

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES, 1989-1990

8672

6719 SENATE STATE AFFAIRS

123

33 / 561-5549

MEMORANDUM

TO: Rich Snyder

FROM: Dennis J. Burns, Aide
House State Affairs

DATE: March 8, 1990

RE: HJR 86

Attached you will find the proposed changes we discussed. You should note that legislative scheduling requires that our bills for a weekly hearing must be in on Wed. of each week, which means we may not be able to get this resolution on for next week.

As I indicated, we did have it scheduled for 3/14/90, but the sponsor indicated he did not wish to change the resolution language so we had to remove it. Again, the intention was to work with the sponsor for a compromise.

We have no intention of holding this resolution up - only to take into consideration the State Department's strong suggestion that Khun Sa is a reported drug lord. That means there are conflicting views regarding Khun Sa's activities. Rather than be placed in an embarrassing position down the road, the idea is to simply remove reference to him.

Thank you for your assistance.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

To: Mel, Office of Rep. Ramona Barnes

From: Marvin Ott.

Re: Bo Gritz.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D C 20508

March 16, 1990

Dear Representative Barnes:

This is to advise that the document entitled "Activities of James Gritz, U.S. Army (Retired)", prepared in February 1988, and affixed hereto as Attachment "A", is not a forgery, and is authentic.

Please advise me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,



William F. Sittmann
Acting Executive Secretary

Attachment

The Hon. Ramon Barnes
The House of Representatives and State Senate
Juneau,
Alaska.

Activities of James Gritz, U.S. Army (Retired)

James "Bo" Gritz is a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel who became active in the POW/MIA issue during the late 1970s. At that time, the issue did not have the policy priority it does today. Relying on a variety of supporters, he has attempted to put together several "rescue attempts" in Laos based on unsubstantiated hearsay reports.

In the Spring of 1981, Mr. Gritz received considerable publicity when he disclosed "Operation Velvet Hammer," a POW-rescue venture sponsored by private citizens, and some family members of Americans missing in Southeast Asia. Operation Velvet Hammer was not connected in any way with the U.S. Government. This effort, which was not carried through, involved a "training camp" at a "cheerleading academy" in Florida, among other things. Later, Mr. Gritz was publicly disavowed by his associates and supporters, the media and the National League of Families. The legality of his fund-raising was questioned by vulnerable family members, one of whom lost \$30,000. After receiving adverse publicity, Mr. Gritz surfaced a letter, which he alleged was from the late Lieutenant General Harold Aaron, USA, former Deputy Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, implying a connection between his activities and the Defense Intelligence Agency. An FBI analysis of the letter revealed a number of differences between the signatures on that letter and that of General Aaron, inconsistencies in the language of the letter, and other facts that led to the conclusion that the letter is not authentic. General Aaron was not alive when the letter surfaced.

In October 1981, a low-level Department of Defense organization submitted a proposal for an operation that included Mr. Gritz's participation in a collection capacity. This proposal, submitted by an acquaintance of Mr. Gritz in the organization, never rose above the first level in the approval process. However, in unwarranted anticipation of the concept being approved, the organization prematurely provided Mr. Gritz with initial travel funds and some equipment. Following disapproval of the proposal, this organization informed Mr. Gritz that he did not enjoy any official support.

With this exception, there has been no U.S. Government sanction, encouragement, funding or approval of Mr. Gritz's activities by the White House or by any Executive department or agency of the government. In fact, the U.S. Government has attempted in every way to oppose his activities and has advised him that he was operating counter to USG policy. He has attempted to fund his

alleged POW rescue operations through use of a now defunct tax-exempt Veterans organization, thousands of dollars reportedly donated by a religious organization, and donations from MIA family members and other private American citizens.

In 1983, Mr. Gritz commenced new activities with new supporters, including Hollywood personalities. He made his way to Thailand with a group of veterans and POW/MIA daughters whom he placed in a "command headquarters." From Thailand, he crossed a short way into Laos with a faction of the Lao resistance and some veterans. After confrontation with a rival Lao resistance group, Mr. Gritz's group immediately left Laos. Mr. Gritz and his party were arrested by the Thai Government, declared persona non grata, and expelled. Mr. Gritz's allegations that he had evidence that POWs were being held and that the U.S. Government supported his activities were exposed as untrue in hearings conducted by the House Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs in March 1983.

Following these events, Mr. Gritz produced "evidence" implying to Congress and the public that he had proof that a specific individual was held prisoner. It subsequently was demonstrated that the "evidence" consisted of altered documents. Mr. Gritz was subsequently expelled from the Special Forces Association and was the subject of media scrutiny.

Using a similar pattern, Mr. Gritz has claimed that he had official government backing for his recent trip to Thailand in 1986 to meet with Khun Sa. He had no such support.

Khun Sa, also known as Chang Chi-Fu, is a notorious opium warlord and the leader of a group called the "Shan United Army." By 1978-79, he had established a major heroin complex in the Thai-Burma border area and controlled over 65% of the heroin produced in the "Golden Triangle." His private army is used to facilitate traffic in opium and heroin. The Royal Thai Government has taken forceful action against him for the last few years. At the time of the interview with Mr. Gritz, Khun Sa was under great military and political pressure from Thailand.

In September 1986, the Vice President's office received a letter from a businessman who claimed that Khun Sa had information about a captive American POW and could facilitate his release. Accompanying this report was information that a solution to the narcotics problem in Southeast Asia could be found by dealing directly with Khun Sa, rather than through the Drug Enforcement Administration and the governments of Thailand and Burma. In this manner, Khun Sa endeavored to portray himself as a nationalist leader of the Shan people, representing national Shan interests and not narcotics traffickers.

An intense investigative effort on the Khun Sa POW report determined through intelligence sources and polygraph information that the report had no foundation. During this investigation, however, Mr. Gritz learned of the report, called a former acquaintance temporarily detailed to the NSC staff and offered his services to the government. Mr. Gritz briefly outlined an intended trip to check out the report, advised his acquaintance that he refused to deal with the Defense Intelligence Agency, the appropriate agency, and would provide information only through this officer. After reporting this contact and receiving guidance, the officer informed Mr. Gritz that the report was being investigated, that no help was needed, and that Mr. Gritz's involvement not welcome. Despite this warning, Mr. Gritz went to Southeast Asia and met with Khun Sa. When the Thai Government discovered his presence, he was again expelled. We later learned that he had traveled to Thailand on a false passport to evade Thai immigration authorities. He now faces a criminal trial in the United States on charges related to this act.

In late November and early December 1986, Mr. Gritz contacted the officer on short-term detail to the NSC three times through intermediaries. He turned over information, including a tape, which the NSC staff member appropriately referred. The tapes recorded Khun Sa disavowing any knowledge of POWs.

In an attempt to provide some public explanation for his latest activities, Mr. Gritz has again alleged U.S. official support while maintaining there is a conspiracy and cover-up, this time involving drugs. Tapes he has provided have been viewed by the House Task Force on Narcotics and that Committee has taken testimony from him.

Mr. Gritz has also attempted to associate himself with the Christic Institute, which filed a suit alleging a widespread conspiracy of government officials to use narcotics money to fund covert operations. Mr. Gritz's videotaped interview with Khun Sa largely duplicates allegations in an unsworn Christic Institute "affidavit" that past and present USG officials were involved in narcotics trafficking to fund covert operations. The charges concerning CIA officials in the past originated in the 1970s when the U.S. was involved in the war in Laos. These charges were the subject of a full-scale CIA inquiry in 1972, which concluded that no such evidence existed. The Final Report (No. 94-753) of the Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations, dated April 26, 1976, also found no evidence to substantiate such charges.

The Gritz videotape and the Christic "affidavit" also names current Assistant Secretary of Defense Armitage as once having been linked to the narcotics trade. The allegations, which cover portions of the 1970s, proved to be false and were clearly contradicted by means of information publicly available. For example, the allegations place Mr. Armitage at crucial times in countries where he was not present, in assignments that he never held and in contact with people he barely knew or never met. The allegations were looked into by the Department of Defense and found to be baseless. It should be noted that the Christic "affidavit" was not related to POW/MIA affairs, but Assistant Secretary Armitage has been the "point man" in the Department of Defense to carry out the President's POW/MIA policy, and has been called upon to expose those like Mr. Gritz who have attempted to manipulate the POW/MIA issue for their own personal benefit or objectives. The sudden linkage by Mr. Gritz through a "narcotics warlord" to the Christic allegations and the absence of any foundation for the information only make the allegations more suspicious and creates the appearance of a vendetta or an attempt to manufacture a defense. Leading up to his trial on passport violations, Mr. Gritz has been telling his story to Congress, to college groups, veterans groups, and the media. Additionally, he asked his acquaintance who was detailed to the NSC staff to provide a letter that would portray the U.S. Government as having supported his trip to Thailand. The officer refused to provide it. He has recently alleged that the officer provided an official document to gain access to Khun Sa. The officer has stated this claim is false as well.

Using an almost identical pattern in an attempt to gain official credibility, Mr. Gritz used an old Army friend to contact Mr. William Bode, who was working as a Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of State for Security Assistance during the Spring of 1986. Mr. Gritz informed Mr. Bode about his proposal for Afghan training during an office visit and several brief phone calls. Mr. Bode neither asked Mr. Gritz to undertake the training in question nor encouraged him to do it. He also cautioned him about dealing with purported members of the Afghan resistance. Mr. Gritz subsequently asked Mr. Bode to support his contention that the U.S. Government had sanctioned this training program and visited Mr. Bode with an inaccurate, prepared statement about Mr. Bode's role. Mr. Bode refused to sign it and is cooperating with a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms investigation of Mr. Gritz. Mr. Gritz's associate in this matter received a prison sentence in 1987 for the illegal transport of explosives across state lines.

Throughout his years of involvement, Mr. Gritz contributed nothing of value to the POW/MIA issue. In fact, his activities have been counterproductive. Supposed MIA remains he turned in

were determined to be animal bones. His rescue "missions," based on faulty or fabricated intelligence, have been assessed as being so undermanned and poorly planned that they had virtually no chance for success. His alleged foray into Laos was used as a basis by that country to suspend government-to-government cooperation on this issue for a year. He has distributed leaflets in Southeast Asia that falsely claim Presidential support for his activities and that falsely describe himself as an active duty full Colonel.

It is both irresponsible and unfortunate that Mr. Gritz now makes accusations against current U.S. Government officials based on so-called "records" read by an assistant to a notorious "drug warlord" whose future profits are jeopardized by official drug eradication efforts.

(This information was prepared in February 1988 on an interagency basis to respond to a congressional inquiry on Mr. Gritz's activities.)

M-Heroin Indictment, 740

U.S. Indicts the Opium Warlord of Burma

By CAROLYN SKORNECK

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Dick Thornburgh denounced Khun Sa, the admitted opium warlord of Burma, as the "Prince of Death" Thursday in announcing drug-trafficking charges stemming from the largest heroin seizure ever.

It is unlikely, however, that Khun Sa will be brought to trial in the United States in the near future. For years, the Burmese government has been fighting Khun Sa and his thousands of soldiers to no avail.

Thornburgh refused to concede, however, that the effort to bring Khun Sa to trial would be futile, saying it would "not necessarily" require a small war to capture him.

"He may be subject to delivery by his own forces, if someone decides to betray him," said Thornburgh.

Relations between the United States and Burma have been strained since U.S. aid was cut off two years ago following several massacres and the installation of a military government.

Thornburgh said the U.S. and Burmese governments were united in their desire to apprehend Khun Sa.

"They are as determined governmentally as we are to deal with the problem," the attorney general said. "This would be an important breakthrough for both them and us."

