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FOIA Number:

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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: 13647
Folder ID Number: 13647-002

Folder Title:
[Vessey Commission - The Rose Garden] 10/23/92 [OA 8485]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	18	5	6

CLOSE HOLD

Document No. 358066

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 10/22/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ----

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VESSEY POW-MIA REMARKS, 10/23

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MULLINS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PROVOST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROSS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TUTWILER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ZOELICK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>McGROARTY</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

The Attached have been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

CLOSE HOLD

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 22, 1992 2 OCT 22 P 6:40

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: DAN MC GROARTY *DMG*

SUBJECT: VESSEY POW-MIA REMARKS

Friday morning at 7:30 a.m., you meet with General Vessey, Senator McCain and others to receive a report on their just-completed mission to Hanoi.

Following that meeting, you make a short statement in the Rose Garden. You will be joined there by members of POW/MIA families.

Draft 5
October 22, 1992
5:00 pm
[VESSEY]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VESSEY COMMISSION
THE ROSE GARDEN
OCTOBER 23, 1992
7:30 A.M.

General Vessey. Senators McCain, Kerry and Smith.
Distinguished guests. Good morning, and welcome to the Rose
Garden.

Finally, let me welcome representatives of a brave group of
Americans -- the families of those still missing in Indochina.
I've spoken to many of you. I've read your letters -- listened
to your stories: the powerful mixture of pride and fear, proud
of your warrior's service -- but fearful you will never know his
fate. Knowing your anguish, I made a solemn pledge: I would not
rest without the fullest possible accounting of those who never
came home. //

And so, early in my Administration, I told Hanoi we would
pursue a policy that left behind the bitterness of the war -- but
not the men who fought it. Our approach -- the "roadmap" -- was
designed to gain the fullest possible accounting of our MIAs. It
has been a tough road to follow. Some told us the MIAs should be
swept aside for commercial opportunities in Vietnam. Others just
wanted to pretend Vietnam never happened. They told us to
"forget the war" -- and just "move on."

But we can never forget the men who answered this country's
call. / You see, for me, the POW/MIA issue is a question of
honor: Of oaths sworn -- commitments kept. It is a nation's

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

To help me gain the fullest possible accounting, I asked General John Vessey -- former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff -- to continue to serve as my personal representative to Hanoi. General Vessey has many years of distinguished service. But of all his many missions -- he'd probably tell you this is the toughest task he's ever faced.

He's worked countless hours, and travelled endless miles, but we were persistent, and steadfast, and our policy began to work. Hanoi has yielded the remains of 269 American servicemen. We secured the right to go anywhere in Vietnam to investigate reports of live Americans. We began excavating the battlegrounds of Indochina, searching for the remains of our servicemen. In these searches, we never found anyone alive, but we vowed to follow every lead.

Then, late last summer, we got our first glimpse of Vietnam's vast set of wartime archives. With proof of the archives' existence in hand, I once again asked General Vessey to undertake a mission to Hanoi. And I called on a man I greatly admire, Senator John McCain, himself a former POW, to accompany the General. The Vietnamese have tremendous respect for Senator McCain -- a respect that transcends country and culture. Because of this, he was critical to the mission's success.

General Vessey and Senator McCain have just now reported to me on their mission. And I am pleased to announce this morning that our policy has achieved a real breakthrough. // Hanoi has

agreed to provide us with all -- I repeat all -- information they have collected on American POWs and MIAs. This includes photographs, artifacts, and detailed records on Americans who fell into their hands. Hanoi's records will at last enable us to determine the fate of many of our men. We still await the return of their remains -- but already, my representatives have begun to provide answers to families who have waited and prayed for decades.

It pains me beyond words to say -- we may never know what happened to each and every American. But we will spare no effort to learn the truth.

Early in my term, I initiated worldwide investigations to determine the fate of our missing men, not only in Vietnam, but in all the battles of the Cold War. Along the way, we've also had help from Senators Kerry and Smith, who head the Select POW/MIA Committee. From Russia, we've begun to learn the fate of Americans missing since Stalin's reign, and North Korea has returned the first American remains in over forty years.

