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Folder Title:
POW/MIA 7/24/92 [OA 7577]

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G	26	22	6	5

To Joanne
Date _____ Time _____

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

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TELEPHONED		PLEASE CALL	
CALLED TO SEE YOU		WILL CALL AGAIN	
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23-023

CARBONLESS

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Brookville, Ohio)

For Immediate Release

July 24, 1992

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF POW/MIA'S IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Stouffer Concourse Hotel
Crystal City, Virginia

9:35 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all. Sue, thank you very much. And, Ann, I'm just glad to be back with you and this organization. To members of the board, my respects; to the family, friends.

Let me first start off by saluting two former NSC hands -- Bud McFarland and Dick Childress over here who have worked very hard on all of this. (Applause.) And also the Chairman Emeritus, George Brooks. (Applause.)

Let me begin by thanking you for the opportunity to speak again to what has got to be one of the bravest and most dedicated groups of Americans in this country.

We live in a marvelous time, a time of tremendous opportunity. We've seen the end of the Cold War and the collapse of imperial communism and a new birth of freedom, from Moscow to Managua. America's courage, America's vision, America's values have indeed changed the world. (Applause.)

And, yes, the Cold War may be over, but the noble cause that took your fathers, your sons and your husbands away from home is with us still. And our work must not end and will not end until you have answers about your loved ones. (Applause.)

Over the past 20 years, the National League of Families has seen the issue of your missing swept up in international or domestic politics, manipulated by foreign governments, exploited by con men, sensationalized by the media. And all that time, you never lost sight of what you were looking for: good faith, an honest effort to resolve your uncertainty, to find answers to the agonizing question that you live with every day.

Sometimes you may have wondered whether your government had forgotten you. And when President Reagan and I took office in

MORE

'81, we made your ordeal our top priority. We knew that with all the uncertainties you live with, the one thing you should be sure of is that your government really cares.

You're talking to a person that was shot down himself in combat. Fortunately, I wasn't taken prisoner, but I was shot down in combat. I understand a little bit what that means. I understand what it means. And so we set out to meet with you to ask your advice.

And when we took office, no policy-level negotiations with Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia had been held for several years. And despite the fears of some that negotiating with Vietnam implied recognition, despite the fears of others that the POW/MIA issue was a Cold War fantasy, we took your advice and entered into high-level negotiations.

And when we took office, some saw this issue as a matter between this nation and Vietnam, not part of broader relations between the U.S. and Soviet, China and our friends in ASEAN -- the ASEAN countries. We took your advice and urged our friends as well as our adversaries to help us find the answers.

And let me add that I am gratified to hear the ASEAN ambassadors are here today. I salute them over there. (Applause.) They are cooperating with us. Their countries deserve credit for their understanding, for their help and for their fellowship with you, the families. (Applause.)

Most important of all, when we took office, we came up against a string of official statements -- (audience disruption.)

No, no -- no, this is a very emotional -- understandably emotional. And the thing that I would say to you, however, as a veteran, and one who still wears my Navy wings from time to time is, I hope you understand how I feel about patriotism, about service to my country. And I will put my record up against anybody here. (Audience disruption.) And I just -- would you please be quiet and let me finish. (Applause.) Would you please shut up and sit down. (Applause.)

And I would say this: To suggest that a Commander-in-Chief that led this country into its most successful recent effort would condone for one single day the personal knowledge of a person held against his will, whether it's here or anyplace else, is simply totally unfair. (Applause.) Now, to say I understand the agony that I've reheard here today is true. I do.

But I do not like the suggestion that any American anywhere would know of a live American being held somewhere against his will, whether it's here or the allegation being over in the other

part of the world -- Iran; the suggestion was made that we left people being prisoner in Iran so to win an election. Now, what kind of an allegation is that to make against a patriot? What kind to make against -- it is not.

And so I would simply say to you: I care about it. We are trying and we're going to continue to try. And I understand the divisions here. I understand the divisions we hear in these hearings. I understand the agony that people feel. But I would also like to ask that you understand where I'm coming from on this issue. And I think most of you do. And I'm going to continue to try. (Applause.)

We talked about Presidential commissions and congressional committees indicating that they felt Vietnam had done all it could. And once again, we took your advice. We refused to accept the fact that the book was closed.

And it's no secret to any of you that for many years now, significant lobbying has taken place in opposition to this policy. And some of it comes from those same voices we've heard since the '70s -- people who want us to pretend Vietnam never happened. And some comes from people who seek to smooth over sticking points that stand in the way of commercial opportunities.

And others say, look, the war is over, let's move on. And that is something we can and will never say. (Applause.) For us, the POW/MIA issue is not a sticking point; not some bad dream we shake off; not a footnote from a forgotten time we can simply ignore.

The POW/MIA issue is something entirely different -- something more. And this I want you to understand: It is a question of justice, of oaths sworn, of commitments kept, and a nation's test of its own worth measured in the life of one, lone individual. (Applause.) And this we know: The wounds won't heal, the American family will not be whole, as I said earlier, so long as the brave men remain missing.

And in my Inaugural Address as President, I did say that "goodwill begets goodwill." And in the spirit of that statement, we developed a detailed road map for Vietnam -- a road map that addresses our objectives as well as that government's desire in terms of diplomatic and economic relations with the United States.

Let me be very clear: Without further positive movement on the POWs and MIAs, we cannot and will not continue to move forward with Hanoi. (Applause.)

Now, the other side of this is where they have moved, we've responded. When the government of Vietnam pledged greater cooperation, including field operations, we greatly increased our

MORE

manpower, even opened a permanent office in Hanoi. And while we've seen an unprecedented level of joint investigations, these activities have not provided the concrete results that we seek.

Make no mistake, we want to continue and expand our joint efforts. And I'll never accept joint activities as a substitute for real results. (Applause.) Your long years of uncertainty must end. And I am pledged to end them in any way I can. (Applause.)

And now as a measure of simple human decency, I call on the government of Vietnam again to repatriate all recovered and readily recoverable remains. I call on the government of Vietnam to act without delay.

And I can say in return the United States stands ready to move forward on the road map that we've laid out. My message is the same to the other nations of Indochina. In Laos, our joint field operations have produced definitive answers, but the process remains painfully slow and cumbersome. We recognize the reality that most of our men unaccounted for in Laos were lost in areas under Vietnamese control.

Our relations with Laos have grown from wary distrust in those early '80s, to a broader, more open relationship. We cannot let this momentum wane. And I address the Lao leaders when I say our relationship can grow further, and will, if and when they provide the cooperation we now seek. (Applause.)

Our years of trying to seek cooperation from Cambodia and the Soviets were not rewarded until just recently. The UN-sponsored settlement plan in Cambodia, the historic changes in the lands that used to be the Soviet Union have opened the way for unprecedented access. And we will push hard to translate this access into answers. (Applause.)

I know you've lived through hopes and then hopes dashed before. And unfortunately -- and it breaks my heart to see this happen, we have seen false reporting. I think we would all agree there have been some scam operations that divert manpower and sap our resources. I simply cannot fathom the cruelty of those who would exploit that issue for personal gain. (Applause.)

Nevertheless, we are determined not to allow such incidents to discourage us. And we're going to continue to pursue and openly receive information from all sources and continue to treat each report -- every report -- as the breakthrough that just might end the ordeal of one single American family. (Applause.)

I think our efforts have produced some results. For 241 families, the uncertainty has ended. For others -- too many others

MORE

-- the questions linger. And every day now, it seems, the news purports to unearth some great new revelation of fact -- facts that you've known for 20 years and facts we've shared with you for a decade.

Well, the key fact is one we all agree on: There are Americans who did not return home at the end of hostilities -- and Americans last known to be alive. Accounting for these men remains this highest priority. (Applause.) And although there's not proof that any Americans are now alive, in the absence of firm answers, our assumption will always be: Let facts direct our policy. And let hope be our guide. (Applause.)

So the policy remains: full disclosure -- full disclosure of all relevant information to families. And we're going to continue to cooperate fully with congressional committees to ensure the access they must have to perform their oversight role.

But there are some things we're not going to do. However loud the critics may complain, we will not publicly release any information that would jeopardize ongoing intelligence or negotiating efforts to account for your missing loved ones. (Applause.)