Thornburgh said he had not consulted with Burma on Khun Sa, but he was hoping to get the cooperation of governments there and in neighboring countries in tracking him down.

The 10 federal counts in the indictment returned last December in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn, N.Y., but not unsealed until Thursday, arose out of the largest heroin seizure in history — 1,086 kilograms seized in February 1988 in Bangkok, Thailand. The heroin was headed for New York, officials said. In addition, Khun Sa is charged with importing or attempting to import more than 3,500 pounds of heroin into New York between September 1986 and February 1988.

Asked why the indictment was kept sealed for several months, Thornburgh said officials had to take care of "sensitive matters," which he did not disclose.

"Khun Sa has described himself as 'Prince Prosperous,' but as the largest dope pusher in the Golden Triangle, the title of 'Prince of Death' for thousands of heroin addicts in the United States might be more apt," Thornburgh said.

Drug Enforcement Administration chief Jack Lawn estimated that up to 45 percent of the heroin consumed in the United States comes from the Burmese section of the Golden Triangle — an area of Southeast Asia where Thailand, Burma and Laos meet. Khun Sa is reputed to control as much as 90 percent of the heroin from Burma.

Khun Sa is "probably the largest heroin producer in the world," according to Ed Heath, who until recently headed the DEA's heroin desk.

Khun Sa has been singled out as an opium kingpin for years by the United States. Thailand threw him out in 1982, forcing his move across the border to Burma.

"We believe that Khun Sa was predominantly responsible for the flow of heroin to our military forces in Vietnam and in Thailand during r&r (rest and relaxation) as a means of retaliating against the U.S. forces for the damages they wrought during the war itself," Lawn said.

The half-Chinese, half-Shan warlord finances and leads the Shan United Army, a force estimated at 4,000 to 16,000 guerrillas who control a long stretch of the Burmese-Thai border.

Khun Sa claims to be the leader of a nationalist movement for the Shan people, who have been fighting the Burmese government since 1958, when it broke a promise to allow the Shan state to secede.

"I'm not the monster people make me out to be," he told Newsweek last year.

Khun Sa, who has said he disapproves of the drug trade and would like his people to diversify into other businesses, has offered repeatedly to abandon the drug trade if the United States will pay him millions of dollars a year for six to eight years to buy out the opium cross. Such an annual fee has been reported recently as ranging from \$100 million to \$300 million.

The U.S. government has rejected such offers.

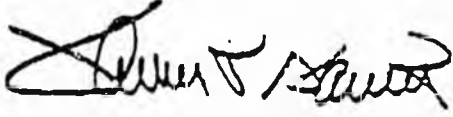
"The last thing to do is to pay the extortionist," Lawn said.

However, the idea of a "pre-emptive buy" was explored in 1978 by an investigative team for the House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control which met with the warlord.

David Pickens, who worked for the committee then chaired by former Rep. Lester Wolff, D-N.Y., said Khun Sa was "stoic, very businesslike and determined."



FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION HEADER SHEET

COMPLANT	NAME OFFICE SYMBOL	TELEPHONE NUMBER	AUTHORIZED RELEASER'S SIGNATURE		
FROM: PERSCOM ALEXANDRIA VA	CW3 GARRETT TAPC-PDA	(202) 325-8700			
TO: MC RAUONA BARNES		(907) 465-4455	DATE/TIME 161545	MONTH MAR	YEAR 90
CLASSIFICATION UNCLAS	NO. PAGES 5	PRECEDENCE RR	REMARKS		

January 18, 1989

Military Awards Branch

Mr. Cyd Smith
Assistant Editor
Guinness Book of World Records
Sterling Publishing Company, Incorporated
Two Park Avenue
New York, New York 10016

Dear Mr. Smith:

This is in response to your letter of November 3, 1988, regarding whether or not Lieutenant Colonel Matt Urban, US Army Retired, is the most decorated soldier in American history.

Such comparative data as you are seeking have been the subject of numerous requests submitted to the Department of Army in the past. It has been a long standing and unwritten policy of the Army that no single soldier or veteran is ever named officially as the most decorated or highest decorated person in a conflict or in a particular era of time. Simply stated, the Army has no central source, index or data base which contains information as to the highest decorated soldier, or information which would permit the comparison of awards of soldiers.

While statements in the news media and unofficial publications often infer or claim that certain individuals were the most highly decorated, first, youngest, oldest, etc., attempting to compile such data would be enormously expensive, time-consuming and, in our view, unproductive. To do this, would foster competition and claims with the Army in the unenviable position as arbiter of disputes and counterclaims. Finally, the Army does not ascribe a numerical value or points to the Nation's decorations. Who is to say that a recipient of a single Medal of Honor is more highly decorated than a recipient of two Distinguished Service Cross awards. Military decorations should not be viewed as prizes in a contest.

Your interest is appreciated and I hope the information provided will clarify this matter for you.

Sincerely,

HMAREH

Hector M. Rangel
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Chief, Military Awards Branch



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. TOTAL ARMY PERSONNEL COMMAND
ALEXANDRIA, VA



38 FEB 1989

Military Awards Branch

Mr. David A. Boehm
Sterling Publishing Company
Two Park Avenue
New York, New York 10016

Dear Mr. Boehm:

Thank you for your letter dated January 23, 1989, to Secretary of Defense designate, the Honorable John Tower, concerning the most decorated soldier in the Armed Forces. Since both Medal of Honor recipients, Audie Murphy and Matt Urban, are former members of the Army, your correspondence was referred to the Department of the Army for a response.

The Army is unable to comply with your request. Neither Audie Murphy nor Matt Urban will be designated by the Army as the person to be included in the GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS.

The previous reply you received was correct. It would be inadvisable for any Army official to state as a matter of fact something which cannot be proven to be true. The Army does not maintain a statistical automated record which could be used to compare the various honors awarded each soldier. The Army does not maintain a consolidated tabulation of each award received by soldiers. The only record for each award given to a soldier is in his or her personnel record. Until the mid-1970s these records were largely paper records. It would be a near impossibility to screen and manually compile statistics from the millions of records of former and current Army members.

There are other reasons, some of which were cited in the previous reply from the Military Awards Branch. The number and type of decorations and awards available to be presented to soldiers varies from one war and time period to another. As an example, in World War I the Army had three decorations and one service medal available to recognize soldiers. During Vietnam these numbers were 12 and three, respectively.

Many soldiers received multiple awards of decorations. It would be both unfair and inaccurate to label one soldier as the most decorated when there are so many variables.

The Army does not interfere with the rights of private citizens, including former soldiers, to make claims regarding themselves. Similarly, the Army does not hinder publications or other persons from publishing such claims. It is incumbent upon such persons, however, to confirm the claims or alleged facts. The Army will confirm only what it can verify as true and correct information. I trust you can understand such a position.



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
1001 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NORTHWEST, SUITE 219
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036-5504

202/223-6846

UPDATE LINE: 202/659-0133

FAX TRANSMITTAL

TO: Representative Barnes c/o Me. Krogseng

FAX 907/465-4455
NUMBER: _____

TELEPHONE
NUMBER: 907/465-3438

FROM: Ann Mills Griffiths

FAX: 202/785-9410

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 202/223-6846

DATE: 3/16/90

TIME: 9:35 am EST

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER
SHEET: 2

NOTES:

Representative Barnes:

Your inquiry concerning the resolution being considered by the Alaska State Legislature was appreciated. Knowing the history of retired Army LTC James Bo Gritz's involvement in the POW/MIA issue as well as his contacts with recently indicted drug warlord Khun Sa, including unfounded claims and false accusations against senior U.S. Government officials, I sought the views of the Chief, POW/MIA Special Office, Defense Intelligence Agency, COL Joseph A. Schlatter, USA. His response, brief in the time allowed, is included with this equally brief note. It is our hope that you and your colleagues will give serious consideration to these views which we strongly support.

Ann Mills Griffiths
Ann Mills Griffiths
Executive Director

3/16/90



DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20340



U-0353/PW-MIA

16 MAR 1990

Ms. Ann Mills Griffiths
Executive Director
National League of POW/MIA Families
1001 Connecticut Avenue
Suite 219
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Ms. Griffiths:

We have reviewed Joint Resolution No. 86 proposed by the Alaska State Legislature and offer the following comments:

The United States Government has no evidence whatsoever to suggest that "U.S. prisoners of war" are being held in Burma.

Several years ago the U.S. Government was approached by an American citizen claiming that, through contacts with Burmese drug war lord Khun Sa, one or more U.S. prisoners of war could be released. The report was investigated and found to be a deliberate attempt to fabricate information.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH A. SCHLATTER
Colonel, USA
Chief, Special Office for Prisoners
of War and Missing in Action



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
1001 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NORTHWEST, SUITE 219
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036-5504

202/223 6846

UPDATE LINE: 202/659-0133

FAX TRANSMITTAL

TO: Ms. MEL KROBSENKO

FAX
NUMBER: 907/465-4455

TELEPHONE
NUMBER: 907/465-3438

FROM: MARY C. PEARL

FAX: 202/785-9410

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 202/223-6846

DATE: 3/16

TIME: 3:22 pm

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER

SHEET: 10

NOTES:

*FBI-Attorney General Thornburg announced
yesterday that "Khmer Sa" had been
deleted.*



202/223 6816

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
1001 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NORTHWEST SUITE 219
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036-5504

UPDATE LINE: 202/659 0133

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia was incorporated in the District of Columbia on May 28, 1970. Membership is comprised of the wives, children, parents and other close relatives of Americans who were or are listed as prisoners of war, missing in action, killed in action/body not recovered in Southeast Asia, and returned Vietnam POWs. It is a non-profit, non-partisan organization financed through contributions from the families, concerned citizens and organizations. The League's sole purpose is to obtain the release of all prisoners, the fullest possible accounting for the missing and the repatriation of remains of those who died serving our nation in Southeast Asia.

The League originated on the west coast in the late 1960's. The wife of a ranking POW, believing that the U.S. Government's policy of keeping a low profile on the POW/MIA issue and encouraging the families to refrain from publicly discussing the problem was unjustified, initiated a loosely organized movement which eventually developed into the National League of Families.

In October 1968, the first POW/MIA story was published. As a result of that publicity, the families began communicating with each other. The group grew in strength from 50 to 100, to 300, and kept growing. Small POW/MIA family groups flooded the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris with telegraphic inquiries regarding the prisoners and missing, the first major activity in which hundreds of families participated.

Eventually, the necessity for formal incorporation was recognized. In May 1970, a special ADHOC meeting of families met in Washington, D.C., at which time the League's charter and by-laws were drafted.

A nine-member board of directors meets regularly to determine League policy and direction and is elected yearly by the membership which now stands at approximately 3,600. In addition, there are ten regional coordinators responsible for activities in multi-state areas and state coordinators in most of the fifty states.

The League's national office is staffed by six full-time employees. The executive director, an MIA sister who is the organization's chief executive officer, is responsible for management of the League and implementation of policies established by the membership and board of directors.



202/223-6816

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
1001 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NORTHWEST, SUITE 219
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036-5304

UPDATE LINE: 202/659 0111

STATUS OF THE POW/MIA ISSUE: March 1, 1990

2,304 Americans remain missing or unaccounted for as a result of the conflict in Southeast Asia. A breakdown by country of loss follows: Vietnam (North - 598; South - 1,081) 1,679; Laos - 537; Cambodia - 82; China (territorial waters) - 6.

