

FOIA MARKER

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Original OA/ID Number: 2013				
Document ID: 9800667				
Stack: V	Row: 45	Section: 4	Shelf: 5	Position: 2

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9800667
RECEIVED: 29 JAN 98 08

TO: GILMAN, BENJAMIN A
ET AL

FROM: PRESIDENT

DOC DATE: 15 APR 98
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: VIETNAM
CO

MFN

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: REPLY RE JACKSON - VANIK WAIVER FOR VIETNAM

ACTION: FOR DISPATCH

DUE DATE: 10 FEB 98 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: KRISTOFF

LOGREF: 9801000 9801072

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

BOUCHARD
KRISTOFF
NSC CHRON
RUDMAN
SCHWARTZ

COMMENTS:

DISPATCHED BY

SWD

DATE

4/16

BY HAND

W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSGP

CLOSED BY: NSSWD

DOC 4 OF 4

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9800667

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 GAGNON	Z 98012909 PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
002 BERGER	Z 98021816 FWD TO PRESIDENT FOR SIGNATURE
002 KRISTOFF	Z 98031614 FOR FURTHER ACTION
002 BERGER	Z 98031615 FWD TO PRESIDENT FOR SIGNATURE
002 KRISTOFF	Z 98031615 FOR FURTHER ACTION
002 BERGER	Z 98031813 FWD TO PRESIDENT FOR SIGNATURE
002 STEIN, L	Z 98032418 FOR SIGNATURE
003 PRESIDENT	Z 98033114 FOR SIGNATURE
003 KRISTOFF	Z 98040220 FOR FURTHER ACTION
003 PRESIDENT	Z 98040913 FOR SIGNATURE
003 KRISTOFF	Z 98040919 FOR FURTHER ACTION
003 PRESIDENT	Z 98041516 FOR SIGNATURE
004	X 98041614 PRESIDENT SGD LTRS
004 WH STRIPPING DESK	X 98041614 FOR DISPATCH

DISPATCH DATA SUMMARY REPORT

DOC DATE DISPATCH FOR ACTION

DISPATCH FOR INFO

003 980331	VICE PRESIDENT
003 980331	WH CHIEF OF STAFF
004 980415 GILMAN, BENJAMIN A	DEFENSE
004 980415 DAVIS, THOMAS M III	STATE
004 980415 DELAY, THOMAS	CIA
004 980415 LANTOS, TOM	
004 980415 JACKSON-LEE, SHEILA	
004 980415 LOFGREN, ZOE	
004 980415 PORTER, JOHN E	
004 980415 ROHRBACHER, DANA	
004 980415 ROYCE, ED	
004 980415 SANCHEZ, LORETTA	
004 980415 SMITH, CHRISTOPHER H	
004 980415 WOLF, FRANK R	
004 980415 WH STRIPPING DESK	

UNCLASSIFIED

National Security Council
The White House

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 0667
 URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM (PRS) NSC INT ARS
 BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG TMA A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
Cosgriff	_____	_____	_____
Rice	_____	_____	_____
Davies	_____	_____	_____
Kerrick	_____	_____	_____
Steinberg	_____	_____	_____
Berger	_____	_____	_____
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____
West Wing Desk	<u>1</u>	<u>TMA 4.16</u>	<u>D</u>
Records Mgt.	<u>2</u>	<u>SND 4/16</u>	<u>A</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____

A = Action I = Information D = Dispatch R = Retain N = No Further Action

cc:

COMMENTS:

Date: predated before 
penned.

98 APR 16 pm 12:16

Exec Sec Office has diskette _____

**National Security Council
The White House**

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 0667
 URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PRS NSC INT ARS
 BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG _____ A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
Cosgriff	_____	_____	_____
Rice	_____	_____	_____
Davies	_____	_____	_____
Kerrick	_____	_____	_____
Steinberg	_____	_____	_____
Berger	_____	_____	_____
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____
West Wing Desk	<u>1</u>	<u>W 4/15</u>	<u>DP2</u>
Records Mgt.	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

A = Action	I = Information	D = Dispatch	R = Retain	N = No Further Action
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cc:

COMMENTS:

Exec Sec Office has diskette _____

Ed - think maybe
Maloney precluded.

Boomer to Asia
for rewrite? (JL)

Key: n - ↓

We have responded to NIE
point in the letter - no
additional language needed or
appropriate - pls call me.

SK

**National Security Council
The White House**

PROOFED BY: _____

LOG # 0667

URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____

SYSTEM PRS NSC INT ARS

BYPASSED WW DESK: _____

DOCLOG _____ A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
Cosgriff	_____	_____	_____
Rice	_____	_____	_____
Davies	_____	_____	_____
Kerrick	_____	_____	_____
Steinberg	_____	_____	_____
Berger	_____	_____	_____
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____
West Wing Desk	<u>1</u>	<u>70 #12</u>	<u>STAFF</u>
Records Mgt.	_____	_____	_____
<u>Asia</u>	<u>2</u>	_____	<u>Please new file</u>

A = Action	I = Information	D = Dispatch	R = Retain	N = No Further Action
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cc:

*letters per Phil
Caplan note*

COMMENTS:

Exec Sec Office has diskette _____

Asia -

- Need to address
Gulmsri's 2nd letter
(5 Feb) with respect
to the NIE.

- His letter can be
different (in that
respect) from the
others.

- FYI; no need to
respond to Ms.
Griffiths in this
package; that was
done via #0793
which POTUS has
already signed.

KJC

**National Security Council
The White House**

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 0667 REDO
 URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM FRS NSC INT ARS
 BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG SUP A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
<u>SJB</u> Cosgriff	<u>1</u>	_____	_____
Rice	_____	_____	_____
Davies	_____	_____	_____
Kerrick	_____	_____	_____
Steinberg	_____	_____	_____
Berger	_____	_____	_____
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____
West Wing Desk	<u>2</u>	_____	_____
Records Mgt.	_____	_____	_____
<u>Asia</u>	<u>3</u>	_____	_____

A = Action	I = Information	D = Dispatch	R = Retain	N = No Further Action
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CC:

COMMENTS:

'98 APR 8 AM 6:50

'98 APR 10 AM 10:46 - Back w/ note

Exec Sec Office has diskette yes

National Security Council
The White House

3/17/98
3/21/98
25:20P

PROOFED BY: _____

LOG # 0667

URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____

SYSTEM PRS NSC INT ARS

BYPASSED WW DESK: _____

DOCLOG SWD A/O _____

JWP

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
Cosgriff			
Rice	<u>1</u>	<u>R 3/17</u>	<u>Edit Done</u>
Davies			
Kerrick			
Steinberg	<u>2</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>if edit done</u>
Berger			
Situation Room			
West Wing Desk	<u>3</u>		
Records Mgt.			

