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DRAFT REMARKS FOR PRESIDENT
National League of Families
20th Annual Meeting
J. W. Marriott Hotel, Washington
July 28, 1989

Mark Davis

from
Karl Jackson

George, Ann, it's good to be with all of you again. Just before coming here today, I was reflecting on being with you at your 1985 annual meeting and where we stood then on the issue. ^{PP} I recognized, as I do now, the magnitude of what ^{The families} you have endured through so many years of uncertainty. And with that realization comes the humbling awareness that despite these burdens, you have brought about a change in our nation that will never be reversed.

Yes, you had help, especially from my predecessor, President Reagan, whose personal commitment to determining the fates of your missing loved ones was key to changing national policies and priorities. As a result, never again will America's sons who serve and become missing be long-ignored.

Today, we see the symbol of this issue, the League's POW/MIA flag, on permanent display in the rotunda of our nation's Capital, a visible symbol of our national commitment to resolving the fates of our missing countrymen. It stands in a position of tremendous honor where it will remain until we have achieved our goal of obtaining the fullest possible accounting for your missing relatives.

Your flag can be seen across this land -- over statehouses, fire stations, schools, military installations and stadiums, even on board ships at sea -- a stirring reminder that America's sons are still missing as a result of our nation's noble effort to prevent totalitarianism from prevailing over freedom in South Vietnam.

The success of their efforts is only now becoming visible. The things for which your loved ones fought may finally be coming to pass. We are witnessing the failure of totalitarian and repressive communist regimes. The evidence is clear through recent events in China, the Soviet Union and even in Cambodia where Vietnam appears to be withdrawing their troops.

The value of freedom to people throughout the world was brought home to Barbara and me most recently on our trip to Poland and Hungary. The winds of freedom are blowing, and how we welcome these trends, knowing that so much has been sacrificed.

Some of our finest young men and women were lost during the many long years of the Vietnam war. And the divisions which resulted from our involvement there shook our country to her core. But as tragic as is the loss of a loved one, even more difficult to endure is the uncertainty which, for you, has extended over so many years.

Today, while I cannot promise results, I can promise our very best efforts and my personal commitment. I can also renew my pledges to you.

As long as there is a possibility that Americans remain alive, we will continue the search as a matter of highest national priority. If we discover proof of captivity, we will take action -- whatever action is required -- to bring our men home.

And so long as you, the families, suffer without answers, we will insist, in the name of humanity and with all the power at our disposal, on the fullest possible accounting from the governments of Indochina.

To those who complain in frustration that more must be done, I respond with understanding -- and a promise to do all that is possible. I do not counsel patience -- I counsel persistence.

And our persistence is paying off - many more of you have answers today than when your goals were adopted by our government in 1982. Most of us can recall the earlier days when many of you here felt compelled to demonstrate in front of the White House just to get official Washington to pay attention. Those days are over! Your goals are mine, and together we will succeed. Perhaps not as fast as we wish, but success is the only acceptable result.

We will persevere, and we have partners in our quest. The national veterans organizations had stood side-by-side with us throughout the long years this issue has been with us. Their contributions to ensuring that serious attention was paid by our government cannot be overstated. They recognize that your missing relatives are their missing members, their comrades in arms, not yet returned from honorable service to our nation and her values.

We also tend to think of government officials as faceless bureaucrats, just doing their jobs, but without motivation or commitment. That just isn't true! So many people, Americans just like us, are dedicated -- I'm speaking here not only of those Vietnam veterans and others who work daily to pursue answers but also the pilots who fly the missions to and from Hanoi, people in embassies around the world who get excited when a new report is obtained, and secretaries and four star officers who would give dearly to be a part of significant success on this issue. These people also, unnumbered hundreds, are our partners.

Few matters before the Congress receive such strong bipartisan support as efforts to resolve the POW/MIA issue. I commend the Congress, especially Bob Dole, Steve Solarz, Bob Lagomarsino and Ben Gilman, for the leadership they have shown in demonstrating to the Indochinese Governments the strength of their commitment. Most recently, they have again passed resolutions establishing National POW/MIA Recognition Day, this year on September 15, 1989. Tom Nielsen's achievement in creating this artistic symbol of our nation's unified commitment is truly remarkable.

Shortly, I will issue the official proclamation calling upon all Americans to honor their missing countrymen and those who served as POWs by participating in ceremonies across our nation. Last year's Recognition Day found me in Ohio, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, participating in the dedication of the River Rats' Missing Man Memorial. George was with me there for what was, to all of us, a very meaningful ceremony.

And I must mention here how invaluable Ann's guidance has been through my years as Vice President and since. Her knowledge and determination are an inspiration, and her participation in the Interagency Group provides ^{critical} unparalleled insights. We will continue to look to Ann for advice as we work to improve our efforts.

As I mentioned in my inaugural address, "Goodwill begets goodwill," and we appreciate Vietnam's increased responsiveness to that appeal. An unprecedented level of joint operations has brought significant progress. But despite expanded activities, many questions remain, and there is much to be done. Once again, I call upon Hanoi to act swiftly to remove this last vestige of the ^{armed} conflict ^{that once existed} between us.

Upon assuming office, I also noted that "no great nation can long afford to be sundered by a memory," alluding of course to our long controversial involvement in Vietnam. Even today, attitudes of distrust exist. But I believe they can be overcome by working together to resolve humanitarian issues of concern to both our nations.

We look forward to normalizing our relations with Vietnam, once an ^{comprehensive} acceptable settlement has been achieved in Cambodia which includes a verifiable troop withdrawal. But Hanoi clearly understands that as a practical matter, the pace and scope of this process will be directly affected by the seriousness of their cooperation on POW/MIA and other humanitarian concerns.

The increased POW/MIA cooperation provided by the Lao Government is particularly important. So many questions still exist, and so few answers have been received throughout the years. Recognizing the difficulties involved, their agreement earlier this year to a year-round program of cooperation is encouraging. You can be certain that we are seeking to expand upon this agreement in every possible way.

We also welcome the Lao Government's agreement to work bilaterally with us on combating the international scourge of narcotics. Implementing this agreement will be critically important to our improved bilateral relationship which has expanded steadily since 1982. We look to the future in our relations with Laos, recognizing the importance of steps they are taking toward opening their society and developing their economy for the good of the Lao people.

share of
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To the families of those missing in Cambodia, I reaffirm that my heart is with you, but our efforts to gain their humanitarian cooperation on resolving the fates of your missing loved ones has thus far been unsuccessful. Despite their public claims to be holding remains of some Americans, officials in Phnom Penh have failed to respond to our humanitarian appeals to return them. I call on Phnom Penh today to act responsibly, in the name of humanity, and return the remains they claim to hold. Failure to do so reflects very poorly on those seeking to convince the international community of their responsible behavior.

~~While unable to be with you last year at this time,~~ my message included four promises: "compassion, consistency, continuity, and above all, priority." Too often in the history of this issue, there has been a lack of official commitment, knowledge and continuity. You, the families, were the exception. While you consistently advocated official priority and compassion, your policies remained intact until adopted by our government. Today, I renew my promise to you. We will be compassionate and consistent; we will maintain continuity of policy, and, above all, this issue will continue to have priority.

The policies pursued during the past eight years have succeeded. Limited? Yes....Insufficient? Yes...but nevertheless significant. The process is working, and should be pursued with the high priority deserved.

As we proceed, we must continue to search for ways to improve the process. We must continue to apply the best resources, technology and people -- most of all qualified people -- for interviewing refugees, to evaluating intelligence information, and at the negotiating table.

It is for that very reason that I reappointed a man of the highest integrity and qualifications, General Jack Vessey, as my special POW/MIA emissary to Hanoi. I know that he will be with you this afternoon, along with senior officials from the Departments of State and Defense and the National Security Council who hold responsibilities in this issue. I have charged them all to do their utmost, and they know of my personal commitment to your missing loved ones and to you, their families.

I was truly fortunate to be able to persuade Dick Cheney to devote his considerable talents to serving as Secretary of Defense. We could not have found anyone with greater credentials for achieving the objectives we share on the POW/MIA issue. His years in the Congress and his knowledge of intelligence matters give him a background which is a rare combination. ~~I know that Dick has already met with Ann, and she shares my view that he has both~~ ^{Secretary Cheney} ^{I can assure you} personal commitment and professional expertise to draw from in developing initiatives which can help.

In closing, I am reminded of a recent incident which reflects a measure of success in our efforts. That was General Secretary Gorbachev's humanitarian appeal to the United States to help in obtaining the fullest possible accounting for Soviet citizens still prisoner and missing in Afghanistan. And of course, we will do what we can, on a humanitarian basis, just as we expect them to do what they can to encourage more serious and rapid cooperation from their allies in Indochina.

Our success has been in ensuring that throughout the world, the need for returning POWs and accounting for MIAs is recognized. You can be justifiably proud of that achievement.