President Bush has publicly stated his Administration's commitment and pledged to "do all a government can" to resolve the POW/MIA issue. Highest priority is placed on resolving the live prisoner issue which is at the forefront of negotiations and the intelligence effort. Conclusive evidence of the existence of live prisoners has not yet been obtained, but information available precludes ruling out that possibility. The U.S. Government operates under the assumption that some Americans are still held and has pledged to take decisive action should any report prove true. Over 100 firsthand live sighting reports are under continuing priority investigation.

Progress in Vietnam has increased since General John W. Vessey, Jr. (USA-Retired) was named special POW/MIA Emissary to Hanoi by President Reagan in February 1987 and reappointed by President Bush in January 1989. Since September 1988, numerous joint investigations have taken place in Vietnam, several technical meetings have been held, and the Vietnamese have repatriated 230 remains. Only 98 have thus far been identified, and most of those remaining are believed to be Southeast Asian mongoloid or unidentifiable.

There has been a significant increase in joint US/Lao operations this year, including agreements in early February to greatly expand the level of cooperation. For the first time, the Lao Government has agreed to conduct joint investigation of discrepancy cases and joint surveys of reported grave sites throughout the country as part of the year-round program for 1990.

Only Cambodia has not cooperated. The US Government has made clear to officials in Phnom Penh their willingness to unilaterally send an Air Force plane and repatriation team to pick up any remains in their possession. Thus far, there has been no response.

The US Government is seeking the fullest possible accounting. It is obvious from a review of statistical data that many will unfortunately never be recovered; over 400 individuals were lost over water. Another 450 individual loss locations are unknown. While recognizing these statistical realities, the League and the US Government also recognize that full and open cooperation from the governments concerned could account for hundreds of missing Americans.

STATISTICS

2,304 Americans are still prisoner, missing or unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, including 42 civilians, 2 of whom are women. A breakdown of country of loss follows:

Vietnam (North-598; South-1,081).....1,679
 Laos.....537
 Cambodia.....82
 China(territorial waters).....6

*Firsthand Sighting Reports from Indochina

As of March 1, 1990, 1,342 firsthand live sighting reports in Indochina have been received since 1975. 1,216 of these reports have been resolved: 895 pertain to individuals who have since left Indochina (returned POW's, known missionaries or civilians detained after Saigon fell, and later released); 321 are fabrications. The remaining 126 sightings are as yet unresolved and under investigation using all available intelligence assets. The 126 can be further divided into 72 dealing with reported Americans seen in a prisoner situation and 54 in non-prisoner situations. The 72 "prisoner" reports can be separated into 70 active cases and 2 cases where the information is too vague to be of any use. The years during which the 151 unresolved live sightings took place is outlined below:

Pre	75	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	TOTAL
POW	40	3	1	7	4	3	2	2	0	2	1	1	2	1	3	0	0	72
NonPW	2	5	5	3	3	6	0	1	1	2	2	5	4	6	7	1	1	54

* Statistics from Defense Intelligence Agency.

*Servicemen Identified/Accounted for Since 1973

1974	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	TOTAL
23	5	2	33	12	0	1	3	5	9	6	51	22	8	62	37	279

-----74-75-----	-----76-78-----	-----79-80-----	-----81-89-----
Related to end of VN War	US/SRV attempts to normalize	Normalization talks breakdown	U.S. priority humanitarian issue
28	47	1	203

Note: The above numbers do not include all remains reported to be those of Americans repatriated by Vietnam or recovered during the 1986 excavation in Laos, some of which are still being processed by the CIL.

*Statistics from Department of Defense. Includes two individual forensics identifications subsequently rescinded, but personnel are considered accounted for by the U.S. Government.



202/223-68-6

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
1001 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NORTHWEST, SUITE 219
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036-4504

UPDATE LINE: 202/659 0133

LEAGUE POSITIONS

On Live Prisoners: The League's position is that Americans are still held based on history of the issue, known discrepancy cases and the weight of intelligence information which supports our view. The League's position places the burden on Hanoi to provide answers and is not in conflict with the U.S. Government position.

On the Fullest Possible Accounting: As stated in the League's charter and bylaws, the fullest possible accounting is critical to achieving answers for the families and directly impacts on the live prisoner question. The two tracks must be pursued simultaneously, as a matter of highest national priority, using largely separate but complementary assets.

On Current Priority and Policy: The League strongly supports current priority and policy, recognizing that the US Government has adopted all initiatives proposed by the League, that significant progress is being made, though never as fast as hoped, and that no viable alternative approach has been proposed.

On Political US Relationship with Vietnam: So long as there is an ongoing, viable process of humanitarian cooperation between the US and Vietnam to resolve the POW/MIA issue, and so long as the Government of Vietnam continues a policy of non-linkage, the League will take no position on matters affecting the political relationship between the two countries.

On Obtaining Indochinese Cooperation: Agreements to address mutual humanitarian concerns must be implemented in the best interest of all concerned governments. **Vietnam:** The League fully supports President Bush's reappointment of General John W. Vessey, Jr., as his special POW/MIA emissary to Hanoi, recognizing Vietnam's increased cooperation in working unilaterally and jointly with the U.S. Government to resolve the fate of our missing men since his selection. The League calls on the Government of Vietnam to fully share all available information with the U.S. and urges the US Government to expand upon this foundation if Vietnam meets their commitments. **Laos:** The League welcomes the Lao Government's agreement to establish a year-round program of POW/MIA cooperation with the U.S. and calls upon Laos to increase the pace of joint and unilateral activities and upon the US Government to fulfill its pledges in this regard. **Cambodia:** The League again calls upon officials in Phnom Penh to return any and all remains and information of Americans they claim to possess and urges immediate acceptance of the long-standing US offer to send a military aircraft and official repatriation team to receive these remains on a humanitarian basis and return them to their families for honorable burial. The League calls upon the US Government to pursue information on Americans listed as unaccounted for in Cambodia in a manner which will ensure that the humanitarian nature of the POW/MIA issue is maintained.

On CILHI: The League supports improvements made at the Central Identification Laboratory (CIL) and in the identification procedures, recognizing that the operations of the CIL are basic to the accounting process and that confidence of the families must be maintained. The League

encourages the US Government to continuously seek to improve the process as circumstances dictate. The League is opposed to group burials unless all possibilities to obtain individual identification have been exhausted. We support the provision of all relevant information to the next-of-kin to ensure knowledgeable decisions of whether to accept or decline acceptance of individual identifications which may be possible on a less than forensically certain basis.

On Release of Classified Information: The League supports the US Government's policy of "full disclosure" to ensure the provision of all relevant information to the next-of-kin. The League strongly opposes legislation which calls for public release of classified reports pertaining to Americans still held captive in Southeast Asia. Public release of sensitive data aids counter-intelligence and destroys any hope of effective US Government action to obtain the release of those involved, as pledged by the President.

On Bipartisan Support: The League calls upon the Republican and Democratic leadership to continue current bipartisan policy and priority to resolve the POW/MIA issue, recognizing that resolution of this humanitarian issue can only be achieved through serious US Government efforts to increase the cooperation of the governments of Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and China.

On Use of Misinformation/Allegations: The League condemns any exploitation of the POW/MIA issue as a whole or in individual cases. Misinformation, unfounded allegations or claims without proof, including fundraising using false or distorted information, undermine the objective facts of the issue which are viable in themselves and must be countered with facts. We commend the US Congress for pursuing the problem of certain private groups using misinformation to raise funds on the POW/MIA issue, and call upon the Congress to report its findings to the American people and to pursue prosecution in any case found to be in violation of US statutes. The League condemns exploitation of the POW/MIA issue taking place at the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial and calls upon the Department of the Interior and all veterans organizations to take appropriate action to eliminate this desecration.

On Reward Offers: The League is strongly opposed to offers of rewards which historically have been counterproductive to achieving our goals. Such offers have elicited strong Vietnamese and Lao Government denials that any Americans are still held captive, thus undermining serious attempts by the US Government to generate responsiveness on the live POW question. In addition, the logical result of such public offers is the tightening of security on any and all Americans held.

On Irresponsible Private Efforts: The League opposes irresponsible private forays which interfere with legitimate efforts to confirm the existence of POWs as well as government-to-government negotiations to account for those still prisoner, missing or unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

On Conspiracy & Coverup: The League rejects charges of conspiracy and coverup by the US Government on the POW/MIA issue. Current priority assets, particularly within the Defense Intelligence Agency, must not be further squandered on responding or reacting to such unfounded allegations.

November 7, 1989



FREQUENTLY RAISED QUESTIONS/LEAGUE RESPONSES ON THE POW/MIA ISSUE

March 16, 1990

Q: What is the League's position on live prisoners?

A: We believe Americans are still alive in Southeast Asia based on the history of the issue, the numerous discrepancy cases of men last known alive and not yet returned and the weight of intelligence data which supports our view. Our position is based on objective information, not speculation or wishful thinking.

While the League's greatest concern and highest priority is the live prisoner issue, our three-fold objective has always been and is: the return of all POWs, the fullest possible accounting for the missing and the repatriation of remains of those who died serving our country. These three goals are complementary and pursued simultaneously. Uncertainty of the families can only be ended by pursuing all three objectives.

Q: The USG says that the possibility of live Americans cannot be ruled out. What is your reaction to the USG official position?

A: It is compatible with ours. Official policy is that information available precludes ruling out the possibility of live Americans, and all investigatory efforts are pursued under the assumption that some are still held. The United States Government has pledged decisive action on any report which can be confirmed. Given the priority of U.S. efforts, including intelligence assets, currently focused on this issue, we now have our best opportunity yet to obtain the answers we seek.

Q: Is President Bush committed to resolving the POW/MIA issue?

A: While serving as vice-president, Bush was actively involved in President Reagan's priority effort to resolve the POW/MIA issue, a dedication which he has carried into his presidency. His commitment to our missing men was exemplified through his reference to those still unaccounted for in his inaugural address, his reappointment of General John Vessey, Jr. as his special POW/MIA emissary to Hanoi and his address to the POW/MIA families at the League's annual meeting in July, 1989. The priority and policy begun by President Reagan has continued and the League has confidence that progress will continue to increase.

Q: What were the results of Presidential POW/MIA Emissary General John Vessey's mission to Hanoi?

A: During his October 1989 mission, agreements were reached to refine and expand the process of joint US/SRV cooperation (initially begun

in late 1988), including additional research for information to determine the fate of missing Americans. The US also expressed appreciation for Vietnam's unilateral efforts to recover and repatriate American remains and encouraged that such efforts be increased. Both sides agreed to expand joint scientific endeavors to support these efforts.

The US stressed that the process of joint cooperation must be viable. The League feels that an expanded level of activity is not a substitute for results.

Q: What exactly do joint activities include?

A: During a period of joint activity, US technical personnel from the Joint Casualty Resolution Center and Central Identification Laboratory and their Vietnamese counterparts conduct surveys of crashsites, investigations of incidents, including interviews with local villagers, and when appropriate, excavations. In addition, U.S. forensic specialists have worked with their Vietnamese counterparts to examine remains recovered unilaterally by Vietnam to determine whether further analysis at CILHI is warranted.

Q: Why would Vietnam be willing to cooperate now?

A: The Vietnamese are acutely aware that accounting for POW/MIAs is a means of prepositioning themselves for the future. When the Cambodian problem is resolved and normalization of relations between the U.S. and Vietnam can be seriously considered, progress on the POW/MIA issue will directly affect the pace and scope of the normalization process. It is critically important that U.S. policy continues to ensure that greater cooperation is in Vietnam's interest.

Q: Why does Vietnam continue to "dribble out" remains? How many remains have been identified since US priority was assigned to the issue in 1982?

