

FOIA MARKER

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Original OA/ID Number: 2014				
Document ID: 9800793				
Stack: V	Row: 45	Section: 4	Shelf: 5	Position: 3

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9800793
RECEIVED: 03 FEB 98 15

TO: ALARID, JAKE
ET AL

FROM: PRESIDENT

DOC DATE: 06 APR 98
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: VIETNAM
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

HUMAN RIGHTS
EMIGRATION

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: ADDRESSING CONCERNS RE JACKSON-VANIK WAIVER FOR VIETNAM

ACTION: FOR DISPATCH

DUE DATE: 14 FEB 98 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: GAGNON

LOGREF: 9800918 9801213

FILES: PA

NSCP:

CODES:

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

FOR ACTION
WH STRIPPING DESK

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO
BAKER
BOUCHARD
GAGNON
KRISTOFF
NSC CHRON
SCHWARTZ

COMMENTS:

DISPATCHED BY



DATE

4/7

BY HAND

W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSSWD

CLOSED BY: NSTSM

DOC 5 OF 5

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By KBM NARA, Date 8-23-2014
2014-1060-F

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9800793

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 GAGNON	Z 98020315 PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
002 BERGER	Z 98021816 FWD TO PRESIDENT FOR SIGNATURE
002 GAGNON	Z 98022518 FOR FURTHER ACTION
003 BERGER	Z 98030212 FWD TO PRESIDENT FOR SIGNATURE
003 KRISTOFF	Z 98031614 FOR FURTHER ACTION
003 BERGER	Z 98031813 FWD TO PRESIDENT FOR SIGNATURE
004 PRESIDENT	Z 98032311 FOR SIGNATURE
005	X 98040716 PRESIDENT SGD LTRS
005 WH STRIPPING DESK	X 98040716 FOR DISPATCH

DISPATCH DATA SUMMARY REPORT

DOC DATE DISPATCH FOR ACTION

DISPATCH FOR INFO

004 980323	VICE PRESIDENT
004 980323	WH CHIEF OF STAFF
005 980406 ALARID, JAKE	
005 980406 GRIFFITHS, ANN	
005 980406 SOMMER, JOHN	
005 980406 WH STRIPPING DESK	

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9800793
RECEIVED: 03 FEB 98 15

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: SOMMER, JOHN

DOC DATE: 02 FEB 98
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: VIETNAM
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

HUMAN RIGHTS
EMIGRATION

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: AMER LEGION RE WAIVER OF JACKSON - VANIK FOR VIETNAM

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER

DUE DATE: 14 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
CLARKE
SCHWARTZ
Baker

FOR INFO
~~BAKER~~
BUSBY
KRISTOFF

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSSWD

CLOSED BY:

DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED

0793

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Jim Gagnon -

We are still holding these
pkgs awaiting approval of the
Jackson-Vanick pkg by Sandy
Berg.

Since we have time, pte
combine these into one pkg so
SRB and POTUS do not have to
read twice.

Thx -
K. Rice



0793

To Adv -

Potus signature should
await Potus decision
on J-V worker.

SK



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

**National Security Council
The White House**

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 0793
 URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PRS NSC INT ARS
 BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG TMA A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
Cosgriff	_____	_____	_____
Rice	_____	_____	_____
Davies	<u>1</u>	_____	_____
Kerrick	_____	_____	_____
Steinberg	_____	_____	_____
Berger	_____	_____	_____
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____
West Wing Desk	<u>2</u>	<u>GWD 4/7</u>	<u>D</u>
7/Records Mgt.	<u>3</u>	<u>(7) 4/7</u>	<u>D</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____

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

COMMENTS:

Date April 6, 1998 ?

'98 APR 7 PM 1:10

Exec Sec Office has diskette _____

National Security Council
The White House

3/17/98
6:00pm

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 0793 REDO
URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PBS NSC INT ARS
BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG 8/11/10 A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
<i>JD</i> Cosgriff			
Rice	<u>1</u>	<u>3/17</u>	<u>edit</u>
Davies			
Kerrick			
Steinberg	<u>2</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>edit</u>
Berger			
Situation Room			
West Wing Desk	<u>3</u>	<u>TMA 3-23</u>	<u>D</u> <u>@ 3:35pm</u>
Records Mgt.			