God Bless you all. And God Bless America.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 20, 1989

INAUGURAL ADDRESS
OF THE PRESIDENT

The Capitol

12:05 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: 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. (Applause.)

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. (Applause.) 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.

MORE

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. (Applause.)

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 are 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. (Applause.) 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. (Applause.)

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 are not old, they are timeless: duty, sacrifice, commitment, and a patriotism that finds its expression in taking part and pitching in. (Applause.)

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 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 each other.

It's been this way since Vietnam. That war cleaves us still. But, friends, that war began in earnest a quarter of a century ago, and surely the statute of limitations 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. (Applause.)

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 putting 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 differences 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 capable 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 partisan. (Applause.) "In crucial things, unity" -- and this, my friends, is crucial.

To the world, too, we offer new engagement 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. Goodwill begets goodwill. 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. (Applause.) 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, consistent both with our security and with progress. One might say that our new relationship in part reflects the triumph of hope and strength over experience. But hope is good. And so is strength. And vigilance.

Here today are tens of thousands of our citizens who feel the understandable satisfaction of those who have taken part in democracy 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 circumstances or where you are, you are part of this day; you are part of the life of our great nation. (Applause.)

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, an easy-goingness 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. (Applause.)

And so there is much to do; and tomorrow 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 sometimes 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. (Applause.)

END

12:25 P.M. EST

Davis/Martin
July 27, 1989
Draft: Four
Title: Missing

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES/J.W. MARRIOTT
July 28, 1989/3:20 p.m.

Thank you George and Ann. It's an honor to be back with the National League of Families.

Earlier, I was reflecting on the magnitude of what you have endured through so many years of uncertainty. Despite your burdens, you have brought about a change in our nation that will never be reversed. Your organization provides us all with a stirring example of how citizens working together can help craft sound policy.

As you know, Barbara and I returned from Central and Eastern Europe two weeks ago. And in the faces of the brave workers of Gdansk and the hopeful students of Budapest, I saw a truth that cannot be denied -- the democratic ideal is winning the hearts of people around the world.

It is this ideal that we honor when we fly the flag. And it is for this ideal that so many Americans were ready when their country called.

Today we see the symbol of this commitment, the League's POW/MIA flag, on permanent display in the Rotunda of our nation's Capitol. It stands in a position of tremendous honor. **And it will not come down until we have the fullest possible accounting of your missing loved ones.**

Your flag can be seen across this land -- over statehouses, fire stations, schools, military installations and stadiums, even on ships at sea -- a stirring reminder that America's sons are still missing.

The ideals for which your loved ones fought may finally be coming to pass -- the failure of totalitarian and repressive communist regimes. The evidence is clear through recent events in China, the Soviet Union and even in Cambodia, where Vietnam appears to be withdrawing its troops.

Some of our finest young men and women were lost during the many long years of the Vietnam War. And the divisions that resulted from our involvement there shook our country to its core. But as tragic as the loss of a loved one is, even more difficult to endure is the uncertainty which, for you, has extended over so many years.

Now we are coming to a time when the divisions of the Vietnam War are healing; we have let go of the bitterness of the past. But with this reconciliation comes a temptation to forget those who served. **Yet we will not forget. And we will never break ranks.**

My friend and predecessor, Ronald Reagan, had a personal commitment to determine the fates of your missing loved ones. Because of his commitment, and your perseverance, the policies of this organization are now the policies of the United States government.

When I sought the presidency, I renewed President Reagan's pledge that we would write no lost chapters, we would close no books, we would put away no final memories until your questions about missing and possible prisoners of war have been answered.

And it is as you president that I repeat this pledge. . .

((Let me simply state the policy of this new Administration. The fullest possible accounting remains a matter of highest national priority. We will do everything that a government can do to recover the missing, and if we discover proof of captivity, we will take action to bring our men home.))

or

((And let me simply state the policy of this new Administration. As long as there is a possibility that Americans remain alive, we will continue our search as a matter of the highest national priority. If we discover proof of captivity, we will take action -- to bring our men home.))

And so long as you must live without knowing the fate of your loved ones, the United States will insist, in the name of humanity, that the governments of Indochina give the fullest possible accounting.

Frustration on this sensitive issue is very understandable. I hear those who say more must be done. If more can be done, then it will be. Understand this: **I do not counsel a timid patience, I counsel a bold persistence.** ((PAUSE))

And our persistence is showing some results; since the government embraced the goals of this organization, many more of you have found answers. Each answer has been another sad truth to learn. But every POW/MIA relative that I meet tells me that truth is preferable to the greater agony -- that of not knowing.

The task of learning more is daunting, but we can count on some powerful allies.

First are the national veterans organizations, those who have stood side-by-side with us through the long years. It was these veteran groups, supporting you, which protested government indifference to the POW/MIA issue in earlier years. Their contribution has been indispensable.

Other partners in our quest are the men and women in government who are dedicating their careers to learning the truth about our POWs and MIAs. These public servants are not uninspired bureaucrats just going through the motions. They have a deep and abiding commitment to their task. This is a commitment shared by people in the military services, in the Defense Intelligence Agency, in embassies throughout the world and among those American pilots who bring our fallen soldiers out of Hanoi, to at long last come home.

You also have many friends in both parties in Congress. I especially want to commend Bob Dole, Steve Solarz, Bob Lagomarsino and Ben Gilman, for showing the governments of Indochina the strength of bipartisan Congressional commitment to find answers. To keep this issue at the forefront, they have

again passed resolutions establishing National POW/MIA Recognition Day, this year on September 15th.

I must mention how invaluable the guidance of Ann Mills Griffiths has been through the years. Her knowledge and determination are an inspiration, and her participation in the Interagency Group provides critical insights. We will continue to look to her for advice and leadership.

And finally, I pledge to do all I can. I will soon issue a proclamation calling upon all Americans to honor their missing countrymen and those who served as POWs by participating in ceremonies across our nation. But this is just a beginning.

As I said in my Inaugural Address, "there are today Americans who are held against their will and Americans who are unaccounted for. Assistance can be shown here and will be long remembered. **Goodwill begets goodwill.**"

We appreciate Vietnam's increased responsiveness to that appeal. An unprecedented level of joint operations has already brought significant progress. But despite our increased activities, many questions remain. Once again, I call on Hanoi to swiftly dispel the shadow of doubt, to shed light on the fate of your loved ones. **I call on Hanoi to remove this last vestige of armed conflict between us.**

We look forward to normalizing our relations with Vietnam, once a comprehensive settlement has been achieved in Cambodia. That settlement must include genuine power sharing with the non-communist Cambodians led by Prince Sihanouk and in

internationally verified troop withdrawal. But Hanoi must clearly understand that, as a practical matter, the pace and scope of this process will be directly affected by the seriousness of their cooperation on POW/MIA and other humanitarian issues.

In Laos, so many questions remain, and so few answers have been received. In light of the difficulties involved, their agreement earlier this year to a year-round program of cooperation is encouraging. You can be certain that we are seeking to expand this agreement in every possibly way.

We also welcome the Lao Government's agreement to work bilaterally with us on combating the international scourge of narcotics. Implementing this agreement will be critically important to our improved bilateral relationship, which has expanded steadily since 1982. We look to the future in our relations with Laos, recognizing the importance of steps they are taking toward opening their society and developing their economy for the good of the Lao people.

To the families of those missing in Cambodia, I must tell you that our efforts to gain Phnom Penh's humanitarian cooperation on resolving the fates of your missing loved ones has thus far been unsuccessful. Despite their public claims to be holding remains of some Americans, officials there have been deaf to our appeals. I call on Phnom Penh to act responsibly, humanely, and return these remains. Failure to do so will surely hinder their efforts to gain international respect and support.

The policies pursued during the past eight years have shown some success. Incomplete? Yes . . . but progress is being made because our government is giving it high priority.

As we proceed, we will continue to search for ways to improve the process. We will continue to assemble the best resources, technology and, most of all, qualified people to interview refugees, evaluate intelligence information, and negotiate with foreign governments.

It is with that last mission in mind that I reappointed a man of the highest integrity and qualifications, General Jack Vessey, as my special POW/MIA emissary to Hanoi. I know that Jack was with you this morning, and senior officials from the Departments of State and Defense, and the National Security Council will follow me here. I have charged them all to do their utmost. They know, and share, my deep commitment to your missing loved ones and to you.

The principle responsibility for the POW/MIA issue rests with the Department of Defense. And for that reason, we are fortunate to have a very talented public servant as our Secretary of Defense. Dick Cheney's years in Congress and his knowledge of intelligence matters give him a rare understanding of, and a deep appreciation for, your concerns.

In closing, I want you to know that in my frequent travels to cities and towns across America, I see many heartfelt demonstrations of support for our cause. Americans know that across our land, every Thanksgiving, there are families that

still set an empty chair at the table. We know that faded photographs and school mementos are still being lovingly kept in scrapbooks. And questions remain, and will remain, until answered.