A: We cannot speculate about Vietnam's motivation; however, unilateral turnovers of remains which may be American have occurred with greater frequency. More remains have been positively identified since President Reagan established priority on this issue than at any time since the end of the war, resulting in significant increases in accountability. This increase in unilateral action has occasionally been interrupted by Vietnam for reported political reasons; however, it is clearly in their interest to honor their humanitarian commitments. Specifics are available on the League's Statistics flyer.

Q: Has the US lifted the trade embargo and is aid now being provided to Vietnam?

A: No. Official U.S. Government aid is prohibited by existing congressional law; however, the US has acknowledged and agreed to address "certain urgent humanitarian concerns" of Vietnam within

legal and policy constraints. Initial focus was on the disabled, but was expanded to address problems dealing with child disabilities and survival. On numerous occasions, US teams of medical experts visited Vietnam to assess the extent of these problems. Summaries of their findings on both problems were compiled and provided to non-governmental humanitarian organizations (NGOs) for consideration of possible private assistance.

Q: But the Vietnamese say that the US is avoiding its responsibilities, renegeing on promises - what about that?

A: The Vietnamese know that legal and policy constraints exist which prohibit official US Government aid or assistance and understand exactly the commitments made by the US to address their humanitarian concerns. The US agreed to focus initially on the problem of disabled Vietnamese, to encourage NGOs to respond and facilitate assistance where possible. The U.S has and is currently fulfilling these commitments, in addition to the area of child health and disabilities.

Q: What actions have been taken to account for over 500 servicemen still missing in Laos?

A: There has been ongoing policy and technical level effort with the Lao Government since priority was established in 1982. In February, 1990, the US and Lao agreed to increase the year-round program of joint POW/MIA activities for this year. Numerous joint activities are planned which will expand the joint activities into areas of Laos where US teams were not previously allowed.

Over 30% of the U.S. personnel still unaccounted for in Laos were lost in areas along the Ho Chi Minn Trail, a vital supply line where Vietnamese forces were deployed during the war. In fact, nine Americans captured in Lao territory were transported to Vietnam and subsequently released during Operation Homecoming, 1973. One captured after Operation Homecoming, Emmet Kay, was held by the Pathet Lao and released in 1974. Other Americans known to have been captured have not yet been returned - alive or dead; these are some of the discrepancy cases which the Lao Government has now agreed to investigate.

Q: What efforts are being made to account for the 82 Americans listed as missing in Cambodia?

Despite repeated US offers to send a U.S. Air Force plane and official repatriation team to pick up remains of U.S. servicemen Phnom Penh claims are in their possession, officials there have failed to respond. The League and the US Government continue to seek Phnom Penh's cooperation through international humanitarian organizations and other appropriate channels.

Q: Why is the executive director of the League included on official delegations? Why the League and not other POW/MIA organizations?

A: It is widely known and accepted that the National League of Families is the only national organization comprised solely of POW/MIA families. Since 1970, the League has been recognized by the USG, the Indochinese governments and the media as representing the families and our missing relatives. The League's credibility was established over many years, and this same logic is the basis for League representation in the US Government's POW/MIA Interagency Group which develops policy to resolve the issue.

Q: What resources is the US Government devoting to the POW/MIA issue today? How does this compare to earlier years?

A: It would be impossible to estimate the full resources now being used on the POW/MIA issue; however, some precise numbers apply. Since 1981, the personnel level at the Defense Intelligence Agency has gone from 12 to 39; the JCRC from 12 to 27; and the Central Identification Laboratory from 26 to 40. These people are devoted 100% to POW/MIA matters. In addition, countless people spend innumerable hours working to resolve the issue, whether in the Department of Defense, the State Department, the military services, the intelligence community or the White House.

Q: Does the League support offers of rewards to obtain the release of American POWs?

A: Reward offers have been made over the years and have produced no positive results. Rather, they have damaged the issue by causing high level Vietnamese and Lao officials to emphatically deny holding any Americans. Such denials work against current efforts to resolve the issue, serving only to erode the flexibility established in the negotiating process which would allow these countries to return our men - alive and dead. In addition, such offers tend to motivate sources to fabricate information for monetary gain. Tightened security on any and all Americans still alive would also be a logical result.

Q: Why is the League opposed to the activities of some POW/MIA groups?

A: There are numerous legitimate POW/MIA organizations which are helpful to the process; however, emotionally-charged, inaccurate information is distributed by groups such as the American Defense Institute, Skyhook II, Operation Rescue, National Forget-Me-Nots, Homecoming II and the POW Publicity Fund, among others. Frequently, their financial appeals imply that the rescue of a live POW is imminent and graphically portray the alleged captivity environment. It is important to note that no valid information has ever been provided by these groups. The League urges all concerned Americans to seek the facts, counter misinformation and support responsible efforts to return our missing relatives.

The League's 24 - hour update line provides current informational updates (202/659-0133).



DEFENSE ISSUES

Vol. 4 No. 24

Remarks by President George Bush
to the National League of Families,
Washington, D.C., July 23, 1989.

President Bush: The Fullest Possible Accounting

Earlier, I was reflecting on the magnitude of what you have endured through so many years of uncertainty. Despite your burdens, you have brought about a change in our nation that will never be reversed. Your organization provides us all with a stirring example of how citizens working together can help craft sound policy.

As you know, Barbara and I returned from Central and Eastern Europe two weeks ago. And in the faces of the brave workers of Gdansk and the hopeful students of Budapest, I saw a truth that cannot be denied—the democratic ideal is winning the hearts of people around the world.

It is this ideal that we honor when we fly the flag. And it is for this ideal that so many Americans were ready when their country called.

Today we see the symbol of this commitment, the league's POW/MIA flag, on permanent display in the Rotunda of our nation's Capitol. It stands in a position of tremendous honor. And it will not come down until we have the fullest possible accounting of your missing loved ones.

Your flag can be seen across this land—over state houses, fire stations, schools, military installations and stadiums, even on ships at sea—a stirring reminder that America's sons are still missing.

The ideals for which your loved ones fought may finally be

coming to pass—the failure of totalitarian and repressive communist regimes. The evidence is clear through recent events in China, the Soviet Union and even in Cambodia, where Vietnam appears to be withdrawing its troops.

Some of our finest young men and women were lost during the many long years of the Vietnam War. And the divisions that resulted from our involvement there shook our country to its core. But as tragic as the loss of a loved one is, even more difficult to endure is the uncertainty which, for you, has extended over so many years.

Now we are coming to a time when the divisions of the Vietnam War are healing; we have let go of the bitterness of the past. But with this reconciliation comes a temptation to forget those who served. Yet we will not forget. And we will never break ranks.

My friend and predecessor, Ronald Reagan, had a personal commitment to determine the fates of your missing loved ones. Because of his commitment and your perseverance, the policies of this organization are now the policies of the United States government.

When I sought the presidency, I renewed President Reagan's pledge that we would write no last chapters, we would close no books, we would put away no final memories until your questions about missing and possible prisoners of war have been answered.

And it is as your president that

The POW/MIA Issue

- *President Bush: The Fullest Possible Accounting*
- *Secretary Cheney: An Issue of Highest Priority*

I repeat this pledge. Let me simply state the policy of this new administration. The fullest possible accounting remains a matter of highest national priority. We will do everything that a government can do to recover the missing, and if we discover proof of captivity, we will take action to bring our men home.

And so long as you must live without knowing the fate of your loved ones, the United States will insist, in the name of humanity, that the governments of Indochina give the fullest possible accounting.

Frustration on this sensitive issue is very understandable. I hear those who say more must be done. If more can be done, then it will be. Understand this—I do not counsel a timid patience, I counsel a bold persistence.

Results Shown

And our persistence is showing some results; since the government embraced the goals of this organization, many more of you have found answers. Each answer has been another sad truth to learn. But every POW/MIA relative that I meet tells me that truth is preferable to the greater agony—that of not knowing.

The task of learning more is daunting, but we can count on some powerful allies.

First are the national veterans organizations, those who have stood side by side with us through the long years. It was these veteran groups, supporting you, which protested govern-

"We have let go of the bitterness of the past. But with this reconciliation comes a temptation to forget those who served. Yet we will not forget. And we will never break ranks."

ment indifference to the POW/MIA issue in earlier years. Their contribution has been indispensable.

Other partners in our quest are the men and women in government who are dedicating their careers to learning the truth about our POWs and MIAs. These public servants are not uninspired bureaucrats just going through the motions. They have a deep and abiding commitment to their task. This is a commitment shared by people in the military services, in the Defense Intelligence Agency, in embassies throughout the world and among those American pilots who bring our fallen soldiers out of Hanoi, to at long last come home.

You also have many friends in both parties in Congress. I especially want to commend Bob Dole, John McCain, Steve Solarz, Bob Lagomarsino and Ben Gilman for showing the governments of Indochina the strength of bipartisan congressional commitment to find answers. To keep this issue at the forefront, they have again passed resolutions establishing National POW/MIA Recognition Day, this year on Sept. 15th.

I must mention how invaluable the guidance of Ann Mills Griffiths has been through the years. Her knowledge and determination are an inspiration, and her participation in the inter-agency group provides critical insights. We will continue to look to her for advice and leadership.

And finally, I pledge to do all I can. I will soon issue a proclamation calling upon all Americans to honor their missing countrymen and those who served as POWs by participating in ceremonies across our nation. But this is just a beginning.

In Southeast Asia, there are Americans who are unaccounted for. As I said in my inaugural address, "Assistance can be shown here and will be long remembered. Goodwill begets goodwill."

Questions Remain

We appreciate Vietnam's increased responsiveness to that appeal. An unprecedented level of joint operations has already brought significant progress. But despite our increased activities, many questions remain. Once again, I call on Hanoi to swiftly dispel the shadow of doubt, to shed light on the fate of your loved ones. I call on Hanoi to remove this last vestige of armed conflict between us.

We look forward to normalizing our relations with Vietnam, once a comprehensive settlement has been achieved in Cambodia. That settlement must include genuine power-sharing with the non-communist Cambodians led by Prince Sihanouk and in internationally verified troop withdrawal. But Hanoi must clearly understand that, as a practical matter, the pace and scope of this process will be directly affected by the seriousness of their cooperation on POW/MIA and other humanitarian issues.

In Laos, so many questions remain, and so few answers have been received. In light of the difficulties involved, their agreement earlier this year to a year-round program of cooperation is encouraging. You can be certain that we are seeking to expand this agreement in every possible way.

We also welcome the Lao government's agreement to work bilaterally with us on combating the international scourge of nar-

cotics. Implementing this agreement will be critically important to our improved bilateral relationship, which has expanded steadily since 1982. We look to the future in our relations with Laos, recognizing the importance of steps they are taking toward opening their society and developing their economy for the good of the Lao people.

To the families of those missing in Cambodia, I must tell you that our efforts to gain Phnom Penh's humanitarian cooperation on resolving the fates of your missing loved ones have thus far been unsuccessful. Despite their public claims to be holding remains of some Americans, officials there have been deaf to our appeals. I have asked Secretary of State James Baker to raise this issue during the international conference in Cambodia beginning this weekend. I call on Phnom Penh to act responsibly, humanely, and return these remains. Failure to do so will surely hinder their efforts to gain international respect and support.

The policies pursued during the past eight years have shown some success. Incomplete? Yes, but progress is being made because our government is giving it high priority.

As we proceed, we will continue to search for ways to improve the process. We will continue to assemble the best resources, technology and, most of all, qualified people to interview refugees, evaluate intelligence information and negotiate with foreign governments.

Special Emissary

It is with that last mission in mind that I reappointed a man of the highest integrity and qualifications, Gen. Jack Vessey, as my special POW/MIA emissary to Hanoi. I know that Jack was with you this morning, and senior officials from the Departments of State and Defense and the National Security Council will follow me here. I have charged them all to do their utmost. They know and

share my deep commitment to your missing loved ones and to you.

