

Case Number: 2015-0183-S

MR MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Original OA/ID Number: 3226				
Document ID: 9702089				
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UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9702089
RECEIVED: 26 MAR 97 15

TO: MCCARTHY, CAROLYN
KING, PETER T

CHRON FILE

FROM: PRESIDENT

DOC DATE: 11 APR 97
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: POWS
CO

RUSSIA

PERSONS: YELTSIN, BORIS

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL LTRS ON KOREAN WAR POW/MIA

ACTION: FOR DISPATCH

DUE DATE: 29 MAR 97 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: KRISTOFF

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
WH STRIPPING DESK

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO
DANVERS
KRISTOFF
NSC CHRON

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY

SP

DATE

4/14

BY HAND

W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSLA

CLOSED BY: NSGP

DOC 4 OF 4

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9702089

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 KRISTOFF	Z 97032615 PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
002 BERGER	Z 97040119 FWD TO PRESIDENT FOR SIG
003 PRESIDENT	Z 97041021 FOR SIGNATURE
004	X 97041407 PRESIDENT SGD LTRS
004 WH STRIPPING DESK	X 97041407 FOR DISPATCH

DISPATCH DATA SUMMARY REPORT

DOC DATE DISPATCH FOR ACTION

DISPATCH FOR INFO

003 970410	VICE PRESIDENT
003 970410	WH CHIEF OF STAFF
004 970411 MCCARTHY, CAROLYN	
004 970411 KING, PETER T	
004 970411 WH STRIPPING DESK	

UNCLASSIFIED

**National Security Council
The White House**

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 2089
 URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PRS NSC INT ARS
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	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
Harmon	_____	_____	_____
Dohse	_____	_____	_____
Davies	<u>1</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>OK</u>
Kerrick	_____	_____	_____
Steinberg	_____	_____	_____
Berger	_____	_____	_____
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____
West Wing Desk	<u>2</u>	<u>(B) 4/11</u>	<u>X</u>
Records Mgt.	<u>3</u>	_____	<u>D</u>
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A = Action I = Information D = Dispatch R = Retain N = No Further Action

cc:

COMMENTS:

DATE 4/11/97

'97 APR 11 PM 6:53

Exec Sec Office has diskette _____

National Security Council
The White House

PROOFED BY: _____

LOG # 2089

URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____

SYSTEM: PRS NSC INT ARS

BYPASSED WW DESK: _____

DOCLOG _____ A/O _____

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Kerrick	_____	_____	_____
Steinberg	_____	_____	_____
Berger	_____	_____	_____
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A = Action I = Information D = Dispatch R = Retain N = No Further Action

CC:

COMMENTS:

Exec Sec Office has diskette

National Security Council
The White House

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PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 2089
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BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG TMX A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
<i>h</i> Harmon	<u>1</u>	<i>[Signature]</i>	
Dohse			
Davies			
Kerrick	<u>2</u>	<i>[Signature]</i>	
Steinberg	<u>3</u>	<i>[Signature]</i>	
Berger			
Situation Room			
West Wing Desk	<u>4</u>	<i>d/4 LA</i>	<i>Walker</i>
Records Mgt.	<u>5</u>	<i>[Signature]</i> 4/9	<i>D Walker</i>
	<u>6</u>	<i>[Signature]</i> 4/9	<i>D Walker</i>

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

cc:

COMMENTS:

197 APR 1 PM 5:27

Exec Sec Office has diskette *[Signature]*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 11, 1997

Dear Carolyn:

Thank you for your letter asking that I raise with President Yeltsin the effort to account for our POW/MIA's from the Korean War. While we did not discuss this issue in our recent meeting, I have spoken on several occasions to President Yeltsin and other leaders regarding the importance of POW/MIA accounting.

As you note, it is especially difficult for the families of those lost or missing in wartime to close that chapter of their lives unless there is an accounting of their loved one. That is why I have urged the Defense Department to intensify its efforts to account for Korean War POW/MIA's. This task is much more difficult than that we undertook regarding the Vietnam War and requires extensive archival research. Unfortunately, we do not have ready access to the documents we need, most of which are stored in North Korea. We hope to send an archival research team to North Korea this summer, and we have already gained valuable information from the joint commission with Russia, which was established to undertake archival research regarding Russia's role in the POW/MIA issue.

I encourage you to advise your constituent to contact the Defense Department's POW/MIA Office for assistance with her individual case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bin", likely a stylized signature of Bill Clinton.

The Honorable Carolyn McCarthy
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3204

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 11, 1997

Dear Representative King:

Thank you for your letter asking that I raise with President Yeltsin the effort to account for our POW/MIA's from the Korean War. While we did not discuss this issue in our recent meeting, I have spoken on several occasions to President Yeltsin and other leaders regarding the importance of POW/MIA accounting.

As you note, it is especially difficult for the families of those lost or missing in wartime to close that chapter of their lives unless there is an accounting of their loved one. That is why I have urged the Defense Department to intensify its efforts to account for Korean War POW/MIA's. This task is much more difficult than that we undertook regarding the Vietnam War and requires extensive archival research. Unfortunately, we do not have ready access to the documents we need, most of which are stored in North Korea. We hope to send an archival research team to North Korea this summer, and we have already gained valuable information from the joint commission with Russia, which was established to undertake archival research regarding Russia's role in the POW/MIA issue.

I encourage you to advise your constituent to contact the Defense Department's POW/MIA Office for assistance with her individual case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bill" and last name "Clinton" clearly legible.

