

Case Number: 2014-1060-F

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NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9801213
RECEIVED: 19 FEB 98 08

TO: BERGER

FROM: GAGNON
KRISTOFF

DOC DATE: 20 FEB 98
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: MFN VIETNAM
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR FM AMER GI FORUM ON VIETNAM

ACTION: SEE 9800793 FOR FINAL ACTION

DUE DATE: 03 MAR 98 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: GAGNON

LOGREF: 9800793 9800918

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

COMMENTS: _____

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DOC 2 OF 2

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9801213

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 KYLE
001
001 GAGNON
002 BERGER
002 GAGNON
002

Z 98021920 PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
Z 98021920 ACTION TRANSFERRED
Z 98021920 PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
Z 98022512 FWD TO PRESIDENT FOR SIGNATURE
Z 98022518 FOR FURTHER ACTION
X 98022719 SEE 9800793 FOR FINAL ACTION

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9801213
RECEIVED: 19 FEB 98 08

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: ALARID, JAKE I

DOC DATE: 13 FEB 98
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: MFN
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

VIETNAM

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: HISPANIC VETERANS FAMILY URGE NOT TO WAIVE REQUIREMENTS OF
JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER

DUE DATE: 03 MAR 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

FOR INFO
KRISTOFF
SCHWARTZ

COMMENTS:

Per ed Rice Combine w/ 079.3.- 2/26

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CLOSED BY:

DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9801213
RECEIVED: 19 FEB 98 08

TO: PRESIDENT

SUSPENSE

FROM: ALARID, JAKE I

DOC DATE: 13 FEB 98
SOURCE REF:

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PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

VIETNAM

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: HISPANIC VETERANS FAMILY URGE NOT TO WAIVE REQUIREMENTS OF
JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT

ACTION: *PMB* DUE DATE: 03 MAR 98 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: *KYLE GAGNON* LOGREF:

FILES: WH NSCP: CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION

KYLE

GAGNON

FOR CONCURRENCE

BAKER
GAGNON
LEE

FOR INFO

KRISTOFF
SCHWARTZ

COMMENTS: _____

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CLOSED BY:

DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED



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

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FOR ACTION

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002	X 98022719 SEE 9800793 FOR FINAL ACTION

UNCLASSIFIED

EXER SER - HOLD TILL J-V
package signed by POTUS.

National Security Council
The White House

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 1213
 URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PRS NSC INT ARS
 BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG TMA A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
<i>JP</i> Cosgriff	_____	_____	_____
Rice	<u>1</u>	_____	_____
Davies	_____	_____	_____
Kerrick	_____	_____	_____
Steinberg	_____	_____	_____
Berger	_____	_____	_____
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____
West Wing Desk	<u>2</u>	<u>TMA 2-28</u>	<u>N</u>
Records Mgt.	<u>3</u>	_____	<u>N</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____

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

cc:

COMMENTS: Close out as see
0793 for final action

'98 FEB 25 PM 12:44

Exec Sec Office has diskette *JP* _____

National Security Council
The White House

PROOFED BY: _____

LOG # 1213

URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____

SYSTEM PRS NSC INT ARS

BYPASSED WW DESK: _____

DOCLOG TMA AO _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
<i>MP</i> Cosgriff	_____	_____	_____
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Davies	_____	_____	_____
Kerrick	_____	_____	_____
Steinberg	_____	_____	_____
Berger	_____	_____	_____
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____
West Wing Desk	<u>2</u>	<u>TMA 2-28</u>	<u>N</u>
Records Mgt.	<u>3</u>	_____	<u>N</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____

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cc:

COMMENTS: Close out as see
0793 for final action

'98 FEB 25 PM 12:44

EXER SER - HOLD T.II J-V
package signed by POTUS.



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

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

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President of the United States
The White House
Washington D.C. 20500

2/18/98 1213
PLEASE STAFF

Dear Mr. President:

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

National Security Council
The White House

0793

PROOF COPY

0793

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

incil

1213

213

RS NSC INT ARS
MA A/O

DISPOSITION

on Vietnam

an GI Forum of the
ie non-MFN Jackson-
oly reviews our
st possible

Jim Bagmon -

We are still holding these
pkgs awaiting approval of the
Jackson-Vanick pks by Sandy

Berg.

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

mx -
K Rice

Re: as mgt.

A = Action I = Information D =

cc:

EXE SEC - HOLD TILL J-V
package signed by POTUS.

'98 FEB 25 pm 12:44

Exec Sec Office has diskette up

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

1213

February 20, 1998

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL R. BERGER

THROUGH: SANDRA J. KRISTOFF *Spk*

FROM: JAMES M. GAGNON *JB*

SUBJECT: Letter from American GI Forum on Vietnam

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, *RB for* 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 Letter to Jake Alarid
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER

SUBJECT: Letter to the American GI Forum of the United
States on Vietnam Policy

Purpose

To reply to Jake Alarid's letter on Vietnam policy.

Background

The National Commander of the American GI Forum of the United States, Jake I. Alarid, wrote urging that we not waive the requirements of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment 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 letter at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Letter to Jake Alarid
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. Alarid:

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.~~
course is the right one and I will

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, Vietnam has cleared for interview 14,000 of the 18,000 people we believe to be eligible 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. Jake I. Alarid
National Commander
American GI Forum of the United States
National Veterans Family Organization
Office of the National Commander
11212 Archway Drive
Whittier, California 90604