggles through which you can view the **BLACK PROJECT**, a part of American history that is not openly discussed - the prisoners of war we left behind. You have the President's ear, and he listens to your opinions, so please take note of the live prisoners and take action on a solution to the problem. Many former Presidential Appointees have claimed that intelligence on live American prisoners was not elevated to their desk for a decision and the intelligence community failed to inform them of any valid evidence. **THE INSIDER** bridges this gap between field collections and the President's desk by bypassing the system and providing you direct access to POW intelligence on a regular monthly bases. Nezavisimaya Gazeta, a Russian Independent Newspaper, describes **THE INSIDER** in Vol. III, issue 8-9, August 1992 as, "The Insiders is a group of current and former

intelligence officers who have been looking, since 1982, for evidence that shows that missing Americans fell into Soviet hands".

This information service is designed to help the President's appointees understand that there are unresolved problems of Americans who were captured alive (POWs) but not released.

WELCOME TO WASHINGTON DC to: Anthony Lake, National Security Advisor; R. James Woolsey Jr., Director of CIA; Les Aspin, Secretary of Defense; Warren M. Christopher, Secretary of State; Madeleine K. Albright, U. N. Ambassador; Thomas F. McLarty, White House Chief of Staff; and all Cabinet level appointees: **Clinton's INSIDERS**.

The following letter to President Bush's Presidential Advisors will help those who do not understand the live American prisoner problem to focus on some of the questions problems and issues related to Vietnam who knowingly and willingly held back live U.S. prisoners at the end of the Vietnam War:

Eric Melby
Special Assistant to the President
International Economic Affairs Rm. 365
Old Executive Office Building
Washington DC 20506
RE: Lifting the Trade Embargo on Vietnam

January 5, 1993

Dear Eric

I represent a group of current and former intelligence officers who are opposed to allowing American businesses to do business with Vietnam. This is why:

1. We accuse the communist dictator General Le Due Anh and his henchmen of being white sepulchers (inwardly corrupt but outwardly or professedly virtuous-hypocrites). Hanoi Radio announced with pride that Capt. Humbert R. Versace, Sgt. Kenneth M. Roraback, Sgt. Harold Bennett, U.S. civilian Gustav C. Hertz, Lt. Gerald F. Kinsman, and Sgt. James A. Harwood were executed in captivity. Vietnam has refused to account for them. They were in Hanoi's hands!

Tom Rethard was attending Artillery School class S-71 in December 1970 when he was shown captured enemy film footage. This film showed 2 captured U.S. enlisted men who were with the 1/10 CAV near their APC. The men were shot in the back of the head with their hands tied behind their backs.

Former Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird told the Senate in the fall of 1992 that 474 to 478 MIA families had received letters from Vietnam from their captured loved ones who did not return.

Tucker Gogleman was a CIA operative who vanished in Saigon as Communist forces advanced on the capitol in April 1973. 18 months after he disappeared his body was turned over to the U.S. His captors had showed him no mercy. Virtually every bone in his body had been expertly and brutally broken.

The execution of captured American prisoners is a crime, not *C'est la guerre*. Hanoi's inaction on these cases is a clear indication that they are not being fully cooperative in *known* captive cases.

2. DIA, on August 5, 1992 identified that it had received information that it deemed to be valid - 108 eye witness sightings of live Americans. Many were seen still held as prisoners in S.E. Asia. To recap these first hand viewing that still are unresolved, 30 were in 1992, 28 in 1991, 16 in 1990, and 15 in 1989. Thus 89 of these sightings have been in the last 4 years. Hanoi has prevented free and open access to these areas where Americans have been seen, and DIA has obfuscated the truth from the public eye. The date of the most recent live sighting report is 14 December 1992, as of 24 December 1992. As this December 1992 report is under active investigation, it is still classified SECRET.

3. Former-Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird told the Senate in the fall of 1992 that 474 to 478 MIA

families had received letters from Vietnam from their captured loved ones who did not return. (See Newsweek October 5, 1992 page 49 and the N.Y. Times September 22, 1992 page A6.) Hanoi has not provided an accounting for all of these individuals.