The principal responsibility for the POW/MIA issue rests with the Department of Defense. And for that reason, we are fortunate to have a very talented public servant as our secretary of defense. Dick Cheney's years in Congress and his knowledge of intelligence matters give him a rare understanding of, and a deep appreciation for, your concerns.

In closing, I want you to know that in my frequent travels to cities and towns across America, I see many heartfelt demonstrations of support for our cause. Americans know that across our land every Thanksgiving, there are families that still set an empty chair at the table. We know that faded photographs and school mementos are still being lovingly kept in scrapbooks. And questions remain, and will remain, until answered.

Now the mothers, fathers, wives, children and friends of

"We will continue to assemble the best resources, technology and, most of all, qualified people to interview refugees, evaluate intelligence information and negotiate with foreign governments."

another great power share the same kind of grief, share with you lingering doubts about missing loved ones. That this power, the Soviet Union, backed the North Vietnamese and the United States backed the Afghan freedom fighters is an irony. But there is no room in the American heart for a mean-spirited and petty indifference. Far from it.

I am pleased to note that Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev recently made a humanitarian appeal for our help in obtaining the fullest possible accounting for Soviet citizens still prisoner and missing in Afghanistan. Let me answer him

today—we will do everything we can. And in return, we confidently expect the Soviets will do all they can do encourage more serious and timely cooperation from their allies in Indochina.

Working together, we can resolve the anguish of many families in two lands. And we can do something more—we can build a new spirit of peace.

In Ecclesiastes, it is written that there is a time for war, a time for peace and a time to heal. We will never forget those who served our country. And when we receive final answers about their fate, then this will truly be a time for healing. ■

Remarks prepared for delivery by Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney to the National League of Families, Washington, D.C., July 29, 1983.

Secretary Cheney: An Issue of Highest Priority

Thank you all very much; it's a pleasure to join you. I'm especially pleased to be here for your 20th annual meeting. Although there is much that still has to be done, I want to begin tonight by recognizing the league's contribution to the progress we've made so far in this critically important effort.

With your meetings and briefings completed, I hope you found your trip to Washington fruitful. We profit from these meetings as well. In fact, we all profit when information is shared and resources pooled.

Let me start by acknowledging the enormous contribution of your executive director, Ann Mills Griffiths, and your chairman, George Brooks. Ann shared her thoughts with me very early in my tenure as secretary, and I want you to know,

Ann, that I appreciate the invaluable help you've already given me and the guidance you've given the department for many years. George Brooks is what this organization is all about—dedication. Even after he and his wife, Gladys, received final word on their son in 1982, their interest in America's missing and unaccounted for has never flagged. In George and Gladys' dictionary, the word "self-interest" doesn't even appear.

I want to give you my own perspective tonight on our continuing efforts to gain the fullest possible accounting of your family members missing in Indochina. Over the last two days of your meetings, you've had a host of detailed briefings and discussions, so there is no need for me to cover ground with which you are already quite familiar. What I can do is address a few other issues that must certainly be on your mind. With any new administration, questions arise about our future efforts to resolve every possible

case of servicemen missing or unaccounted for. Let me discuss that future, and let me also discuss my own personal commitment to this issue.

Graphic Reminders

I can't move from my home to my office or from my office to a meeting without seeing and feeling the graphic reminders of the strength and sacrifice that come with military service. From the POW/MIA corridor on the fourth floor of the Pentagon, with its list of Americans who are still unaccounted for, to Arlington National Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier that lies just to the west of the Pentagon and sweeps below me every time I take the Marine helicopter, I cannot escape the feelings of loss and uncertainty that surround war. The monuments and symbols that are so much a part of this capital city remind us of our obligation to the memory of those killed in battle and those whose fate we have yet to discover. But we are

"Fathers, wives, sons, mothers and daughters stand behind our military—families contribute quietly, but fundamentally, to national security. They serve no less than the men and women in uniform."

also reminded that there is more to the sacrifice of war than the courage and strength of our soldiers.

Fathers, wives, sons, mothers and daughters stand behind our military—families contribute quietly, but fundamentally, to national security. They serve no less than the men and women in uniform. We understand that, and that is why I've put people first in our budget. Military families and quality-of-life programs will not be ignored, no matter how tightly our budget is squeezed.

No families, however, have a greater claim to our attention than you do. While all families make sacrifices, yours is different. Your service to America, and the uncertainties you have been forced to live with, are both immeasurable and unrelenting. I want to assure you that I will never lose sight of that fact.

As a member of the House Intelligence Committee, I was able to participate in hearings and briefings on our efforts to achieve the fullest possible accounting of POWs and MIAs. In many ways, I was in a privileged position. Committee members could follow in detail our intelligence-collection efforts and come to understand how we cope with the roadblocks and complexities that are so much a part of this important effort.

Two things always impressed me: first, that we have an enormous task before us, made more difficult by the political realities of Southeast Asia, and second, that no matter how difficult, our dedication to this search must not wane....

As secretary of defense, I have gained a keener appreciation of

our quest for accurate information. In my earliest days in office, I met with Gen. John Vessey, the president's special emissary for POW/MIA affairs, and assured him of my personal support for his efforts. The general briefed me on his current efforts, and we talked about our hopes for the future. We are blessed to have a man of this caliber leading our negotiations with the Vietnamese. I think they see in Jack Vessey the same thing we see—a man of unimpeachable integrity and honesty. He has done an extraordinary job, and that's why President (George) Bush has asked him to remain in his post.

Developments Since 1987

There's no question that Jack Vessey has made a difference. Let me just note a few of the activities that have taken place since his first mission to Hanoi in August 1987:

- Our numerous technical-level meetings with the Vietnamese have succeeded in hammering out important details permitting us to expand both the scope and effectiveness of our joint investigations and other POW/MIA related activities with the Vietnamese.

- The Vietnamese have repatriated 217 remains, 74 of them since the first of this year. Of the overall total, 62 have thus far been identified as those of missing Americans, bringing long-awaited answers to their families. Many of the remains are still undergoing analysis by the Central Identification Laboratory. While many may prove to be unidentifiable or not those of Americans, we welcome the opportunity to examine for ourselves any remains thought to be

those of our missing servicemen. We look forward to the next repatriation that will take place Monday.

- As you know, the seventh iteration of joint investigations will begin in just two days. These investigations have given us important insights into some of the most compelling discrepancy cases. We have much more to do, and we will continue to press the Vietnamese to make witnesses available and to share whatever information they have concerning those missing and unaccounted for.

- In Laos, we reached important agreements early this year for a year-round program to accelerate resolving the fate of more than 500 missing or unaccounted for in that country. We are now working to build on that development. Since the beginning of this year, we've undertaken two crash-site excavations, including the first rainy-season effort. Cooperation from the Lao has been good, and we look forward to this increasing.

Of course, it's doubtful we would have these opportunities today were it not for President (Ronald) Reagan's and Vice President Bush's decision back in 1981 to elevate the POW/MIA issue to a matter of the highest national priority.

Tonight, I join President Bush in assuring you that our efforts to account for all missing Americans in Indochina remains just that—an issue of the highest national priority.

Just this week, I spoke to the president about this issue and reviewed for him some of the steps we've been taking and some of the progress we've made. The president could not be more determined to see to it that we achieve the fullest possible accounting. He told me to make certain that the department commits the resources required to get the job done.

Resources Increased

The accelerated rate of progress—the site surveys, crash-site excavations, field investigations, identification activities and

technical discussions with the Vietnamese and Lao—all these have increased our own workload. We have responded accordingly by increasing resources and full-time staff at the Defense Intelligence Agency, the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory, the Joint Casualty Resolution Center.

I am ready to expand these specialized units whenever the need dictates. Indeed, nothing would please me more than to have greater progress create a need for more manpower, equipment and funds. Like you, I am acutely aware that there are still 2,347 Americans unaccounted for in Indochina.

Moreover, we continue to take very seriously all reports of live prisoners in this region. As always, the answers to this most vexing issue lie with the Indochinese governments, not here in Washington. The burden is on them to supply satisfactory answers to this sensitive question.

When such reports come to us, we investigate them as thoroughly, completely and expeditiously as possible. The recent case of the elderly Japanese monk, Ganshin Yoshida, is a good example. I know that you have received detailed briefings on this case from the Defense Intelligence Agency. Let me stress that prior to Yoshida's release in January, our government contacted his family to arrange interviews with him. Regrettably, his very poor health precluded our talking with him at that time.

Since then, we have interviewed him twice, and as you are aware, we have discovered that his mental and physical ailments make his recollections cloudy.

I share your disappointment that thus far this source has not proven as useful as we had hoped. We will continue to pursue this case and the information attributed to the monk by his daughter. Moreover, it is incumbent on the Vietnamese to give us details of Yoshida's captivity. The Vietnamese must recognize that

"Nothing would please me more than to have greater progress create a need for more manpower, equipment and funds. Like you, I am acutely aware that there are still 2,347 Americans unaccounted for in Indochina."

these questions are not going to go away.

I have made certain that DIA's special office for POW/MIA affairs and the DIA collection team in Southeast Asia will stay on this, as well as other cases, and keep me fully informed.

Special Adviser Appointed

In this regard, it is essential that the secretary of defense maintain the closest possible connection to this issue, that he be informed and up to date. I have therefore appointed my assistant secretary for international security affairs, Henry Rowen, to be my special adviser on the POW/MIA issues. In addition to seeing that I receive all relevant intelligence, Henry Rowen is charged with being my direct link to the league. He will be open to your specific concerns and continue the long, close working relationship with Ann to make sure you remain fully informed. Just as important, Assistant Secretary Rowen will ensure that there are no bureaucratic bottlenecks to our resolving these issues. If we ever hear the sound of dragging feet, we'll administer the kick where it's needed.

Still, no matter how much we do here in Washington to resolve the questions surrounding our missing and unaccounted for, we must look to Hanoi, Phnom Penh and Vientiane for final answers. The complex politics of this region, our own historical involvement and our current diplomatic efforts all play a role in our future efforts on the POW/MIA issue.

Much interest, of course, focuses on Cambodia. Here we have heard claims that the Cam-

bodian regime currently holds American remains. We have made clear to Phnom Penh that we are prepared immediately to dispatch an Air Force plane and an official repatriation team to pick up these remains. Regrettably, we have had no response.

Regarding the conflict in Cambodia, the United States has consistently called for a complete and internationally verified withdrawal of all Vietnamese troops, effective measures to prevent the return to power of the Khmer Rouge and a free and fair election to re-establish a truly sovereign and independent country. The Khmer Rouge are responsible for the death of some million-and-a-half persons—that awesome figure represents 20 percent of Cambodia's 1975 population. They must not be allowed to return to dominance.

Our position on normalization of relations is well-understood by that government. Normalization is possible only in the context of a comprehensive Cambodian settlement which provides for a genuine withdrawal of all Vietnamese troops from Cambodia and a real opportunity for the Cambodian people to determine their own fate, free from either Vietnamese domination, or Khmer Rouge terror. As a practical matter, of course, the pace and scope of the normalization process will be directly affected by the seriousness of Vietnam's cooperation with us on the POW/MIA issue as well as other humanitarian concerns.

Cambodian Negotiations

Vietnam has pledged to withdraw from Cambodia by the end of September, and as we speak,

"I do not claim to know what it is like to stand in your shoes. What I can say is that I am now a partner in this task. I will miss no reasonable chance to alleviate the terrible burden you and all the families have endured."

meetings involving the four Cambodian factions, Vietnam and Laos, the countries of the Association of Southeast Asia Nations and the U.S. government are taking place in Paris. We cannot know for sure, however, whether these, and other positive developments, will lead to a negotiated settlement in Cambodia or whether they promise greater progress as we try to gain the fullest possible accounting of our missing men.

