

Originally Processed With FOIA(s):
S

FOIA Number:

FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an
administrative marker by the George Bush Presidential
Library Staff.**

Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Speech File Draft Files
Subseries: Chron File, 1989-1993

OA/ID Number: 13498
Folder ID Number: 13498-002

Folder Title:
National League of Families 7/28/89 [1]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	25	6	4	4

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 28, 1989

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES

J.W. Marriott Hotel
Washington, D.C.

3:25 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you, George and Ann. And wasn't that music magnificent -- add to the occasion? (Applause.) And let me say to all of you that it's an honor to be back with the National League of Families.

Earlier I was reflecting on the magnitude of what you've endured through so many years of uncertainty. And despite your burdens, you 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.

And as you know, Barbara and I returned from Central and Eastern Europe just 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 all around the world. (Applause.)

And 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. (Applause.) 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. (Applause.)

Your flag can be seen across this land -- over statehouses and fire stations and schools and 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 Cambodia where Vietnam appears to finally 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 very 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.

And now we are coming to a time when the divisions of the Vietnam War are healing. We've let go of some of the bitterness of the past. But with this reconciliation comes a temptation to forget those who served. And yet we will not forget and we will never break ranks. (Applause.)

My friend and predecessor, Ronald Reagan, had a personal

MORE

commitment to determine the fates of your missing loved ones. And because of his commitment and your perseverance, the policies of this organization are now the policies of the United States government. (Applause.)

When I sought this office -- 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. (Applause.)

And it is as your President that I repeat this pledge today. 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 to recover the missing and, if we discover proof of captivity, we will take action to bring our men home. (Applause.)

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 totally understandable. And I hear those who say more must be done. And if more can be done, then it will be. And understand this -- I don't counsel a timid patience, I counsel a bold persistence. And our persistence is showing some results -- I should say your persistence. 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. (Applause.)

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 these long years. And it was these veteran groups, supporting you, which protested government indifference to the POW-MIA issue in earlier years, and 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 they have an 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 and John McCain and Steve Solarz and 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 just 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. And so we will, Ann, continue to look to you for advice and leadership and thank you for all you've done. (Applause.)

And let me just say finally, I pledge to do all I can. In just a few minutes, I will sign this 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. And as I said in my Inaugural Address, in part, "Assistance can be shown here and will be long remembered. Goodwill begets goodwill."

And 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. And once again, I call on Hanoi to swiftly dispel the shadow of doubt, to shed light on the fate of your loved ones. (Applause.) And I call on them -- I call on Hanoi to remove the 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. And that settlement must include genuine power sharing with the noncommunist Cambodians, led by Prince Sihanouk, 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 the POW-MIA and other humanitarian issues. (Applause.)

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, indeed, encouraging. And you can be certain that we are seeking to expand this agreement in every possible way.

And 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, indeed, 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. And despite their public claims to be holding remains of some Americans, officials there have been deaf to our appeals. And I have just asked our Secretary of State, Jim Baker, to raise this issue during the international conference in Cambodia beginning this weekend. I call on Phnom Penh to act responsibly, humanely, and to return these remains. And failure to do so will surely hinder their efforts to gain international respect and support. (Applause.)

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. And 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 and evaluate the 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 he was here with you this morning, and senior officials from the Departments of State and Defense and the National Security Council will follow me here. And I have charged them all -- all of them -- 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. His years in Congress and his knowledge of

MORE

intelligence matters give him a rare understanding of, and a deep appreciation for, your concern.

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.

And 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 -- there's an irony there. 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. And let me answer him today -- we will do everything we can -- everything that we possible can. And in return, we confidently expect that the Soviets will do all they can do encourage more serious and timely cooperation from their allies. (Applause.)

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 the United States of America. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

And now, I'm honored to sign this proclamation.
(Applause.)

END

3:43 P.M. EDT



PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES/J.W. MARRIOTT

July 28, 1989/10:00 a.m.