And let the critics complain. We have got to get this job done. And as President, I take it to be an article of faith -- a solemn covenant with those who serve this country: The United States will make every possible effort always, take every possible action, to account for those taken prisoner or missing in action. Our aim remains: the fullest possible accounting for our POWs and MIAs and nothing less. And I want you to know that comes to you with conviction. (Applause.)

Let me just say something about this gentleman sitting here. Tell me your name again -- Jeff. I can't pretend to know the grief that you carry in your heart. My experience in combat was a little different. My wingman was shot down the first -- disappeared the first mission I was on. We had maybe something like seven out of our squadron of 15 killed.

I understand what combat is, but I can't -- because of the way Barbara and I feel about our family -- I can't try to say that I understand the grief that you carry with you every day -- the anguish of uncertainty. So I don't want to try to put myself with everybody here who has suffered for a long time on a equal plane in that sense. That's not what I'm trying to do.

But I can remember that day that I mentioned to you fifty years ago, when I was a scared kid -- 20 years old, I think -- floating around just a couple of miles off a Japanese-held island. And I remember the uncertainty at that moment. And I can remember,

when I wasn't wondering if anyone would find me at all, my worry was who's going to find me.

So what I'm trying to say is, I can identify with those who served. And I can identify with their sacrifice. I can identify as a father who lost a child with the family implications -- but again I'm not trying to put myself on the same plane with those who have suffered a lot.

But what I want to tell you is, I mean what I tell you in terms of priority. And I know there's doubt here, and I know people are saying, as this gentleman said right from the heart: "Go over there and bring them back." Do you think if I knew of one single person and where he is and how it was that I wouldn't do that? Of course, I'd do that. (Applause.)

And so all I'm asking -- all I'm here to say is I am the President, and I am the Commander-in-Chief. Some of you believe it, and some of you may not. But we are going to get this job done, and we are going to account for every single person who is missing. And I'm going to keep on it. I don't care how long it takes. (Applause.)

And thank you very, very much. Thank you. (Applause.)

END

10:00 A.M. EDT

To Flannic
Date 9/15 Time 4:15

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

M Mary Buckley
of (Ext.)

Phone 703 (418) 6800 7752
Area Code Number Extension

TELEPHONED	☒	PLEASE CALL	☒
CALLED TO SEE YOU	☐	WILL CALL AGAIN	☐
WANTS TO SEE YOU	☐	URGENT	☐

RETURNED YOUR CALL ☐

Message National League
of Cities

Operator CK



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DICK CHILDRESS
FORMER DIR. ASIAN
AFFAIRS NSC FOR
PRES. REAGAN

CONG. PETE PETERSON
(FLA.)

No/schedule

CONG. SAM JOHNSON (TX)

No/schedule

To Journal Mtg. @ 5pm.
Date _____ Time _____
- Mrs. Goodwin

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

M. Ed Cowling
of Dais Bldg Dirs. (9 mbrs.)
Phone 703-757-6257
Area Code Number Extension

TELEPHONED	PLEASE CALL	4
CALLED TO SEE YOU	WILL CALL AGAIN	
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RETURNED YOUR CALL ☒

4341
Message Key through signal
if not there.
4341
Operator Spot



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NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
1001 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NORTHWEST, SUITE 219
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036-5504

202/223-6846

UPDATE LINE: 202/659-0133

FAX TRANSMITTAL

TO: ~~BOB CHILDS~~ Jeannie DunbarFAX NUMBER: ~~202/202-2763~~ 456-6218TELEPHONE NUMBER: ~~202/202-2763~~FROM: ANN MILLS GRIFFITHS

FAX NUMBER: 202/785-9410

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 202/775-8076

DATE: 7/23/92TIME: 6:45 pmNUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THE COVER SHEET: 2

NOTES:

Per your request

ASEAN AMBASSADORS

His Excellency M.L. Birabbongse Kasemsri
Royal Thai Embassy
2300 Kalorama Road, NW
Washington, D.C. 20003
(WILL ATTEND OPENING SESSION FOR PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS)

His Excellency Abdul Majid Mohamed
Embassy of Malaysia
2401 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20008
(WILL ATTEND OPENING SESSION FOR PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS)

His Excellency Abdul Rachman Ramly
Embassy of Indonesia
2020 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036
(AMB. OT: SENDING LTC DADI SUSANTO & WIFE - MILITARY ATTACHE)

His Excellency Emmanuel Pelaez
Embassy of the Philippines
1617 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036
(WILL ATTEND THE OPENING SESSION FOR PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS)

His Excellency S.R. Nathan
Embassy of Singapore
1824 R Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20008
(WILL ATTEND THE OPENING SESSION FOR PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS)

His Excellency Dato Haji Mohammed Kassim
Embassy of Brunei
2600 Virginia Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20037
(ZAINIDI HAJI SIDUP, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, WILL ATTEND PRES. ADDRESS)

McGroarty/Bunton
July 21, 1992
6:00 p.m.
[POW-MIA]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES OF AMERICAN
PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
Stouffer Concourse Hotel
JULY 24, 1992
9:30 A.M.

Sue, Anne, members of the board, family members and friends,
and also my old friend, [[your Chairman Emeritus, Mr. George
Brooks.]]

Let me begin by thanking you for the opportunity to speak
again to one of the bravest and most dedicated groups of
Americans in this country.

Over the past 20 years, the National League of Families has
seen the issue of your missing relatives swept up in
international or domestic politics, manipulated by foreign
governments / exploited by con men / sensationalized by the
media. All that time, you never lost sight of what you were
looking for: 'good faith -- an honest effort to resolve your
uncertainty, to find answers to the question you live with every
day.

Many times you've wondered whether your government had
forgotten you. When Ronald Reagan and I took office in 1981, we
made your ordeal our priority. After years of neglect -- with
all the uncertainties you live with -- the one thing you should
be sure of is that your government cares.

So we set out to meet with you -- to ask your advice.

When we took office, no policy-level negotiations with
Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia had been held for several years.

Despite fears from the right that negotiating with Vietnam implied recognition, and from the left that the POW/MIA issue was a Cold War fantasy -- we took your advice and entered high-level negotiations.

When we took office, some saw this issue as a matter between this nation and Vietnam -- not part of the broader relations between the U.S. and Soviet Union, China and our friends in ASEAN. We took your advice, and urged our friends as well as our adversaries to help us find answers.

When we took office, we came up against a string of official statements, Presidential commissions and Congressional committees indicating that they felt Vietnam had done all it could. Once again, we took your advice -- and refused to accept indifference as an answer.

It is no secret to any of you that for many years now, significant lobbying has taken place in opposition to our policy. Some of it comes from those same voices we've heard since the '70's -- people who want us to pretend Vietnam never happened. Some comes from people who seek to smooth over sticking points that stand in the way of commercial opportunities.

Others simply say, "The war is over. Let's move on." //

But for us, the POW/MIA issue is not a sticking point. Not some bad dream we shake off. Not a footnote from a forgotten time we can simply ignore. The POW/MIA issue is something different -- something more: it is a question of justice. A

nation's test of its own worth -- measured in the life of one, lone individual.

This we know: The wounds won't heal -- the war won't end - - so long as even one brave American remains unaccounted for.

In my inaugural address as President, I said that "goodwill begets goodwill." In the spirit of that statement, we developed a detailed roadmap for Vietnam -- a roadmap that addresses our objectives, as well as that government's desires in terms of diplomatic and economic relations with the United States. Let me be clear: without that kind of positive movement on POW's and MIA's, we cannot and will not move forward with Hanoi. //

Where Vietnam has moved, we've responded. When the Government of Vietnam pledged greater cooperation -- including field operations -- we greatly increased our manpower. And while we've seen an unprecedented level of joint investigations -- these activities have not provided the concrete results we seek. Make no mistake: We want to continue and expand our joint efforts. But joint efforts can never be a substitute for real results that end your uncertainty. //

I continue to believe: Our own information suggests that Vietnam can resolve hundreds of cases, unilaterally and instantly. Once more, I call on the Government of Vietnam to act -- without delay. //

I can say, in return, the United States stands ready to move forward on the roadmap we've laid out.

My message is the same to the other nations of Indochina. In Laos, our joint field operations have produced definitive answers, but the process remains painfully slow and cumbersome. We recognize the reality that most of our men unaccounted for in Laos were lost in areas under Vietnamese control.