Now the mothers, fathers, wives, children and friends of another great power share the same kind of grief, share with you lingering doubts about missing loved ones. That this power, the Soviet Union, backed the North Vietnamese; and the United States backed the Afghan freedom-fighters, is an irony. But there is no room in the American heart for a mean-spirited and petty indifference. Far from it.

I am pleased to note that Soviet General-Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev recently made a humanitarian appeal for our help in obtaining the fullest possible accounting for Soviet citizens still prisoner and missing in Afghanistan. Let me answer him today: we will do everything we can. And in return, we expect the Soviets to do all they can do encourage more serious and timely cooperation from their allies in Indochina.

Working together, we can resolve the anguish of many families in two lands. And we can do something more . . . we can build a new spirit of peace.

In Ecclesiastes, it is written that there is a time for war, a time for peace and a time to heal. We will never forget those who served our country. And when we receive final answers about their fate, then this will truly be a time for healing.

Thank you, God bless you and God bless America.

- 1) NOT taken seriously before / began to close INUS. office
- 2) Hard to demon state
- 3) thing in time
- 4) Thank you for holding forth.
- 5) Vietnam Vet
- 6) People
- 7) Debt + duty - will not fail them.
- 8) PW-MIA's are highest priority. focus on POWs
- 9) Intelligence Joint Casualty Resolution Resolution on
- 10) Fullest Accounting
- 11) Will not rule out possibility Annals.
- 12) Vietnam till now minimal cooper.
- 13) ~~change~~ If change there, we will get them out.
- 14) ~~Route~~ : Viet / Cambodia / Laos
- 15) Ann Griffiths
- 16) My words War Two Navy Pilot

47TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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August 15, 1988, Monday, Final Edition

SECTION: STYLE; PAGE C1

LENGTH: 1061 words

HEADLINE: John McCain and His Prime-Time Moment

BYLINE: Phil McCombs, Washington Post Staff Writer

DATELINE: NEW ORLEANS

BODY:

Political parties use their conventions to showcase new talent, and tonight the Republicans will turn the spotlight on freshman Arizona Sen. John McCain, a former Navy pilot and POW in Vietnam who has already raised hackles in the Dukakis camp with his vigorous "truth-squad"-style campaigning for George Bush.

If things go according to schedule, McCain will deliver a prime-time 12-minute speech on defense and foreign policy -- matters on which he is strongly conservative -- immediately before the tribute to First Lady Nancy Reagan and the president's address to the convention.

"Every four years or so you have rising stars in the party, and McCain is that in '88," says Peter Teeley, a consultant to the Bush campaign. "He's highly intelligent, a very thoughtful conservative, a bona fide war hero, and he's handled himself well in the House and Senate. He's the type of fellow who's earned success."

McCain is also -- as he puts it -- "perhaps more liberal than many" Republicans on social and domestic issues. He voted to override the president's veto of the Grove City civil rights bill, favors sanctions against South Africa and has introduced legislation to greatly expand the federal government's telecommunications system so it can be used by millions of hearing-impaired people.

"The demographics in this country are changing," he says, "and we Republicans have got to reach out to minorities and to groups of Americans who may not traditionally be our voters ... In the Southwest, we're seeing a dramatic increase in Hispanic voters. If we're going to control the politics in the Southwest, then we're going to have to be much more sensitive to issues that concern Hispanics."

The party plans to use McCain in other ways here, too. He's been assigned to one of the Republican "caucus teams" -- consisting of members of Congress, Cabinet officers and "personalities" -- that will brief state delegations on the issues.

McCain chuckles about the show biz aspect of having a "personality" on his team. "Arnold Schwarzenegger is one, but do I get Arnold Schwarzenegger? Do I get Cheryl Ladd? No, I get Marvin Bush! Anyway, it's kind of to pump up the delegates and make 'em feel part of the situation."

(c) 1988 The Washington Post, August 15, 1988

McCain, 51, who has a friendly, almost folksy manner and pure white hair, was shot down over North Vietnam and spent six years in captivity. His arms were broken in bailing out and rebroken later during torture, and he still has a bit of difficulty putting on his jacket or drinking a cup of tea. At home in Arizona, he occasionally spends time talking to Vietnam veterans about their experiences in the war and after.

He's a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and comes from a long line of naval officers: His father, the late Adm. John S. McCain Jr., was commander in chief of U.S. forces in the Pacific at the peak of the Vietnam war; and his grandfather, Vice Adm. John S. McCain, was a leading carrier task force commander in World War II who pinned the Distinguished Flying Cross on a young pilot named George Bush.

After retiring from the military in 1981, McCain moved to Arizona -- his wife Cindy's home state -- with the idea of getting into politics; he was elected to the House of Representatives the following year and to the Senate in 1986.

McCain talks with what may be unusual candor, for a politician anyway, about how he came to be a socially "sensitive" conservative. It wasn't so much the suffering he endured as a POW -- he was 29 years old when shot down, and mature enough to deal with the adversity -- as what he calls the "rather perverse" reaction he had to being brought up in a military family.

"My father and grandfather were men of very high standards of honor and integrity," he says. "You know, the old-line military ... You went to an officers' club and you signed your name ... An officer's word was a bond; if he ever broke it, he was gone. That was instilled in me."

Apparently, McCain thinks, this may have caused a small internal backlash in his thinking. The family was from Mississippi and during the summers when he was a kid McCain would spend time on his great-uncle's plantation -- complete with sharecroppers, plantation store and cotton gin. This, too, had its effect; he read a lot of Faulkner and did a lot of thinking.

But he doesn't want to go too far with the analysis. "I'm not sure what made me, quote, sensitive and concerned," he says now, "and I'm not sure that I'm concerned enough. Sometimes I get wrapped up in this contra issue [he strongly favors aid] and things like that and I don't show enough caring and concern."

McCain, who has been mentioned here and there as a vice presidential possibility, has been a strong Bush supporter -- though there have been some glitches. Last June he made forays to Nashville and Miami, just before Michael Dukakis was due to speak in those cities, to raise questions before the media, which he said they then asked the Democratic candidate, such as, "If a drug dealer kills a law enforcement agent, shouldn't that drug dealer be liable to the death penalty?"

This was widely perceived as a negative tactic, and the Dukakis campaign immediately launched a counterattack in the Arizona press, asking why McCain was out campaigning for Bush instead of doing his job in Washington. As a result, McCain told the Bush campaign that "I preferred the surrogate kind of stuff that's positive. Let's face it, I'm not one who's comfortable with the attack role."

(c) 1988 The Washington Post, August 15, 1988

There was another little patch of rough water earlier this month when McCain was quoted on the front page of The New York Times as saying Bush "has no real public image" and views that are "fuzzed up."

"Sure, we're all worried about this campaign," he says now. "We know we've got to work hard. We're worried about what we see in the polls ... But I also [believe Bush] will put on a good show and be specific and define himself at our convention ... I'm sure he will do that, and in a way that's different from Dukakis."

"The American people are very happy with what they have today," he says. But there's also "a great uneasiness out there, a great uncertainty as to what's going to happen in the next year or so. If we're going to run, as I think we are, on the peace and prosperity theme, we've got to ... present a vision of the future that will calm those fears."

GRAPHIC: PHOTO, SEN. JOHN MCCAIN OF ARIZONA. HARRY NALTCHAYAN

TYPE: BIOGRAPHY

SUBJECT: POLITICAL PARTIES; PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS; POLITICAL CONVENTIONS;
POLITICAL SPEECHES; LOUISIANA

ORGANIZATION: NEW ORLEANS

NAME: JOHN MCCAIN; GEORGE BUSH

37TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Proprietary to the United Press International 1988

August 16, 1988, Tuesday, BC cycle

ADVANCED-DATE: August 15, 1988, Monday, BC cycle

SECTION: General News

DISTRIBUTION: Arizona-Nevada

LENGTH: 397 words

HEADLINE: McCain blasts Democrats on defense issues

BYLINE: By MARK LANGFORD

DATELINE: NEW ORLEANS

KEYWORD: Gop-McCain

BODY:

Sen. John McCain III, echoing charges by Vice President George Bush that Michael Dukakis is weak on defense, said Monday the Democrats would sell Central America "down the river to communism" and leave America vulnerable to a nuclear attack.

In a prime time speech to the Republican National Convention, McCain, a former Vietman prisoner of war who spent more than five years in the "Hanoi Hilton" POW camp, blasted Dukakis for claiming that defense dollars have been wasted under the Reagan Administration.

"Under Ronald Reagan and George Bush, America has gone from a laughing stock and a whipping boy of the world to a nation that inspires respect from our allies and restrain from our adversaries," McCain said.

"Michael Dukakis seems to think that Trident is a chewing gum, that the B-1 is a vitamin pill and the Midget Man is someone who's shorter than he is," The Arizona senator said.

McCain urged the GOP delegates not to believe "the rhetoric of the liberal left" that defense dollars have been wasted.