Today, finally, I am convinced that we can begin writing the last chapter of the Vietnam War. It was a bitter conflict, but Hanoi knows today that we seek only answers, without threat of retribution for the past. As we cooperate in bringing that painful era to a close, Vietnam and the United States can begin to look towards the future.

To begin that process, we have extended modest disaster assistance to flood ravaged areas of Vietnam. I have also directed my Administration to work with Hanoi in developing ways

to help identify Vietnam's own MIAs and increase humanitarian assistance to disabled Vietnamese veterans of the war.

Today is a day of significance to all Americans. It is so because today we again honor those who chose to serve, and who gave themselves in the supreme measure of devotion to their country. Today we are honoring them by at long last approaching a point where we can fully keep faith with their loved ones and bring them peace.

Let me close on a personal note. This is an emotional moment for me. My family never had to go through what you've gone through. But I do remember a day, almost 50 years ago: Paddling against the tide. Alone. At sea. When I wasn't wondering if anyone would find me at all -- worrying who might find me first.

All I had to go on was the knowledge that -- for this country, for America, even one / single / serviceman's / life / mattered. It should be that way always.

Thank you all, and may God Bless America.

#

**THIS INCLUDES PHOTOGRAPHS, ARTIFACTS, AND
DETAILED RECORDS ON AMERICANS WHO FELL INTO
VIETNAM'S HANDS. HANOI'S RECORDS WILL AT
LAST ENABLE US TO DETERMINE THE FATE OF MANY
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**I HAVE ALSO DIRECTED MY ADMINISTRATION TO
WORK WITH HANOI IN DEVELOPING WAYS TO HELP
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CLOSE HOLD

Document No. 358066ss

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 10/22/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TODAY, 10/22 1:00pm

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VESSEY COMMISSION THE ROSE GARDEN - OCT. 23 - 7:30 a.m.

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MULLINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PROVOST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROSS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUTWILER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ZOELICK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MCGROARTY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 1:00 p.m., TODAY, OCTOBER 22, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE: TO: DANIEL B. MCGROARTY

October 22, 1992

The NSC staff concurs with changes as noted.

PHILLIP D. BRADY Assistant to the President and Staff Secretary Ext. 2702

CLOSE HOLD

Draft 5 is final version BRENT SCOWCROFT

CLOSE HOLD

Draft 3
October 22, 1992
9:00 pm
[VESSEY]

2 OCT 22 A 9:20

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VESSEY COMMISSION
THE ROSE GARDEN
OCTOBER 23, 1992
7:30 A.M.

General Vessey. Senator McCain. Distinguished guests.

Good morning, and welcome to the Rose Garden.

Finally, let me welcome ^{representatives of} a brave group of Americans -- the families of those still missing in Indochina. I've spoken to many of you. I've read your letters -- listened to your stories: the powerful mixture of pride and fear, proud of your warrior's service -- but fearful you will never know his fate. Knowing your anguish, I made a solemn pledge: I would not rest without the fullest possible accounting of those who never returned. //

→ You see, for me, the POW/MIA issue is a question of justice: Of oaths sworn -- commitments kept. It is a nation's test of its own worth -- measured in the life of one, lone individual.

→ Soon after my inauguration, I asked General John Vessey -- former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff -- to continue to serve as my personal representative to Hanoi. General Vessey has many years of distinguished service. But of all his many missions -- he'd probably tell you this is the toughest task he ever faced.

He's worked countless hours, and travelled endless miles, but we were unwavering and tough, and our policy began to get results. At long last, Hanoi yielded the remains of 269 American servicemen. We secured the right to go anywhere in Vietnam to

investigate reports of live Americans. We began excavating the battlegrounds of Indochina, searching for the remains of our servicemen. In these searches, we never found anyone alive, but we vowed to follow every lead.

Then, late last summer, we got our first glimpse of Vietnam's vast set of wartime archives. With proof of the archives' existence in hand, I once again asked General Vessey to ^{undertake} make a mission to Hanoi. And I called on a man I greatly admire, Senator John McCain, himself a former POW, to accompany the General. I am convinced that -- because of the understandable respect the Vietnamese have for John -- a respect that transcends country and culture -- he was critical to the mission's success.