Our relations with Laos have grown from wary distrust in the early 1980's to a broader, more open relationship. We cannot let this momentum wane, and I address the Lao leaders when I say our relationship can grow further, and will, if they provide the cooperation we now seek.

Our years of attempting to seek cooperation from Cambodia and the Soviets were not rewarded -- until just recently. The UN-sponsored settlement in Cambodia -- and the historic changes in the lands of the old Soviet Union -- have opened the way for unprecedented access. We will push hard to translate this access into answers.

I know you've lived through all this before. We have, unfortunately -- and it breaks my heart to see this happen -- seen false reporting, even scam operations, that divert manpower and sap our resources. I simply cannot fathom the cruelty of those who would exploit this issue for personal gain.

Nevertheless, we are determined not to allow such incidents to discourage us. We will continue to pursue and openly receive information from all sources. We will continue to treat each report -- every report -- as the breakthrough that just might end one family's ordeal.

Our efforts since 1981 have produced results. For 241 families, the uncertainty has ended. For others -- too many others -- the questions linger. And every day now, it seems, the news purports to unearth some great new revelation of fact -- facts you've known for 20 years. Facts we've shared with you for a decade.

Well, the key fact is one we all agree on:

There are Americans who did not return home at the end of hostilities -- Americans last known to be alive in captivity.

Learning the fate of these men remains our highest priority.

And although we do not yet have proof that any Americans are now alive, in the absence of firm answers -- our assumption will always be: Let hope be our guide.

Our policy remains: full disclosure -- full disclosure of all relevant information to families. We will continue to cooperate fully with Congressional committees -- to ensure the access they must have to perform their important oversight role.

But there are some things we will not do -- however loud the critics may complain. We will not publicly release any information that would jeopardize ongoing intelligence efforts or negotiations to account for your missing loved ones -- America's missing heroes.

I repeat: let the critics complain. We have a job to do.

As President, I take it to be an article of faith -- a solemn covenant with those who serve this country: The United States will always make every possible effort -- take every

possible action -- to learn the fate of those taken prisoner or missing in action. Our aim remains: a full accounting for every POW and MIA -- nothing less. //

Let me close today with a few words from the heart. //

No, I don't know the grief you carry with you. I can't claim to understand the anguish of uncertainty -- or the solace of hope.

But I can remember the day -- almost fifty years ago now -- when I was a scared kid, alone in a raft, paddling against the current to keep from washing ashore on an enemy island. I can remember -- when I wasn't wondering if anyone would find me at all -- worrying about who might find me first. //

I was fortunate. / I know that.

And I learned first-hand what it means that America will never abandon its fighting men, whatever their fate. ///

You have my word: America will never forget. America will stand with you -- until every hero has come home. //

Thank you again for having me with you. God bless you -- and may God bless the greatest country on earth, the United States of America.

#

McGroarty/Bunton
July 23, 1992
6 p.m.
[POW-MIA]

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We live at a time of tremendous opportunity. We've seen the end of the Cold War -- the collapse of imperial communism -- and a new birth of freedom, from Moscow to Managua. America's courage -- America's vision -- America's values -- have changed the world.

Yes, the Cold War may be over, but the noble cause that took your fathers, your sons, your husbands away from home ... is with us still.

Our work must not end. Our work will not end -- until you have answers about your loved ones. //

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Sometimes you may have even wondered whether your government had forgotten you. / When Ronald Reagan and I took office in 1981, we made your ordeal ... our priority. We knew that -- with all the uncertainties you live with -- the one thing you should be sure of ... is that your government cares.

So we set out to meet with you -- to ask your advice.

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Others simply say, "The war is over. / Let's move on." //

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Our policy remains: full disclosure -- full disclosure of all relevant information to families. We will continue to cooperate fully with Congressional committees -- to ensure the access they must have to perform their important oversight role.

But there are some things we will not do -- however loud the critics may complain. We will not publicly release any information that would jeopardize ongoing intelligence efforts or negotiations to account for your missing loved ones -- America's missing heroes.

I repeat: let the critics complain. We have a job to do. //

As President, I take it to be an article of faith -- a solemn covenant with those who serve this country: The United States will always make every possible effort -- take every possible action -- to account for those taken prisoner or missing in action. Our aim remains: the fullest possible accounting for our POW's and MIA's -- nothing less. //

Let me close today with a few words from the heart. //

No, I don't know the grief you carry with you. I can't claim to understand the anguish of uncertainty -- or the solace of hope.

But I can remember the day -- almost fifty years ago now - when I was a scared kid, alone in a raft, paddling against the current to keep from washing ashore on an enemy island. I can remember -- when I wasn't wondering if anyone would find me at all -- worrying about who might find me first. //

I was fortunate. / I know that.

And I learned first-hand what it means to know that America will never abandon its fighting men, whatever their fate. ///

You have my word: America will never forget. America will stand with you -- until America's heroes have come home. //

Thank you again for having me with you. God bless you -- and may God bless the greatest country on earth, the United States of America.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 23, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: DAN MC GROARTY *DMG*
SUBJECT: PROPOSED REMARKS TO NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES OF
AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

I. SUMMARY

On Friday, July 24 at 9:30 a.m., in the Grand Ballroom of the Stouffer Concourse Hotel in Alexandria, Virginia, you will deliver remarks to 600 members of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia.

II. DISCUSSION

Your remarks (approximately 12 minutes / teleprompter) focus on this Administration's efforts for full accounting of each American POW and MIA.

Sue Scott, Chair of Board - intros potus
Ann Mills Griffiths - league exec. dir.

✓ Board members

McGroarty/Bunton
July 23, 1992
10:00 a.m.
[POW-MIA]

*David Gitlin
Cal. Atty. Gen.
Mo. Cab!*
*(Sec. Derwinski) will not be there
according to Mary@Lan*
PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS:

*Cong. Pete Peterson
may attend?*
*Bud McFarlane
202-223-2013*
is going - Karen
**NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES OF AMERICAN
PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
Stouffer Concourse Hotel
JULY 24, 1992
9:30 A.M.**

4 ambassadors?
Sue, Ann, members of the board, family members and friends,
and also my old friend, [[your Chairman Emeritus, Mr. George
Brooks.]]

Let me begin by thanking you for the opportunity to speak
again to one of the bravest and most dedicated groups of
Americans in this country.

We live at a time of tremendous opportunity. We've seen the
end of the Cold War -- the collapse of imperial communism -- and
a new birth of freedom, from Moscow to Managua. America's
courage -- America's vision -- America's values -- have changed
the world.

Yes, the Cold War may be over, but the war that took your
fathers, your sons, your husbands away from home ... did not end.
Must not end. Will not end -- until you learn the fate of your
loved ones. //

Over the past 20 years, the National League of Families has
seen the issue of your missing relatives swept up in
international or domestic politics, manipulated by foreign
governments / exploited by con men / sensationalized by the
media. All that time, you never lost sight of what you were
looking for: good faith -- an honest effort to resolve your

uncertainty, to find answers to the question you live with every day.

Many times you've wondered whether your government had forgotten you. When Ronald Reagan and I took office in 1981, we made your ordeal ... our priority. We knew that, after years of neglect -- with all the uncertainties you live with -- the one thing you should be sure of ... is that your government cares.

So we set out to meet with you -- to ask your advice.

When we took office, no policy-level negotiations with Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia had been held for several years. Despite the fears of some that negotiating with Vietnam implied recognition -- despite the fears of others that the POW/MIA issue was a Cold War fantasy -- we took your advice and entered high-level negotiations.

When we took office, some saw this issue as a matter between this nation and Vietnam -- not part of the broader relations between the U.S. and Soviet Union, China and our friends in ASEAN. We took your advice, and urged our friends as well as our adversaries to help us find answers.

And let me just add that I'm gratified to hear the ASEAN ambassadors are here to meet with you today. The ASEAN countries deserve credit for their understanding, for their help -- and for their fellowship with you, the families.

When we took office, we came up against a string of official statements, Presidential commissions and Congressional committees indicating that they felt Vietnam had done all it could. Once

again, we took your advice -- and refused to accept indifference as an answer.

It is no secret to any of you that for many years now, significant lobbying has taken place in opposition to our policy. Some of it comes from those same voices we've heard since the '70's -- people who want us to pretend Vietnam never happened. Some comes from people who seek to smooth over sticking points that stand in the way of commercial opportunities.