"Go out to the nearest military base or one of our Navy ships," he said. "Ask the chief petty officers, ask the master sergeants, ask them what they think of the Reagan-Bush defense program. First they'll tell you they recall the 1970s when under Jimmy Carter, we had guns that couldn't shoot and planes that couldn't fly and ships that couldn't leave port because of the lack of spare parts and trained personnel.

"Then they'll tell you that today we have never had more highly qualified and more highly motivated men and women serving in the military, and they are ready to serve our interests around the world," McCain said.

He criticized Dukakis for opposing the strike on Qudafi in Libya, the rescue mission in Grenada and the defense of the Persian Gulf.

Proprietary to the United Press International, August 16, 1988

Citing Democratic opposition to military support for the Contras in Nicaragua, McCain said, "It is dishonorable for this nation to sell Central American down the river to communism. The Sandanistas ... have crushed basic human rights and violated the promises and commitments they made in 1979.

McCain also criticized Dukakis for opposing President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative against nuclear attack.

"We are totally defenseless against such an attack, and yet Michael Dukakis opposes SDI. We must support SDI in order to prevent a nuclear nightmare," he said.

Solomon

Anne Mills Griffith -
head w/lieynst

- MAKE EVERY EFFORTS
- REMAINS
- FOLLOW UP EVERY "LIVE SIGHTING."

JAPANESE ~~REPORT~~ BUDDHIST
SAW CAUCASIAN.

DIA WILL BRIEF THEM -

HIS ACCOUNT NOT CREDIBLE,

OUR INITIAL ENTH. DASHED

UNABLE TO DETAIL

DISCREPENCIES

DIA - PURSUED IT.

"RECOVERY TEAM"

KEITH MULLENBURY

JEFF SALOMAN
697-8191

122 appointed
Vesey to special rep. to Vietnam
on POW-MIA matter

~~U.A.~~ U.A.

LARRY DeMeo 233-6653

Pentagon

POW-MIA Affairs 697-0555

Assist. Sec. Inter Affairs Col. Dickson

JOE WATKINS

MEMORANDUM OF CALL

Previous editions usable

TO: DD

YOU WERE CALLED BY - YOU WERE VISITED BY -

OF (Organization)

Carl Jackson
Dr. Dir. 6173

PLEASE PHONE FTS AUTOVON

Asia - NISC

WILL CALL AGAIN IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

Re: Mark
Jawis -

1st Draft of Nat'l.
Leg. of Families

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Davis/Martin
July 18, 1989
Draft: One
Title: Missing

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES/J.W. MARRIOTT
July 28, 1989/10 a.m.

Thank you George, Ann. It's a delight to be back before the National League of Families. Your organization provides us all with the ^amost stirring example of how democracy works.

As you know, Barbara and I returned from Central and Eastern Europe two weeks ago. And in the faces of the brave workers of Gdansk and the hopeful students of Budapest, I saw a truth that cannot be denied: the ^{democratic} ideal ^{around} of ~~democracy~~ is winning the hearts of the peoples of the world.

It is this ideal that we honor when we fly the flag. And it is for this ideal that so many Americans were ready when their country called.

This wasn't always a universally accepted truth. In years past, ^{there were times when} those in the American uniform ^{have been} ~~were often~~ ridiculed and even attacked by some of their countrymen. But you did not forget. You did not break ranks.

There was a time when your claims were ignored by your government, and a move to close down the office that investigates the fate of your loved ones. And yet you did not forget. You did not break ranks.

Now we are coming to a time when the divisions of the Vietnam War are healing; we have let go of the bitterness of the

past. But with this reconciliation comes a temptation to forget those who served. But still, you do not forget. ^{And,} We will never break ranks.

B.F.
My friend and predecessor, Ronald Reagan, had a personal commitment to determine the fates of your missing loved ones. Because of his commitment, and your perseverance, the policies of this organization are now the policies of the United States government.

When I sought the presidency, I promised ^{that would} we ~~will~~ write no last chapters, we ^{would} ~~will~~ close no books, we ^{would} ~~will~~ put away no final memories until **all** your questions about the missing and about possible prisoners of war ^{were} ~~are~~ answered.

And it is as your President that I repeat this pledge . . .

Let me simply state the policy of this new Administration. As long as there is a possibility that Americans remain alive, we will continue our search as a matter of the highest national priority. If we discover proof of captivity, we will take action ~~whatever action is required~~ -- to bring our men home.

And so long as you must live without ^{knowing} ~~knowledge~~ of the fate of your loved ones, the United States will use its power to insist, in the name of decency, that the governments of Indochina give **the fullest possible accounting.**

The frustration of POW/MIA families is very understandable. I hear the voices that say more must be done. If more can be done, then it will be. Understand this: I do not counsel a timid patience. **I counsel a bold persistence.** ((PAUSE))

And our persistence is showing some results; since the government embraced the goals of this organization, many more of you have found answers. Each answer has been another sad truth to learn. But every POW-MIA relative that I meet tells me that truth is preferable to the greater agony -- that of not knowing.

The task of learning more is daunting, but at least we can count on some powerful allies.

First are the national veterans organization, those who have stood side-by-side with us through the long years. It was these veteran groups that began to protest growing government indifference to MIAs. Their contribution cannot be overstated.

Another partner in our quest are the men and women in government who have dedicated their careers to learning the truth about POWs and MIAs. These public servants are **not** uninspired bureaucrats just going through the motions. They have a deep and abiding commitment to their task. This is a commitment felt throughout the Defense Intelligence Agency, in the embassies and among those American pilots who bring our fallen soldiers out of Hanoi, to at long last come home.

You also have many friends in both parties in Congress. I especially want to commend Bob Dole, Steve Solarz, Bob Lagomarsino and Ben Gilman, for showing the strength of their commitment to the governments of Indochina. To keep this issue at the forefront, they have again passed resolutions establishing National POW/MIA Recognition Day, this year on September 15th.

to find answers

I must mention how invaluable Ann's guidance has been through the years. Her knowledge and determination are an inspiration, and her participation in the Interagency Group provides critical insights. We will continue to look to ~~Ann~~^{her} for advice and leadership.

And finally, I pledge to do all I can. I will soon issue a proclamation calling upon all Americans to honor their missing countrymen and those who served as POWs by participating in ceremonies across our nation. But this is just a beginning.

As I mentioned in my Inaugural Address, "there are today Americans who are held against their will and Americans who are unaccounted for. Assistance can be shown here and will be long remembered. **Goodwill begets goodwill.**"

We appreciate Vietnam's increased responsiveness to that appeal. An unprecedented level of joint operations has already brought significant progress. But despite our increased activities, many questions remain. Once again, I call on Hanoi to swiftly dispel the shadow of doubt, to shed light on the fate of your loved ones. **I call on Hanoi to remove this last vestige of armed conflict between us.**

We look forward to normalizing our relations with Vietnam, once a comprehensive settlement has been achieved in Cambodia, including a genuine share of power for the non-communist factions led by Prince Sihanok and an internationally verified troop withdrawal. But Hanoi must clearly understand that as a practical matter, the pace and scope of this process will be

directly affected by the seriousness of their cooperation on POW/MIA and other humanitarian issues.

In Laos, so many questions remain, and so few answers have been received. In light of the difficulties involved, their agreement earlier this year to a year-round program of cooperation is encouraging. You can be certain that we are seeking to expand this agreement in every possible way.

To the families of those missing in Cambodia, I must tell you that our best efforts to gain that government's humanitarian cooperation on resolving the fates of your missing loved ones has thus far been unsuccessful. Despite their public claims to be holding remains of some Americans, officials in Phnom Penh ^{have} ~~has~~ been deaf to our appeals. I call on Phnom Penh to act responsibly, humanely, and return these remains. Failure to do so reflects very poorly on them. And it will surely hinder their efforts to gain international respect and support.

The policies pursued during the past eight years have shown some success. Incomplete? Yes . . . but progress is being made only because our government is giving it the highest priority.

As we proceed, we will continue to search for ways to improve our investigations. We will continue to assemble the best resources, technology and, most of all, recruit qualified people to interview refugees, evaluate intelligence information, and negotiate with foreign governments.

It is with that last mission in mind that I reappointed a man of the highest integrity and qualifications, General Jack

Vessey, as my special POW/MIA emissary to Hanoi. I know that Jack will be with you this afternoon, along with senior officials from the Departments of State and Defense, and the National Security Council. I have charged them all to do their utmost. They know, and share, my deep commitment to your missing loved ones and to you.

The principle responsibility for POW/MIA issues rests with the Department of Defense. And for that reason, we are fortunate to have a very talented public servant as our Secretary of Defense. Dick Cheney's years in Congress and his knowledge of intelligence matters give him a rare understanding of, and a deep appreciation for, your concerns.