A = Action I = Information D = Dispatch R = Retain N = No Further Action

cc:

COMMENTS:

'98 MAR 17 PM 4:09

Exec Sec Office has diskette yl

National Security Council
The White House

2/19
3/11

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 06607
URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PRS NSC INT ARS
BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG PR A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
<i>JK</i> Cosgriff	_____	_____	_____
Rice	<u>1</u>	<u>2/18</u>	<u>else see note</u>
Davies	_____	_____	_____
Kerrick	<u>2</u>	<u>2/18</u>	_____
Steinberg	<u>3</u>	<u>Deputy Natl Sec Advisor has seen</u>	<u>see</u>
Berger	_____	_____	_____
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____
West Wing Desk	<u>4</u>	<u>TMA 3-14</u>	<u>D</u>
Records Mgt.	_____	_____	_____
<u>Kristoff</u>	<u>5</u>	_____	<u>A</u>

A = Action I = Information D = Dispatch R = Retain N = No Further Action

cc:

COMMENTS: Per STK, cannot be signed until
J-V Wainer pkg. is signed. (pkg. 803)

98 FEB 18 PM 2:36

Exec Sec Office has diskette off

0667

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

^(D)
Gen. Kerrick -

We held these pkgs until
the President signed the J-V
waiver for Vietnam. The President
signed today.

Recommend you sign out both
packages.

ED

Jim S -

OK?

 (10)



Canada 1997

0667

To All—

Please note letter cannot
be signed until President
approves the J-V waiver
package.

Kristoff



CANADA'S YEAR
OF ASIA PACIFIC
1997 L'ANNÉE
CANADIENNE DE
L'ASIE-PACIFIQUE

Log # 0667

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Fm Rui To _____ Date 3/10/98

This package held until 3/10/98
awaiting PONS signature on Jackson-Vanik
Waiver.

Rui

Fm _____ To _____ Date _____

National Security Council
The White House

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 0667
 URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM (PRS) NSC INT ARS
 BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG TMAA A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
Cosgriff	_____	_____	_____
Rice	_____	_____	_____
Davies	_____	_____	_____
Kerrick	_____	_____	_____
Steinberg	_____	_____	_____
Berger	_____	_____	_____
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____
West Wing Desk	<u>1</u>	<u>TMAA 4.16</u>	<u>D</u>
Records Mgt.	<u>2</u>	<u>SND 4/16</u>	<u>D</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____

A = Action	I = Information	D = Dispatch	R = Retain	N = No Further Action
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CC:

COMMENTS:

Date: predated before 
penned.

98 APR 16 pm 12:16

Exec Sec Office has diskette _____

**National Security Council
The White House**

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 0667
 URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PRS NSC INT ARS
 BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG _____ A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
Cosgriff	_____	_____	_____
Rice	_____	_____	_____
Davies	_____	_____	_____
Kerrick	_____	_____	_____
Steinberg	_____	_____	_____
Berger	_____	_____	_____
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____
West Wing Desk	<u>1</u>	<u>Q 4/15</u>	<u>DPC</u>
Records Mgt.	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

A = Action I = Information D = Dispatch R = Retain N = No Further Action

CC:

COMMENTS:

Exec Sec Office has diskette _____

Ed - think maybe
Maloney precluded.

National Security Council
The White House

Booze to Asia
for new file? (10/3)

LOG # 0667

SYSTEM PRS NSC INT ARS

Key: n -
We have responded to NIE
point in the letter - no
additional language needed or
appropriate - pls call me.
SH

West Wing Desk

1

10 1/2

STAFF

Records Mgt.

Asia

2

Please new file

A = Action

I = Information

D = Dispatch

R = Retain

N = No Further Action

cc:

letters per Phil

Captain note

COMMENTS:

Exec Sec Office has diskette _____

National Security Council
The White House

PROOFED BY: _____

LOG #

0667 REDO

URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____

BYPASSED WW DESK: _____

JSB
Cosgriff

SEQUENCE

1

Rice

Davies

Kerrick

Steinberg

Berger

Situation Room

West Wing Desk

Records Mgt.

Asia

3

A = Action

I = Information

D

cc:

COMMENTS:

'98 APR 8 PM 6:50

'98 APR 10 AM 10:40 - Back w/ note

Exec Sec Office has diskette

yes

Asia -
- [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] = [unclear] [unclear]
(5 Feb) [unclear]
to the [unclear]
- [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear]
others
- FYI; [unclear]
respond to [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear]
package; [unclear]
done via [unclear]
which [unclear]
[unclear]

KFC

National Security Council
The White House

3/1/98
3/2/98
3/5/98

PROOFED BY: _____

LOG # 0667

URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____

SYSTEM PRS NSC INT ARS

BYPASSED WW DESK: _____

DOCLOG SMD A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
<i>JWD</i> Cosgriff			
Rice	1	R 3/17	<i>Edit Done JS</i>
Davies			
Kerrick			
Steinberg	2	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>if edit done</i>
Berger			
Situation Room			
West Wing Desk	3		
Records Mgt.			

A = Action I = Information D = Dispatch R = Retain N = No Further Action

cc:

COMMENTS:

'98 MAR 17 PM 4:09

Exec Sec Office has diskette *gfb*

National Security Council
The White House

2/19
3/11

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 01007
URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PRS NSC INT ARS
BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG B A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
<i>JK</i> Cosgriff			
Rice	<u>1</u>	<u>2/18</u>	<u>close see note</u>
Davies			
Kerrick	<u>2</u>	<u>2/18</u>	
Steinberg	<u>3</u>	<u>Deputy Natl Sec Advisor has seen</u>	<u>see</u>
Berger			
Situation Room			
West Wing Desk	<u>4</u>	<u>TMA 3-14</u>	<u>D</u>
Records Mgt.			
<u>Kristoff</u>	<u>5</u>		<u>A</u>

A = Action I = Information D = Dispatch R = Retain N = No Further Action

CC:

COMMENTS: Per STK, cannot be signed until J-V Wainer pkg. is signed. (pkg. 503)

98 FEB 18 PM 2:36

Exec Sec Office has diskette cf

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Ben Kerrick -

We held these pkgs until
the President signed the J-V
waiver for Vietnam. The President
signed today.

Recommend you sign out both
packages.

Ed

Jim S -
OK? (10)



Canada 1997

0667

To All -

Please note letter cannot
be signed until President
approves the J-V waiver
package.

Kristoff



CANADA'S YEAR
OF ASIA PACIFIC
1997 L'ANNÉE
CANADIENNE DE
L'ASIE-PACIFIQUE

Log # 0667

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Fm Rui To _____ Date 3/10/98

This package held until 3/10/98
awaiting POW signature on Jackson-Van. K.
Warren.