With regard to the POW/MIA issue, I can do no better than to

repeat the president's words from his inaugural address:

"Good will begets good will. Good faith can be a spiral that endlessly moves on."

Only you can truly understand what it is like to wait for answers over so many years, living with painful uncertainty and always being asked to trust in the efforts of a sometimes secretive and cumbersome bureaucracy in Washington. I do not claim to know what it is like to stand in your shoes. What I can say is that I am now a partner in this task. I will miss no reasonable

chance to alleviate the terrible burden you and all the families have endured.

If nothing else, I want you to leave here tonight knowing that your mission is my mission.

How could it be otherwise? A nation that will not care for those fallen in battle, a nation that will not seek freedom for those held captive, a nation that forgets its missing in action, such a nation has lost its soul. That will not be the final legacy of Vietnam.

Every step forward tells us that answers are not beyond our reach. Every case resolved gives us hope that others will soon follow. I join you tonight in the hope that some day meetings such as this may not be necessary.

Thank you all very much. ■

Published for internal information use by the American Forces Information Service, a field activity of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs), Washington, D.C. This material is in the public domain and may be reprinted without permission.



CONSPIRACY AND COVERUP

This charge has its real roots in history surrounding the unsatisfactory, incomplete and subsequently misleading results of the Paris Peace Accords, the nature of the secret war in Laos and Cambodia, the negative conclusions of the House Select Committee of the Congress and the Woodcock Commission, and US government reluctance over the years to provide the families with forthright answers to their questions. This mindset prevailed in varying degrees through three administrations (Nixon, Ford and Carter). It created a hostile and adversarial relationship between the League and the US government and built justifiable suspicion in the minds of individual families and the League, as an organization.

The policy of the Reagan Administration calls for the release of all possible information to the families. This was in recognition of the need to overcome the past and build confidence in the sincerity of current efforts. Many families received additional information as a result of this policy. Combined with the opening of serious negotiations, raising of intelligence priorities, endorsement of public awareness and integration of the POW/MIA issue into US foreign policy, most family members are convinced of the determination of this administration to overcome the "apathy and inaction of the past" (the President's terms) by exhausting all avenues to resolve the issue.

This history is quite familiar to the families but is new to previously uninvolved Americans and a few politicians whose interest was aroused by successful public awareness activities. The overwhelming majority support the current direction of efforts; however, a few have not taken the time to learn the issue in a comprehensive way, have been ill-advised or misinformed and decided to pursue their own course, often to the detriment of what the League fought years to achieve: serious efforts to resolve the fates of our missing men.

Expressions of frustration and outspoken criticism were consistently voiced during the 1970's; ironically, the first serious charge of actual conspiracy and coverup was made against the Reagan Administration by Representative Billy Hendon of North Carolina. Mr. Hendon was elected to Congress in 1980 and brought with him an evident interest in the POW/MIA issue. The League executive director met with him at his request during his first weeks in office.

Initially, Mr. Hendon was primarily involved in efforts with the Lao to move forward the level of cooperation on accountability for nearly 600 Americans still unaccounted for in that country. Toward that objective, he and former Representative John LeRoutillier were instrumental in gaining executive branch agreement to provide, in 1981, medical disaster relief to a hospital in Vientiane, Laos. This step paved the way for cooperative acceptance of the League's delegation in 1982, a visit which was termed a "significant breakthrough" by the State Department. Sustained negotiations following these events has generated some progress in accounting for our men in Laos.

The League crashsite visit was the first of its kind and led to the official survey and subsequent joint excavation at Pakse, conducted in February, 1985, after a delay of almost one year due to the irresponsible, private cross-border foray of Bo Gritz. In the interim,

Mr. Hendon was defeated in his election bid and was temporarily hired (January - July, 1983) as a consultant at the Pentagon to assist Colonel Jerry Venanzi, then Principal Advisor to the Secretary of Defense for POW/MIA Affairs. In that capacity, Hendon had access to the "raw" data reporting Americans being held captive, primarily collected from refugee sources as a result of upgraded screening procedures. Since Mr. Hendon was only cleared to view material classified at the Secret level or lower, he did not then have access to much of the detailed follow-up investigations or more highly classified data on the POW/MIA issue.

In November, 1983, apparently based on incoming reports not yet fully evaluated or analyzed and research from the past, Mr. Hendon publicly charged the Reagan Administration with conspiracy and coverup on the POW/MIA issue. His appearance before the League board of directors expressing such views resulted in the board's referral of the matter to the House Task Force on POW/MIAs, then chaired by Representative Ben Gilman (R-NY).

After a year-long investigation, the Task Force formally issued their findings in August of 1984 as follows: "After thorough review of more than eighty case files cited by Mr. Hendon as providing proof of live Americans, the Task Force concludes that there is no government coverup of information on live prisoners." The Task Force further found that in the past, "DIA was understaffed, had little direction from the top, and tried to do as best they could with their limited personnel, resources and equipment. These impediments to progress have now been corrected, and the Task Force is pleased to report that the Defense Intelligence Agency undertakes its mission seriously and is allocating proper resources to its mission."

In spite of the Task Force's findings, claims of "conspiracy and coverup" continued to surface, many of which are still generated by Mr. Hendon, to the detriment of the issue and using critical assets within the intelligence community. Another look at Mr. Hendon's theory was completed September 10, 1985, by the House Select Committee on Intelligence which reaffirmed the Task Force's conclusion that no conspiracy or coverup exists.

Hundreds of hours have been unnecessarily expended to substantiate DIA's professionalism at the expense of other priorities - namely collection, analysis and evaluation of firsthand sighting reports. Yet, in 1987, we find such allegations still being made and the media's appetite for controversy and rumor unabated. As a result, Director of DIA Lt. General Leonard Perroots invited former DIA Director Lt. General Eugene Tighe to review DIA's procedures, cases and evaluations, asking for further investigation of already discredited charges of conspiracy and coverup as well as recommendations for any improvements deemed necessary or helpful.

Those long involved are acutely aware that information was distorted or withheld in years past; however, now is not the time for those who are currently working this issue to undertake an historical investigation of past efforts - history will take care of itself. The League holds the firm conviction that efforts must focus on the present and future. Our men's lives may well depend on current decisions; they do not depend on history except in the context of policy negotiations.

The significant results of the Tighe team's investigation were made public in October 1986 and once again, conspiracy and coverup charges were found to be false. The League has not discovered nor been provided with any evidence to support claims that there is currently a conspiracy or coverup on the POW/MIA issue and intends to focus on what is best for accomplishing our objectives: the release of POWs, the repatriation of remains and the fullest possible accounting for those still missing in Southeast Asia.



DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20340

U-1520/YO-PW

23 NOV 1987

Honorable Stephen J. Solarz
Chairman, Subcommittee on Asian
and Pacific Affairs
Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter of 21 October asking for DIA's comments on numerous letters soliciting funds on the PW/MIA issue. With one exception, the fund raising letters were those mailed by Skyhook II Project, run by former Congressman John LeBoutillier; Operation Rescue, headed by retired Air Force Lt Col Jack Bailey; and the American Defense Institute/POW Policy Center, headed by returned PW Eugene "Red" McDaniel and former Congressman Billy Henderson.

In reviewing the materials you provided, we find they include little or no substantive data which would lend itself to serious intelligence analysis, but instead are rambling discourses filled with inflammatory rhetoric. While the approaches in these letters vary, they all share some common themes, one of the strongest being that the organization is on the verge of rescuing a PW, and if the recipient does not send money promptly, American servicemen will die. Following are a few examples of this type of rhetoric:

Operation Rescue - 17 October 1986 letter - "Must raise \$13,671.71 by Friday, October 31, or vital intelligence gathering missions may have to be stopped. Unless these missions continue, there is no hope for the return of POWs and MIAs captive in Vietnam. Again, if I cannot raise \$13,671.71 by October 31, vital intelligence gathering cannot continue. And an American serviceman will die in the jungles of Vietnam."

Skyhook II Project - undated letter - "We're close to making contact with an American POW who has been alone since his fellow prisoner died of natural causes less than a year ago. That effort could fail for lack of funds. Please be as generous as you can as soon as you can."

American Defense Institute - October 1986 letter - "I promise to tell all of our hostages, when they are finally freed, of the vital role you played in their release. I wish you would write a brief note on the enclosed donation card, which I will personally hand to the first man to regain his freedom."

Operation Rescue - undated-probably mid-1986 - "You may wake up tomorrow morning and hear that the first American POW has been rescued. We are that close."

Operation Rescue - September 1985 letter - "As you know, we are very close to bringing out a live POW. But the monsoon season in Southeast Asia has just begun. And we must increase our search before the heavier rains start to fall. Or all the progress you and I have made towards accounting for our missing heroes will literally be washed away. And a brave American war hero will remain forgotten and deserted in the jungles of Southeast Asia. Within the next twelve days, I must raise a minimum of \$27,630 to keep Operation Rescue afloat."

In addition to the direct appeals for funds, each of the letters is filled with totally unfounded emotional claims such as the following:

American Defense Institute - July 1987 letter - "Once the reward becomes common knowledge in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, it will unlock the dungeons of despair which have held our men for so long."

American Defense Institute - October 1986 letter - "Too many years have passed now for us to let our men languish in torture cages any longer. Our national honor hangs in the balance."

Skyhook II Project - April 1986 letter - "...brave fighting men are being treated worse than animals cooped up in stinking jungle cages."

Operation Rescue - April 1987 letter - "Those boys live each day hoping and praying that America has not forgotten them. That one day they'll see Old Glory, her stars and stripes waving in the sun."

The fund raising appeals offer no proof that prisoners are held, but allude to having secret intelligence or some inside information on POWs. Several just flatly state, as fact, that a specific number of POWs are known to be alive. In a few instances so-called "live sightings" are concocted to "prove" their claims. Following are examples of claims of proof, none of which have any basis in reality:

American Defense Institute - October 1986 letter - "The CIA sent a team to Laos in 1982 to determine if intelligence reports were true as to the location of a POW camp. According to the team leader, they found the camp and, from a hiding place, took pictures and made sound recordings of the American POWs."

Skyhook II Project - undated letter - "Another reason it's so hard to get written evidence is that the POWs have been punished so severely for their own escape attempts, that they don't trust any unknown Asian person who, on their first or second meeting, smilingly communicates that he would really appreciate an autograph from the POW. The POW usually concludes that it is a trap by his captors to find a new reason for punishing him. The result is that the POW says 'no'."

Skyhook II Project - undated flyer - "No question in my mind there are over 200 men held alive against their will today in Vietnam and Laos."

Skyhook II Project - 1987 letter - "At this very moment more than 250 American servicemen are enduring brutal captivity in the jungles of Southeast Asia. Despite numerous reliable reports, including one by a special Pentagon commission, verifying that Americans are still being held captive in Southeast Asia under incredibly cruel conditions."

Skyhook II Project - 1985 letter - "Recent reports by native refugees (all checked by lie-detector) tell a story of stark brutality: Starved and clad only in filthy rags, American soldiers and airmen are kept chained in tiny bamboo cages...made to work like animals pulling heavy plows...forced to toil from daybreak to nightfall in steaming tropic heat...kicked and beaten constantly just for their guards' amusement."

Skyhook II Project - undated flyer - "Following the end of the war in Vietnam, the North Vietnamese retained hundreds of American prisoners as a 'bargaining chip' in order to force the U.S. Government to pay billions of dollars in cash and trade concessions."