In closing, I want you to know that in my frequent travels to cities and towns across America, I see many heartfelt demonstrations of support for your cause. Americans know that across our land, every Thanksgiving, there are families that still set an empty chair at the table. We know that yellowed photographs and school mementoes^{SP?} are still being lovingly kept in scrapbooks. And questions remain, and will remain until answered.

Now the mothers and fathers of another great power share your grief, share your lingering doubts. That this power, the Soviet Union, backed the North Vietnamese; and the United States backed the Afghan freedom-fighters, is an irony. But there is no room in the American heart for a mean-spirited and petty indifference. Far from it.

I am pleased to note that Soviet General-Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev recently made a humanitarian appeal for our help in obtaining the fullest possible accounting for Soviet citizens still prisoner and missing in Afghanistan. Let me answer him today: we will do everything we can. And in return, we expect the Soviets to do all they can to encourage more serious and timely cooperation from their allies in Indochina.

Working together, we can resolve the anguish of many families in two lands. And we can do something more . . .

I hope to gradually build a spirit of cooperation so that the arms of the United States and the Soviet Union will never again be used against the youth of our nations.

Thank you, God bless you and God bless America.

time for healing

#

ECCLESIASTES

A time to be born, and a time to DIE; . . .
A time to kill, and a time to heal; . . .
A time of WAR, and a time of PEACE,

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LEVEL 1... 23

4TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

PR Newswire

May 20, 1988, Friday

LENGTH: 417 words

HEADLINE: TO NATIONAL DESK:

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, May 20

KEYWORD: PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA TO HONOR ROBERT DOLE

BODY:

WASHINGTON, May 20 /PRN/ -- Sen. Robert Dole (R-Kan.) will be honored with the fifth annual "Award for Life Service to Veterans" presented by the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) and the Vietnam Veterans Institute (VVI) on Wednesday, May 25, at 7 p.m. in the Montpelier Room, Madison Building of the Library of Congress.

More than 40 senators and congressmen are planning to join past recipients of the "Award for Life Service to Veterans" in this salute to Sen. Dole.

In making the announcement of Dole's selection, R. Jack Powell, PVA executive director, said, "For more than 40 years, Senator Dole has actively served his fellow veterans. Beginning with his efforts as a veterans' service officer in Kansas following World War II, to his leadership in Congress, Senator Dole has consistently championed causes for individual veterans -- as well as all the men and women who have served our nation in uniform."

Powell continued, "Senator Dole's courage and success, as a disabled veteran, have been an inspiration to many others with a disability and has focused attention on the fact that all people should be judged on their abilities, not their disabilities."

According to Jerry Yates, chairman of the board of VVI, "This award is our way of symbolizing our deep appreciation of Senator Dole's personal and legislative accomplishments, which have done so much to vastly improve programs and benefits for our nation's veterans."

A highlight of the annual PVA/VVI award ceremony is the unveiling of a specially-commissioned oil portrait, displaying the superb artistic talents of VVI board member and artist Tom Nielson.

Nielson's portraits have made impressive and lasting tributes to previous "Life Service to Veterans" recipients -- Chairman of the House Committee on Veteran Affairs G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery (D-Miss.), Senate Majority Leader Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) and Rep. John Paul Hammerschmidt (R-Ariz.)

The Paralyzed Veterans of America, a veterans' service organization chartered by Congress, has for more than four decades served the needs of its members -- all of whom have catastrophic paralysis caused by spinal cord injury or disease. PVA is funded through private donations and neither seeks nor receives government funds.

CONTACT -- Brett Ferrigan of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, 202-872-1300

through Georgia '90: State Rep. Bubba McDonald is running for Gov as Lauren McDonald. State Sen. Pierre Howard is running for Lt. Gov. with the slogan: "Pierre is French for Bubba."

--- Summary Page 2 ---

==== TV HIGHLIGHTS ====

... EXCERPTS ... EXCERPTS...

HOTLINE/KRC POLL TESTS BUSH ON EDUCATION AND ENVIRONMENT

(1003 sample, 7/23-25, 3% margin of error, see #81.)

	EDUC.	ENV.
BUSH ADM. JOB RATING		
Excellent	4%	3%
Above average	23	28
Average (vol)	19	22
Below average	29	26
Poor	13	14

WHO WILL DO BETTER JOB		
GOP in White House	35%	29%
Dems in Congress	43	46

FEDERAL SPENDING ON		
Too little	69%	66%
Too much	6	9
About right	22	20

	BUSH	QUAYLE
JOB RATING		
Excellent	10%	3%
Above average	38	16
Average (vol)	24	20
Below average	17	27
Poor	6	13

PERSONAL FAVORABILITY

BUSH
 Favorable 75%
 Unfavorable 17

QUAYLE
 Favorable 37%
 Unfavorable 38

DUKAKIS
 Favorable 38%
 Unfavorable 45

For full TV WRAP UP, See #90
 For Abortion, #32

B-2: "\$70B for one plane and all they spend nationwide on drug interdiction is \$1B? Give me a break" -- NY Mayor Ed Koch, CBS, 7/26

B-2: "This is an investment, and like all investments it involves some risks and gambles. I think it is a prudent gamble" -- Rep. Robert Livingston, (R-LA), NBC, 7/26

ABORTION: "Republicans and Democrats, may in this odd issue, find a clear ideological dividing line at last" -- Roger Rosenblatt, "MacNeil," 7/26

LUCAS: "It's good to have understanding of pain and agony, but when I go into a courtroom I need a lawyer with technical experience" -- Elaine Jones of the NAACP-Legal Defense Fund, "MacNeil," 7/26

LUCAS: "Lucas will do just as well as Robert Kennedy who became Attorney General of the whole Justice Dept. without courtroom experience." -- SCLC's Rev. Joseph Lowery, "MacNeil," 7/26

* PAUL SIMON AT DSCC DINNER
 The one without the bow tie will sing at DSCC 9/27 dinner.

TV SOUND BITE

"B-2, or not B-2, that is the question. A handsome

Wed - call

JEFF SALMON

697-8191

DOUG POI - Director Asian Affairs
5746

as special Pres. emissary.

Pres. Bush reappointed Gen. Jersey
to Vietnam.
Not to Cambodia / NOT TO LAOS

Inter. Red Cross / Private groups
year round activities

crash site invest. / surveys /

CRITICAL TO CONTINUE HIGH PRIORITY

* { In his Inauguration "goodwill begets
goodwill"

Quote INAUGURAL

Vietnam, Cambodia, LAOS - trillions
of remains / information.



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Jeff Salzman

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Salmon
26Jul89
7:00PM

**Remarks by Secretary Cheney
to the
National League of Families of Prisoners of War
and Missing in Action**

29 July 1989

Thank you all very much, it's a pleasure to join you. I'm especially pleased to be here for your 20th annual meeting. Although there is much that still has to be done, I want to begin tonight by recognizing the League's contribution to the progress we've made so far in this critically important effort.

With your meetings and briefings completed, I hope you found your trip to Washington fruitful. We profit from these meetings as well. In fact, we all profit when information is shared and resources pooled.

Let me begin by acknowledging the enormous contribution of your Executive Director, Ann Mills

What I can do is address a few other issues that must certainly be on your mind. With any new Administration, questions arise about our future efforts to resolve every possible case of servicemen missing or unaccounted for. Let me discuss that future, and let me also discuss my own personal commitment to this issue.

I can't move from my home to my office, or from my office to a meeting, without seeing and feeling the graphic reminders of the strength and sacrifice that come with military service. From the POW/MIA corridor on the fourth floor of the Pentagon, with its list of Americans who are still unaccounted for, to Arlington National Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, that lies just to the west of the Pentagon and sweeps below me every time I take the Marine helicopter, I cannot escape the feelings of loss and uncertainty that surround war. The monuments and symbols that

are so much a part of this capital city remind us of our obligation to the memory of those killed in battle and those whose fate we have yet to discover. But we are also reminded that there is more to the sacrifice of war than the courage and strength of our soldiers.

Fathers, wives, sons, mothers, and daughters stand behind our military -- families contribute quietly, but fundamentally, to national security. They serve no less than the men and women in uniform. We understand that, and that is why I've put people first in our budget. Military families and quality of life programs will not be ignored, no matter how tightly our budget is squeezed.

No families, however, have a greater claim to our attention than you do. While all families make sacrifices, yours is different. Your service to America, and the uncertainties you have been forced to live with, are both immeasurable and

unrelenting. I want to assure you that I will never lose sight of that fact.

As a member of the House Intelligence Committee, I was able to participate in hearings and briefings on our efforts to achieve the fullest possible accounting of our POWs and MIAs. In many ways, this was a privileged position. Committee members could follow in detail our intelligence collection efforts, and come to understand how we cope with the roadblocks and complexities that are so much a part of this important effort. Two things always impressed me: First, that we have an enormous task before us made more difficult by the political realities of southeast Asia, and second, that no matter how difficult, our dedication to this search must not wane.