Others simply say, "The war is over. / Let's move on." //

That is something we can never say. ///

For us, the POW/MIA issue is not a sticking point. Not some bad dream we shake off. Not a footnote from a forgotten time we can simply ignore. The POW/MIA issue is something different -- something more: it is a question of justice. A nation's test of its own worth -- measured in the life of one, lone individual.

This we know: The wounds won't heal -- the war won't end -- so long as even one brave American remains missing.

In my inaugural address as President, I said that "goodwill begets goodwill." In the spirit of that statement, we developed a detailed roadmap for Vietnam -- a roadmap that addresses our objectives, as well as that government's desires in terms of diplomatic and economic relations with the United States. Let me be clear: without that kind of positive movement on POW's and MIA's, we cannot and will not move forward with Hanoi. //

Where Vietnam has moved, we've responded. When the Government of Vietnam pledged greater cooperation -- including

field operations -- we greatly increased our manpower. And while we've seen an unprecedented level of joint investigations -- these activities have not provided the concrete results we seek. Make no mistake: We want to continue and expand our joint efforts. I will never accept joint efforts as a substitute for real results. Your long years of uncertainty must end. //

As a measure of simple human decency -- I call on the Government of Vietnam to repatriate all recovered and readily recoverable remains. I call on the Government of Vietnam to act -- without delay. //

I can say, in return, the United States stands ready to move forward on the roadmap we've laid out.

My message is the same to the other nations of Indochina. In Laos, our joint field operations have produced definitive answers, but the process remains painfully slow and cumbersome. We recognize the reality that most of our men unaccounted for in Laos were lost in areas under Vietnamese control.

Our relations with Laos have grown from wary distrust in the early 1980's to a broader, more open relationship. We cannot let this momentum wane, and I address the Lao leaders when I say our relationship can grow further, and will -- if and when they provide the cooperation we now seek.

Our years of attempting to seek cooperation from Cambodia and the Soviets were not rewarded -- until just recently. The UN-sponsored settlement in Cambodia -- and the historic changes in the lands of the old Soviet Union -- have opened the way for

unprecedented access. We will push hard to translate this access into answers.

I know you've lived through all this before. Unfortunately -- and it breaks my heart to see this happen -- we have seen false reporting, even scam operations, that divert manpower and sap our resources. I simply cannot fathom the cruelty of those who would exploit this issue for personal gain. Nevertheless, we are determined not to allow such incidents to discourage us. We will continue to pursue and openly receive information from all sources. We will continue to treat each report -- every report -- as the breakthrough that just might end one family's ordeal.

Our efforts since 1981 have produced results. For 241 families, the uncertainty has ended. For others -- too many others -- the questions linger. And every day now, it seems, the news purports to unearth some great new revelation of fact -- facts you've known for 20 years. Facts we've shared with you for a decade.

Well, the key fact is one we all agree on:

There are Americans who did not return home at the end of hostilities -- Americans last known to be alive. //

Accounting for these men remains our highest priority. //

And although we do not yet have proof that any Americans are now alive, in the absence of fact or firm answers -- our assumption will always be: Let hope be our guide.

Our policy remains: full disclosure -- full disclosure of all relevant information to families. We will continue to cooperate fully with Congressional committees -- to ensure the access they must have to perform their important oversight role.

But there are some things we will not do -- however loud the critics may complain. We will not publicly release any information that would jeopardize ongoing intelligence efforts or negotiations to account for your missing loved ones -- America's missing heroes.

I repeat: let the critics complain. We have a job to do.

//

As President, I take it to be an article of faith -- a solemn covenant with those who serve this country: The United States will always make every possible effort -- take every possible action -- to learn the fate of those taken prisoner or missing in action. Our aim remains: the fullest possible accounting for every POW and MIA -- nothing less. //

Let me close today with a few words from the heart. //

No, I don't know the grief you carry with you. I can't claim to understand the anguish of uncertainty -- or the solace of hope.

But I can remember the day -- almost fifty years ago now - when I was a scared kid, alone in a raft, paddling against the current to keep from washing ashore on an enemy island. I can remember -- when I wasn't wondering if anyone would find me at all -- worrying about who might find me first. //

I was fortunate. / I know that.

And I learned first-hand what it means to know that America will never abandon its fighting men, whatever their fate. ///

You have my word: America will never forget. America will stand with you -- until America's heroes have come home. //

Thank you again for having me with you. God bless you -- and may God bless the greatest country on earth, the United States of America.

#

Mrs. Mary C. Currall-Backley

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

1001 CONNECTICUT AVE., N.W.
SUITE 219
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036-5504
(202) 223-6846

NATIONAL LEAGUE
OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS
AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Ed Cowley
~~Ed Cowley~~
NO PAGER

PRE-ADVANCE/WALK-THRU QUESTIONNAIRE

EVENT: Nat'l League of Families of Am. Prisoners and Missing in SE Asia

DATE: Fri 24th 9:30 am

TIME: 9:30 am -

LOCATION: Stouffer Concourse Hotel (Arlington, VA) (703) 418-6800
(GIVE DETAILS) 2399 Jefferson Davis Hwy
Arlington, VA
NO STAFF OFFICE

EXPECTED AUDIENCE: 600 League Members
(NUMBER AND COMPOSITION)

PRESS COVERAGE:

WH Press Corps, Locals

DAIS PARTICIPANTS: Sue Scott, Ann Mills Griffiths, Board Members

EXPECTED PARTICIPATION BY MEMBERS OF
CABINET/CONGRESSIONAL/ADMINISTRATION:

MOC

POTUS INTRODUCTION: SUE SCOTT, Chair of Board
(WHCA introduces POTUS onto stage, Sue Scott gives brief intro.)

PERTINENT SPEECH TOPICS:

REASON FOR EVENT:

PLEASE ATTACH PRE-ADVANCE/WALK-THRU CALL SHEET



Event: Nat'l League of Families
 Date: July 24, 1992

OFFICE OF PRESIDENTIAL ADVANCE IN-TOWN EVENT CONTACT SHEET

Name	Office	Phone Number
Presidential Advance Office		456-7565
Presidential Advance Fax Number		456-2820
Ed Cowling	WH-Advance Lead	703/998-7656 703/756-6257 (o)
Steve Ross	WH Advance Press Lead	646-4003
Kris Goodwin	WH Advance	456-7565
ANN Mills & GRIFFITHS	LEAGUE EX. DIR.	775-8076
MARY BACKLEY	DIR. OF GRG/PRESS LEAGUE	223-6846 (p) 785-9410 (FAX)
MARY DZAUGIS	OFFICE MANAGER LEAGUE	(202) 223-6846 (o)
Kathleen MacMillan	Stouffer Hotel- Convention Services	(703) 418-6900
Ellen Toups	STOUFFER HOTEL-	703-418-6800
Marie Minicy	WH-Advance	456-7565
RICHARD HULSE	STOUFFER HOTEL	703-418-6817
Kate Moran	WH- Political Affairs	202-456-7730
ED WALTERS	WH SPEECHWRITING	(202) 456-7750
Rob Griffiths	WH Public Liaison	202-456-7845
Karl Rosenfeld	Stouffer Hotel	703/418-6900
LINET Hough	STOUFFER HOTEL	703-418-6800
Raymond F. Morgan	STOUFFER HOTEL	703 418-6800
ORLANDO A. ROCHEVA	USSS - TSD	202-395-4004
DICK RATHMEL	USSS -	202-395-4112
Paul Sims	USSS	202/435-5100
Pedro T White	USSS	202 435-5100
JAMES KOLLAR	USSS	202-435-5100
JEFF HILDRETH	WHCA AV	202-395-4220
Helen Pennington	WHCA	202-757-5587
Wallace Niblack	WHCA	202-757-5514

WHAKE
ORLANDO ROAD
ANNIE JOHN

Steve Ross 646-4003
Ann Mills Griffiths
League Ex. Dir
Mary Backley - Ops
223-6846

Families arrive Wed, Thurs - mil.

