

Case Number: 2015-0530-S

SYSTEMATIC MARKER

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Original OA/ID Number: 185				
Document ID: 9401238				
Row: 44	Section: 2	Shelf: 10	Position: 1	Stack: V

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9401238
RECEIVED: 16 FEB 94 18

TO: MURKOWSKI, FRANK H

FROM: LAKE

DOC DATE: 26 MAR 94
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: VIETNAM
CO

LEGAL ISSUES

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR TO SEN MURKOWSKI

ACTION: LAKE SGD LTR

DUE DATE: 19 FEB 94 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: WIEDEMANN

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

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO
NSC CHRON
ROSNER
ROTH

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY

SP

DATE

3/28

BY HAND

W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSGP

CLOSED BY: NSGP

DOC 3 OF 3

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9401238

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 WIEDEMANN
002 LAKE
003

Z 94021619 PREPARE MEMO FOR LAKE
Z 94032815 FOR SIGNATURE
X 94032816 LAKE SGD LTR

DISPATCH DATA SUMMARY REPORT

DOC DATE DISPATCH FOR ACTION

DISPATCH FOR INFO

003 940326 MURKOWSKI, FRANK H

UNCLASSIFIED

**National Security Council
The White House**

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 1238
 URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PAS NSC INT
 BYPASSED WW DESK: NP DOCLOG NP A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
W Reed	_____	_____	_____
Kenney	<u>1</u>	<u>Wah</u>	_____
Itoh	_____	_____	_____
Soderberg	_____	_____	_____
Berger	<u>2</u>	<u>copy provided</u>	_____
Lake	<u>3</u>	<u>Nat Sec Advisor</u>	_____
Situation Room	_____	<u>has seen</u>	_____
West Wing Desk	<u>4</u>	<u>EO 7.2</u>	<u>D</u>
NSC Secretariat	<u>5</u>	_____	<u>D</u>

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

cc: VP McLarty Other _____

Should be seen by: _____
(Date/Time)

COMMENTS:

25 MAR 94 7:30

DISPATCH INSTRUCTIONS:

Ent Sec's Office has advised

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 26, 1994

Dear Senator Murkowski:

It was a pleasure seeing you the other day to discuss Taiwan. I appreciated hearing your concerns and I look forward to working with you on the issues you raised. I also want to thank you for your letter concerning the issue of claims held by U.S. citizens and nationals against the government of Vietnam. I appreciate your long-standing interest in this matter.

Vietnamese officials recently informed the State Department that their government will work to achieve a resolution of all 192 claims adjudicated by the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission in 1986. The President has stressed our commitment to pursue full compensation for all legitimate claims.

The claims talks will be conducted under the authority of the State Department. You may wish to stay in touch with Assistant Secretary Winston Lord for continuing reports on the status of the negotiations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Lake", with a stylized, cursive script.

Anthony Lake
Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

The Honorable Frank H. Murkowski
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI
ALASKA

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United States Senate

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February 8, 1994

Mr. Anthony Lake
National Security Adviser
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Lake:

In light of President Clinton's decision last week to lift the embargo against Vietnam, I am writing this letter to reiterate my concern about the position of U.S. nationals who hold claims against the government of Vietnam and to inquire about the current status of this issue.

As you may be aware, I have a long-standing interest in the successful resolution of the claims of U.S. nationals who had their property expropriated by the Vietnamese government in 1975. Twice, I have twice introduced legislation calling for frozen Vietnamese assets to be used to satisfy the 192 legitimate claims adjudicated by the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission in 1986. I have enclosed for your reference copies of previous letters I have written to the executive branch on this subject. Over the past few years, I have been assured by various government officials, including Assistant Secretary Winston Lord in his response to questions submitted for the record last year, that the Executive Branch recognizes the importance of these claims and will address these concerns within the larger framework of U.S.-Vietnamese relations.

According to the new regulations published this week by the Treasury Department, there has been no change in the Administration's freeze on Vietnamese assets within U.S. jurisdiction. Based on discussions during my recent visit to Vietnam, it is my understanding that the Vietnamese have agreed to hold talks with the U.S. to settle these claims. Moreover, I have recently been informed that negotiations are tentatively scheduled to take place in Hanoi starting February 16. If this is indeed the case, I would like to

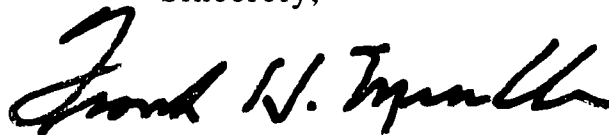
Mr. Anthony Lake
February 8, 1994
Page 2

commend the Administration for its attention to this matter and to encourage those officials involved in this issue to work towards a quick settlement of the issue for the benefit of the claimants. These individuals and companies have already waited over 18 years for a settlement and, I believe, deserve the full support of the U.S. government in seeking to resolve their claims.

I would appreciate it if the Administration could brief me on their intentions regarding future negotiations on this subject. In addition, I would ask that the Administration keep me abreast of any advancement on the claims of U.S. nationals and inform me of any developments before a final decision is made.

I will look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank H. Murkowski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "F" and a stylized "M".