Rui

Fm _____ To _____ Date _____

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9800667
RECEIVED: 29 JAN 98 08

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: GILMAN, BENJAMIN A
SMITH, CHRISTOPHER H
LANTOS, TOM

DOC DATE: 23 JAN 98
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: VIETNAM
CO

MFN

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: MFN STATUS FOR REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER

DUE DATE: 10 FEB 98 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: GAGNON

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION

GAGNON

FOR CONCURRENCE

BAKER

KYLE

LEE

RUDMAN

FOR INFO

KERRICK

KRISTOFF

SCHWARTZ

COMMENTS: IF FINAL REPLY CANNOT BE PREPARED BY DUE DATE, AN INTERIM RESPONSE
MUST BE PREPARED FOR MARA RUDMAN'S SIGNATURE.

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSGP

CLOSED BY:

DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED

PRESIDENTIAL/NSA CORRESPONDENCE

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

ACTION OFFICER: Gagnon

LOG NUMBER: 0667

DUE DATE: 10 Feb

DATE STAFFED: 29 Jan

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO:



PRESIDENT



NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

FROM:

Gilman

*Combine with
1000 and
1072*

PREPARE A RESPONSE FOR THE PRESIDENT'S OR NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR'S SIGNATURE WITHIN 10 DAYS. IF A LETTER DOES NOT REQUIRE A RESPONSE, PLEASE RETURN IT TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT (RM 379) WITH THIS FORM, ANNOTATED ACCORDINGLY.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 15, 1998

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letters regarding a Jackson-Vanik waiver to Vietnam. I understand your concerns about moving forward with the waiver, but I believe this course is the right one to take and will help us advance our objectives with Vietnam.

First, I want to assure you that achieving the fullest possible accounting for our POW/MIA's remains the top priority in our bilateral relations with Vietnam. I am fully committed to this effort and will exhaust every possible lead to determine the fate of those still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. Vietnam's cooperation in our efforts has improved significantly over the past several years and this cooperation has enabled us to take incremental steps to normalize our relations in other areas. We have a comprehensive POW/MIA accounting program in Vietnam that includes joint operations and unilateral activities conducted by the Vietnamese. Because of the high degree of Vietnamese cooperation and the concrete results we have achieved, I determined Vietnam was cooperating fully and in good faith with us in achieving the fullest possible accounting for Americans unaccounted for in the Vietnam War.

Similarly, I share the importance you attach to Vietnam's policy on emigration. Through the efforts of Ambassador Pete Peterson, Vietnam agreed to revise emigration regulations, which allowed the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to expedite interviews of Vietnamese eligible for the Resettlement Opportunity for Vietnamese Returnee (ROVR) program. The change has increased significantly the number of ROVR candidates being processed by the INS. The Vietnamese authorities have located and approved for interview 14,000 of the estimated 18,000 persons we believe are eligible to participate in ROVR.

Vietnam also has established a solid record in its implementation of the Orderly Departure and AMERASIAN programs. The Jackson-Vanik waiver will build on this momentum and encourage the Vietnamese government to take further steps toward implementing a system that offers its people the opportunity to emigrate freely. We will, of course, continue to press the Vietnamese for an accounting of those not presented for interview under the ROVR program and for speedy processing of those approved for immigration to the United States by the INS. Finally, there will be an annual review of all countries receiving Jackson-Vanik waivers, including Vietnam, in June 1998. At that time, we will examine closely Vietnam's emigration policies and practices.

The State Department's latest human rights report highlights Vietnam's poor record. This issue is a critical item on our agenda with Vietnam and Ambassador Peterson has initiated a formal human rights dialogue with Vietnamese officials to prompt greater respect by the government for the rights of its citizens, including the release of political and religious prisoners. We will continue to press for improvements.

Thank you again for writing me on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

The Honorable Benjamin A. Gilman
Chairman
Committee on International Relations
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3220

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 15, 1998

Dear Representative Davis:

Thank you for your letter regarding a Jackson-Vanik waiver to Vietnam. I understand your concerns about moving forward with the waiver, but I believe this course is the right one to take and will help us advance our objectives with Vietnam.

First, I want to assure you that achieving the fullest possible accounting for our POW/MIA's remains the top priority in our bilateral relations with Vietnam. I am fully committed to this effort and will exhaust every possible lead to determine the fate of those still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. Vietnam's cooperation in our efforts has improved significantly over the past several years and this cooperation has enabled us to take incremental steps to normalize our relations in other areas. We have a comprehensive POW/MIA accounting program in Vietnam that includes joint operations and unilateral activities conducted by the Vietnamese. Because of the high degree of Vietnamese cooperation and the concrete results we have achieved, I determined Vietnam was cooperating fully and in good faith with us in achieving the fullest possible accounting for Americans unaccounted for in the Vietnam War.

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Thank you again for writing me on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

The Honorable Thomas M. Davis, III
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-4611

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 15, 1998

Dear Representative DeLay:

Thank you for your letter regarding a Jackson-Vanik waiver to Vietnam. I understand your concerns about moving forward with the waiver, but I believe this course is the right one to take and will help us advance our objectives with Vietnam.

First, I want to assure you that achieving the fullest possible accounting for our POW/MIA's remains the top priority in our bilateral relations with Vietnam. I am fully committed to this effort and will exhaust every possible lead to determine the fate of those still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. Vietnam's cooperation in our efforts has improved significantly over the past several years and this cooperation has enabled us to take incremental steps to normalize our relations in other areas. We have a comprehensive POW/MIA accounting program in Vietnam that includes joint operations and unilateral activities conducted by the Vietnamese. Because of the high degree of Vietnamese cooperation and the concrete results we have achieved, I determined Vietnam was cooperating fully and in good faith with us in achieving the fullest possible accounting for Americans unaccounted for in the Vietnam War.

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Thank you again for writing me on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Clinton", with a stylized, flowing script.

The Honorable Tom DeLay
Majority Whip
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-4322

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 15, 1998

Dear Tom:

Thank you for your letter regarding a Jackson-Vanik waiver to Vietnam. I understand your concerns about moving forward with the waiver, but I believe this course is the right one to take and will help us advance our objectives with Vietnam.

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Thank you again for writing me on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Bin

The Honorable Tom Lantos
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0512

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 15, 1998

Dear Sheila:

Thank you for your letter regarding a Jackson-Vanik waiver to Vietnam. I understand your concerns about moving forward with the waiver, but I believe this course is the right one to take and will help us advance our objectives with Vietnam.

First, I want to assure you that achieving the fullest possible accounting for our POW/MIA's remains the top priority in our bilateral relations with Vietnam. I am fully committed to this effort and will exhaust every possible lead to determine the fate of those still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. Vietnam's cooperation in our efforts has improved significantly over the past several years and this cooperation has enabled us to take incremental steps to normalize our relations in other areas. We have a comprehensive POW/MIA accounting program in Vietnam that includes joint operations and unilateral activities conducted by the Vietnamese. Because of the high degree of Vietnamese cooperation and the concrete results we have achieved, I determined Vietnam was cooperating fully and in good faith with us in achieving the fullest possible accounting for Americans unaccounted for in the Vietnam War.