Meeting convenes 9am

Troublemakers - only those registered for full league participation

9:30 am. BOD photo of w/ POTUS (9+1)

9:35 remarks

George Brooks? FO POTUS

Ann comes on w/ him

Sue Scott COB

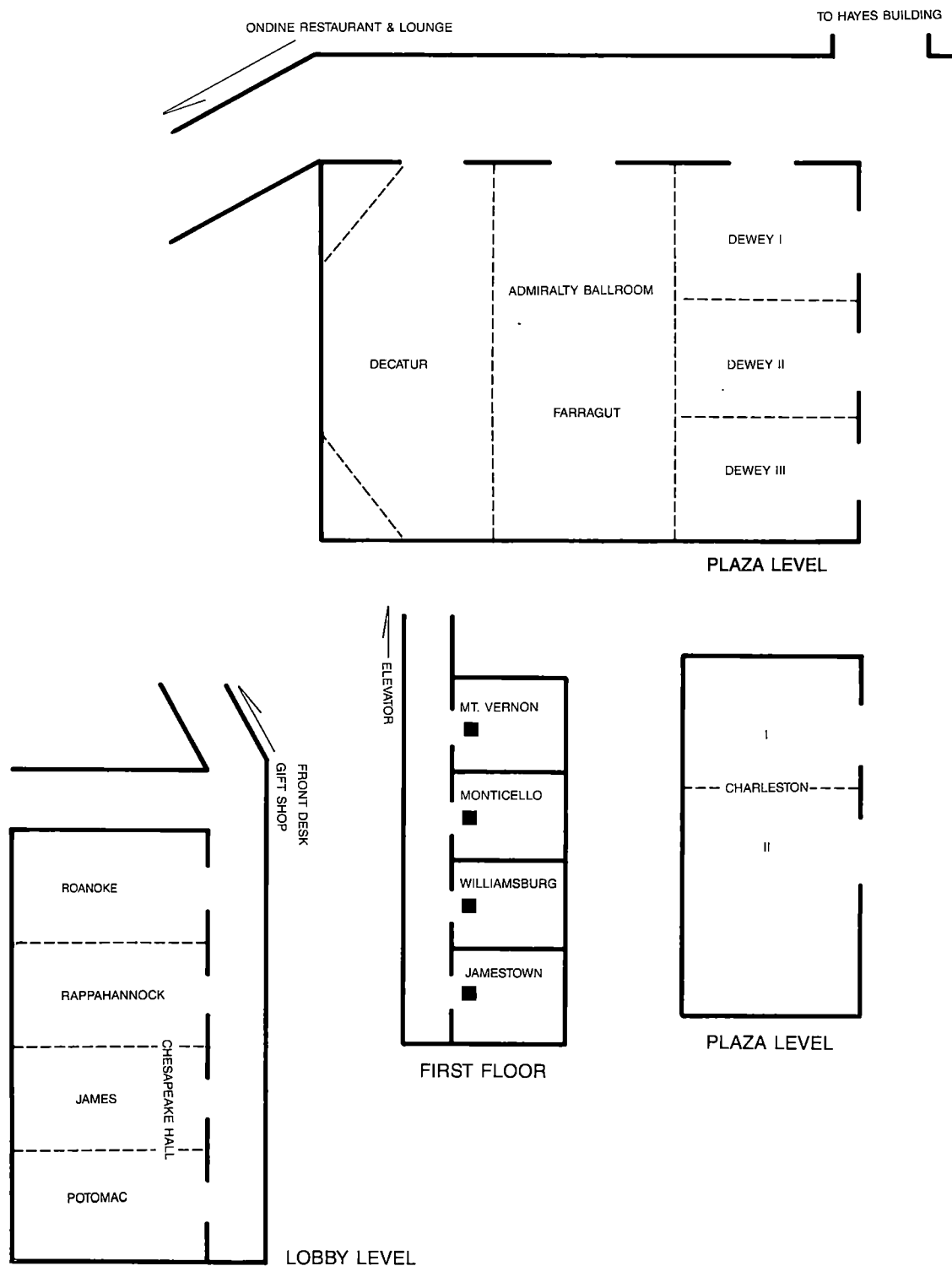
Helen

Christina

Prompter? (Not in post)

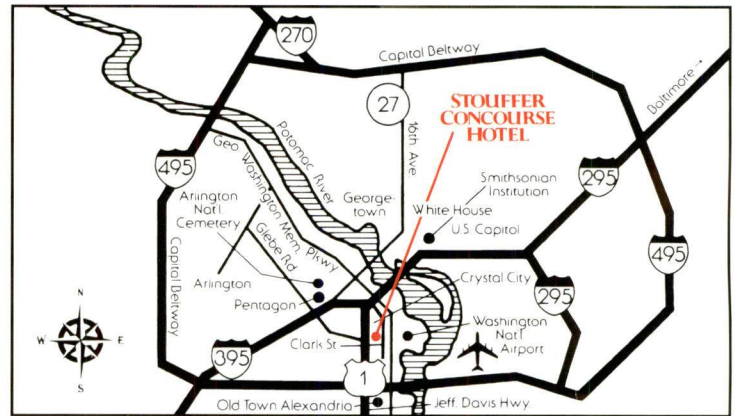
MEETING ROOM CAPACITIES

Meeting Room/ Room Reference Number	Dimensions (Width x Length x Height)	Square Footage	Meeting Room/ Room Reference Number	Dimensions (Width x Length x Height)	Square Footage
Admiralty Ballroom	70' x 95' x 12'	6,550	James	25' x 37' x 12'	925
Decatur	70' x 30' x 12'	2,000	Potomac	25' x 37' x 12'	925
Farragut	70' x 36' x 12'	2,520	Charleston I	23' x 26' x 10'	598
Dewey	70' x 29' x 12'	2,030	Charleston II	18' x 26' x 10'	470
Dewey I	29' x 23' x 12'	670	Mount Vernon	17' x 27' x 8'	408
Dewey II	29' x 23' x 12'	670	Monticello	17' x 24' x 8'	408
Dewey III	29' x 23' x 12'	670	Williamsburg	17' x 24' x 8'	408
Chesapeake Hall	100' x 37' x 12'	3,700	Jamestown	17' x 25' x 8'	425
Roanoke	25' x 37' x 12'	925	Boardroom 110	19' x 25' x 8'	475
Rappahannock	25' x 37' x 12'	925	Meeting Suites (4)	16' x 25' x 8'	400



STOUFFER CONCOURSE HOTEL

Minutes from Washington's Historic Sites



Address

2399 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, Virginia 22202
703/418-6800
Fax: 703/418-3763

Transportation to Hotel

Washington's Metrorail station nearby. One-half mile, three minutes from Washington National Airport; Complimentary shuttle service to and from Washington National Airport. Taxi available.

Guestroom Information

Number of Rooms: 386
Suites/Parlors: 7
Number of Floors: 12

Modern 12-story high-rise with three full-service Club Floors. All rooms are soundproof with climate control, color TV with complimentary HBO, CNN, ESPN and The Disney Channel, radio and direct-dial phone with message alert. Hospitality suites have wet bar and refrigerator. Complimentary coffee and newspaper with wake-up call. Turn-down service in the evening upon request.

Recreational Facilities

Indoor swimming pool, saunas, sundeck, exercise room and game room.

Guest Services and Shops

Sundries shop. Director of guest services provides tour and local information. Complimentary shuttle service to the Pentagon City Mall featuring Macy's and Nordstrom's. Complimentary shoeshine. Staff fluency: Arabic, French, German, Spanish. Valet and indoor self-service parking for 350 cars.

Dining and Entertainment

The *Ondine* restaurant features American cuisine and is open for breakfast 6:30AM-11AM, lunch 11AM-2PM, dinner 5:30PM-11PM and special brunch on Sunday. The *Ondine Lounge* offers a lighter menu and entertainment nightly except Sunday; open 11AM-1:30AM. *Clark's* lobby bar features a special ambience. 24-hour Room Service available.

Location

Airport hotel located in Crystal City, adjacent to Washington National Airport, ten minutes from the government and business centers of the Capitol. Located on N/S Highway 1 (Jefferson Davis Highway), five miles east of N/S I-395, near George Washington Parkway.