As Secretary of Defense, I have gained a keener appreciation of our quest for accurate information.

us to expand both the scope and effectiveness of our joint investigations and other POW/MIA related activities with the Vietnamese.

- The Vietnamese have repatriated 212 remains, 74 of them since the first of this year. Of the overall total, 62 have thus far been identified as those of missing Americans, bringing long awaited answers to their families. Many of the remains are still undergoing analysis by the Central Identification Laboratory. While many may prove to be unidentifiable or not those of Americans, we welcome the opportunity to examine for ourselves any remains thought to be those of our missing servicemen. We look forward to the next repatriation that will take place Monday.

- As you know, the seventh iteration of joint investigations will begin in just two days. These investigations have given us important insights into some of the most compelling discrepancy cases. We have much more to do, and we will continue to press the Vietnamese to make witnesses available and to share whatever information they have concerning those missing and unaccounted for.
- In Laos, we reached important agreements early this year for a year-round program to accelerate resolving the fate of over 500 missing or unaccounted for in that country. We are now working to build on that development. Since the beginning of this year, we've undertaken two crash site excavations, including the first rainy season effort. Cooperation from the Lao has been good and we look forward to this increasing.

Of course, it's doubtful we would have these opportunities today were it not for President Reagan's and Vice President Bush's decision back in 1981 to elevate the POW/MIA issue to a matter of the highest national priority.

Tonight, I join President Bush in assuring you that our efforts to account for all missing Americans in Indochina remains just that -- an issue of the highest national priority.

Just this week, I spoke to the President about this issue and reviewed for him some of the steps we've been taking and some of the progress we've made. The President could not be more determined to see to it that we achieve the fullest possible accounting. He told me to make certain that the Department commits the resources required to get the job done.

The accelerated rate of progress -- the site surveys, crash site excavations, field investigations, identification activities and technical discussions with the Vietnamese and Lao -- all these have increased our own workload. We have responded accordingly by increasing resources and full-time staff at the Defense Intelligence Agency, the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory, the Joint Casualty Resolution Center.

I am ready to expand these specialized units whenever the need dictates. Indeed, nothing would please me more than to have greater progress create a need for more manpower, equipment, and funds. Like you, I am acutely aware that there are still 2,347 Americans unaccounted for in Indochina.

Moreover, we continue to take very seriously all reports of live prisoners in this region. As always, the answers to this most vexing issue lie with the

Indochinese governments, not here in Washington. The burden is on them to supply satisfactory answers to this sensitive question.

When such reports come to us we investigate them as thoroughly, completely, and expeditiously as possible. The recent case of the elderly Japanese Monk, Ganshin Yoshida [gan-shin, yo-shee-da], is a good example. I know that you have received detailed briefings on this case from the Defense Intelligence Agency. Let me stress that prior to Yoshida's release in January, our Government contacted his family to arrange interviews with him. Regrettably, his very poor health precluded our talking with him at that time.

Since then, we have interviewed him twice, and as you are aware, we have discovered that his mental and physical ailments make his recollections cloudy.

I share your disappointment that thus far this source has not proven as useful as we had hoped. We will continue to pursue this case and the information attributed to the Monk by his daughter. Moreover, it is incumbent on the Vietnamese to give us details of Yoshida's captivity. The Vietnamese must recognize that these questions are not going to go away.

I have made certain that DIA's special office for POW/MIA affairs, and the DIA collection team in southeast Asia will stay on this, as well as other cases, and keep me fully informed.

In this regard, it is essential that the Secretary of Defense maintain the closest possible connection to this issue, that he be informed and up to date. I have therefore appointed my Assistant Secretary for International Security Affairs, Henry Rowen to be my special advisor on the POW/MIA issues. In

Much interest, of course, focuses on Cambodia. Here we have heard claims that the Cambodian regime currently holds American remains. We have made clear to Phnom Penh that we are prepared immediately to dispatch an Air Force plane and an official repatriation team to pick up these remains. Regrettably, we have had no response.

Regarding the conflict in Cambodia, the United States has consistently called for a complete, and internationally verified withdrawal of all Vietnamese troops, effective measures to prevent the return to power of the Khmer Rouge, and a free and fair election to reestablish a truly sovereign and independent country. The Khmer Rouge are responsible for the death of some million-and-a-half persons -- that awesome figure represents 20% of Cambodia's 1975 population. They must not be allowed to return to dominance.

Our position on normalization of relations is well understood by that government. Normalization is possible only in the context of a comprehensive Cambodian settlement which provides for a genuine withdrawal of all Vietnamese troops from Cambodia, and a real opportunity for the Cambodian people to determine their own fate, free from either Vietnamese domination, or Khmer Rouge terror. As a practical matter, of course, the pace and scope of the normalization process will be directly affected by the seriousness of Vietnam's cooperation with us on the POW/MIA issue as well as other humanitarian concerns.

Vietnam has pledged to withdraw from Cambodia by the end of September, and as we speak, meetings involving the four Cambodian factions, Vietnam and Laos, the countries of the association of southeast Asia nations, and the U.S.

government are taking place in Paris. We cannot know for sure, however, whether these, and other positive developments, will lead to a negotiated settlement in Cambodia, or whether they promise greater progress as we try to gain the fullest possible accounting of our missing men.

With regard to the POW/MIA issue, I can do no better than to repeat the President's words from his inaugural address: "Good will begets good will. Good faith can be a spiral that endlessly moves on."

Only you can truly understand what it is like to wait for answers over so many years, living with painful uncertainty and always being asked to trust in the efforts of a sometimes secretive and cumbersome bureaucracy in Washington. I do not claim to know what it is like to stand in your shoes. What I can say is that I am now a partner in this task. I will miss no reasonable chance to resolve the

terrible burden you and all the families have endured.

If nothing else, I want you to leave here tonight knowing that your mission is my mission.

How could it be otherwise? A nation that will not care for those fallen in battle, a nation that will not seek freedom for those held captive, a nation that forgets its missing in action, such a nation has lost its soul. That will not be the final legacy of Vietnam.

Every step forward tells us that answers are not beyond our reach. Every case resolved gives us hope that others will soon follow. I join you tonight in the hope that some day meetings such as this may not be necessary.

Thank you all very much.

JOE WATKINS

ED Timberlake
Anne Mills Griffith /

ANNE MILLS GRIFFITH

OLDEST ORGANIZATION / Generally
supportive / VIETNAM MIA's prime issue.
CONCRETE - 2 PAGE FACT SHEET.

VA no role

GOVERNMENT CURRENCY



Richard Har Boomer In the Newsre

The children of (the cohorts) have become years the snail darters: virtually extirpated us to take a look at those who have taken the difficult task because of the scarcity of newspaper researchers have proliferated. They confirm what is called by looking around this is no business anymore. Barely 10 percentists in this country those over 65 are counted at zero in a demographic bulge—this is made up of a couple of million professional work force journalism the ethic of indulgence.

Ombudsman

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Herb Block Story

The U.S. government is...
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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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01. Report	Background and Action Plan for Defeating the Dukakis-Akhromeyev Defense Bill of 1989. (1 pp.)	n.d.	P-5	

Collection:

Record Group: Bush Presidential Records
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Series: Davis, Mark William
Subseries: Subject File
WHORM Cat.:
File Location: National League of Families 7/28/89

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Background and Action Plan for Defeating
The Dukakis-Akhromeyev Defense Bill of 1989

July 1988: Reagan a lame duck. Bush trailed Dukakis in the polls by double digits. SecDef Carlucci, Sens. Warner and Thurmond urged Reagan to sign the bill, arguing it was the best they could achieve and a veto would result in an even worse bill. Junior Republican senators led by Quayle (this was a month before the Republican convention) urged Reagan to veto the bill. Bush's decision to urge a veto was pivotal in persuading Reagan to carry out the veto. The strategy had its risks as far as the defense programs themselves were concerned, but Bush was so far down he had little to lose from boldness. During the August recess, Administration spokesmen and the Bush campaign carried the Reagan-Bush defense message across the country, building support for the veto strategy and the President's priorities. The veto strategy worked. The bill was vastly improved. Meanwhile the veto focussed public attention on defense issues. The stark contrast exposed between Dukakis and Bush on defense policy was a key factor in the collapse of Dukakis's popular support and the switch in favor of Bush.

July 1989: Bush is overwhelmingly popular, hailed as a superb diplomat, a national security policy expert more engaged in details than Reagan and thus well equipped to implement the popular defense programs Reagan launched. Quayle, the young Senate defense expert of last summer, is Vice President. Defense policy is the best area for him to show the depth and gravitas the media says he lacks. Bush has a comprehensive program for strategic modernization, which, he insists in this era of SDI, must include defenses as well as offenses. In contrast to the policy paralysis caused by the Shultz-Weinberger feud, Bush has a harmonious team with Baker, Cheney and Scowcroft.