Deputy Natl Sec Advisor
has seen

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

cc:

COMMENTS:

'98 MAR 17 pm 4:09

edits
translated @
Tab A

Exec Sec Office has diskette 4/3

**National Security Council
The White House**

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 0793 Redo
 URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PBS NSC INT ARS
 BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG TMA A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
<i>JP</i> Cosgriff	_____	_____	_____
Rice	<u>1</u>	<u>B 2/28</u>	_____
Davies	_____	_____	_____
Kerrick	<u>2</u>	<u>(D) 3/10</u>	_____
Steinberg	<u>3</u>	_____	_____
Berger	_____	_____	_____
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____
West Wing Desk	<u>4</u>	<u>TMA 3.14</u>	<u>D</u>
Records Mgt.	_____	_____	_____
<i>Kristoff</i>	<u>5</u>	_____	<u>A</u>

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

COMMENTS:
 '98 FEB 28 PM 1:47

Exec Sec Office has diskette no

National Security Council
The White House

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 0793
 URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM (PNS) NSC INT ARS
 BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG (P) A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
<i>JCP</i> Cosgriff	_____	_____	_____
Rice	<u>1</u>	<u>(R) 2/18</u>	<u>(R) [Signature]</u>
Davies	<u>2</u>	<u>(R) 2/18</u>	_____
Kerrick	<u>4</u>	_____	_____
Steinberg	_____	_____	_____
Berger	_____	_____	_____
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____
West Wing Desk	<u>[Signature]</u>	_____	<u>[Signature]</u>
Records Mgt.	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

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

CC:
98 FEB 18 AM 3:04

COMMENTS:

Exec Sec Office has diskette [Signature]

*Should not go
through Stein.*

(R)

*After D.K. signs,
put in hold bin
until J-V pkg
approved.
2/18 (R)*

National Security Council
The White House

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 0793
URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PRS NSC INT ARS
BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG TMA A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
Cosgriff			
Rice			
Davies	<u>1</u>		
Kerrick			
Steinberg			
Berger			
Situation Room			
West Wing Desk	<u>2</u>	<u>GWD 4/7</u>	<u>D</u>
7/ Records Mgt.	<u>3</u>	<u>(A) 4/7</u>	<u>D</u>

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

cc:

COMMENTS:

Date April 6, 1998 ?

'98 APR 7 1:10

Exec Sec Office has diskette _____

National Security Council
The White House

3/17/98
6:00pm

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 0793 REDO
URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PBS NSC INT ARS
BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG GWD A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
<u>JD</u> Cosgriff			
Rice	<u>1</u>	<u>(P) 3/17</u>	<u>edit</u>
Davies			
Kerrick			
Steinberg	<u>2</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>edit</u>
Berger			
Situation Room			
West Wing Desk	<u>3</u>	<u>TMA 3:23</u>	<u>D</u>
Records Mgt.			

Deputy Natl Sec Advisor
has seen

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

cc:

COMMENTS:

'98 MAR 17 PM 4:08

edits
translated @
Tab A

Exec Sec Office has diskette up

National Security Council
The White House

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 0793 Redo
URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM (PRS) NSC INT ARS
BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG TMA A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
<i>P</i> Cosgriff			
Rice	<u>1</u>	<u>B 2/8</u>	
Davies			
Kerrick	<u>2</u>	<u>(D) 3/10</u>	
Steinberg	<u>3</u>		
Berger			
Situation Room			
West Wing Desk	<u>4</u>	<u>TMA 3.14</u>	<u>D</u>
Records Mgt.			
<i>Kristoff</i>	<u>5</u>		<u>A</u>

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

cc:

COMMENTS:
'98 FEB 28 PM 1:47

Exec Sec Office has diskette no

National Security Council
The White House

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 0793
URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM (PRS) NSC INT ARS
BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG (F) A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
<i>JLP</i> Cosgriff			
Rice	<u>1</u>	<u>(D) 2/18</u>	<u>(D)</u>
Davies	<u>2</u>	<u>G 2/18</u>	
Kerrick	<u>4</u>		
Steinberg			
Berger			
Situation Room			
West Wing Desk	<u>5</u>		<u>D</u>
Records Mgt.			