And succeed they did. General Vessey and Senator McCain have just now reported to me on their mission. And I am pleased to announce that we have achieved a breakthrough. Hanoi has agreed to provide us with all -- I repeat all -- information they have collected on American POWs and MIAs. This includes photographs, artifacts, and detailed records on Americans who fell into ^{Vietnam's} their hands. Hanoi's records will at last enable us to determine the fate of many of our men. We still await the return of their remains -- but already, we have begun to provide answers to families who have waited and prayed for decades for word.

It pains me beyond words to say -- we may never know what happened to each and every American. But we will spare no effort to learn the truth.

Early in my term, I initiated worldwide investigations to determine the fate of our missing men, not only in Vietnam, but

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To begin that process, we have extended modest disaster assistance to flood ravaged areas of Vietnam. I have also directed my Administration to work with Hanoi in developing ways to help identify Vietnam's ^{disabled Vietnamese} ~~own~~ MIAs and increase humanitarian assistance to veterans of the war ~~in Vietnam~~.

Let me close on a personal note. This is an emotional moment for me. My family never had to go through what you've gone through. But I do remember a day, almost 50 years ago: Paddling against the tide. Alone. At sea. When I wasn't wondering if anyone would find me at all -- worrying who might find me first.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 22, 1992

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#

CLOSE HOLD

Document No. 250066ss

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 10/22/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TODAY, 10/22 1:00pm

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VESSEY COMMISSION
SUBJECT: THE ROSE GARDEN - OCT. 23 - 7:30 a.m.

Table with columns for names and checkboxes for ACTION and FYI. Includes names like VICE PRESIDENT, BAKER, SCOWCROFT, DARMAN, BATES, BRADY, BROMLEY, CALIO, DEMAREST, FITZWATER, GRAY, HOLIDAY, HORNER, MCBRIDE, MOORE, MULLINS, PETERSMEYER, PORTER, PROVOST, ROSS, SMITH, TUTWILER, ZOELICK, and MCGROARTY.

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 1:00 p.m., TODAY, OCTOBER 22, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

called: 12:00

CLOSE HOLD

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

CLOSE HOLD

Draft 3
October 22, 1992
9:00 pm
[VESSEY]

2 OCT 22 A 9:20

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VESSEY COMMISSION
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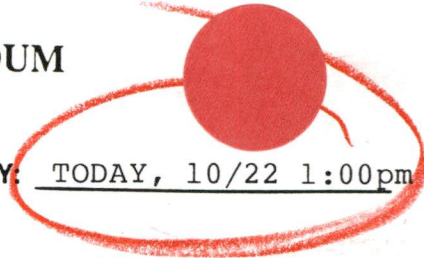
CLOSE HOLD

Document No. 358066ss

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SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VESSEY COMMISSION THE ROSE GARDEN - OCT. 23 - 7:30 a.m.



	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
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BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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CALIO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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HOLIDAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 1:00 p.m., TODAY, OCTOBER 22, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

No comments

CLOSE HOLD

(P. Brady may respond at a later date)

PHILLIP D. BRADY Assistant to the President and Staff Secretary Ext. 2702

CLOSE HOLD

Draft 3
October 22, 1992
9:00 pm
[VESSEY]

2 OCT 22 A 9:20

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He's worked countless hours, and travelled endless miles, but we were unwavering and tough, and our policy began to get results. At long last, Hanoi yielded the remains of 269 American servicemen. We secured the right to go anywhere in Vietnam to

investigate reports of live Americans. We began excavating the battlegrounds of Indochina, searching for the remains of our servicemen. In these searches, we never found anyone alive, but we vowed to follow every lead.

Then, late last summer, we got our first glimpse of Vietnam's vast set of wartime archives. With proof of the archives' existence in hand, I once again asked General Vessey to make a mission to Hanoi. And I called on a man I greatly admire, Senator John McCain, himself a former POW, to accompany the General. I am convinced that -- because of the understandable respect the Vietnamese have for John -- a respect that transcends country and culture -- he was critical to the mission's success.

