

Case Number: 2014-1060-F

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RECORD ID: 9800918
RECEIVED: 06 FEB 98 16

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: GRIFFITHS, ANN MILLS

DOC DATE: 06 FEB 98
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: VIETNAM
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

POWS
MFN

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR RE VIETNAM CERTIFICATION

ACTION: SEE 9800793 FOR FINAL ACTION

DUE DATE: 06 MAR 98 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: GAGNON

LOGREF: 9800793

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ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9800918

DOC ACTION OFFICER

001 GAGNON
001

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

Z 98020616 PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
X 98022714 SEE 9800793 FOR FINAL ACTION

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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
BUSBY
KRISTOFF
KYLE
LEE

FOR INFO
MCCARTHY
SCHWARTZ

COMMENTS:

Please combine w/ 0793

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DOC 1 OF 1

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0918

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

1001 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NORTHWEST, SUITE 919

202/223-6846

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036-5504

UPDATE LINE: 202/859-0133

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.

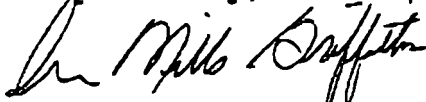
Mr. President, my father, the late E.C. "Bus" Mills, served in 1973-74 in the position I have now held for 19 years. He testified before Congress in support of these very provisions. At that time, he urged the restrictions be applied to the former Soviet Union, then chief supplier of war material to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

PRESIDENTIAL/NSA CORRESPONDENCE

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

ACTION OFFICER: GAGNON

LOG NUMBER: 9800918

DUE DATE: 6 MAR

DATE STAFFED: 6 FEB

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO:



PRESIDENT



NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

FROM: ANN MILLS GRIFFITHS

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.