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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: 13498-003

Folder Title:
National League of Families 7/28/89 [2]

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

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 89 JUL 25 P 6:07 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 7/26/89 NOON

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN <i>on attached copy</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WHMO <i>N/C phone</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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:

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

~~SECRET~~

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

1989 JUL 25 01:51

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

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

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

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 ^{there was} a move to close down the office that investigates the fate of your loved ones. And yet you did not forget. You did not break ranks.

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

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

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

When I sought the presidency, I promised that 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 decency, that the governments of Indochina give **the fullest possible accounting.**

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

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

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

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

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

You also have many friends in both parties in Congress. I especially want to commend Bob Dole, Steve Solarz, Bob Lagomarsino and Ben Gilman, for showing the governments of Indochina the strength of 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.

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. *That* *settlement must* including a genuine share of power for the non-communist factions led by Prince Sihanok and an internationally verified troop withdrawal. But Hanoi must clearly understand that as a practical matter, the pace and scope of this process will be

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Paraphrase:
fact
check
please*

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GO BACK TO ORIGINAL GROUP.

WHITE HOUSE MILITARY OFFICE

ROUTING	DATE JL 26 1989	INITIALS
	DIRECTOR	
✓	DEPUTY DIRECTOR	
	PERSONAL SECRETARY	
	ARMY AIDE	
	MARINE CORPS AIDE	
	NAVAL AIDE	
	AIR FORCE AIDE	
	COAST GUARD AIDE	
	EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	
	AIRCRAFT COORDINATOR	
	CEREMONIES COORDINATOR	
	STAFF ASSISTANT	
	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	
	SHELTER SUPERVISOR	
	SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR EMERG. PLANS	
	SPECIAL PROGRAMS OFFICER	
	COMPTROLLER	
	SECURITY ADVISOR	

Capt M -

For your signature. I have read through this, see no problem, and called in a concurrence.

They do like to have a written response for file purposes.

Bobby

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 7/25/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 7/26/89 NOON

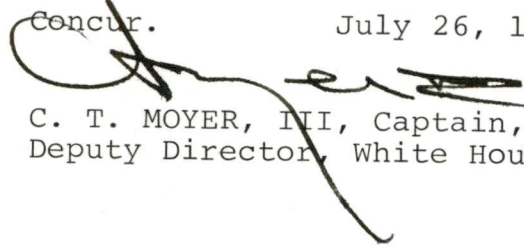
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WHMO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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89 JUL 27 A10:16

RESPONSE:

Concur. July 26, 1989

 C. T. MOYER, III, Captain, USN
 Deputy Director, White House Military Office

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

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

1989 JUL 25 PM 5:1

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

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

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

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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.**

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Thank you, God bless you and God bless America.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 26, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: National League of Families

The draft is well written and includes many thoughtful and moving passages. This speech is yet another solid effort. We have no suggested changes from a policy standpoint and approve of the draft in its present form.

cc: James W. Cicconi

89 JUL 26 P5: 42

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 7/25/89

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY:

7/26/89 NOON

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES

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DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WHMO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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JK

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

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

1989 JUL 25 21 51

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

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

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

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

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

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503



NOTICE:

Enclosed are comments from staff members of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Such comments do not necessarily represent the official position of the Director of OMB or of the Office of Management and Budget. If you wish to have the Director's personal comments, please let me know -- and contact me if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David J. Haun".

David J. Haun
Executive Assistant
to the Director

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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WHMO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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.

89 JUL 26 P 3:42

RESPONSE:

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

1989 JUL 25 11 51

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

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

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

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

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.

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.**

Note: determine seems confusing here, as though the President was deciding their fate.

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

When I sought the presidency, I promised that 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 decency, that the governments of Indochina give **the fullest possible accounting.**

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

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

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

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

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

You also have many friends in both parties in Congress. I especially want to commend Bob Dole, Steve Solarz, Bob Lagomarsino and Ben Gilman, for showing the governments of Indochina the strength of 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.

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.

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

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

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Thank you, God bless you and God bless America.

Don't think
Ecclesiastes says
"kill" - this
should be checked.

Dennis x5041

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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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WHMO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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minor comments

RESPONSE:

89 JUL 26 P 3: 31

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

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

1989 JUL 25 PM 5:1

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

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

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

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Thank you, God bless you and God bless America.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM



DATE: 7/25/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 7/26/89 NOON

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES

89 JUL 26 13:17

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WHMO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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:

No Comment
7/26/89.

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

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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WHMO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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SM

89 JUL 26 3:09

RESPONSE:

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

1989 JUL 25 PM 5:11

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

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

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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.**

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When I sought the presidency, I 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 decency, that the governments of Indochina give **the fullest possible accounting.**

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

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

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

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

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

You also have many friends in both parties in Congress. I especially want to commend Bob Dole, Steve Solarz, Bob Lagomarsino and Ben Gilman, for showing the governments of Indochina the strength of 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.

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 of power for the non-communist factions led by Prince Sihanok and an internationally verified troop withdrawal. But Hanoi must clearly understand that as a practical matter, the pace and scope of this process will be

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 26, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: STEPHEN G. RADEMAKER *SR*
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks; National League of Families

Pursuant to James Cicconi's request, Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced matter. We are concerned that some of the rhetoric in the speech is overblown and contains promises that the President cannot keep. In order to inject greater restraint into the speech we suggest the following changes:

- page 2, fourth full paragraph, second sentence, delete "as a matter of the highest national priority"; ✓
- page 2, sixth full paragraph, delete the third sentence; ✓
- page 5, third full paragraph, modify the third sentence to read "Yes . . . but progress is being made only because our government is giving it high priority." ✓

Subject to these changes, Counsel's Office has no objection to the speech as drafted.

cc: James W. Cicconi

89 JUL 26 PM 12:45

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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WHMO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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:

No Comments.
 19:29 26 Jul 89
 - James

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

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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 26, 1989
Draft: Two
Title: Missing

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

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

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

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 there was a move to close down the office that investigates the fate of your loved ones. And yet you did not forget. You did not break ranks.

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

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

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

When I sought the presidency, I promised that 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 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 decency, that the governments of Indochina give **the fullest possible accounting.**

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

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

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

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

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

You also have many friends in both parties in Congress. I especially want to commend Bob Dole, Steve Solarz, Bob Lagomarsino and Ben Gilman, for showing the governments of Indochina the strength of 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.

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. That settlement must include a genuine share of power for the non-communist factions led by Prince Sihanok and an internationally verified troop withdrawal. But Hanoi must clearly understand that as a practical matter, the pace and scope

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

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

To the families of those missing in Cambodia, I must tell you that our best efforts to gain that government's humanitarian cooperation on resolving the fates of your missing loved ones has thus far been unsuccessful. Despite their public claims to be holding remains of some Americans, officials in Phnom Penh have 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 high priority.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you, God bless you and God bless America.

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FILE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THANK YOU, GOD BLESS YOU AND GOD BLESS AMERICA.

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