And succeed they did. General Vessey and Senator McCain have just now reported to me on their mission. And I am pleased to announce that we have achieved a breakthrough. Hanoi has agreed to provide us with all -- I repeat all -- information they have collected on American POWs and MIAs. This includes photographs, artifacts, and detailed records on Americans who fell into their hands. Hanoi's records will at last enable us to determine the fate of many of our men. We still await the return of their remains -- but already, we have begun to provide answers to families who have waited and prayed for decades for word.

It pains me beyond words to say -- we may never know what happened to each and every American. But we will spare no effort to learn the truth.

Early in my term, I initiated worldwide investigations to determine the fate of our missing men, not only in Vietnam, but

in all the battles of the Cold War. From Russia, we've begun to learn the fate of Americans missing since Stalin's reign, and North Korea has returned the first American remains in over forty years.

Today, finally, I am convinced that we can begin writing the last chapter of the Vietnam War. It was a bitter conflict, but Hanoi knows today that we seek only answers, without threat of retribution for the past. As we cooperate in bringing that painful era to a close, Vietnam and the United States can begin to look towards the future.

To begin that process, we have extended modest disaster assistance to flood ravaged areas of Vietnam. I have also directed my Administration to work with Hanoi in developing ways to help identify Vietnam's own MIAs and increase humanitarian assistance to veterans of the war in Vietnam.

Let me close on a personal note. This is an emotional moment for me. My family never had to go through what you've gone through. But I do remember a day, almost 50 years ago: Paddling against the tide. Alone. At sea. When I wasn't wondering if anyone would find me at all -- worrying who might find me first.

All I had to go on was the knowledge that -- for this country, for America, even one / single / serviceman's / life / mattered.

Thank you all, and may God Bless America.

#

Draft 4
October 22, 1992
2:00 pm
[VESSEY]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VESSEY COMMISSION
THE ROSE GARDEN
OCTOBER 23, 1992
7:30 A.M.

*and
Senator Kury, Senator Smith*

General Vessey. Senator McCain. Distinguished guests.

Good morning, and welcome to the Rose Garden.

Finally, let me welcome *representatives* a brave group of Americans -- the families of those still missing in Indochina. I've spoken to many of you. I've read your letters -- listened to your stories: the powerful mixture of pride and fear, proud of your warrior's service -- but fearful you will never know his fate. Knowing your anguish, I made a solemn pledge: I would not rest without the fullest possible accounting of those who never came home. //

And so, early in my Administration, I told Hanoi we would pursue a policy that left behind the bitterness of the war -- but not the men who fought it. Our approach -- *called by some* the "roadmap" -- was designed to gain the fullest possible accounting of our MIAs. It has been a tough road to follow. Some told us the MIAs should be swept aside for commercial opportunities in Vietnam. Others just wanted to pretend Vietnam never happened. They told us to "forget the war" -- and just "move on."

But we can never forget the men who answered this country's call. / You see, for me, the POW/MIA issue is a question of honor: Of oaths sworn -- commitments kept. It is a nation's test of its own worth -- measured in the life of one, lone individual.

To help me gain the fullest possible accounting, I asked General John Vessey -- former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff -- to continue to serve as my personal representative to Hanoi. General Vessey has many years of distinguished service. But of all his many missions -- he'd probably tell you this is the toughest task he's ever faced.

He's worked countless hours, and travelled endless miles, but we were ~~unwavering~~ ^{persistent, and steadfast} and our policy began to work. Hanoi ^{has} yielded the remains of 269 American servicemen. We secured the right to go anywhere in Vietnam to investigate reports of live Americans. We began excavating the battlegrounds of Indochina, searching for the remains of our servicemen. In these searches, we never found anyone alive, but we vowed to follow every lead.