Frank H. Murkowski
United States Senator

Encl:

cc: The Honorable Winston Lord

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI
ALASKA

COMMITTEES:

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE (MCE CHAIRMAN)
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
FOREIGN RELATIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
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December 9, 1992

The Honorable Brent Scowcroft
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear General Scowcroft:

As you are aware, for several years I have been following the issue of reimbursing U.S. nationals for their claims against the government of Vietnam as adjudicated by the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission. Today I am writing to reiterate my support for this reimbursement in a full and timely manner.

It appears that the process of normalizing relations with Vietnam is now underway, owing to the peace process in Cambodia and the increased cooperation by the Vietnamese on the POW/MIA issue. Since I began pursuing this issue, I have been repeatedly assured that settlement of the 192 adjudicated claims would be an integral part of the normalization process. In fact, you may also know that I twice introduced legislation that would ensure a settlement through the use of frozen Vietnamese assets in the U.S.

Numerous discussions with both the Department of State and the Department of Treasury concerning my legislation convinced me that this matter should and would be left up to the Executive branch as a part of the negotiation process. Assuming that this time has now arrived, I would like to have an update on this aspect of the normalization talks, and what the U.S. claimants can expect.

The vast majority of the claimants are individuals who have waited patiently for nearly twenty years for a settlement. Of the corporations involved, many stayed on in South Vietnam at the behest of the U.S. government. I believe it is high time that this matter is put behind us.

Please advise me of the status of this situation. I thank you for your attention, and wish you and your family a joyous holiday season.

Sincerely,

Frank H. Murkowski
United States Senator

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI
ALASKA

COMMITTEES:

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE (VICE CHAIRMAN)
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
FOREIGN RELATIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
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P.5
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May 26, 1992

The Honorable Barbara Franklin
Secretary of Commerce
United States Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Franklin:

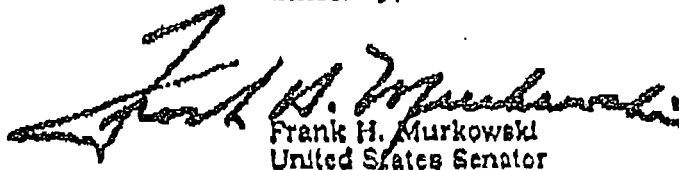
As you may be aware, I have long held an interest in the reimbursement of U.S. nationals who had property expropriated when South Vietnam was conquered by North Vietnam in 1975. Given the recent progress of the existing negotiations to normalize relations with Vietnam, it seems to me that the issue of private claims will be considered soon. I ask that you use the influence of your position to support the full compensation of these nationals who elected to risk their investments to support the ailing South Vietnamese economy at the request of the U.S. Government in 1975.

The justification for complete reimbursement could not be more clearly established. In 1968, the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission completed six years of adjudication on the Vietnam claims issue by declaring that there were 192 U.S. nationals with legitimate claims against the Vietnamese Government. With the 6% interest that the FCSC awarded, the sum of those losses is approximately \$200 million. Given the fact that a sum currently worth about \$230 million in Vietnamese assets is frozen in U.S. banks, it is feasible that the claimants could be appropriately reimbursed without having to request additional funds from either Vietnam or the American taxpayer.

I would encourage you to support the claimants for both the sake of their interests and also for the sake of future business in the region. As the United States struggles to reconcile a broad array of issues with the Vietnamese government, other countries are quickly capitalizing on investment opportunities in Vietnam. The movement of the private claims issue off the table could provide impetus for the settling of U.S.- Vietnamese Government claims as well as other issues that impede an end to the embargo prohibiting U.S. business in Vietnam. In addition, a strong stance by the U.S. Government on the claims issue would give American companies the security of knowing their government supports them as they enter what is still an unpredictable market.

I would greatly appreciate your consideration of this matter as the Government proceeds with its plan to normalize relations with Vietnam.

Sincerely,


Frank H. Murkowski
United States Senator

TO: LAKE

FROM: MURKOWSKI, FRANK H

DOC DATE: 08 FEB 94
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: VIETNAM
CO

LEGAL ISSUES

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR RE LIFTING OF EMBARGO & CLAIMS AGAINST GOVT

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR LAKE

DUE DATE: 19 FEB 94 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: WIEDEMANN

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
WIEDEMANN

FOR CONCURRENCE
KRECKO
ROSNER

FOR INFO
HAHN
ITOH
KENNEY
MERCHANT
MISLOCK
TENET
VAN ERON

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSGP

CLOSED BY:

DOC 1 OF 1

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

March 23, 1994

SIGNEDNat'l Sec Advisor
has seenACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY LAKE

FROM:

STANLEY ROTH *SR*

SUBJECT:

Letter to Senator Murkowski

Attached at Tab A is a letter from Senator Murkowski who wrote you about the status of the position of the U.S. nationals who hold claims against the government of Vietnam.

~~Senator Murkowski wrote you about the claims against the government of Vietnam by U.S. nationals.~~ He has twice introduced legislation asking that the Vietnamese assets be frozen to settle the claims. It is his understanding that progress has been made with the Vietnamese to hold talks with the U.S. to settle these claims.

Senator Murkowski commends the Administration for its progress with the Vietnam claims issue and would like to be briefed of the Administration's intentions regarding future negotiations. He would also like to be apprised of any advancement on the claims and be informed of any developments before a final decision is made.

Concurrence by: Jeremy Rosner

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A	Lake Letter to Senator Murkowski
Tab B	Letter from Senator Murkowski