The Honorable Peter T. King
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3203

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 10, 1997

ACTION

'97 APR 10 PM5:42

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

SAMUEL R. BERGER

JOHN HILLEY

SUBJECT:

Congressional Letter on Korean War POW/MIA's

Purpose

To reply to a Congressional letter asking you to raise the Korean War POW/MIA issue with President Yeltsin.

Background

Representatives Carolyn McCarthy and Peter King of New York wrote asking you to raise with President Yeltsin the issue of Korean War POW/MIA's who may have been moved from North Korea to Russia. The letter references a constituent's MIA brother who reportedly was seen in a Russian prison camp.

The task of accounting for Korean POW/MIA's is a complex one, which the Department of Defense's office of POW/MIA research has been undertaking aggressively for many years. One element of that effort has been the work of the commission we set up with Russia to research outstanding questions, with particular emphasis on live-sighting cases.

Your reply thanks the Representatives for their interest in this issue, affirms your commitment to seek an accounting of the Korean War POW/MIA's and encourages the Representatives to put their constituent in contact with the Department of Defense POW/MIA team.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letters at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Letters to McCarthy and King
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

2089

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 1997

MAR 24 AM 9:53

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write today to respectfully request that during your upcoming trip to Helsinki you raise the issue of American POW/MIAs with Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

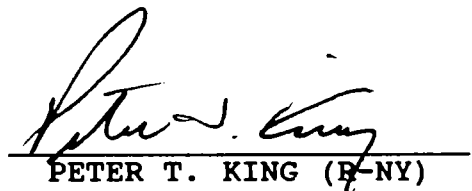
As you know, the POW/MIA issue is vitally important to our Nation's veterans and their families. Over the years there has been considerable evidence indicating that American POWs in Korea were taken to Russia. This was confirmed by President Yeltsin several years ago even though he subsequently retracted his remarks.

The families of the Korean War POW/MIAs have suffered a tremendous amount of grief because they have still not received closure regarding the status of their loved ones. This is particularly true of a constituent of ours in Nassau County, Irene Mandra, whose brother, Philip Mandra, was sighted in a Russian prison camp.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,


CAROLYN MCCARTHY (D-NY)


PETER T. KING (R-NY)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 24, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR JOYCE HARMON
ACTING NSC Executive Secretariat

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY *SB*
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. Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY) and Rep. Peter T. King (R-NY), concerning last week's summit in Helsinki;
- 2) Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO), concerning certification of Mexico;
- 3) Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) and others, concerning nuclear and chemical weapons;
- 4) Sen. Richard J. Durbin (D-IL), concerning the peace process in the Middle East;
- 5) Rep. Curt Weldon (R-PA), concerning the 1997 ACOPS Global Conference;
- 6) Rep. Robert Menendez (D-NJ), concerning international drug trafficking and Mexico;
- 7) Rep. Thomas M. Foglietta (D-PA), concerning the democratic process in Haiti;
- 8) Sen. Wendell H. Ford (D-KY), concerning White House staffers Al Maldon, Colonel Gordy L. Bendick, and Bob Bell;
- 9) Rep. Gil Gutknecht (R-MN), concerning softwood lumber shipments from Canada;

- 10) Rep. Ed Whitfield (R-KY), concerning international drug trafficking and Mexico;
- 11) Sen. Trent Lott (R-MS), concerning the Chemical Weapons Convention;
- 12) Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-WI) and Rep. George E. Brown, Jr. (D-CA), concerning Russia and the International Space Station;
- 13) Rep. Newt Gingrich (R-GA) and others, concerning military arms sales to Latin America; and,
- 14) Rep. Jack Quinn (R-NY) and others, concerning US-Mexican border trucking restrictions.

Enclosures

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

April 1, 1997

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL R. BERGER

FROM: SANDRA J. KRISTOFF *gk*
SUBJECT: Congressional Letter to President

Representatives McCarthy and King wrote asking the President to raise with Yeltsin the issue of Korean War POW/MIA's who may have been moved to Russia.

The proposed reply thanks McCarthy and King for their interest and confirms the importance of accounting for Americans lost or missing in the Korean War.

Concurrence by: *WJ* William Danvers

RECOMMENDATION

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

Attachments

Tab I Memo to the President
Tab A Letter to Congress
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

2089

Dear Carolyn:

Thank you for your letter asking that I raise with President Yeltsin the effort to account for our POW/MIA's from the Korean War. While we did not discuss this issue in our recent meeting, I have spoken on several occasions to President Yeltsin and other leaders regarding the importance of POW/MIA accounting.

As you note, it is especially difficult for the families of those lost or missing in wartime to close that chapter of their lives unless there is an accounting of their loved one. That is why I have urged the Defense Department to intensify its efforts to account for Korean War POW/MIA's. This task is much more difficult than that we undertook regarding the Vietnam War, and requires extensive archival research. Unfortunately, we do not have ready access to the documents we need, most of which are stored in North Korea. We hope to an archival research team to North Korea in the summer, and already have gained valuable information from the joint commission we set up with Russia to undertake archival research regarding its role in the POW/MIA issue.

I encourage you to advise your constituent to contact the Defense Department's POW/MIA Office for assistance with her individual case.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Carolyn McCarthy
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3204

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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I encourage you to advise your constituent to contact the Defense Department's POW/MIA Office for assistance with her individual case.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Peter T. King
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3203

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL R. BERGER
JOHN HILLEY

SUBJECT: Congressional Letter on Korean War POW/MIA's

Purpose

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Background

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RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letters at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Letters to McCarthy and King
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

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Chief of Staff

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I encourage you to advise your constituent to contact the Defense Department's POW/MIA Office for assistance with her individual case.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Peter T. King
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3203

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Sincerely,

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House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3204