Then, late last summer, we got our first glimpse of Vietnam's vast set of wartime archives. With proof of the archives' existence in hand, I once again asked General Vessey to ^{undertake} ~~make~~ a mission to Hanoi. And I called on a man I greatly admire, Senator John McCain, himself a former POW, to accompany the General. I am convinced that -- because of the understandable respect the Vietnamese have for John -- a respect that transcends country and culture -- he was critical to the mission's success.

And succeed they did. General Vessey and Senator McCain have just now reported to me on their mission. And I am pleased to announce this morning that our policy has achieved a ^{real} breakthrough. // Hanoi has agreed to provide us with all -- I repeat all -- information they have collected on American POWs and MIAs. This includes photographs, artifacts, and detailed

records on Americans who fell into their hands. Hanoi's records will at last enable us to determine the fate of many of our men. We still await the return of their remains -- but already, my representatives have begun to provide answers to families who have waited and prayed for decades.

It pains me beyond words to say -- we may never know what happened to each and every American. But we will spare no effort to learn the truth.

*who had
Along the way, we had help from Senators
Kerry and Smith of the Select POW Committee*

Early in my term, I initiated worldwide investigations to determine the fate of our missing men, not only in Vietnam, but in all the battles of the Cold War. From Russia, we've begun to learn the fate of Americans missing since Stalin's reign, and North Korea has returned the first American remains in over forty years.

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To begin that process, we have extended modest disaster assistance to flood ravaged areas of Vietnam. I have also directed my Administration to work with Hanoi in developing ways to help identify Vietnam's own MIAs and increase humanitarian assistance to ^{disabled Vietnamese} veterans of the war, ~~in Vietnam~~.

*— INSERT
SCOW*

Let me close on a personal note. This is an emotional moment for me. My family never had to go through what you've

October 22, 1992

Today is a day of signifance to all Americans. It is so because today we again honor those who chose to serve, and who gave themselves in the supreme measure of devotion to their country. Today we are honoring them by at long last approaching a point where we can fully keep faith with their loved ones and bring them peace.] This threshold on which we now stand is the result of long years of toughness, of patience, and of persistence, of steadfastness in the face of those who have been saying, "Let's put the past behind us and move toward reconciliation with Vietnam now."

Draft 5
October 22, 1992
4:00 pm
[VESSEY]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VESSEY COMMISSION
THE ROSE GARDEN
OCTOBER 23, 1992
7:30 A.M.

General Vessey. Senators McCain, Kerry and Smith.
Distinguished guests. Good morning, and welcome to the Rose
Garden.

Finally, let me welcome representatives of a brave group of
Americans -- the families of those still missing in Indochina.
I've spoken to many of you. I've read your letters -- listened
to your stories: the powerful mixture of pride and fear, proud
of your warrior's service -- but fearful you will never know his
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All I had to go on was the knowledge that -- for this country, for America, even one / single / serviceman's / life / mattered.

Thank you all, and may God Bless America.

#

We're already here
in touch with
yourselves.....

For
Tutorials

CLOSE HOLD

Document No. 358066ss

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 10/22/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TODAY, 10/22 1:00pm

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VESSEY COMMISSION THE ROSE GARDEN - OCT. 23 - 7:30 a.m.

Table with columns for names and checkboxes for ACTION and FYI. Includes names like VICE PRESIDENT, BAKER, SCOWCROFT, DARMAN, BATES, BRADY, BROMLEY, CALIO, DEMAREST, FITZWATER, GRAY, HOLIDAY, HORNER, MCBRIDE, MOORE, MULLINS, PETERSMEYER, PORTER, PROVOST, ROSS, SMITH, TUTWILER, ZOELICK, and MCGROARTY.

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 1:00 p.m., TODAY, OCTOBER 22, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

CLOSE HOLD

PHILLIP D. BRADY Assistant to the President and Staff Secretary Ext. 2702

CLOSE HOLD

Draft 3
October 22, 1992
9:00 pm
[VESSEY]

2 OCT 22 A 9:20

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VESSEY COMMISSION
THE ROSE GARDEN
OCTOBER 23, 1992
7:30 A.M.

General Vessey. Senator McCain. Distinguished guests.
Good morning, and welcome to the Rose Garden.