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Thank you again for writing me on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Rain

The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-4318

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 15, 1998

Dear Zoe:

Thank you for your letter regarding a Jackson-Vanik waiver to Vietnam. I understand your concerns about moving forward with the waiver, but I believe this course is the right one to take and will help us advance our objectives with Vietnam.

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Thank you again for writing me on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Rain

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0516

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 15, 1998

Dear Representative Porter:

Thank you for your letter regarding a Jackson-Vanik waiver to Vietnam. I understand your concerns about moving forward with the waiver, but I believe this course is the right one to take and will help us advance our objectives with Vietnam.

First, I want to assure you that achieving the fullest possible accounting for our POW/MIA's remains the top priority in our bilateral relations with Vietnam. I am fully committed to this effort and will exhaust every possible lead to determine the fate of those still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. Vietnam's cooperation in our efforts has improved significantly over the past several years and this cooperation has enabled us to take incremental steps to normalize our relations in other areas. We have a comprehensive POW/MIA accounting program in Vietnam that includes joint operations and unilateral activities conducted by the Vietnamese. Because of the high degree of Vietnamese cooperation and the concrete results we have achieved, I determined Vietnam was cooperating fully and in good faith with us in achieving the fullest possible accounting for Americans unaccounted for in the Vietnam War.

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Thank you again for writing me on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bill Clinton", with a stylized, flowing script.

The Honorable John Edward Porter
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-1310

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 15, 1998

Dear Representative Rohrabacher:

Thank you for your letter regarding a Jackson-Vanik waiver to Vietnam. I understand your concerns about moving forward with the waiver, but I believe this course is the right one to take and will help us advance our objectives with Vietnam.

First, I want to assure you that achieving the fullest possible accounting for our POW/MIA's remains the top priority in our bilateral relations with Vietnam. I am fully committed to this effort and will exhaust every possible lead to determine the fate of those still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. Vietnam's cooperation in our efforts has improved significantly over the past several years and this cooperation has enabled us to take incremental steps to normalize our relations in other areas. We have a comprehensive POW/MIA accounting program in Vietnam that includes joint operations and unilateral activities conducted by the Vietnamese. Because of the high degree of Vietnamese cooperation and the concrete results we have achieved, I determined Vietnam was cooperating fully and in good faith with us in achieving the fullest possible accounting for Americans unaccounted for in the Vietnam War.

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Thank you again for writing me on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned centrally below the word "Sincerely,".

The Honorable Dana Rohrabacher
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0545

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 15, 1998

Dear Representative Royce:

Thank you for your letter regarding a Jackson-Vanik waiver to Vietnam. I understand your concerns about moving forward with the waiver, but I believe this course is the right one to take and will help us advance our objectives with Vietnam.

First, I want to assure you that achieving the fullest possible accounting for our POW/MIA's remains the top priority in our bilateral relations with Vietnam. I am fully committed to this effort and will exhaust every possible lead to determine the fate of those still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. Vietnam's cooperation in our efforts has improved significantly over the past several years and this cooperation has enabled us to take incremental steps to normalize our relations in other areas. We have a comprehensive POW/MIA accounting program in Vietnam that includes joint operations and unilateral activities conducted by the Vietnamese. Because of the high degree of Vietnamese cooperation and the concrete results we have achieved, I determined Vietnam was cooperating fully and in good faith with us in achieving the fullest possible accounting for Americans unaccounted for in the Vietnam War.

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Thank you again for writing me on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

The Honorable Edward R. Royce
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0539

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 15, 1998

Dear Loretta:

Thank you for your letter regarding a Jackson-Vanik waiver to Vietnam. I understand your concerns about moving forward with the waiver, but I believe this course is the right one to take and will help us advance our objectives with Vietnam.

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Thank you again for writing me on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Bin

The Honorable Loretta Sanchez
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0546

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 15, 1998

Dear Representative Smith:

Thank you for your letter regarding a Jackson-Vanik waiver to Vietnam. I understand your concerns about moving forward with the waiver, but I believe this course is the right one to take and will help us advance our objectives with Vietnam.

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Thank you again for writing me on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

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The Honorable Christopher H. Smith
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3004

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 15, 1998

Dear Representative Wolf:

Thank you for your letter regarding a Jackson-Vanik waiver to Vietnam. I understand your concerns about moving forward with the waiver, but I believe this course is the right one to take and will help us advance our objectives with Vietnam.

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The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-4610

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ID 9800667

REFERRAL

DATE: 16 APR 98

MEMORANDUM FOR: WH STRIPPING DESK

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: TO: GILMAN, BENJAMIN A

SOURCE: PRESIDENT

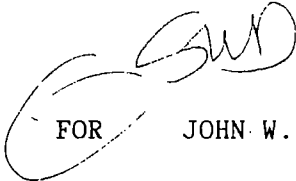
DATE: 15 APR 98

SUBJ: REPLY RE JACKSON - VANIK WAIVER FOR VIETNAM

REQUIRED ACTION: FOR DISPATCH

DUE DATE: 17 APR 98

COMMENT:


FOR

JOHN W. FICKLIN

NSC RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICE

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
DISTRIBUTION RECEIPT

LOG 9800667
DATE 15 APR 98

SUBJECT: REPLY RE JACKSON - VANIK WAIVER FOR VIETNAM
DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 01 OF 01 PAGES

The Honorable Thomas M. Davis, III
House of Representatives
224 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4611

The Honorable Tom DeLay
Majority Whip
House of Representatives
341 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4322

The Honorable Benjamin A. Gilman
House of Representatives
2449 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3220

The Honorable Tom Lantos
House of Representatives
2217 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0512

The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee
House of Representatives
410 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4318

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
House of Representatives
318 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0516

The Honorable Ann Mills Griffiths
National League of Families of
American Prisoners and Missing in
Southeast Asia
Suite 919
1001 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036-5504

The Honorable John Edward Porter
House of Representatives
2373 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-1310

The Honorable Dana Rohrabacher
House of Representatives
2338 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0545

The Honorable Edward R. Royce
House of Representatives
1133 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0539

The Honorable Loretta Sanchez
House of Representatives
1529 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0546

The Honorable Christopher H. Smith
House of Representatives
2370 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3004

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
House of Representatives
241 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4610

0667

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 31, 1998

~~98 MAR 31 PM 1:31~~ACTION~~98 APR 15 PM 4:53~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

98 APR 15 PM 8:07

FROM:

SAMUEL BERGER
LARRY STEIN

SUBJECT:

Letter from Representative Gilman and Others on
VietnamPurpose

Reply to Representative Gilman, et al. on Vietnam policy.