Thank you George, Ann. It's an honor to be back with the National League of Families. Prior to coming today, I reflected on the magnitude of what you have endured through so many years of uncertainty and recognized that despite these 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 contribute positively to policy making.

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, just as did your missing loved ones.

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 mission 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.

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.

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.

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 echoed President Reagan's pledge that we would write no last chapters, we would close no books, we would put away no final memories until all your questions about the missing and about possible prisoners of war were 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 -- to bring our men home.

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

Frustration on this sensitive issue are 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 organization, those who have stood side-by-side with us through the long years. It was these veteran groups, supporting you, which protested growing government in difference to the POW/MIA issue in earlier years. Their contribution cannot be overstated.

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 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 sharing of power for the non-communist Cambodians 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 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 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 because our government is giving it the highest 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 yellowed 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 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 . . . we can build a new spirit of peace.

In Ecclesiastes, it is written that there is a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time of war, and a time of peace. The world has waited long enough. This is the time for a just and lasting peace. Your success has been in ensuring that throughout the world, the need for returning POW's and accounting for MIA's is recognized. You can be justifiably proud of that achievement.

Prior to coming today, I reflected on the magnitude of what you have endured through so many years of uncertainty.
 Davis/Martin
 July 18, 1989
 Draft: One
 Title: Missing ~~religion~~ and recognition that despite these burdens, you have brought about a change in our nation with that will never be reversed.

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

Thank you George, Ann.

It's ^{an honor} ~~a delight~~ to be back before the

① National League of Families. Your organization provides us all with a stirring example of how ^{citizens working together can contribute} ~~democracy works~~. positively to policy making.

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.

③ 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, just as did your missing loved ones.

insert 3 & attach
This wasn't always a universally accepted truth. In years past, there were times when those in the American uniform have been 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.

④ 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

DRAFT REMARKS FOR PRESIDENT BUSH

National League of Families

20th Annual Meeting

J. W. Marriott Hotel, Washington, D.C.

July 28, 1989

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. I recognized, as I do now, the magnitude of what 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.

4
important
rotation

5
many
rotation

6
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.

11
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.

2

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.

Assist → ^⑨ 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 *echoed President Reagan's pledge* ~~promised~~ that we would write no last chapters, we would close no books, we would put away no final memories until all your questions about the missing and about possible prisoners of war were 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 -- to bring our men home.

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

on this sensitive issue are
~~The~~ Frustration ~~of~~ POW/MIA families ~~is~~ very understandable. *those who*
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))

3

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, ^{supporting you, which} ~~that began to protest~~ growing government indifference to ^{the POW/MIA issue in earlier years} ~~MIAs~~. Their contribution cannot be overstated.

~~Another partners~~ in our quest are the men and women in government who ^{are dedicating} ~~have dedicated~~ 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} ~~felt~~ ^{by people in the military services, in} throughout the Defense Intelligence Agency, in ^{throughout the world} ~~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 governments of Indochina the strength of ^{bipartisan Congressional} ~~their~~ 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.

4

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 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^m of power for the non-communist ^{Cambodians} ~~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

5

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. *Don't paragraph critical!*

Insert! Second - follow! To the families of those missing in Cambodia, I must tell you that our ~~best~~ ^{Phnom Penh's} 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~~ ^{there} have 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~~ ^{the process}. 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 ^{was} ~~will be~~ with you this ^{morning} ~~afternoon~~, ^{and} ~~along with~~ 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 issues ~~rests~~ 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 mementos are still being lovingly kept in scrapbooks. And questions remain, and will remain, until answered.

Now the mothers, ^{wives, and children and friends} and fathers of another great power share ^{the same} ~~your~~ grief, ^{with you} share ^{about missing loved ones.} 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.

7

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 . . . we can build a new spirit of peace.

In Ecclesiastes, it is written that there is a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time of war, and a time of peace. The world has waited long enough. This is the time for a just and lasting peace....

Thank you, God bless you and God bless America.