Finally, let me welcome a brave group of Americans -- the families of those still missing in Indochina. I've spoken to many of you. I've read your letters -- listened to your stories: the powerful mixture of pride and fear, proud of your warrior's service -- but fearful you will never know his fate. Knowing your anguish, I made a solemn pledge: I would not rest without the fullest possible accounting of those who never returned. //

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?
lower
ONE

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~~And succeed they did.~~ General Vessey and Senator McCain have just now reported to me on their mission. And I am pleased to announce that we have achieved a breakthrough. Hanoi has agreed to provide us with all -- I repeat all -- information they have collected on American POWs and MIAs. This includes photographs, artifacts, and detailed records on Americans who fell into their hands. Hanoi's records will at last enable us to determine the fate of many of our men. We still await the return of their remains -- but already, we have begun ^{to begin to work with the families} ~~to provide answers~~ to families who have waited and prayed for decades ~~for word.~~ *done*

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To begin that process, we have extended ^{very} modest disaster assistance to flood ravaged areas of Vietnam. I have also directed my Administration to work with Hanoi in developing ways to help identify Vietnam's own MIAs and increase humanitarian assistance to veterans of the war in Vietnam.

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Thank you all, and may God Bless America.

#

NSC

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But we cannot forget the men who answered their country's call. *For me,* ~~I knew~~ there was no quick fix, no easy way out. You see, for me,....one, lone individual.

To help me gain the fullest possible accounting, I asked.....toughest task he ever faced.

22 OCT 92 10: 14

TIME STAMP

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT STAFFING DOCUMENT

URGENT

SYSTEM LOG NUMBER: 7930

ACTION OFFICER: Paal

DUE: 1pm 22 Oct

- Prepare Memo For Scowcroft/Howe
- Prepare Memo For Brady
- Prepare Memo Scowcroft

- Appropriate Action
- Prepare Memo For Sittmann
- to McGroarty w/cc Brady

CONCURRENCES/COMMENTS*

PHONE* to action officer at ext. 5746

Concur	FYI	Concur	FYI	Concur	FYI
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Andricos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patterson
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Barth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Kansteiner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Pavitt
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Beers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Keith	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Poneman
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Burns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Koch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Primosch
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Canas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Lampley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Pryce
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Chellis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Leary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Rademaker
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Davis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Linhares	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Riedel
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Fry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> McNamara	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Stettner
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Gordon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Melby	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tobey
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Haass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Menan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Van Eron
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Holl	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> O'Leary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Whitley
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Hull	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordway	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Hutchings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Paal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- INFORMATION
- Sittmann
 - Hill
 - Exec Sec Desk
 - Scowcroft (advance)
 - Howe (advance)
 - Records Mgmt.

COMMENTS

Logged By AW

Return to Records Mgmt.
379 OEOB

CLOSE HOLD

Document No. 358066ss

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 10/22/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TODAY, 10/22 1:00 pm

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VESSEY COMMISSION

SUBJECT: THE ROSE GARDEN - OCT. 23 - 7:30 a.m.

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MULLINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PROVOST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROSS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUTWILER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ZOELLICK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>MCGROARTY</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 1:00 p.m., TODAY, OCTOBER 22, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

CLOSE HOLD

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

LOSE HOLD

Draft 3
October 22, 1992
9:00 pm
[VESSEY]

OCT 22 9:20

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VESSEY COMMISSION
THE ROSE GARDEN
OCTOBER 23, 1992
7:30 A.M.

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You see, for me, the POW/MIA issue is a question of justice: Of oaths sworn -- commitments kept. It is a nation's test of its own worth -- measured in the life of one, lone individual. *And so, surely*

Soon after my inauguration, I asked General John Vessey -- former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff -- to continue to serve as my personal representative to Hanoi. General Vessey has many years of distinguished service. But of all his many missions -- he'd probably tell you this is the toughest task he ever faced.