4. Many released POWs in 1973 reported other POWs who were not released. DIA maintains returned POWs debriefings as classified, but assures the public that all that returnees saw were POWs who died in captivity. Stated public assurances by DIA can not be supported by the facts in the cases of:

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|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Rudolph A. Advertio | 9 Chester R. Odom |
| 2 Daniel T. Bailey | 10 Benjamin R. Peralta |
| 3 Lonnie Womack | 11 Lyle D. Rodgers |
| 4 Earl Weatherman | 12 James K. Schumacher |
| 5 Larry D. Humphery | 13 Carl D. Wadleigh |
| 6 Wilbert Walton | 14 Carl Nicotera |
| 7 Jose T. Lira | 15 Clyde W. McKay |
| 8 McKinley Noland | 16 Michael L. Laporte |

5. DIA maintains over 12,000 reports (from first second & third hand suppliers) that give the names and dogtag information of purported live prisoners or remains of POWs. 3% correlate to Americans missing in Southeast Asia, or 360 of these dog tag reports are about bona fide missing Americans. Refugee reports can not be dismissed that come from guards, food service, and medical treatment personnel who put their eyes and hands on POWs who have not yet returned.

6. General Clapper, the current head of DIA, submitted to the Senate on June 15, 1992 a list of names of individuals who were last known to have been alive in Hanoi's hands and held as prisoners. The list contains the names of 133 individuals on which Hanoi continues to withhold information and accounting on 17 years after the Vietnam War. The 133 cases had been reduced to 87 as of August 1992. As of October 1992 Pentagon officials say 74 discrepancy cases remain unresolved. As of December 30, 1992 Maj. Gen. Thomas Needham, the head of the Joint Task Force for a Full Accounting, claimed that the number of discrepancy case that remain unresolved and are still under investigation are related to 72 individuals. Thus not all last known alive and in Hanoi's grasp cases have been resolved.

According to Col. John Cole (the head of a team of 63 investigators in Vietnam DIA's ground teams in Vietnam investigating the discrepancy cases) in his opening statement on November 6 1991 - Despite Vietnamese claims of total freedom of travel to pursue

firsthand sightings, both captive and living freely, our investigators have not yet been permitted by the Vietnamese to travel outside Hanoi to complete these investigations.

According to William Gadoury, a Casualty Resolution Specialist, in his opening statement on November 6, 1991, instead (of investigating live sighting reports) our activities were limited to crash site surveys and grave site excavations.

The U.S. side has not asked for access to all 2,265 cases of missing Americans in S.E. Asia, but only for unrestricted access to the last known alive cases. Everything we've asked Hanoi for has not been done. Hanoi's cooperation has not been significant. One can not move forward or work with their eyes closed to these facts.

7. General Eugene Tighe a former Director of DIA (Defense Intelligence) formed and headed a panel in 1985 & 1986 that reviewed 43 case files from a data base consisting of 5,387 reports (see page 9, October 15, 1986 hearing record House Asian & Pacific Affairs Subcommittee-The Tighe report on American POWs and MIAs). Thus it was clear in 1985 and 1986 that 43 individual discrepancy case files had received over 5,387 refugee live sighting reports from first, second, and third hand witnesses. Hanoi refused to cooperate on these reports in January 1986 when Richard Armitage gave the Vietnamese 3 of these reports.

8. Although Hanoi has agreed to turn over historical archive data, captured U.S. military equipment taken from captured pilots, flight suits, Social Security cards, museum items relating to specific individuals, and combat photography, Hanoi has not agreed to unrestricted short notice access to live sighting locations. Hanoi continues to encumber these requests.