*Your success has been in ensuring
~~Our success~~ that throughout the world,
the need for returning POW's and accounting
for MIA's is recognized. You can be justifiably
proud of that achievement.*

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUMDATE: 7/27/89

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: _____

29 JUL 27 P5:03

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	MCCLURE	☐	
SUNUNU	☐	☒	NEWMAN	☐	☐
SCOWCROFT	☐	☒	PORTER	☐	☒
DARMAN	☐	☒	STUDDERT	☐	☒
BATES	☐	☒	UNTERMAYER	☐	☐
BREEDEN	☐	☐	ROGERS	☐	☒
CARD	☐	☒	WINSTON	☒	☒
CICCONI	☐	☒	PINKERTON	☐	☒
DEMAREST	☐	☒	WHMO	☐	☒
FITZWATER	☐	☒		☐	☐
GRAY	☐	☒		☐	☐
HAGIN	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

1530 JUL 27 PM 1:2

July 26, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *w*
FROM: MARK DAVIS *MD*
SUBJECT: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES SPEECH

I. SUMMARY

On Friday, July 28, 1989, you will address approximately 700 people in the Grand Ballroom of the J. W. Marriott at 3:20 p.m. Crowd will be comprised of the Board of Directors and members of the National League of Families -- a MIA/POW organization. You will be accompanied on stage by 10 people, introduced by George Brooks, Head of the Board of Directors, and then deliver a 15 minute speech as prepared on the teleprompter.

II. DISCUSSION

This speech reaffirms your commitment to learn the fates of MIA/POWs in Indochina.

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.

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

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES/J.W. MARRIOTT
July 28, 1989/10:00 a.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 as a result of our nation's noble effort to prevent totalitarianism in South Vietnam.

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 ~~the~~ highest 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 ^{Sacred} ~~yellowed~~ ✓
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} ~~if~~ 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.

Davis/Martin
July 27, 1989
Draft: Five
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~~ ^{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 ~~you~~ ^{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.))

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. *In just a few minutes,* I will ~~soon~~ ^{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^{a/}~~te~~ 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.

*I am now pleased to sign a protocol declaring
9/15 Nat POW/MIA Recognition day.*

2:45 7/27
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.

2:45 7/27
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.

Phillip [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.]

Includes
Karl's changes
Draft 2

- Advantages of this new formulation
- (a) removes "as long as there is a possibility"
- (b) removes "Americans remain alive"
- ~~but~~ but maintains the pledge to do something if we discover proof of captivity.

Draft No 1

DRAFT REMARKS FOR PRESIDENT BUSH

National League of Families

20th Annual Meeting

J. W. Marriott Hotel, Washington, D.C.

July 28, 1989

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. I recognized, as I do now, the magnitude of what 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.

④
insert back
rotation

⑤
insert rotation

6
most
likely

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.

11

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.

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 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.

main
page 5 of new
draft

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 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.

Draft No 2

Prior to coming today, I reflected on the magnitude of what you have endured through so many years of uncertainty. ~~but with that~~

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

1000 JUL 27 1989

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

Thank you George, Ann.

It's ^{an honor} ~~a delight~~ to be back ^{and recognized} ~~before~~ the ^{burdens} ~~never be~~ reversed.

① National League of Families. Your organization provides us all with a stirring example of how ^{citizens working together can contribute} ~~democracy works~~ positively to policy making.

② 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.

③ 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, ^{just as did your missing loved ones.}

^{must be attached} This wasn't always a universally accepted truth. In years past, there were times when those in the American uniform have been 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.

④ 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

2

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.

in success from here until next page 5
⑨ 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 *echoed President Reagan's pledge* promised that we would write no last chapters, we would close no books, we would put away no final memories until all your questions about the missing and about possible prisoners of war were 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 -- to bring our men home.

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

on this sensitive issue are
those who
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))

3

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, *supporting you, which* ~~that began to protest~~ *the POW/MIA issue in earlier years* growing government indifference to MIA's. Their contribution cannot be overstated.