He's worked countless hours, and travelled endless miles, but we were unwavering and ~~tough~~ *firm? unyielding*, and our policy began to ~~get~~ *work* results. ~~At long last~~, Hanoi yielded the remains of 269 American servicemen. We secured the right to go anywhere in Vietnam to

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Thank you all, and may God Bless America.

#

Gray

Draft 3
October 22, 1992
9:00 pm
[VESSEY]

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THE ROSE GARDEN
OCTOBER 23, 1992
7:30 A.M.

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It pains me beyond words to say -- we may never know what happened to each and every American. But we will spare no effort to learn the truth. *I am committed to getting the fullest possible Accounting of the fate of all our men and women who served in South East Asia.*

Early in my term, I initiated worldwide investigations to determine the fate of our missing men, not only in Vietnam, but

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Let me close on a personal note. This is an emotional moment for me. My family never had to go through what you've gone through. But I do remember a day, almost 50 years ago: Paddling against the tide. Alone. At sea. When I wasn't wondering if anyone would find me at all -- worrying who might find me first.

All I had to go on was the knowledge that -- for this country, for America, even one / single / serviceman's / life / mattered.

Thank you all, and may God Bless America.

#

~~Wesley~~ Ross

12 OCT 22 P12: 28

Draft 3
October 22, 1992
9:00 pm
[VESSEY]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VESSEY COMMISSION
THE ROSE GARDEN
OCTOBER 23, 1992
7:30 A.M.

General Vessey. Senator McCain. Distinguished guests.
Good morning, and welcome to the Rose Garden.

Finally, let me welcome a brave group of Americans -- the families of those still missing in Indochina. I've spoken to many of you. I've read your letters -- listened to your stories: the powerful mixture of pride and fear, proud of your warrior's service -- but fearful you will never know his fate. Knowing your anguish, I made a solemn pledge: I would not rest without the fullest possible accounting of those who never ^{came home} returned.

You see, for me, the POW/MIA issue is a question of ^{honor} justice: Of oaths sworn -- commitments kept. It is a nation's test of its own worth -- measured in the life of one, lone individual.

Soon after my inauguration, I asked General John Vessey -- former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff -- to continue to serve as my personal representative to Hanoi. General Vessey has many years of distinguished service. But of all his many missions -- he'd probably tell you this is the toughest task he ever faced.

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It pains me beyond words to say -- we may never know what happened to each and every American, *but I am committed to getting the fullest possible accounts of the fate of all the men and women who served in South East Asia.* But we will spare no effort to learn the truth. *on another copy*

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October 22, 1992
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DRAFT ROSE GARDEN VESSEY SPEECH

Eighteen months ago, the men and women of Desert Storm completed the most rapid and convincing victory in our nation's history, and buried the Vietnam syndrome in the sands of Kuwait. With this reaffirmation of America's strength, and the collapse of the Soviet Union, America stands unchallenged as the leader of the new world, ready to win the economic peace just as we won the wars.

Yet the last chapter on the Vietnam conflict hasn't been written. The war still haunts a brave group of Americans -- the families of those still missing in Indochina. Their feelings are a mixture of pride and fear. They are proud of their warrior's service, but fear they will never know his fate. Knowing their anguish, I vowed I wouldn't rest without the fullest possible accounting of those who never returned.

Soon after my inauguration, I asked General John Vessey, the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to be my personal representative to Hanoi. General Vessey has many years of distinguished service, but he'd probably tell you this is the toughest task he ever faced. He's worked countless hours, and travelled endless miles, but we were unwavering and tough, and our policy began to get results. Hanoi yielded the remains of 269 American servicemen. We secured the right to search Vietnam



*Don - as we
discussed. Thanks
Lorne*

Lorne W. Craner
Director of Asian Affairs
National Security Council

The White House
Washington, D. C. 20506

(202) 395-5054

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Thank you all, and may God Bless America.

For Lorne Craven

From McGraw-Hill

Draft 2
October 21, 1992
3:30 pm
[VESSEY]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VESSEY COMMISSION
THE ROSE GARDEN
OCTOBER 23, 1992
TIME -- T.B.D.

92 OCT 22
A 9: 4

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not clear

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