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cc:

'98 FEB 18 PM 3:04

COMMENTS:

Exec Sec Office has diskette go

Should not go
through Stein.
(R)

After D.K. signs,
put on hold bin
until J-V pkg
is received

0793

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Timbagnon -

We are still holding these
pkgs awaiting approval of the
Tudman-Venick pkg by Sandy
Berg.

Since we have time, pte
combine these into one pkg so
SRB and POTUS do not have to
read twice.

Thx -
Ka Rice



Canada 1997

0793

To ADI -

POTUS signature should
await POTUS decision
on J-V waiver.

SK



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

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 6, 1998

Dear Mr. Alarid:

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 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 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peterson", written in dark ink.

Mr. Jake I. Alarid
National Commander
American GI Forum of the United States
National Veterans Family Organization
11212 Archway Drive
Whittier, California 90604

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.

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Thank you again for writing on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bill Clinton", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 6, 1998

Dear Mr. Sommer:

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.

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Thank you again for writing on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ruth Winters".

Mr. John F. Sommer, Jr.
Executive Director
The American Legion
1608 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20515-1602

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ID 9800793

REFERRAL

DATE: 07 APR 98

MEMORANDUM FOR: WH STRIPPING DESK

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

TO: ALARID, JAKE

SOURCE: PRESIDENT

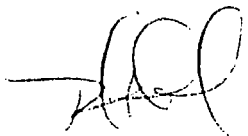
DATE: 06 APR 98

SUBJ: ADDRESSING CONCERNS RE JACKSON-VANIK WAIVER FOR VIETNAM

REQUIRED ACTION: FOR DISPATCH

DUE DATE: 08 APR 98

COMMENT:


FOR JOHN W. FICKLIN

NSC RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICE

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
DISTRIBUTION RECEIPT

LOG 9800793
DATE 06 APR 98

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

EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION:

DATE

TIME

SIGNATURE

WH STRIPPING DESK

PRINT LAST NAME: _____

COPY: ORIGINALS

DATE, TIME, SIGN THE RECEIPT AND RETURN TO: NSC RECORDS MGNT, ROOM 379 OEOB
PAGE 01 OF 01 PAGES

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 23, 1998

ACTION

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
98 MAR 23 AM 11:14
4-6-98

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

SAMUEL BERGER *JSB*

SUBJECT:

Response to Letters Opposing the Jackson-Vanik
Waiver for Vietnam

Purpose

To reply to letters from John Sommer, Ann Mills Griffiths, and Jake Alarid on Vietnam policy.

Background

The Executive Director of the American Legion, John F. Sommer, Jr.; Ann Mills Griffiths, Executive Director of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia; and Jake Alarid, National Commander of the American GI Forum of the United States, wrote separately urging that we withhold the Jackson-Vanik waiver for Vietnam until that government has provided unfettered freedom of emigration, accounted for additional information on POW/MIA's and improved its human rights record.

Your proposed reply expresses your belief that the non-MFN Jackson-Vanik waiver will promote further emigration freedoms, affirms that POW/MIA accounting remains our priority objective with Vietnam and notes we will press for human rights improvements through our human rights dialogue with Hanoi.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letters at Tab A.