9. Based upon the release of 4,800 combat photos, the U.S. press has claimed that Hanoi had taken a giant step in accounting for American MIAs. However the truth is that the photos show 2 Americans who are alive who have not yet been accounted for, and 11 photos of dead GI's that have not been accounted for. The release of 4,800 photos produced hard copy documentation that Hanoi was withholding an accounting of Americans who were in their grasp. The exiled former President of South Vietnam, Nguyen Van Thieu, now 69, who lives outside of Boston said, "I have never seen in the world, even with the worst communists, the use of the dead and their bodies, the remains of dead soldiers, sold back one

by one to blackmail a government." Very clearly Hanoi has exploited MIA remains to gain political leverage over the USA. The release of combat photos by Hanoi does not meet the criteria the United States has set for normalizing relations.

10. As of November 30, 1992, *Time Magazine* reported a growing number of spies in the U.S. are specializing in stealing business information. Operatives from Russia, China, Vietnam, and Cuba have been identified by the FBI, says Wayne Gilbert, chief of the FBI's counter-intelligence office. The civilian White House policy makers cannot undercut the significance of Vietnam's involvement in industrial espionage directed against the United States and reported by the FBI.

11. The Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs will be producing a 600 page report due out in a matter of days. They have spent \$2 million dollars and 16 months investigating whether any American GI's were left behind in Southeast Asia at the end of the Vietnam War. This report should be reviewed and ventilated before the American public before any moves to improve ties with Vietnam are taken. Officials who have returned from Vietnam say they have found no evidence of POWs in Vietnam, but they are only allowed to take the VIP tour.

12. Veterans groups do NOT support lifting the trade embargo. James Brazee, the President of the 45,000-member Vietnam Veterans of America opposes lifting the trade embargo. J. Thomas Burch, the Chairman of the 300,000-member National Vietnam Veteran Coalition, opposes lifting the trade embargo. Roger Munson, the National Commander of the 3.1 million-member American Legion, put it in the strongest possible terms that President Bush should hold the line against Vietnam and not take any favorable action on expanding economic relations, lifting the economic embargo, or normalizing relations until our POW/MIAs have been accounted for and the anguish of the POW/MIA families has been ended. There is almost complete opposition to normal ties by the 900,000 Vietnamese-Americans who live in the United States. As the inside the beltway, ivory tower view prevails in DC, particularly inside the White House, it should not be a lot of new news that there is major opposition to moves to improve ties with Hanoi until our boys are accounted for. Clearly, U.S. demands for information about the missing have not been met, and more gestures toward Hanoi are unwarranted.

Hanoi has simply not been forthcoming on MIA

information, and has not earned a right to do business with America. We have to think as a group and define our destination. If the destination is to locate the last known alive POWs and answer the question - What happened to the Americans who were captured alive but not released?, this goal has not yet been obtained. The U.S. can not move forward based upon Hanoi's promise to grant full access to relics. We need absolute, unrestricted access to prisons and military facilities where live Americans have been seen and reported alive. The U.S. has been able to hand Hanoi an empty victory after it took over South Vietnam in 1975 by using its power to diplomatic and economic isolate Vietnam. The U.S. has opposed loans to Hanoi by the World Bank and should continue to do so. Those who would promote the geo-political significance of Vietnam as a market place have turned a blind eye on POW intelligence and pretended ignorance with regard to Hanoi's sluggish methods of accounting for the last known alive cases. The United States should continue to use force and pressure on Vietnam until our POW/MIA goal is achieved and not forfeit our only leverage over Hanoi - economic aid and prosperity.

I have placed a plan before Hanoi to take 200 veterans and MIA families to Vietnam to help in the search for missing Americans. Although Vietnam announced in mid-December 1992 that it encouraged veterans and MIA families to come to Vietnam to help in the search for missing Americans, and Vietnam's Communist Party General Secretary Do Muoi signed a memorandum to this effect, other Hanoi leaders in the Foreign Ministry, Defense Ministry, and Vietnam's United Nations Mission, have stopped plans to allow unrestricted private civilian ground searched for MIAs. Again, Hanoi's

stated public assurances have not been supported by the facts.

Please let me hear from you by return mail about your views on curtailing efforts to open business dealings with Vietnam before our last known alive POWs come home. If you have any questions please feel free to call me and I will locate answers for you.

Sincerely,

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