Operation Rescue - August 1986 letter - "As a matter of fact, my intelligence in February 1986 indicated that 3 U.S. POWs were transferred from North Vietnam to Laos by 60 North Vietnamese escorts. One POW was returned to North Vietnam, with no reason given. Now I have obtained information on the location where several Americans are being held."

Operation Rescue - March 1987 letter - Referring to Jack Bailey - "And he feels certain that the evidence he's collected will lead him directly to some of the camps and he'll be able to bring the Americans back. These are the boys that my Dad, your friend, is risking his life to find and bring home. One thing that keeps him going when he's hiding in the jungle is knowing that you care too."

American Defense Institute - undated brochure - "According to a key source in the Defense Intelligence Agency, approximately one hundred POWs still remain. He based this estimate on satellite photos, communications intercepts. The evidence, he said, 'is overwhelming'."

Skyhook II Project - undated letter - "That's one reason they always hold at least two American POWs in any location. When one is taken out for a work detail, the other is left behind. As a hostage. You see, if the one outside makes a break for it and escapes, the one left behind will be killed. And in the years they've been held prisoner, they've seen enough to know that death sentence will be carried out!"

Skyhook II Project - August 1985 letter - "West German diplomat saw another group in Laos. Asking who they were, his guide laughed and said, "They are American POWs left over from the war."

Skyhook II Project - April 1986 letter - "We must move fast! I recently attended unofficial negotiations in Southeast Asia with Communist army senior staff officers--and their greed may have opened a new door to bring our American POWs home! To be blunt, they've decided the Americans they're holding in brutal slavery are valuable. But only so long as they're alive, and--since captivity is seriously undermining their health--the Communists want to capitalize on their prisoners before it's too late!"

From statements such as those just cited, an unwary potential donor could easily conclude that these organizations possess substantive intelligence from reliable sources who are in direct contact with American prisoners of war who are held against their will in the communist controlled countries of Indochina. They could also conclude that the U.S. Government possesses such proof. Nothing could be further from the truth. While some of the claims are undoubtedly the inventions of the authors, in other instances these organizations are known to use members of the so-called "Lao resistance" as sources. From experience we have found the Lao resistance to be notoriously untrustworthy, and they have repeatedly failed to provide proof concerning their claims of live Americans in Laos.

We have analyzed in more detail, certain of the "facts" presented by several of the organizations mentioned in the material provided. In some instances, the organizations base their appeals upon highly suspicious, and often demonstrably false, claims. For example, prior to October 1986, numerous Operation Rescue letters asked for funds to keep Bailey's ship, AKUNA III, afloat. Time after time Bailey wrote, asking for money (\$20,000 - \$40,000 a month) to pay the crew and operate the AKUNA, which was allegedly busy on the high seas rescuing Vietnamese "boat people." He claimed that the refugees he rescued were his sources of PW/MIA intelligence. In truth, the AKUNA did not leave its mooring at Songkhla, Thailand, for at least 3 years and according to the harbormaster there, it was in a state of total disrepair. Further, after receiving an Operation Rescue fund raising letter in 1985, a refugee official in Hong Kong wrote to the Department of State, "I am not aware that Bailey's vessel has brought any refugees to any refugee processing post, certainly not to Hong Kong. Do you know anything of the AKUNA? Have there been any rescues by it?"

In a 1986 letter soliciting funds, Bailey claimed, "Just over a year ago I was able to bring out remains of five of our American servicemen. And now I have more sets of remains to turn over." This was followed by a March 1987 Operation Rescue plea for money which stated, "This time Dad brought back 2

more sets of remains. These Americans were part of a helicopter crew shot down over Laos. Up until Dad brought them back to America, these servicemen were unaccounted for. Now, at least, they've returned to their families."

In reality, in November 1984 Bailey provided the U.S. Government with four packets of bone fragments. The U.S. Army's Central Identification Laboratory (CIL) found them to be a mixture of comingled human and nonhuman bone fragments. The small amount of remains totally precluded identification. Earlier this year he provided more bone fragments which he claimed were the remains of two Americans missing in Laos. The CIL found that they were the partial remains of one Southeast Asian mongoloid. In short, no Americans have been identified or otherwise accounted for as result of Bailey's involvement.

In recent months the American Defense Institute has turned to the case of Major Morgan Donahue, USAF, and an attempted balloon release in Thailand as fund raising vehicles. Playing on the grief and years of uncertainty of Major Donahue's family, in a September 1987 letter, Red McDaniel turns questionable hearsay reporting into "hard evidence that has recently surfaced proving that an American is being held in Laos." McDaniel goes on to claim that, "Major Donahue risked his life to send us a signal that he is still alive." Adding that the government said "the case was closed," and, "even with hard evidence, the government refuses to act."

In fact, the "Donahue" reporting is not a closed case and is the subject of ongoing collection efforts and close scrutiny, and this has been made known to the family. However, we cannot ignore the fact that for many years detailed flyers on Major Donahue have been circulated in Southeast Asian refugee camps. This would not be the first time that such data has generated hearsay reporting that a missing American was alive. Also, in investigating the reports, we find that Donahue is allegedly held at locations all over Laos and in Vietnam. Some reports name another U.S. PW allegedly held with Major Donahue; the reporting on this second American is demonstrably false. Additionally, one of the recent refugee reports received claims Major Donahue is dead. Thus, while we continue to pursue all information on the missing Air Force officer, hard evidence of his captivity remains elusive.

Included in the materials you furnished was a letter signed by a Mike Milne, Executive Director of a group calling itself Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. We are unfamiliar with this organization, and although they claim a Washington, D.C. address, we could find no telephone listing for them in current area directories. We are aware of their support for a project to dump "care packages" at the Lao Embassy, which triggered formal diplomatic protests. In addition, one member of the organization was the subject of a recent Jack Anderson column that indicated he intended to travel to Vietnam to buy back prisoners.

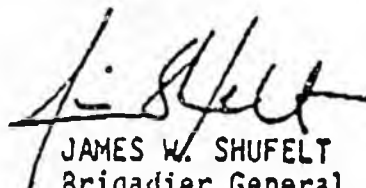
In their undated fund raising letter, the group asks the potential donor to "...please consider these harrowing firsthand reports." They then go on to list several examples to "prove" their point. Some are not firsthand reports at all, while others are garbled versions of very old and very well publicized claims. For instance, the letter cites a "controversial video tape that shows POWs" which is "supposedly in the possession of some branch of the American government." I am sure you are familiar with the well publicized claims by a few private citizens who allegedly possessed such a video, but, despite urging from the highest levels of the U.S. Government, to include a Senate investigating committee, the individuals repeatedly failed to produce such a video. And certainly no such tape is in the hands of the U.S. Intelligence Community.

The Veterans of the Vietnam War letter also claims that Norwegian workers in Vietnam saw "...17 American POWs in a slave labor detail." These Americans allegedly shouted, "Tell the world about us." Again, this is a garbled elaboration of a hearsay report which has been endlessly investigated and found to be without merit.

This group appears to have little real knowledge of the political situation in Southeast Asia, as evidenced in the author's statement that he is, "...planning a trip to Laos to meet with the Khmer Rouge on this critical issue." Inasmuch as the Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia was toppled by the Vietnamese, I know of no representation they have in Vietnamese dominated Laos, or how they could possibly assist in accounting for missing Americans in Laos or Vietnam.

In closing, it is noteworthy that for all their "proof" and the untold millions of dollars raised, none of these groups or individuals have yet to furnish even the slightest shred of evidence of PWs, much less secure the return of a living American captive:

Sincerely,



JAMES W. SHUFELT
Brigadier General, USA
Deputy Director for Operations,
Plans and Training

cc:

Honorable Robert Lagomarsino
Chairman, House PW/MIA Task Force
Honorable Benjamin Gilman
Vice Chairman, House PW/MIA Task Force
Honorable Gerald Solomon
Vice Chairman, House PW/MIA Task Force



202/223-6846

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
1001 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NORTHWEST, SUITE 219
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036-5504

UPDATE LINE: 202/659-0133

FAX TRANSMITTAL

TO: REPRESENTATIVE BARNES % Ms. MEL KROBSENKO

FAX
NUMBER: 907/465-4455

TELEPHONE
NUMBER: 907/465-3438

FROM: MARY CURRALL

FAX: 202/785-9410

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 202/223-6846

DATE: 3/16

TIME: 1:45 pm EST

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER
SHEET: 8

NOTES:

Ms. KROBSENKO:

THIS SHOULD HELP. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST ARE
THE FIRST 2 ATTACHMENTS - 1) EXCERPT FROM
LEAGUE NEWSLETTER AND 2) TIME MAGAZINE,
4/4/85 ARTICLE, WHICH SUMMARIZES QUITE ACCURATELY.
MY QUESTION TO MR. GRITZ IS WHERE ARE THE LIVE
POW'S HE HAS BEEN TALKING ABOUT AND PROMISING TO
RESCUE THIS PAST DECADE? CALL IF YOU NEED MORE,
MAY

EXCERPT NEWSLETTER
NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
8/29/89

P.8

* ACTIVITY RELATED TO JAMES "BO" GRITZ: A flyer reportedly signed by retired Army LTC Gritz purports that an article which appeared in a Thai language newspaper, THAI RATH, stated "Search for GI's in Vietnam - Washington: The Department of Defense announced last Monday that three groups of specialists were being sent to Hanoi to search for American MIAs from the Indochina war. The Vietnamese Government has admitted that there are 21 left alive." The flyer also stated, "The fact that NOTHING was released by USIA (United States Information Agency) is clear evidence that the government is covering up information on our live POWs."

The correct translation of this article's last sentence follows: "The Vietnamese Government stated that 21 additional sets of remains would be returned." If the flyer was actually published and distributed by Gritz, it is another example of the distortions for which he has become noted.

NATIONAL VVA POW/MIA COMMITTEE ISSUES REPORT: The League has now received the full text of VVA's POW/MIA Committee Report. While some of the text is accurate and helpful, much is speculative and, at best, naive in its "findings" and "recommendations." An analysis will be prepared and distributed in the coming weeks.

VA CEMETERY PROGRAM EXPANDED: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has expanded services to veterans and their families through a policy change in the National Cemetery System. Many who served in the Armed Forces are unaware of eligibility for this benefit which is earned by all veterans, except those with a dishonorable discharge; the spouse and children of eligible veterans are also entitled to interment in a national cemetery. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Director, National Cemetery System (40), Attn: Director of Field Operations, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20420.

INTERNAL LEAGUE MATTERS: The 1989/90 Board of Directors is listed on the last page of this newsletter. The board welcomes membership input, suggestions or constructive criticism to assist them in formulating policies of the League. MIA sister Sue Scott was elected as Chairman of the Board; MIA mother Mary Carol Lemon was elected as Vice Chairman; and George Shine was again elected to serve as Finance Chairman/Treasurer.

At the final meeting of the 1988/89 board of directors, a restructure of the League's regional system was adopted. Enclosed on the reverse of the board member list is a breakdown of the states in each of the eight newly formed regions, with the names and addresses of the regional and assistant regional coordinators. They, too, welcome membership input.

All resolutions submitted to the membership were overwhelmingly passed, clarifying policies of the League.

Colonel Gritz's Dubious Mission

Congress gets an earful

"It's a good day to die," declared James Gordon ("Bo") Gritz. The date was Nov. 27, 1982, and Gritz, 44, a swash-buckling former Green Beret, was about to lead three American daredevils and 15 Laotians on an improvised commando raid across the Mekong River. Their scheme: a 14-day trek to rescue American prisoners of war in the jungles of eastern Laos. After only three days, however, the bravado of "Operation Lazarus" was abruptly buried when a band of local guerrillas ambushed the raiders, killing two Laotians, capturing an American, and forcing the others to turn tail.