PHOTOCOPY
WJC HANDWRITING

Attachments

Tab A Letter to John Sommer, Ann Mills Griffiths,
and Jake Alarid
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

0793 Redo

February 26, 1998

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL R. BERGER

THROUGH: SANDRA J. KRISTOFF *SK*
FROM: JAMES M. GAGNON *JM*
SUBJECT: Response to Letters Opposing the Jackson-Vanik
Waiver for Vietnam

John Sommer, Executive Director of the American Legion; Ann Mills Griffiths, Executive Director of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia; and Jake Alarid, National Commander of the American GI Forum of the United States, wrote the President opposing the non-MFN Jackson-Vanik waiver for Vietnam. The President's reply reviews our policy and reaffirms that achieving the fullest possible accounting for our POW/MIA's remains our top priority.

Concurrences by: *SB for* Eric Schwartz, *JB* Joe Bouchard, *MB for* James Baker

RECOMMENDATION

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

Attachments

Tab I Memorandum to the President
Tab A Letters to John Sommer, Ann Mills Griffiths,
and Jake Alarid
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

The American Legion

★ WASHINGTON OFFICE ★ 1608 "K" STREET, N. W. ★ WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 ★
(202) 861-2711 ★



OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

February 2, 1998

2/3/98

PLEASE STAFF

Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of The United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The American Legion is extremely concerned at National Security Advisor Samuel Berger's recent pronouncements that your Administration is seriously considering waiving the requirements of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment (19 U.S.C. 2432 (a)). It is our considered opinion that it is premature to allow the Export-Import Bank to begin financing projects in Vietnam and likewise, to permit the Overseas Private Investment Corporation to begin operations there. Obviously, these would be giant steps toward the granting of Most Favored Nation status for the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Jackson-Vanik renders communist governments ineligible for the aforementioned economic concessions until their citizens are guaranteed unfettered freedom of emigration. The American Legion can assure you that this is not the case today in Vietnam. We have been actively involved in the refugee situation, were vehemently opposed to the forced repatriation of refugees from countries of first asylum absent the opportunity to engage in a fair and equitable interview process, and are cognizant that Vietnamese officials are not now abiding by the provisions of the Resettlement Opportunities for Vietnamese Refugees (ROVR) program. Of course, our primary concern in this regard is the well being of those Vietnamese people who served along-side our military personnel during the war, those who worked for the United States government and their families. We have a moral obligation to them.

Aside from the provisions of Jackson-Vanik, 19 U.S.C. 2433, provides authority for the President to withhold nondiscriminatory trade treatment to countries based on cooperation with our efforts to account for American military and civilian POWs and MIAs in Southeast Asia. It is contingent upon cooperation to achieve a complete accounting of the POWs and MIAs, to repatriate such personnel who are alive, and to return the remains of such personnel who are dead to the United States.

The government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is not cooperating anywhere near the extent to which it can. A degree of cooperation is being offered in the conduct of the joint field activities, where our Joint Task Force - Full Accounting and Vietnam's Office on Seeking Missing Personnel are excavating crash sites and other incident locations. Of course, the United States is paying Vietnam handsomely for that assistance.

It is the unilateral cooperation by the central government that is not forthcoming, nor has it been since you first took office in January 1993. In August 1993, a high ranking State Department official specifically asked the Vietnamese government to turn over remains and information relating to over eighty cases involving over ninety individuals categorized as Last Known Alive and Special Remains Cases. To the best of our knowledge, very little, if any, information that correlates to those cases has been turned over by the SRV government.

National Commander Anthony G. Jordan and the undersigned met with several high ranking Vietnamese government officials in December 1997, and requested, among other things, increased unilateral cooperation in helping to resolve those cases where the incidents took place in the areas of Laos and Cambodia that were controlled by the Peoples Army of Vietnam during the war. The American Legion and others, including representatives of the Families, have formally requested this as well as cooperation on issues of a similar nature for several years. We continue to receive empty promises, but no substantial progress has been forthcoming in any of these areas.

The third concern of The American Legion is Vietnam's abysmal record on human rights. It is necessary to remain mindful that the Vietnamese government continues to be a communist regime that actively suppresses the human rights of its citizens. Unfortunately, despite the lifting of the trade embargo and the normalization of diplomatic relations, there has been no appreciable improvement. The only apparent change is the diminished level of pressure that the US government is placing on Vietnam to enhance its human rights practices. The Vietnamese government continues to arrest and imprison political and religious activists and hold them at will. Hanoi does not suffer those who believe in freedom and democracy to espouse their feelings.