Bush offered an "outstretched hand" to Congress with his proposed Defense budget, making deep cuts from the Reagan request in such key programs as SDI. But while Bush was carrying off his diplomatic and public relations triumphs in Europe, Congress put together a Michael Dukakis Defense Bill. The rhetoric of the Markeys and Schroeders and Dellumses as they gut the defense bill is clearly that of persons "viscerally opposed to defense." The House SDI and B-2 cuts would make Bush a sort of lame duck Commander in Chief, throwing our START positions "out the window" (as Quayle put it) and negating Bush's ability to fulfill his campaign promise to make the SDI deployment decision in his first term.

ACTION REQUIRED: It's time for another veto and another Read-My-Lips speech. Bush needs to put some of his hoard of political capital to work to protect the national interest. Dukakisism is coming out of its hole and must be beaten back. Much time has been lost, but Bush still has a surprise factor in his favor if he chooses a veto strategy. A good public relations campaign can take the message through local newspapers and broadcasting to the home districts of swing votes in Congress. August 1989 can be as crucial and successful a month as August 1988 in educating the public and reversing a seemingly large but actually shallow liberal political advantage.

Mark D.

REMARKS: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES/J.W. MARRIOTT
JULY 28, 1989/3:20 P.M.

THANK YOU GEORGE AND ANN. IT'S AN HONOR TO BE
BACK WITH THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES.

EARLIER, I WAS REFLECTING ON THE MAGNITUDE OF WHAT
YOU HAVE ENDURED THROUGH SO MANY YEARS OF UNCERTAINTY.
DESPITE YOUR BURDENS, YOU HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT A CHANGE
IN OUR NATION THAT WILL NEVER BE REVERSED. YOUR
ORGANIZATION PROVIDES US ALL WITH A STIRRING EXAMPLE OF
HOW CITIZENS WORKING TOGETHER CAN HELP CRAFT SOUND
POLICY.

AS YOU KNOW, BARBARA AND I RETURNED FROM CENTRAL
AND EASTERN EUROPE TWO WEEKS AGO. AND IN THE FACES OF
THE BRAVE WORKERS OF GDANSK AND THE HOPEFUL STUDENTS OF
BUDAPEST, I SAW A TRUTH THAT CANNOT BE DENIED -- THE
DEMOCRATIC IDEAL IS WINNING THE HEARTS OF PEOPLE AROUND
THE WORLD.

IT IS THIS IDEAL THAT WE HONOR WHEN WE FLY THE
FLAG. AND IT IS FOR THIS IDEAL THAT SO MANY AMERICANS
WERE READY WHEN THEIR COUNTRY CALLED.

TODAY WE SEE THE SYMBOL OF THIS COMMITMENT, THE LEAGUE'S POW/MIA FLAG, ON PERMANENT DISPLAY IN THE ROTUNDA OF OUR NATION'S CAPITOL. IT STANDS IN A POSITION OF TREMENDOUS HONOR. AND IT WILL NOT COME DOWN UNTIL WE HAVE THE FULLEST POSSIBLE ACCOUNTING OF YOUR MISSING LOVED ONES.

YOUR FLAG CAN BE SEEN ACROSS THIS LAND -- OVER STATEHOUSES, FIRE STATIONS, SCHOOLS, MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AND STADIUMS, EVEN ON SHIPS AT SEA -- A STIRRING REMINDER THAT AMERICA'S SONS ARE STILL MISSING.

THE IDEALS FOR WHICH YOUR LOVED ONES FOUGHT MAY FINALLY BE COMING TO PASS -- THE FAILURE OF TOTALITARIAN AND REPRESSIVE COMMUNIST REGIMES. THE EVIDENCE IS CLEAR THROUGH RECENT EVENTS IN CHINA, THE SOVIET UNION AND EVEN IN CAMBODIA, WHERE VIETNAM APPEARS TO BE WITHDRAWING ITS TROOPS.

SOME OF OUR FINEST YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WERE LOST DURING THE MANY LONG YEARS OF THE VIETNAM WAR. AND THE DIVISIONS THAT RESULTED FROM OUR INVOLVEMENT THERE SHOOK OUR COUNTRY TO ITS CORE. BUT AS TRAGIC AS THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE IS, EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO ENDURE IS THE UNCERTAINTY WHICH, FOR YOU, HAS EXTENDED OVER SO MANY YEARS.

NOW WE ARE COMING TO A TIME WHEN THE DIVISIONS OF THE VIETNAM WAR ARE HEALING; WE HAVE LET GO OF THE BITTERNESS OF THE PAST. BUT WITH THIS RECONCILIATION COMES A TEMPTATION TO FORGET THOSE WHO SERVED. YET WE WILL NOT FORGET. AND WE WILL NEVER BREAK RANKS.

MY FRIEND AND PREDECESSOR, RONALD REAGAN, HAD A PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO DETERMINE THE FATES OF YOUR MISSING LOVED ONES. BECAUSE OF HIS COMMITMENT, AND YOUR PERSEVERANCE, THE POLICIES OF THIS ORGANIZATION ARE NOW THE POLICIES OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

WHEN I SOUGHT THE PRESIDENCY, I RENEWED PRESIDENT REAGAN'S PLEDGE THAT WE WOULD WRITE NO LAST CHAPTERS, WE WOULD CLOSE NO BOOKS, WE WOULD PUT AWAY NO FINAL MEMORIES UNTIL YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT MISSING AND POSSIBLE PRISONERS OF WAR HAVE BEEN ANSWERED.

AND IT IS AS YOUR PRESIDENT THAT I REPEAT THIS PLEDGE. . .

LET ME SIMPLY STATE THE POLICY OF THIS NEW ADMINISTRATION. THE FULLEST POSSIBLE ACCOUNTING REMAINS A MATTER OF HIGHEST NATIONAL PRIORITY. WE WILL DO EVERYTHING THAT A GOVERNMENT CAN DO TO RECOVER THE MISSING, AND IF WE DISCOVER PROOF OF CAPTIVITY, WE WILL TAKE ACTION TO BRING OUR MEN HOME.

AND SO LONG AS YOU MUST LIVE WITHOUT KNOWING THE FATE OF YOUR LOVED ONES, THE UNITED STATES WILL INSIST, IN THE NAME OF HUMANITY, THAT THE GOVERNMENTS OF INDOCHINA GIVE THE FULLEST POSSIBLE ACCOUNTING.

FRUSTRATION ON THIS SENSITIVE ISSUE IS VERY UNDERSTANDABLE. I HEAR THOSE WHO SAY MORE MUST BE DONE. IF MORE CAN BE DONE, THEN IT WILL BE. UNDERSTAND THIS: I DO NOT COUNSEL A TIMID PATIENCE, I COUNSEL A BOLD PERSISTENCE. ((PAUSE))

AND OUR PERSISTENCE IS SHOWING SOME RESULTS; SINCE THE GOVERNMENT EMBRACED THE GOALS OF THIS ORGANIZATION, MANY MORE OF YOU HAVE FOUND ANSWERS. EACH ANSWER HAS BEEN ANOTHER SAD TRUTH TO LEARN. BUT EVERY POW/MIA RELATIVE THAT I MEET TELLS ME THAT TRUTH IS PREFERABLE TO THE GREATER AGONY -- THAT OF NOT KNOWING.

THE TASK OF LEARNING MORE IS DAUNTING, BUT WE CAN COUNT ON SOME POWERFUL ALLIES.

FIRST ARE THE NATIONAL VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS, THOSE WHO HAVE STOOD SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH US THROUGH THE LONG YEARS. IT WAS THESE VETERAN GROUPS, SUPPORTING YOU, WHICH PROTESTED GOVERNMENT INDIFFERENCE TO THE POW/MIA ISSUE IN EARLIER YEARS. THEIR CONTRIBUTION HAS BEEN INDISPENSABLE.

OTHER PARTNERS IN OUR QUEST ARE THE MEN AND WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT WHO ARE DEDICATING THEIR CAREERS TO LEARNING THE TRUTH ABOUT OUR POWS AND MIAS. THESE PUBLIC SERVANTS ARE NOT UNINSPIRED BUREAUCRATS JUST GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS. THEY HAVE A DEEP AND ABIDING COMMITMENT TO THEIR TASK. THIS IS A COMMITMENT SHARED BY PEOPLE IN THE MILITARY SERVICES, IN THE DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, IN EMBASSIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND AMONG THOSE AMERICAN PILOTS WHO BRING OUR FALLEN SOLDIERS OUT OF HANOI, TO AT LONG LAST COME HOME.

YOU ALSO HAVE MANY FRIENDS IN BOTH PARTIES IN CONGRESS. I ESPECIALLY WANT TO COMMEND BOB DOLE, JOHN MCCAIN, STEVE SOLARZ, BOB LAGOMARSINO AND BEN GILMAN, FOR SHOWING THE GOVERNMENTS OF INDOCHINA THE STRENGTH OF BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL COMMITMENT TO FIND ANSWERS. TO KEEP THIS ISSUE AT THE FOREFRONT, THEY HAVE AGAIN PASSED RESOLUTIONS ESTABLISHING NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY, THIS YEAR ON SEPTEMBER 15TH.