Background

Representative Gilman and others object to any waiver of the Jackson-Vanik amendment for Vietnam, arguing that Vietnam has not shown sufficient progress on POW/MIA accounting or freedom of emigration issues.

Your reply expresses your belief that the non-MFN Jackson-Vanik waiver will promote further emigration freedoms and affirms that POW/MIA accounting remains our priority objective with Vietnam.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letters at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Letters to Representative Gilman et al.
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

258452

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

0667

February 17, 1998

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL R. BERGER

FROM: SANDRA J. KRISTOFF

SUBJECT: Letters from Representative Gilman, et al. on
Vietnam

Representative Gilman and others wrote the President regarding a Jackson-Vanik waiver for Vietnam. The proposed reply reviews our policy and reaffirms that achieving the fullest possible accounting for our POW/MIA's remains our top priority.

Concurrences by: JB MR SB for
Joe Bouchard, Mara Rudman, Eric Schwartz

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum to the President at Tab I.

Attachments

Tab I Memo to the President
Tab A Letter to Gilman and others
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

25 2 894
0667

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

January 23, 1998

JAN 27 PM 2:37

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

In 1995, when you announced your intention to "normalize" the United States relationship with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, many Members of Congress objected that the U.S. should not take that important step until the communist government of Vietnam agreed to be less brutal to its own people. In response, we were assured that the United States had not yet given up our most important leverage -- "Most Favored Nation" (MFN) status and the wide range of economic concessions that go with it. The prospect of those concessions, we were told, would be an important incentive for Hanoi to relax its grip on political and religious prisoners, re-education camp survivors, and other Vietnamese who had suffered because of their wartime associations with the United States.

Today, three years later, the prisoners of conscience are still in prison and thousands of our former comrades-in-arms are still trapped in Vietnam. Nevertheless, your Administration has announced its intention to move toward MFN for Vietnam by waiving the requirements of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment (19 U.S.C. §2432(a)), the statutory provision that makes communist governments ineligible for MFN until they grant their citizens genuine freedom of emigration. If the government of Vietnam allowed its citizens that freedom there would be no need for a waiver, and there is much to be said for letting Jackson-Vanik serve the purpose for which it was enacted.

However, if your Administration were to issue a waiver, then it should at least get as much as it can out of it for those Vietnamese people who have suffered because they share our values. At a minimum, we believe that the Administration should require the following improvements by the communist government of Vietnam **before** waiving the Jackson-Vanik requirements:

FEB 18 9:32

Results, not promises, in the ROVR program. In the past, Vietnamese authorities have denied the United States access to the vast majority of Vietnamese returnees who are eligible for the Resettlement Opportunities for Vietnamese Refugees (ROVR) program. The only significant human rights concession made by the government of Vietnam recently is the elimination of the requirement that ROVR applicants secure "exit permits" from their local

security police before they are eligible to be interviewed by U.S. refugee officers. Although this looks like an important concession, the United States is still forbidden to interview anyone whose name is not on a list supplied by the Vietnamese government. The same officials who had been denying exit permits may now be in a position to keep people off the interview lists. For example, we are aware of a returnee who has been told by his local security police that he is not on the interview list because his case is "political," and because he refuses to join the official state-run Buddhist church.

It is also important to remember that the Vietnamese government has promised at least twice before to give us access to ROVR-eligible returnees, only to break those promises. So it would be counterproductive to waive Jackson-Vanik until it is clear that the government really will allow eligible returnees to leave. Such cooperation -- and not the mere hope of improved cooperation in the future -- is at the heart of what Jackson-Vanik is about. It should be an absolute prerequisite to a waiver.

Elimination of exit permit requirement for ODP Applicants. Thousands of long-time re-education camp survivors, former U.S. government employees, and other Vietnamese who have applied to the Orderly Departure Program (ODP) have been unable to secure exit permits. In some cases this is because their political views have made them unpopular with the government. Others simply have been unable to pay the exorbitant bribes frequently demanded for exit permits. Both disadvantages have worked against some of the most deserving refugees in Vietnam, such as members of the Montagnard ethnic minority who fought valiantly for the United States and have suffered greatly ever since. We should insist that the elimination of the pre-interview exit permit requirement also be extended to ODP applicants.

Freedom for political and religious prisoners. Contrary to the Vietnamese government's pretense that it has no political or religious prisoners, many Vietnamese continue to languish in prisons because of their political or religious beliefs. The continuing, systematic persecution of the Unified Buddhist Church, the Catholic Church, Protestant Christians, and Hoa Hao Buddhists has been confirmed by many human rights observers. Pro-democracy activists, scholars, and poets are still imprisoned for crimes such as "activities to overthrow the government" and "using freedom and democracy to injure the national unity." The release of a significant number of political and religious prisoners should precede any "normalization" of relations with the communist government of Vietnam that includes a Jackson-Vanik waiver and the economic advantages that go with it.

A halt of Radio Free Asia jamming. In addition to denying freedom of the press within Vietnam, the communist government also systematically jams the broadcasts of Radio Free Asia (RFA). As you know, RFA is a United States-supported service that provides for the Vietnamese people the kind of news and entertainment services they could provide for themselves if their government would let them. If "normalization" is to be a two-way street, it must include an end to censorship of broadcasts from the United States.

Increased respect for other human rights. The government of Vietnam remains a communist regime that is actively engaged in the suppression of other basic human rights. For example, it enforces a coercive "two-child-per-couple" policy through loss of employment and other government benefits. It also denies workers the right to organize independent trade unions, and has subjected many to forced labor. Improvement in these areas should precede new concessions to the government of Vietnam.

As Hanoi is well aware, the Jackson-Vanik waiver is a necessary prelude both to MFN and to U.S. taxpayer-subsidized economic benefits, such as assistance from the Export-Import Bank and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation. The regime badly wants the waiver and is determined to do whatever is absolutely necessary to get it, but no more. So a decision to waive compliance with Jackson-Vanik before the United States has secured any real improvement in the human rights situation would only reward the government of Vietnam for its intransigence.

We ask that you make any further economic concessions, including a Jackson-Vanik waiver, expressly contingent on the minimal conditions outlined above. While we may not be able to insist on perfection, we must insist on progress.