Mr. President, The American Legion urges you in the strongest possible terms to refrain from proposing a Jackson-Vanik waiver until such time that considerable cooperation and improvement are advanced by the government of Vietnam in these three important areas.

Sincerely,


JOHN F. SOMMER, JR.
Executive Director

cc: Honorable Madeline K. Albright
Honorable William Cohen
Honorable Samuel Berger



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

1001 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NORTHWEST, SUITE 919

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036-5504

UPDATE LINE: 202/659-0133

202/223-6846

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.

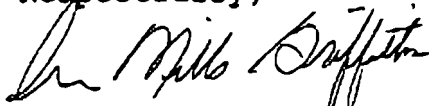
Mr. President, my father, the late E.C. "Bus" Mills, served in 1973-74 in the position I have now held for 19 years. He testified before Congress in support of these very provisions. At that time, he urged the restrictions be applied to the former Soviet Union, then chief supplier of war material to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

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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



AMERICAN GI FORUM OF THE UNITED STATES

NATIONAL VETERANS FAMILY ORGANIZATION
OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER

NATIONAL COMMANDER
Jake Alarid

11212 Archway Drive
Whittier, CA 90604
(310) 941-2607
(310) 634-6986 (FAX)
February 13, 1998

FOUNDER
Dr. Hector P. Garcia
1315 Bright
Corpus Christi, TX 78405

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

2/18/98 1213
PLEASE STAFF

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the membership of the **American GI Forum of the United States**, a national Hispanic veterans family organization, I am writing to respectfully urge you **not** to waive the requirements of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment (19 U.S.C. § 2432(a)) with respect to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The basis for such a waiver is that the waiver will substantially promote the objection of section 402 of the Trade Act of 1974 and that the President has received assurances from the country concerned that the emigrations practices of that country will lead substantially to the objections of that section. The American GI Forum believes that such a determination is premature.

The policy of the American GI Forum requires the fullest cooperation before any further favorable actions toward Vietnam be taken. 19 U.S. Section 2432 provides authority for the President to withhold nondiscriminatory trade treatment to countries based on cooperation to achieve a complete accounting of all United States military and civilian personnel who are missing in action in Southeast Asia and to return the remains of such personnel who are dead to the United States. The unilateral cooperation by Vietnam in resolving matters relating to U.S. unaccounted personnel has not been forthcoming. The American GI Forum further urges you not to waive, with respect to Vietnam, any statutory prohibitions on nondiscriminatory trade treatment, commercial agreements, and participation in programs of the U.S. Government which extends credits or financing guarantees and other forms of assistance.

Mr. President, if you, or your staff, should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, at 562-634-6986, or contact Carlos Martinez, President, American GI Forum National Veterans Outreach Program, at 210-223-4088.

Respectfully Yours,

Jake I. Alarid
Jake I. Alarid
National Commander

FEB 18 21:21
cc:

Honorable Madeline K. Albright
Honorable William Cohen
Honorable Samuel Berger
Francisco Ivarra, AGIF National Vice-Commander
Antonio Morales, AGIF National Executive Director

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER
LARRY STEIN

SUBJECT: Letter to the American Legion on Vietnam Policy

Purpose

To reply to John Sommer's letter on Vietnam policy.

Background

The Executive Director of the American Legion, John F. Sommer, Jr., wrote urging that we withhold the Jackson-Vanik waiver for Vietnam until that government has provided unfettered freedom of emigration, ~~accounted for~~ ^{provided} additional information on POW/MIA's and improved its human rights record.