I MUST MENTION HOW INVALUABLE THE GUIDANCE OF ANN MILLS GRIFFITHS HAS BEEN THROUGH THE YEARS. HER KNOWLEDGE AND DETERMINATION ARE AN INSPIRATION, AND HER PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERAGENCY GROUP PROVIDES CRITICAL INSIGHTS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK TO HER FOR ADVICE AND LEADERSHIP.

AND FINALLY, I PLEDGE TO DO ALL I CAN. I WILL SOON ISSUE A PROCLAMATION CALLING UPON ALL AMERICANS TO HONOR THEIR MISSING COUNTRYMEN AND THOSE WHO SERVED AS POWS BY PARTICIPATING IN CEREMONIES ACROSS OUR NATION. BUT THIS IS JUST A BEGINNING.

IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, THERE ARE AMERICANS WHO ARE UNACCOUNTED FOR. AS I SAID IN MY INAUGURAL ADDRESS, "ASSISTANCE CAN BE SHOWN HERE AND WILL BE LONG REMEMBERED. GOODWILL BEGETS GOODWILL."

WE APPRECIATE VIETNAM'S INCREASED RESPONSIVENESS TO THAT APPEAL. AN UNPRECEDENTED LEVEL OF JOINT OPERATIONS HAS ALREADY BROUGHT SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS. BUT DESPITE OUR INCREASED ACTIVITIES, MANY QUESTIONS REMAIN. ONCE AGAIN, I CALL ON HANOI TO SWIFTLY DISPEL THE SHADOW OF DOUBT, TO SHED LIGHT ON THE FATE OF YOUR LOVED ONES. I CALL ON HANOI TO REMOVE THIS LAST VESTIGE OF ARMED CONFLICT BETWEEN US.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO NORMALIZING OUR RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM, ONCE A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN CAMBODIA. THAT SETTLEMENT MUST INCLUDE GENUINE POWER SHARING WITH THE NON-COMMUNIST CAMBODIANS LED BY PRINCE SIHANOUK AND IN INTERNATIONALLY VERIFIED TROOP WITHDRAWAL. BUT HANOI MUST CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT, AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, THE PACE AND SCOPE OF THIS PROCESS WILL BE DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE SERIOUSNESS OF THEIR COOPERATION ON POW/MIA AND OTHER HUMANITARIAN ISSUES.

IN LAOS, SO MANY QUESTIONS REMAIN, AND SO FEW ANSWERS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED. IN LIGHT OF THE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED, THEIR AGREEMENT EARLIER THIS YEAR TO A YEAR-ROUND PROGRAM OF COOPERATION IS ENCOURAGING. YOU CAN BE CERTAIN THAT WE ARE SEEKING TO EXPAND THIS AGREEMENT IN EVERY POSSIBLY WAY.

WE ALSO WELCOME THE LAO GOVERNMENT'S AGREEMENT TO WORK BILATERALLY WITH US ON COMBATING THE INTERNATIONAL SCOURGE OF NARCOTICS. IMPLEMENTING THIS AGREEMENT WILL BE CRITICALLY IMPORTANT TO OUR IMPROVED BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, WHICH HAS EXPANDED STEADILY SINCE 1982. WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE IN OUR RELATIONS WITH LAOS, RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF STEPS THEY ARE TAKING TOWARD OPENING THEIR SOCIETY AND DEVELOPING THEIR ECONOMY FOR THE GOOD OF THE LAO PEOPLE.

TO THE FAMILIES OF THOSE MISSING IN CAMBODIA, I MUST TELL YOU THAT OUR EFFORTS TO GAIN PHNOM PENH'S HUMANITARIAN COOPERATION ON RESOLVING THE FATES OF YOUR MISSING LOVED ONES HAVE THUS FAR BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL. DESPITE THEIR PUBLIC CLAIMS TO BE HOLDING REMAINS OF SOME AMERICANS, OFFICIALS THERE HAVE BEEN DEAF TO OUR APPEALS. I HAVE ASKED SECRETARY BAKER TO RAISE THIS ISSUE DURING THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN CAMBODIA BEGINNING THIS WEEKEND. I CALL ON PHNOM PENH TO ACT RESPONSIBLY, HUMANELY, AND RETURN THESE REMAINS. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL SURELY HINDER THEIR EFFORTS TO GAIN INTERNATIONAL RESPECT AND SUPPORT.

THE POLICIES PURSUED DURING THE PAST EIGHT YEARS HAVE SHOWN SOME SUCCESS. INCOMPLETE? YES . . . BUT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE BECAUSE OUR GOVERNMENT IS GIVING IT HIGH PRIORITY.

AS WE PROCEED, WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEARCH FOR WAYS TO IMPROVE THE PROCESS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO ASSEMBLE THE BEST RESOURCES, TECHNOLOGY AND, MOST OF ALL, QUALIFIED PEOPLE TO INTERVIEW REFUGEES, EVALUATE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION, AND NEGOTIATE WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.

IT IS WITH THAT LAST MISSION IN MIND THAT I REAPPOINTED A MAN OF THE HIGHEST INTEGRITY AND QUALIFICATIONS, GENERAL JACK VESSEY, AS MY SPECIAL POW/MIA EMISSARY TO HANOI. I KNOW THAT JACK WAS WITH YOU THIS MORNING, AND SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND DEFENSE, AND THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WILL FOLLOW ME HERE. I HAVE CHARGED THEM ALL TO DO THEIR UTMOST. THEY KNOW, AND SHARE, MY DEEP COMMITMENT TO YOUR MISSING LOVED ONES AND TO YOU.

THE PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE POW/MIA ISSUE RESTS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE. AND FOR THAT REASON, WE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE A VERY TALENTED PUBLIC SERVANT AS OUR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. DICK CHENEY'S YEARS IN CONGRESS AND HIS KNOWLEDGE OF INTELLIGENCE MATTERS GIVE HIM A RARE UNDERSTANDING OF, AND A DEEP APPRECIATION FOR, YOUR CONCERNS.

IN CLOSING, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT IN MY FREQUENT TRAVELS TO CITIES AND TOWNS ACROSS AMERICA, I SEE MANY HEARTFELT DEMONSTRATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR OUR CAUSE. AMERICANS KNOW THAT ACROSS OUR LAND, EVERY THANKSGIVING, THERE ARE FAMILIES THAT STILL SET AN EMPTY CHAIR AT THE TABLE. WE KNOW THAT FADED PHOTOGRAPHS AND SCHOOL MEMENTOS ARE STILL BEING LOVINGLY KEPT IN SCRAPBOOKS. AND QUESTIONS REMAIN, AND WILL REMAIN, UNTIL ANSWERED.

NOW THE MOTHERS, FATHERS, WIVES, CHILDREN AND FRIENDS OF ANOTHER GREAT POWER SHARE THE SAME KIND OF GRIEF, SHARE WITH YOU LINGERING DOUBTS ABOUT MISSING LOVED ONES. THAT THIS POWER, THE SOVIET UNION, BACKED THE NORTH VIETNAMESE; AND THE UNITED STATES BACKED THE AFGHAN FREEDOM-FIGHTERS, IS AN IRONY. BUT THERE IS NO ROOM IN THE AMERICAN HEART FOR A MEAN-SPIRITED AND PETTY INDIFFERENCE. FAR FROM IT.

I AM PLEASED TO NOTE THAT SOVIET GENERAL-SECRETARY MIKHAIL GORBACHEV RECENTLY MADE A HUMANITARIAN APPEAL FOR OUR HELP IN OBTAINING THE FULLEST POSSIBLE ACCOUNTING FOR SOVIET CITIZENS STILL PRISONER AND MISSING IN AFGHANISTAN. LET ME ANSWER HIM TODAY: WE WILL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN. AND IN RETURN, WE CONFIDENTLY EXPECT THE SOVIETS WILL DO ALL THEY CAN DO ENCOURAGE MORE SERIOUS AND TIMELY COOPERATION FROM THEIR ALLIES IN INDOCHINA.

WORKING TOGETHER, WE CAN RESOLVE THE ANGUISH OF MANY FAMILIES IN TWO LANDS. AND WE CAN DO SOMETHING MORE . . . WE CAN BUILD A NEW SPIRIT OF PEACE.

IN ECCLESIASTES, IT IS WRITTEN THAT THERE IS A TIME FOR WAR, A TIME FOR PEACE AND A TIME TO HEAL. WE WILL NEVER FORGET THOSE WHO SERVED OUR COUNTRY. AND WHEN WE RECEIVE FINAL ANSWERS ABOUT THEIR FATE, THEN THIS WILL TRULY BE A TIME FOR HEALING.

THANK YOU, GOD BLESS YOU AND GOD BLESS AMERICA.

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