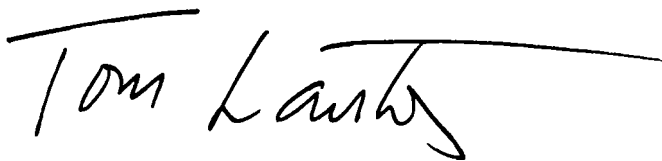
Sincerely,



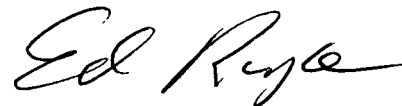
Christopher H. Smith



Benjamin A. Gilman



Tom Lantos



Edward R. Royce



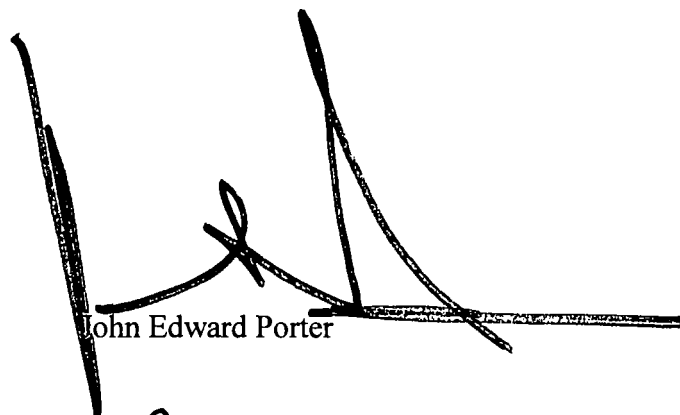
Frank R. Wolf



Zoe Lofgren



Dana Rohrabacher



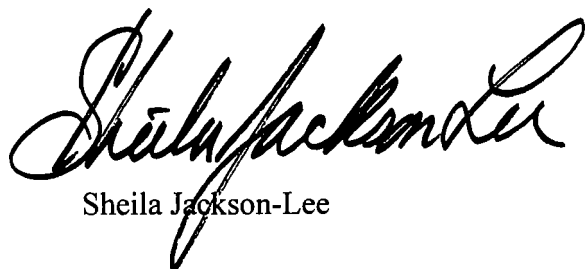
John Edward Porter



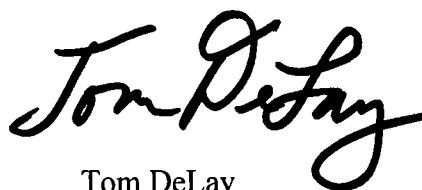
Thomas M. Davis



Loretta Sanchez



Sheila Jackson-Lee



Tom DeLay

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: FEBRUARY 13, 1998

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE CHRIS SMITH

SUBJECT: SUGGESTS THE ADMINISTRATION SHOULD REQUIRE
THE FOLLOWING (LISTED) IMPROVEMENTS BY THE
COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM BEFORE
WAIVING THE JACKSON-VANIK REQUIREMENT

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO:		ACT	DATE	TYPE	C COMPLETED
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	CODE	YY/MM/DD	RESP	D YY/MM/DD
JOHN HILLEY		ORG	98/01/28		C 98/01/28
SAMUEL R. "SANDY" BERGER	REFERRAL NOTE:	RSA	98/01/28		
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: 11 MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

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*****
*ACTION CODES:          *DISPOSITION          *OUTGOING          *
*                        *                      *CORRESPONDENCE:   *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION  *A-ANSWERED          *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM       *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL *      OF SIGNER    *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE      *C-COMPLETED        *      CODE = A     *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET  *S-SUSPENDED        *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*                      *      OUTGOING    *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                      *                      *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE       *                      *                      *
*X-INTERIM REPLY       *                      *                      *
*****

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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75,OEOb) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

FEB18 9:32



BENJAMIN A. GILMAN, NEW YORK
Chairman

LEE H. HAMILTON, INDIANA
RANKING DEMOCRATIC MEMBER

WILLIAM F. GOODLING, PENNSYLVANIA
JAMES A. LEACH, IOWA
HENRY J. HYDE, ILLINOIS
DOUG BEREUTER, NEBRASKA
CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, NEW JERSEY
DAN BURTON, INDIANA
ELTON CALLEGLEY, CALIFORNIA
ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, FLORIDA
CASS BALLINGER, NORTH CAROLINA
DANA ROHRBACHER, CALIFORNIA
DONALD A. MANZULLO, ILLINOIS
EDWARD R. ROYCE, CALIFORNIA
PETER T. KING, NEW YORK
JAY KIM, CALIFORNIA
STEVEN J. CHABOT, OHIO
MARSHALL "MARK" SANFORD, S.C.
MATT SALMON, ARIZONA
AMO HOUGHTON, NEW YORK
TOM CAMPBELL, CALIFORNIA
JON FOX, PENNSYLVANIA
JOHN M. McHUGH, NEW YORK
LINDSEY O. GRAHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA
ROY BLUNT, MISSOURI
KEVIN BRADY, TEXAS

RICHARD J. GARON
Chief of Staff

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH CONGRESS
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

TELEPHONE: (202) 225-5021

BAM GEIDENSON, CONNECTICUT
TOM LANTOS, CALIFORNIA
HOWARD L. BERMAN, CALIFORNIA
GARY L. ACKERMAN, NEW YORK
ENI F. FALCONI, ARIZONA
MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ, CALIFORNIA
DONALD M. PAYNE, NEW JERSEY
ROBERT E. ANDREWS, NEW JERSEY
ROBERT MENENDEZ, NEW JERSEY
SHERROD BROWN, OHIO
CYNTHIA A. MCCINNEY, GEORGIA
ALCEE L. HASTINGS, FLORIDA
PAT DANNER, MISSOURI
EARL F. HILLARD, ALABAMA
BRAD SHERMAN, CALIFORNIA
ROBERT WEXLER, FLORIDA
STEVEN R. ROTHSMAN, NEW JERSEY
BOB CLEMENT, TENNESSEE
BILL LUTHER, MINNESOTA
JIM DAVIS, FLORIDA

MICHAEL H. VAN DUSEN
DEMOCRATIC CHIEF OF STAFF

February 5, 1998

1000

Hon. William J. Clinton
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

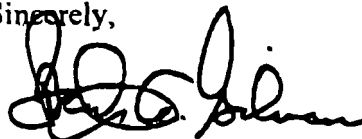
Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to express my desire that the Administration withhold certification on Vietnam's POW/MIA cooperation until after the ongoing National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) is completed and made available for consideration. As you know, past certifications have been received with skepticism by families, veterans and others, especially since these decisions were ostensibly made without appropriate consultation with the intelligence community or the Defense POW/MIA Office.

Since it is my understanding that the NIE is nearing completion, it seems reasonable that certification be delayed until the Administration and the Congress have the opportunity to review its findings. It is my hope that the NIE will be accepted as valid by all concerned and provide a solid basis upon which any decision of certification is made.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



BENJAMIN A. GILMAN
Chairman

BAG:ptb/kpr
cc: Hon. William Cohen
Hon. Madeleine Albright

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 28, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR GLYN DAVIES

NSC Executive Secretariat

FROM: Janet Murguia *JM*
Legislative Affairs

SUBJECT: Presidential Correspondence

Attached are copies of letters sent to the President by various Members of Congress. Since these letters address national security issues, we would appreciate your assistance in drafting a response.

Thank you very much for your assistance. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris Walker at x67500.