Your ~~proposed~~ reply expresses your belief that the non-MFN Jackson-Vanik waiver will promote further emigration freedoms, affirms that POW/MIA accounting remains our priority objective with Vietnam and notes we will press for human rights improvements through our human rights dialogue with Hanoi.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Letter to John Sommer
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. Sommer:

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 step is the right thing to do and will help us advance our objectives with Vietnam.~~
is the right course to take could be the right one

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,

Mr. John F. Sommer, Jr.
Executive Director
The American Legion
1608 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

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February 17, 1998

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL R. BERGER

FROM: SANDRA J. KRISTOFF *SK*

SUBJECT: Letter from American Legion on Vietnam

John Sommer, Executive Director of the American Legion, wrote the President opposing the non-MFN Jackson-Vanik waiver for Vietnam. The President's reply reviews our policy and reaffirms that achieving the fullest possible accounting for our POW/MIA's remains our top priority.

Concurrences by: *SB for* Eric Schwartz, *JB* Joe Bouchard, *NH for* James Baker

RECOMMENDATION

That sign the memorandum to the President at Tab I.

Attachments

Tab I Memorandum to the President
Tab A Letter to John Sommer
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER *for*
~~LARRY STEIN~~

SUBJECT: Letter to the American Legion on Vietnam Policy

Purpose

To reply to John Sommer's letter on Vietnam policy.

Background

The Executive Director of the American Legion, John F. Sommer, Jr., wrote urging that we withhold the Jackson-Vanik waiver for Vietnam until that government has provided unfettered freedom of emigration, provided additional information on POW/MIA's and improved its human rights record.

Your reply expresses your belief that the non-MFN Jackson-Vanik waiver will promote further emigration freedoms, affirms that POW/MIA accounting remains our priority objective with Vietnam and notes we will press for human rights improvements through our human rights dialogue with Hanoi.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Letter to John Sommer
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. Sommer:

Thank you for your letter regarding a Jackson-Vanik waiver for 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 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 on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Mr. John F. Sommer, Jr.
Executive Director
The American Legion
1608 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER

SUBJECT: Response to Letters Opposing the Jackson-Vanik
Waiver for Vietnam

Purpose

To reply to letters from John Sommer, Ann Mills Griffiths, and
Jake Alarid ^{on} Vietnam policy.

Background

The Executive Director of the American Legion, John F. Sommer, Jr.; Ann Mills Griffiths, Executive Director of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia; and Jake Alarid, National Commander of the American GI Forum of the United States, wrote separately urging that we withhold the Jackson-Vanik waiver for Vietnam until that government has provided unfettered freedom of emigration, accounted for additional information on POW/MIA's and improved its human rights record.

Your proposed reply expresses your belief that the non-MFN Jackson-Vanik waiver will promote further emigration freedoms, affirms that POW/MIA accounting remains our priority objective with Vietnam and notes we will press for human rights improvements through our human rights dialogue with Hanoi.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letters at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Letter to John Sommer, Ann Mills Griffiths,
and Jake Alarid
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

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February 26, 1998

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL R. BERGER

THROUGH: SANDRA J. KRISTOFF

FROM: JAMES M. GAGNON

SUBJECT: Response to Letters Opposing the Jackson-Vanik
Waiver for Vietnam

John Sommer, Executive Director of the American Legion; Ann Mills Griffiths, Executive Director of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia; and Jake Alarid, National Commander of the American GI Forum of the United States, wrote the President opposing the non-MFN Jackson-Vanik waiver for Vietnam. The President's reply reviews our policy and reaffirms that achieving the fullest possible accounting for our POW/MIA's remains our top priority.

Concurrences by: ^{SB for} Eric Schwartz, ^{JB} Joe Bouchard, ^{NH for} James Baker

RECOMMENDATION

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

Attachments

Tab I Memorandum to the President
Tab A Letters to John Sommers, Ann Mills Griffiths,
and Jake Alarid
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

the importance you
attach to
policy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. Alarid:

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 ^{on issues you alluded to} your concerns about Vietnam's ^{policy} restrictions 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 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,

Mr. Jake I. Alarid
National Commander
American GI Forum of the United States
National Veterans Family Organization
11212 Archway Drive
Whittier, California 90604