~~Another~~ *our* partners in our quest are the men and women in government who *are dedicating* ~~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 *shared* ~~felt~~ *by people in the military services, in* ~~throughout~~ *throughout the* the Defense Intelligence Agency, in the embassies *and* ~~and~~ *world* 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* ~~their~~ 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.

4

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 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^{ing} of power for the non-communist ^{Cambodians} 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

5

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. *(Insert paragraph critical!)*

*Insert! Second-
order
filler!* → To the families of those missing in Cambodia, I must tell you that our best efforts to gain ^{Phnom Penh's} ~~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 ^{there} ~~in Phnom Penh~~ have 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 ^{the process} 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 ^{was} ~~will be~~ with you this ^{morning} ~~afternoon~~, ^{and} ~~along with~~ 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 ^{at} ~~responsibility~~ ^{the} responsibility for ~~POW/MIA issues~~ ~~rests~~ 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 mementos are still being lovingly kept in scrapbooks. ~~And~~ questions remain, and will remain ^{until} until answered.

Now the mothers and fathers ^{wins, and children and friends} of another great power share ^{the same} ~~your~~ grief, share ^{with you} ~~your~~ 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.

7

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 . . . we can build a new spirit of peace.

In Ecclesiastes, it is written that there is a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time of war, and a time of peace. The world has waited long enough. This is the time for a just and lasting peace. . . .

Thank you, God bless you and God bless America.

*Your success has been in ensuring
~~Our success~~ that throughout the world,
the need for returning POW's and accounting
for MIA's is recognized. You can be justifiably
proud of that achievement.*

5851

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 7/25/89

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY:

7/26/89 NOON

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	MCCLURE	☒	☐
SUNUNU	☐	☒	NEWMAN	☐	☐
SCOWCROFT	☒	☐	PORTER	☒	☐
DARMAN	☒	☐	STUDDERT	☒	☐
BATES	☒	☐	UNTERMAYER	☐	☐
BREEDEN	☐	☐	ROGERS	☐	☒
CARD	☐	☒	WINSTON	☐	☒
CICCONI	☐	☒	PINKERTON	☒	☐
DEMAREST	☒	☐	WHMO	☐	☐
FITZWATER	☐	☒		☐	☐
GRAY	☒	☐		☐	☐
HAGIN	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS: Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than NOON Wednesday, July 26, 1989, with a copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

27 July 1989

TO: Chriss Winston

The NSC concurs with changes, as noted.


 Brent Scowcroft

cc: James W. Cicconi

James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

89 JUL 25 P 5: 51

Draft No 3

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES/J.W. MARRIOTT

July 28, 1989/10:00 a.m.

Thank you George, Ann. It's an honor to be back with the National League of Families. Prior to coming today, I reflected on the magnitude of what you have endured through so many years of uncertainty and recognized that despite these 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 contribute positively to policy making.

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, just as did your missing loved ones.

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 mission^{ng} 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~~^{its} troops.

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~~^{its} 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.

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.

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 echoed President Reagan's pledge that we would write no last chapters, we would close no books, we would put away no final memories until ~~all~~ your questions ~~about~~ the missing and ~~about~~ possible prisoners of war ^{have been} ~~were~~ 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 -- to bring our men home.

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

Frustration on this sensitive issue ^{is} ~~are~~ 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 organization, those who have stood side-by-side with us through the long years. It was these veteran groups, supporting you, which protested ~~growing~~ government in ~~difference~~ to the POW/MIA issue in earlier years. Their contribution ^{has been indispensable} ~~[cannot be overstated.]~~

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.

6

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 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 ^{power} genuine sharing of ~~power~~ ^{with} for the non-communist Cambodians led by Prince Sihanouk 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 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 ~~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 because our government is giving it the highest 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 yellowed 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 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 . . . we can build a new spirit of peace.

In Ecclesiastes, it is written that there is a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time of war, and a time of peace. The world has waited long enough. This is the time for a just and lasting peace. [Your success has been in ensuring that throughout the world, the need for returning POW's and accounting for MIA's is recognized. You can be justifiably proud of that achievement.]