The following is a brief description of the letters:

- 1) Rep. Bob Etheridge (D-NC), concerning his constituent, Mr. Michael A. Bradley,
- 2) Rep. Benjamin A. Gilman (R-NY) and others, concerning the Socialist Republic of Vietnam,
- 3) Rep. Cynthia A. McKinney (D-GA), concerning the President's upcoming trip to Africa,
- 4) Rep. Tom DeLay (R-TX), concerning the Climate-Control Treaty recently authored in Kyoto, Japan,
- 5) Rep. Eliot L. Engel (D-NY), concerning the U.S. debt to the U.N.
- 6) Rep. Richard A. Gephardt (D-MO), concerning his constituent, Ms. Christine Stuckel
- 7) Rep. Bernard Sanders (I-VT) and others, concerning the Multilateral Agreement on Investments; and,
- 8) Rep. Frank R. Wolf (R-VA), concerning the people of East Timor.

Enclosures

JAN 28 18:11

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 9, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR GLYN DAVIES

NSC Executive Secretariat

FROM: JANET MURGUIA *JM*
Legislative Affairs

SUBJECT: Presidential Correspondence

Attached are copies of letters sent to the President by various Members of Congress. Since these letters address national security issues, we would appreciate your assistance in drafting a response.

Thank you very much for your assistance. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris Walker at x67500.

The following is a brief description of the letters:

- 1) Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC), concerning Iraq,
- 2) Sen. John Ashcroft (R-MO), concerning the People's Republic of China's most-favored-nation trade status,
- 3) Sen. Charles E. Grassley (R-IA), Rep. J.C. Watts, Jr. (R-OK) and others, concerning President Mohammed Khatami of Iran,
- 4) Rep. Ronald V. Dellums (D-CA), concerning Iraq,
- 5) Rep. Bernard Sanders (I-VT), concerning Ms. Lori Berenson,
- 6) Rep. Charles B. Rangel (D-NY), concerning the U.S. Trade Representative for Africa,
- 7) Rep. James T. Walsh (R-NY) and others, concerning the extradition of Kevin Artt, Terence Kirby, and Pol Brennan,
- 8) Rep. Gerald D. Kleczka (D-WI), concerning Chiapas Mexico; and,
- 9) Rep. Benjamin A. Gilman (R-NY), concerning the POW/MIA cooperation of Vietnam.

Enclosures

FEB 9 1998

FEB-05-1998 23:07

P.01

0918



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

1001 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NORTHWEST, SUITE 819

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20038-5504

UPDATE LINE: 202/858-0133

202/225-8548

February 6, 1998

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the POW/MIA families, I am writing to express our concern and opposition to certification that Vietnam is "fully cooperating in good faith" to resolve the POW/MIA issue. As you know, that certification is required under current law to allow expenditure of funds for diplomatic relations with Vietnam beyond 1995 levels.

As determined by the staff of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, prior certifications by your Administration were not based upon assessments of the intelligence community. The ongoing National Intelligence Estimate on whether Vietnam is meeting long-standing POW/MIA accounting expectations should serve as the basis for any decisions on this matter. Although not yet completed, your national security adviser is quoted in the December 18th WASHINGTON POST as having stated the day before, "We've had very full cooperation with Vietnam in the area of accounting for POW-MIAs." I urge you to carefully review and consider the formal intelligence estimate before reaching any decision on certification.

I also encourage you to temporarily suspend consideration of waiving the Jackson-Vanik requirements, not only because the government of Vietnam has failed thus far to fully implement commitments regarding freedom of immigration. Though no longer frequently noted, other provisions in the Trade Act of 1974 (19 USC 2433) give you the authority to withhold nondiscriminatory treatment to any country based upon cooperation with U.S. efforts to account for American military and civilian POWs and MIAs in Southeast Asia.

Mr. President, my father, the late E.C. "Bus" Mills, served in 1973-74 in the position I have now held for 19 years. He testified before Congress in support of these very provisions. At that time, he urged the restrictions be applied to the former Soviet Union, then chief supplier of war material to the Vietnamese.

FEB-25-1998 23:08

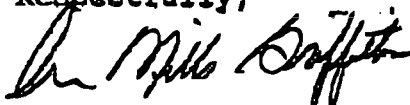
P.02

-2-

These questions are not new to those of us who have waited so long and worked so hard for answers. It seems fair and reasonable that you and officials in your Administration consider objective intelligence analysis on the level of Vietnam's cooperation before proceeding any further with such crucial decisions.

Thank you for your consideration. Despite differences over policy and approach on the POW/MIA issue, as the President of our nation, you have our prayers as you again contemplate sending Americans into combat. God be with them.

Respectfully,



Ann Mills Griffiths
Executive Director

cc: Honorable Madeleine Albright
Honorable William Cohen
Honorable Samuel Berger

ME -

I don't remember pre-clearing this letter.
Nevertheless, it has only 1 small edit. More
importantly, it is not responsive to the Gilman
and National League of Families letters -- those two
need more specific letters on ME.

Phil Caplan 4/2

98 APR 14 PM 5:54

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

April 14, 1998

NOTE FOR PHIL CAPLAN:

You had returned the attached for redo. Our staff has revised the letter and feels it responds to the NIE point in the letter and that no additional language is needed or appropriate.

The President has already responded to the letter from Ann Mills Griffiths. A copy of his response is attached to this note. The incoming letter was included in this package by mistake. Can you please "preclear" this version of the letter and we'll then have the additional letters prepared. Thanks.


Cathy Millison

*OK -
The inclusion of the Uge
of Paul's letter is what confused
me. I think this is fine now.
Phil
4/15*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 6, 1998

Dear Ms. ~~Am~~ Griffiths:

Thank you for your letter regarding a Jackson-Vanik waiver to Vietnam. I understand your concerns about moving forward with the waiver, but I believe this course is the right one and will help us advance our objectives with Vietnam.

First, I want to assure you that achieving the fullest possible accounting for our POW/MIA's remains the top priority in our bilateral relations with Vietnam. I am fully committed to this effort and will exhaust every possible lead to determine the fate of those still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. Vietnam's cooperation in our efforts has improved significantly over the past several years and this cooperation has enabled us to take incremental steps to normalize our relations in other areas.

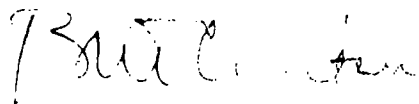
Similarly, I share the importance you attach to Vietnam's policy on emigration. Through the efforts of Ambassador Pete Peterson, Vietnam agreed to revise emigration regulations, which allowed the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to expedite interviews of Vietnamese eligible for the Resettlement Opportunity for Vietnamese Returnee (ROVR) program. The change has increased significantly the number of ROVR candidates being processed by the INS. The Vietnamese authorities have located and approved for interview 14,000 of the estimated 18,000 persons we believe are eligible to participate in ROVR. Vietnam also has established a solid record in its implementation of the Orderly Departure and AMERASIAN programs. The Jackson-Vanik waiver will build on this momentum and encourage the Vietnamese government to take further steps toward implementing a system that offers its people the opportunity to emigrate freely. We will, of course, continue to press the Vietnamese for an

accounting of those not presented for interview under the RVN program and for speedy processing of those referred for immigration to the United States by the INS. Finally, there will be an annual review of all countries receiving Jains or Vanik waivers, including Vietnam, in June 1976. At that time, we will examine closely Vietnam's emigration laws and practices.