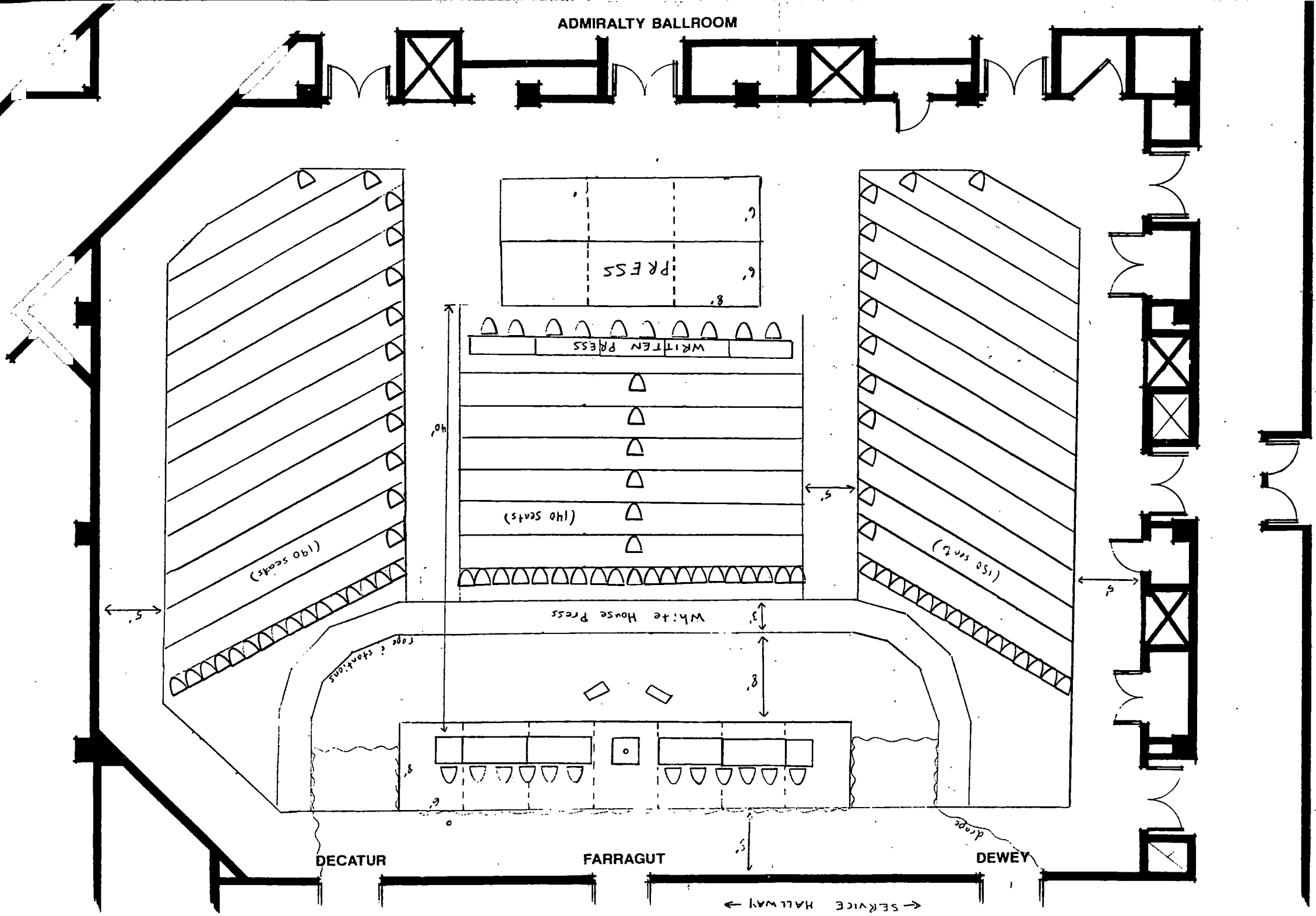
General Meeting Facilities Overview

- Portable walls provide a total of 20 meeting rooms
- Over 15,000 sq.-ft. of function space
- Admiralty Ballroom with reception capacity of 700
- Highly flexible meeting space featuring five boardrooms
- 2 ballrooms
- 4 meeting suites

Notes



National League of Families
 General Session: Diagram #2 (Revised)
 Friday, July 24 - Saturday, July 25



Inaugural Address

January 20, 1989

Mr. Chief Justice, Mr. President, Vice President Quayle, Senator Mitchell, Speaker Wright, Senator Dole, Congressman Michel, and fellow citizens, neighbors, and friends:

There is a man here who has earned a lasting place in our hearts and in our history. President Reagan, on behalf of our nation, I thank you for the wonderful things that you have done for America.

I've just repeated word for word the oath taken by George Washington 200 years ago, and the Bible on which I placed my hand is the Bible on which he placed his. It is right that the memory of Washington be with us today not only because this is our bicentennial inauguration but because Washington remains the Father of our Country. And he would, I think, be gladdened by this day; for today is the concrete expression of a stunning fact: our continuity, these 200 years, since our government began.

We meet on democracy's front porch. A good place to talk as neighbors and as friends. For this is a day when our nation is made whole, when our differences, for a moment, are suspended. And my first act as President is a prayer. I ask you to bow your heads.

Heavenly Father, we bow our heads and thank You for Your love. Accept our thanks for the peace that yields this day and the shared faith that makes its continuance likely. Make us strong to do Your work, willing to heed and hear Your will, and write on our hearts these words: "Use power to help people." For we are given power not to advance our own purposes, nor to make a great show in the world, nor a name. There is but one just use of power, and it is to serve people. Help us remember, Lord. Amen.

I come before you and assume the Presidency at a moment rich with promise. We live in a peaceful, prosperous time, but we can make it better. For a new breeze is

blowing, and a world refreshed by freedom seems reborn. For in man's heart, if not in fact, the day of the dictator is over. The totalitarian era is passing, its old ideas blown away like leaves from an ancient, lifeless tree. A new breeze is blowing, and a nation refreshed by freedom stands ready to push on. There is new ground to be broken and new action to be taken. There are times when the future seems thick as a fog; you sit and wait, hoping the mists will lift and reveal the right path. But this is a time when the future seems a door you can walk right through into a room called tomorrow.

Great nations of the world are moving toward democracy through the door to freedom. Men and women of the world move toward free markets through the door to prosperity. The people of the world agitate for free expression and free thought through the door to the moral and intellectual satisfactions that only liberty allows.

We know what works: Freedom works. We know what's right: Freedom is right. We know how to secure a more just and prosperous life for man on Earth: through free markets, free speech, free elections, and the exercise of free will unhampered by the state.

For the first time in this century, for the first time in perhaps all history, man does not have to invent a system by which to live. We don't have to talk late into the night about which form of government is better. We don't have to wrest justice from the kings. We only have to summon it from within ourselves. We must act on what we know. I take as my guide the hope of a saint: In crucial things, unity; in important things, diversity; in all things, generosity.

America today is a proud, free nation, decent and civil, a place we cannot help but love. We know in our hearts, not loudly and proudly but as a simple fact, that this

country has meaning beyond what we see, and that our strength is a force for good. But have we changed as a nation even in our time? Are we enthralled with material things, less appreciative of the nobility of work and sacrifice?

My friends, we are not the sum of our possessions. They are not the measure of our lives. In our hearts we know what matters. We cannot hope only to leave our children a bigger car, a bigger bank account. We must hope to give them a sense of what it means to be a loyal friend; a loving parent; a citizen who leaves his home, his neighborhood, and town better than he found it. And what do we want the men and women who work with us to say when we're no longer there? That we were more driven to succeed than anyone around us? Or that we stopped to ask if a sick child had gotten better and stayed a moment there to trade a word of friendship?

No President, no government can teach us to remember what is best in what we are. But if the man you have chosen to lead this government can help make a difference; if he can celebrate the quieter, deeper successes that are made not of gold and silk but of better hearts and finer souls; if he can do these things, then he must.

America is never wholly herself unless she is engaged in high moral principle. We as a people have such a purpose today. It is to make kinder the face of the Nation and gentler the face of the world. My friends, we have work to do. There are the homeless, lost and roaming. There are the children who have nothing, no love and no normalcy. There are those who cannot free themselves of enslavement to whatever addiction—drugs, welfare, the demoralization that rules the slums. There is crime to be conquered, the rough crime of the streets. There are young women to be helped who are about to become mothers of children they can't care for and might not love. They need our care, our guidance, and our education, though we bless them for choosing life.

The old solution, the old way, was to think that public money alone could end these problems. But we have learned that that is not so. And in any case, our funds are low. We have a deficit to bring down.