The State Department's latest human rights report shines a spotlight on Vietnam's poor record in this area. This issue is a critical item on our agenda with Vietnam and Ambassador Peterson has initiated a formal human rights dialogue with Vietnamese officials to prompt greater respect by the government for the rights of its citizens, including the release of political and religious prisoners. We will continue to press for improvements.

Thank you again for writing on this very important issue.

Sincerely,



Ms. Ann Mills Griffiths
Executive Director
National League of Families of American
Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia
Suite 919
1001 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036-5504

OK to date
4-15-98?

YES

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MC -

Gillman letter should
say "thank you for your
letters" since he sent

no.

And

Dear Representative Davis:

Thank you for your letter regarding a Jackson-Vanik waiver to Vietnam. I understand your concerns about moving forward with the waiver, but I believe this course is the right one to take and will help us advance our objectives with Vietnam.

First, I want to assure you that achieving the fullest possible accounting for our POW/MIA's remains the top priority in our bilateral relations with Vietnam. I am fully committed to this effort and will exhaust every possible lead to determine the fate of those still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.

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Can copy
as signed by Congress
before the INS that for
the INS comment

supports my determination and I do not believe that holding J-V
waiver

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Thank you again for writing me on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Thomas M. Davis, III
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-4611

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Representative Davis:

Thank you for your letter regarding a Jackson-Vanik waiver to Vietnam. I understand your concerns about moving forward with the waiver, but I believe this course is the right one to take and will help us advance our objectives with Vietnam.

First, I want to assure you that achieving the fullest possible accounting for our POW/MIA's remains the top priority in our bilateral relations with Vietnam. I am fully committed to this effort and will exhaust every possible lead to determine the fate of those still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.

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as stated by Congress All of the info before me, the A.T. for the initial comment

supports my determination and I do not believe that

waiver

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Thank you again for writing me on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Thomas M. Davis, III
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-4611

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER
LARRY STEIN

SUBJECT: Letter from Representative Gilman and Others on
Vietnam

Purpose

~~To reply to letters from~~ Representative Gilman, et al. on
Vietnam policy.

Background

Representative Gilman and others object to any waiver of the Jackson-Vanik amendment for Vietnam, arguing that Vietnam has not shown sufficient progress on POW/MIA accounting or freedom of emigration issues. ✓

~~The proposed~~ ^{your} reply expresses your belief that the non-MFN Jackson-Vanik waiver will promote further emigration freedoms and affirms that POW/MIA accounting remains our priority objective with Vietnam.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letters at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Letters to Representative Gilman et al.
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Mr. Chairman

Dear Representative Gilman:

Thank you for

I appreciate receiving your letter regarding the question of granting a Jackson-Vanik waiver to Vietnam. I understand your concerns about moving forward with the waiver, but I believe this ~~stop is the right thing to do~~ ^{course is the one to take} and will help us advance our objectives with Vietnam.

First, I want to assure you that achieving the fullest possible accounting for our POW/MIA's remains the top priority in our bilateral relations with Vietnam. I am fully committed to this effort and will exhaust every possible lead to determine the fate of those still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. Vietnam's cooperation in our efforts has improved significantly over the past several years and this cooperation has enabled us to take incremental steps to normalize our relations in other areas.

Similarly, I share your concerns about Vietnam's restrictions on emigration. Recently, through the efforts of Ambassador Pete Peterson, we have received 10,000 names of persons for interview under the Resettlement Opportunity for Vietnamese Returnee (ROVR) program and there has been a significant increase in the number of Vietnamese being processed under that program. Vietnam also has established a solid record in its implementation of the Orderly Departure and AMERASIAN programs. The Jackson-Vanik waiver will build on this momentum and encourage the Vietnamese government to take further steps toward implementing a system that offers its people the opportunity to emigrate freely. We will, of course, continue to press for an accounting of those not presented for interview under the ROVR program and for speedy processing of those approved by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The State Department's latest human rights report shines a spotlight on Vietnam's poor record in this area. This issue is a critical item on our agenda with Vietnam and Ambassador

Peterson has initiated a formal human rights dialogue with Vietnamese officials to prompt greater respect by the government for the rights of its citizens, including the release of political and religious prisoners. We will continue to press for improvements.

Thank you again for writing me on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Benjamin A. Gilman
~~United States House of Representatives~~
Washington, D.C. 20515

*Chairman
Committee on Int'l Relations*

0667

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter regarding a Jackson-Vanik waiver to Vietnam. I understand your concerns about moving forward with the waiver, but I believe this course is the right one to take and will help us advance our objectives with Vietnam.

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Thank you again for writing me on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Benjamin A. Gilman
Chairman
Committee on International Relations
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

8667

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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First, I want to assure you that achieving the fullest possible accounting for our POW/MIA's remains the top priority in our bilateral relations with Vietnam. I am fully committed to this effort and will exhaust every possible lead to determine the fate of those still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. Vietnam's cooperation in our efforts has improved significantly over the past several years and this cooperation has enabled us to take incremental steps to normalize our relations in other areas.

Similarly, I share ^{the importance you attach} ~~your concerns about Vietnam's restrictions~~ ^{to policy} on emigration. Through the efforts of Ambassador Pete Peterson, Vietnam agreed to revise emigration regulations, which allowed the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to expedite interviews of Vietnamese eligible for the Resettlement Opportunity for Vietnamese Returnee (ROVR) program. The change has increased significantly the number of ROVR candidates being processed by the INS. The Vietnamese authorities have located and approved for interview 14,000 of the estimated 18,000 persons we believe are eligible to participate in ROVR.

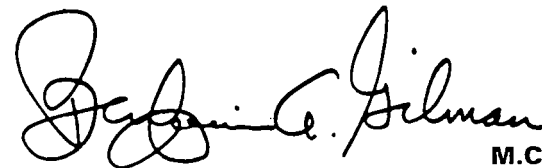
Vietnam also has established a solid record in its implementation of the Orderly Departure and AMERASIAN programs. The Jackson-Vanik waiver will build on this momentum and encourage the Vietnamese government to take further steps toward implementing a system that offers its people the opportunity to emigrate freely. We will, of course, continue to press the Vietnamese for an accounting of those not presented for interview under the ROVR program and for speedy processing of those approved for immigration to the United States by the INS.

Congress of the United States
Committee on International Relations

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6128

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