We have more will than wallet, but will is what we need. We will make the hard choices, looking at what we have and perhaps allocating it differently, making our decisions based on honest need and prudent safety. And then we will do the wisest thing of all. We will turn to the only resource we have that in times of need always grows: the goodness and the courage of the American people.

And I am speaking of a new engagement in the lives of others, a new activism, hands-on and involved, that gets the job done. We must bring in the generations, harnessing the unused talent of the elderly and the unfocused energy of the young. For not only leadership is passed from generation to generation but so is stewardship. And the generation born after the Second World War has come of age.

I have spoken of a Thousand Points of Light, of all the community organizations that are spread like stars throughout the Nation, doing good. We will work hand in hand, encouraging, sometimes leading, sometimes being led, rewarding. We will work on this in the White House, in the Cabinet agencies. I will go to the people and the programs that are the brighter points of light, and I'll ask every member of my government to become involved. The old ideas are new again because they're not old, they are timeless: duty, sacrifice, commitment, and a patriotism that finds its expression in taking part and pitching in.

We need a new engagement, too, between the Executive and the Congress. The challenges before us will be thrashed out with the House and the Senate. And we must bring the Federal budget into balance. And we must ensure that America stands before the world united, strong, at peace, and fiscally sound. But of course things may be difficult. We need to compromise; we've had dissension. We need harmony; we've had a chorus of discordant voices.

For Congress, too, has changed in our time. There has grown a certain divisiveness. We have seen the hard looks and heard the statements in which not each other's ideas are challenged but each other's motives. And our great parties have too often been far apart and untrusting of

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each other. It's been this way since Viet-
nam. That war cleaves us still. But, friends,
that war began in earnest a quarter of a
century ago, and surely the statute of limi-
tation has been reached. This is a fact: The
final lesson of Vietnam is that no great
nation can long afford to be sundered by a
memory. A new breeze is blowing, and the
old bipartisanship must be made new again.

To my friends, and, yes, I do mean
friends—in the loyal opposition and, yes, I
mean loyal—I put out my hand. I am put-
ting out my hand to you, Mr. Speaker. I am
putting out my hand to you, Mr. Majority
Leader. For this is the thing: This is the age
of the offered hand. And we can't turn back
clocks, and I don't want to. But when our
fathers were young, Mr. Speaker, our differ-
ences ended at the water's edge. And we
don't wish to turn back time, but when our
mothers were young, Mr. Majority Leader,
the Congress and the Executive were capa-
ble of working together to produce a
budget on which this nation could live. Let
us negotiate soon and hard. But in the end,
let us produce. The American people await
action. They didn't send us here to bicker.
They ask us to rise above the merely parti-
san. "In crucial things, unity"—and this, my
friends, is crucial.

To the world, too, we offer new engage-
ment and a renewed vow: We will stay
strong to protect the peace. The offered
hand is a reluctant fist; once made—strong,
and can be used with great effect. There
are today Americans who are held against
their will in foreign lands and Americans
who are unaccounted for. Assistance can be
shown here and will be long remembered.
Good will begets good will. Good faith can
be a spiral that endlessly moves on.

Great nations like great men must keep
their word. When America says something,
America means it, whether a treaty or an
agreement or a vow made on marble steps.
We will always try to speak clearly, for
candor is a compliment; but subtlety, too, is
good and has its place. While keeping our
alliances and friendships around the world
strong, ever strong, we will continue the
new closeness with the Soviet Union, con-
sistent both with our security and with
progress. One might say that our new rela-
tionship in part reflects the triumph of

hope and strength over experience. But
hope is good, and so is strength and vigi-
lance.

Here today are tens of thousands of our
citizens who feel the understandable satis-
faction of those who have taken part in de-
mocracy and seen their hopes fulfilled. But
my thoughts have been turning the past
few days to those who would be watching
at home, to an older fellow who will throw
a salute by himself when the flag goes by
and the woman who will tell her sons the
words of the battle hymns. I don't mean
this to be sentimental. I mean that on days
like this we remember that we are all part
of a continuum, inescapably connected by
the ties that bind.

Our children are watching in schools
throughout our great land. And to them I
say, Thank you for watching democracy's
big day. For democracy belongs to us all,
and freedom is like a beautiful kite that can
go higher and higher with the breeze. And
to all I say, No matter what your circum-
stances or where you are, you are part of
this day, you are part of the life of our great
nation.

A President is neither prince nor pope,
and I don't seek a window on men's souls.
In fact, I yearn for a greater tolerance, and
easygoingness about each other's attitudes
and way of life.

There are few clear areas in which we as
a society must rise up united and express
our intolerance. The most obvious now is
drugs. And when that first cocaine was
smuggled in on a ship, it may as well have
been a deadly bacteria, so much has it hurt
the body, the soul of our country. And
there is much to be done and to be said,
but take my word for it: This scourge will
stop!

And so, there is much to do. And tomor-
row the work begins. And I do not mistrust
the future. I do not fear what is ahead. For
our problems are large, but our heart is
larger. Our challenges are great, but our
will is greater. And if our flaws are endless,
God's love is truly boundless.

Some see leadership as high drama and
the sound of trumpets calling, and some-
times it is that. But I see history as a book
with many pages, and each day we fill a

page with acts of hopefulness and meaning. The new breeze blows, a page turns, the story unfolds. And so, today a chapter begins, a small and stately story of unity, diversity, and generosity—shared, and written, together.

Thank you. God bless you. And God bless the United States of America.

Note: The President spoke at 12:05 p.m. at the West Front of the Capitol. Prior to his address, the oath of office was administered by Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist. The address was broadcast live on radio and television.

Remarks to White House Visitors January 21, 1989

The President. Good morning, everybody. [Applause] Thank you. Thank you all very much. Let me just say that I know some of you have been up all night long. And so, what we want to do is not delay this but take whoever is first. And I gather that's been sorted out by whoever got first in line into the—

Visitors. No!

The President. Not quite?

Visitors. No!

The President. Okay, so there's some injustice out there. [Laughter]

Visitor. We love you, George! I love you!

The President. No, but this is the people's house, and it just seemed appropriate on

this first day that we welcome as many as we can. I have a little hiatus in the middle because I do have to go over to this building. I'm sure most of you recognize that as the West Wing, and then the office you see in the corner is the President's Oval Office. And I have to go sign one or two things and at least start to work over there, and then I will come back. Barbara will be here—some of our kids inside. But we just wanted to wish you well and welcome you to the people's house.

Thank you all very, very much. Thank you. We'll scoot on in.

Note: The President spoke at 8:05 a.m. at the Executive Entrance of the White House.

Question-and-Answer Session With Reporters January 21, 1989

The President. Good morning, Helen [Helen Thomas, United Press International].

First Day as President

Q. How are you? How does it feel to be President?

The President. It feels just fine—setting in now, after the glamour and excitement of the inauguration. It's a great joy to have my mother here, the leader of our family, a great joy to have our ten kids over there last night. One got sick, so I had the duty at about 6 a.m. this morning. Ellie LeBlond—pumped a half a Tylenol into her, and she's

looking good. Ate two pancakes—what you'd call a rapid recovery.

Q. Which one was ill, sir?

The President. Ellie, Doro's daughter, the Thousand Points of Light kid that ran across in the commercial. No, but it's so exciting over there and just a joy to have the family all there. They'll start leaving. We have a luncheon today with 240.

Mrs. Bush. Oh, really?

The President. Yes, 240—family.

Mrs. Bush. Oh, my Lord!

Q. Are you responsible for all that? Are you responsible for 240?

92 JUL 20 09

NSC

Sue, Ann, members of the board, family members and friends, and also my old friend, your Chairman Emeritus, and one of the first Vietnam veterans, only this time it was with me during World War II, Mr. George Brooks. As you know from my previous times with you, my family could have been in your situation.

Let me begin by thanking you for the opportunity to speak again to one of the bravest and most dedicated groups of Americans in this country.

Over the past 20 years, you have seen the issue of your missing relatives swept up in international or domestic politics, manipulated by foreign governments and exploited by con men. You have suffered through interminable periods of lack of attention by your own government and distortions by the media.

Through all of this, you simply asked for good faith -- an honest priority effort to resolve your uncertainty.

When I assumed the Vice Presidency under President Reagan in 1981, the Administration knew we needed help. We set out to meet you and ask your advice. And, you gave us good advice.

You were right; the effort was dying. People in government who cared had no backing, but they were laboring and hoping for support, as were you. Since that time, have we ever seen changes!

If we can recall those earlier days, no policy-level negotiations had been held with Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia on POW/MIA for several years. Despite fears from the right that negotiating with Vietnam implied recognition, and from the left that the POW/MIA issue was a false one, we took your advice and entered high level negotiations.

Despite a string of official statements, Presidential commissions and Congressional committees indicating that they felt Vietnam had done all it could do, we again followed your advice and rejected those conclusions.

Despite efforts in the previous administration to shut down our intelligence priorities and minimize technical dialogue, we followed your advice and raised intelligence priorities and tripled manpower and resources across the board.

Despite an international perception that the issue was resolved, we again took your advice and energized an active diplomatic effort, enlisting the help of our friends, especially those in ASEAN, to urge Vietnamese cooperation, and raised the issue at the highest levels of both the Soviet and Chinese governments.

In my first speech to you in 1985, I discussed many of our initiatives, and our hopes, with you. It was soon after I spoke with you that Vietnam indicated its desire to cooperate fully and pledged to resolve the issue within two years.

We all were hopeful, as we saw unilateral Vietnamese actions increase, and you began to receive answers. Sadly for us all, Vietnam backed away from their agreements and halted cooperation.

Though discouraged, we picked ourselves up again, appointed General Jack Vessey as a Special Presidential Emissary to Hanoi and re-energized our efforts. Through hard work and your strong support, Vietnam once again agreed to expand cooperation. Our hopes rose as answers we had sought together for so long began, once again, to come to our shores and to you, the families.

JUL-17-92 FRI 18:05 P.04/08

In my inaugural address as President, I said that "goodwill begets goodwill," and in the spirit of that statement, we developed a detailed roadmap for Vietnam that addresses our objectives, as well as their long-term desires in terms of diplomatic and economic relations with the United States. In that roadmap, it is clear that without the actions on POW/MIA we outlined as necessary, we cannot move forward with Hanoi.

It is no secret to you that for many years, significant lobbying has taken place in opposition to our policy. It emanates from those with the desire to heal the wounds of war, regardless of whether you have answers, by U.S. commercial interests which worry that U.S. business will suffer, by some in the Congress, and by those same tired voices of the 1970's who said that this is a false issue.

Although we can sympathize with ^{legitimate concerns} ~~some of the concerns they bring,~~ our business people bring to this issue, I want to reaffirm my original pledge to you today. Your fervent quest must take priority. As long as I am President, we will adhere to the roadmap; we will not move forward with Vietnam until they provide us the answers we seek.

In response to Vietnamese pledges of greater cooperation, to include field operations, we again greatly increased manpower in the past two years. Although we have seen an unprecedented level of joint investigations that have brought us some information, these activities have not provided the concrete results we seek - ~~many~~ ^{results} that can only be provided by the Vietnamese who have yet to make the necessary decision to do so.

While we ^{joint efforts} ~~intend~~ ^{want} to continue our joint efforts, I ~~want to~~ ^{and expand} pledge to you that ~~they~~ ^{that} will not be a substitute for results which ^{that} end your uncertainty. That can only happen with the return of a living American, his remains, or convincing evidence through records and on-site investigation as to why either is not possible.

JUL-17-92 FRI 18:00 P.05/08
Vietnam
its
I publicly ask Vietnam today to accelerate unilateral activities to resolve the discrepancies and open ~~their~~ archives to us. I, in turn, pledge to ~~them~~ that we will adhere to our word as embodied in the reciprocal steps in our roadmap.

By contrast, in Laos, our joint field operations have produced definitive answers, but the process remains slow and cumbersome. While recognizing that most of our men unaccounted for in Laos were lost in areas under Vietnamese control, Laos can and should do more to resolve discrepancy cases, accelerate approvals, and be more flexible in our joint endeavors.

Our relations with Laos have grown from wary distrust in the early 1980's to a broader, more open relationship. We cannot let this momentum wane, and I address the Lao leaders when I say our relationship can grow further, and will, if they provide the cooperation we now seek.

Our years of attempting to seek cooperation from Cambodia and the Soviets were not rewarded until recently. The UN-sponsored settlement in Cambodia and the welcome political changes in the former Soviet Union have provided us unprecedented access thus far. But without the national priority on accounting for our POW/MIAs over the past decade, those political changes would have come and gone without consideration of our need for answers.

Domestically, media reports ^{and} ~~or~~ political statements have purported to unearth great new revelations of fact -- which you have known for 20 years, and we have discussed with you for a decade. The recent "discoveries" of some have been published in official fact sheets and briefed to countless groups, and we still face the same facts.

Though it's less for your knowledge, I will repeat them now, and maybe in today's environment, some will pay more attention:

- There are Americans who did not return home at the end of hostilities and were last known to be alive in captivity. Well known to you as some of our discrepancy cases, accounting for these Americans has been and is our highest priority.
- Vietnam can easily resolve most of these cases; from just our own information, we ^{believe} have determined that Vietnam can resolve these and hundreds more, unilaterally.
- And although we do not yet have proof that any Americans are now alive, we will continue to operate on that assumption until concrete answers are forthcoming.

These are not revelations to you, nor to Hanoi; but, they are being portrayed by some as new or previously unknown facts, ignoring that they have been seriously addressed by policy initiatives from 1981, to this very moment.

Public attention to this recent spate of attention has led to a new round of charges of coverup, conspiracy, misinterpretation of official policy and calls to disgorge intelligence files, negotiations and family information.

I pledge today that our long-standing policy of full disclosure to you of all information that pertains or may pertain to your relatives will continue. We will continue to cooperate fully with Congressional committees to provide the access they require to fulfill their important oversight role.

However, I also pledge to you that despite criticism that may come our way, we will stand for principle. We will not publicly release information that would jeopardize our ongoing intelligence efforts or negotiations to account for your missing loved ones, America's missing heroes.

We cannot allow temporary or unfounded public clamor to destroy our

serious efforts. Our critics can read what they wish later; meanwhile, we have a job to do.

During your meeting, you will hear from Secretary Baker's and Secretary Cheney's representatives, our military personnel responsible for on-the-ground operations, as well as service casualty officers. I encourage you to ask questions, discuss your concerns in an open way, so they can better understand both your hopes and your frustrations. They all have my full support in their tough jobs, and they need yours.

It is especially helpful to our newly assigned personnel to learn the history of the issue from your perspective. You have the most to gain, or lose, from our efforts. If our communication or implementation in response to your expectations has been slow or insensitive, it is not due to the lack of caring. Thus, keep telling us how we can improve, and we will continue to respond.

Our public servants
The process -- *and it breaks my heart to see this happen*
They ~~all~~ are tasked to find the answers you seek, and in doing so, great dedication is demanded. *it* is not without its share of disappointments. We have, unfortunately, seen more false reporting, even scam operations, *that* which required significant manpower and resources to resolve. We share your disappointment in the outcome, and strongly condemn those who would exploit this issue for personal gain.

frustrated hopes of families
Nevertheless, we are determined not to allow such incidents to discourage us or turn us into cynics. We will continue to pursue and openly receive information from all sources. We will continue to treat each report seriously through diligent follow-up.
painstaking

Our efforts since 1981 have ended the uncertainty of 241 families. It is my fervent desire that all of you who possibly can will receive concrete answers. I am determined, as your President, to continue our priority efforts to that end.

this note
enclaves

In order for us to succeed, we need your continued counsel, advice and support. I also call on all Americans, regardless of politics or profession, to unite with us in that quest). In doing so, we send a strong signal of our determination to the governments in Indochina. We will not compromise on our goals. Final healing can only come when the answers we seek are forthcoming from the governments ^{that} which hold them.

Before I close, I want to also publicly recognize something the League has done, which you did not set out to do, but which has changed us all. Your steadfast purpose and determination to obtain answers has spread to the entire world. In the future, those missing from any war, under any political circumstance, have entered the dialogue of the world's nations.

More importantly, at home, your quest has energized our people to look at past wars in Korea and World War II. And, I wanted you to know from me, your spirit was in our meetings before, during and after Desert Storm, to ensure that we, as a government, would not allow the war to end until we were satisfied that all brave Americans who fought, and their families, were accounted for. That is a lasting legacy of which you can be proud.

Thank you again for having me with you. God bless you...and God bless our America.