Four weeks ago, after parting with \$17,000 to ransom his captured colleague, seeing two fellow mavericks arrested, and attempting fresh tragicomic excursions into Laos, Gritz (rhymes with sights) sauntered into a police station in northeastern Thailand and surrendered. He and four associates were each fined for the illegal possession of a high-powered radio, then released.

Cool and self-assured as ever, Gritz swaggered into a new mission last week: explaining his bungled exploits to the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs. There, seasoning his testimony with heroic flourishes, he reaffirmed his conviction that at least 50 American servicemen are still stranded in Indochina. Under questioning, however, each of Gritz's "facts" seemed to dissolve into fiction. His photographs of alleged prison camps revealed nothing but Laotian terrain, his claims that he had heard of sighted prisoners were, he conceded, beyond empirical proof. Pressed for concrete evidence, the imperturbable Gritz finally replied, "I have the same evidence that might be presented to a convention of clergymen that God exists." After he stepped down, one witness after another demolished what little remained of his credibility.

Gritz's mission implausible grew out of the reality that 2,494 Americans were never found after the Viet Nam War, including 568 left unaccounted for in Laos. By now, all but two are listed as "presumed dead." Most of the 484 "sightings" reported over the years have been as hazy and hopeful as the spotting of UFOs. After investigating the issue closely, a 1976 congressional committee concluded that no American prisoners survive. Yet Vietnamese prevarication, U.S. Government secrecy, and resilient wishfulness—especially among the National League of Families (N.L.F.), most of whose members are related to missing men—have conspired to keep hope, if nothing else, alive.



Gritz, inset, leads a feeble rescue mission in Laos

Gritz, the son of a B-17 pilot shot down over France in 1944, is a self-appointed caretaker of those hopes. Decorated 60 times during the Viet Nam War, he once led 250 Cambodian mercenaries on a daring raid that attacked 53 Viet Cong camps in 60 days, he lost only one man. Even after he left the Army in 1979 as a lieutenant colonel, Gritz never really left Indochina. In 1981 he rounded up 21 drifters, dreamers and desperados, recruited a psychic, a hypnotherapist and some reporters, and began practicing quixotic Laotian expeditions at an unlikely locale, the American Cheerleading Association Academy in Leesburg, Fla.

"Operation Velvet Hammer" was scratched before the buccaneers ever left training camp, but not before Gritz had squandered \$40,000 raised from N.L.F. members. A subsequent "Operation Grand Eagle" also fizzled out prematurely. Says Tom Smith, one of Gritz's many disaffected recruits: "I wouldn't cross the street with this guy. He's suffering from

the early stages of 'burning bush' complex." Yet when Gritz rented a \$1,000-a-month base in the remote northeastern Thailand town of Nakhon Phanom last fall, he was able to attract more than a dozen operatives, some desperate to recover the jangle and exhilaration they knew in Viet Nam. Their im-

possibly romantic venture also seduced some improbable sponsors. Taken with Gritz's dashing charisma, William Shatner paid almost \$15,000 for Gritz's life story; Litton Industries, Inc., provided \$800,000 worth of radio equipment, which Gritz later tried to sell back to them for \$31,000. Clint Eastwood reportedly contributed \$50,000.

Gritz contends that his escapades have been conducted with Pentagon data and CIA support. But while the U.S. embassy in Bangkok is often willing to trade information with freelancing irregulars, the Government in Washington insists that it scrupulously dissociates itself from such adventurism. Small wonder. "At one point last year," complains a U.S. diplomat, "we had over 30 Viet Nam veterans preparing trips to Laos."

Though President Reagan personally addressed the N.L.F. at a special conference in January to demonstrate his sympathy, the Administration's stated policy is to seek the return of any missing U.S. servicemen through diplomatic pressure. Concludes Daniel O'Donohue, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, "When private Americans try to force their own solutions, our government-to-government efforts are jeopardized."

—By Pico Iyer,
Reported by Victoria Butler/Bangkok
and Ross H. Murray/Washington



Gritz, second from left, and his ragtag team

MIA wife wins over Gritz

By Whitt Flora
WASHINGTON TIMES STAFF

When former Green Beret James G. "Bo" Gritz surrendered some bones to authorities this week, it ended a five-month battle an MIA wife fought with three bureaucracies.

Julie Williams, 37, of Los Altos Hill, Calif., has been wondering about the fate of her husband, Air Force Lt. Gordon Hill, since he was shot down over Laos in 1970.

So she was interested early this year when news reports said Gritz, 44, was leading privately financed forays into Laos to rescue POWs and possibly bring back remains of MIAs, as her husband is listed.

Then, in April, she heard from a friend that Gritz was telling audiences at fundraising events that he was keeping two sets of bones and some wreckage from an American airplane at his Los Angeles home. Gritz hinted the remains were those of American flyers lost over Laos.

In an interview, Williams said she then

tried to get someone in authority to collect the bones from Gritz.

As she put it, "There are 300 MIA families who have lived for years not knowing what happened to their husbands or their remains. If those were bones of American flyers, the families had a right to know that, at least."

So she called the Pentagon, but officials there referred her to the California state government.

Then, she said, with the help of friends, she went to California authorities, who in turn referred her back to the Pentagon.

Then, she and friends discovered that it was against California state law to keep human remains in a private residence.

She began writing and calling the Los Angeles District Attorney's office and asked that it take possession of the remains.

On Wednesday, it did so, with the district attorney saying the coroner's office will begin examining the bones. If they prove human, they will be sent to federal authorities for further identification.



Bo Gritz

The Washington Times

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1983 *

WASHINGTON, D.C.

PHONE 636-300
SUBSCRIBER SERVICE 636-333

From page one

evidence that Americans were being held in Laos. . . .

There they learned that Gritz could not give them the necessary intelligence to justify a POW rescue mission 40 to 50 miles into Laos, they said.

Smith, who left a profitable solar-home business in California to join Gritz, said he looked into the operation to work as an advance planner. It was to involve up to 20 men.

In a matter of days, Smith said, "it became obvious that he (Gritz) never had any hard data, and you can't plan a mission that way. He could have sent 20 people into Laos and possibly got them hurt."

Gritz refused on several occasions to furnish proof that the POWs were in Laos, Smith said, making his plan-ning of the mission impossible.

At one point, Smith said, Gritz came up with a plan that "had us going into a location in Laos, stealing a truck, driving many miles inland, going into the POW camp with guns blazing, rescuing the men and then driving back to Cambodia (where the mission was to originate)." Smith recalled that Gritz gave pep talks to the men about the mission.

In one, he said, Gritz "was telling us that we would shoot our way into the POW camp, and as he put it, 'take all of them (the Laotians) out, and leave nothing but a bunch of bodies behind us. It was wild.'"

On another occasion, Smith said, Gritz briefly considered taking a powerful laser weapon along to chop through the Laotian jungle.

The idea was dropped, he said, when it was realized "that the power unit to make it work would be so big it would take a two-and-a-half ton truck to haul it."

Smith said he was first drawn into the mission by broad hints dropped by Gritz that the CIA or

In a recent letter to Gritz, Smith said, "You did not have government sanction, nor did you ever have a target. . . . As a person who was called upon to make sacrifices in what now seems to be fabricated illusions, I want to know why I was called to Florida. I want to know what evidence existed to justify your actions."

Berent, the former Air Force pilot who flew missions in Vietnam before he retired as a lieutenant colonel, was called in to plan a strategy for any air rescue attempt Gritz might arrange.

"That possibility fell through," Berent said, adding, "Gritz's evidence that indicated the POWs may have been in Laos was at least 12 years old. He couldn't provide anything more current like reports from agents or current maps. . . . It is correct that he had no hard evidence."

Berent, like Smith, left Gritz's hot war camp soon after concluding the mission had no basis.

Monaghan, another former soldier, said he left for Gritz's encampment at the site of a cheerleaders school in Florida convinced Gritz was "really onto something. I thought Gritz had a hard target."

He added, "After I was there for a while, the whole thing looked very phony. Gritz kept promising to give us hard evidence, but he never did. You don't base a mission on guess-work."

After determining the mission had no chance, Monaghan left for his home in Los Angeles.

Hiebert, the former Marine flyer, said he also went to Gritz's encampment with an open mind, but he said, "After two days it was apparent to me that they had no target and the thing was a farce. I left."

Meanwhile, as the movement fell away, Gritz was attracting attention to the mission in the local papers because he had let interviewers into the camp

subcommittee last month, at the request of the government.

The former associates remember it differently. "It was the publicity," Monaghan said.

In his testimony before the House panel, Gritz painted a different picture, not mentioning that some recruits were disenchanted. "I and the men of Velvet Hammer were ready to launch within a fortnight (of mid-March of that year)," he said. Last week, quoting government documents and eyewitnesses, The Washington Times reported that Gritz had fabricated his role in a 1966 Vietnam battle.

Gritz had claimed he was present when a Green Beret committed suicide so his fellow soldiers could escape and live.

However, Gritz later admitted that the story was a "composite," and he was not there.

No proof on POWs, recruits say of Gritz

By Whitt Flora
WASHINGTON TIMES STAFF

Former Green Beret James G "Bo" Gritz once asked former servicemen to risk their lives on a private POW rescue mission into Laos when he had no hard evidence that Americans were being held there, four former associates claim.

And, they say, the bizarre mission had almost no chance of success.

Gritz has been in the news since early this year when he came back to the United States from Southeast Asia and aroused enormous controversy when he said American POWs were still being held in Laos. Two weeks ago he admitted to a congressional committee that despite several forays into Laos, he still has no concrete evidence U.S. servicemen are being held there.

Regarding the latest statement from his former associates, Gritz — citing unhappiness with other articles The Washington Times has published about him — said in a brief interview that he will not address the issue.

The new allegations come from four former military men associated briefly with Gritz in 1961. They are former soldiers James P. Monaghan and Tom Smith, former Air Force officer Mark Berent and former Marine pilot Richard Hiebert.

In several hours of interviews, the men detailed how they went to a location near Orlando, Fla., in February and March of 1981 because they were convinced that Gritz had both government backing and hard

see GRITZ, page 12A

8
9
0
1

SUMM
DETAILS

The Washington Times

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 1983 **

WASHINGTON, D.C.

PHONE: 6
SUBSCRIBER SERVICE: 6



James G. "Bo" Gritz

Gritz's tale of heroism fabric

By Whit Flora
The Washington Times

James G. "Bo" Gritz, the former Green Beret who directed privately financed POW rescue missions into Laos, fabricated his part in a heroic mission in Vietnam where he claimed a fellow soldier took his life so his comrades might live.

In his travels to drum up support for the POW-MIA cause, Gritz has told the inspirational story to get public support for his missions, which are financed privately and have aroused enormous controversy.

The trouble with Gritz's story, according to Army records and eyewitnesses, is that the soldier mentioned did not commit suicide, the battle did not take place where and when he claimed and, finally, Gritz wasn't even there.

Now, Gritz admits the story is a "composite," and also says he wasn't on the mission.

Gritz gained fame earlier this year when news reports disclosed that the 44-year-old retired lieutenant colonel in the Green Berets had led a privately financed raid into Laos last November to rescue any Americans still being held there.

And, last week, Gritz told a House subcommittee that he had led two more forays into Laos earlier this

year in search of living American servicemen held since the Vietnam era.

But Gritz told the subcommittee he could not provide "hard evidence" that the men still were being held, although he was convinced through his Laotian intelligence sources that the Americans were still there.

At issue was Gritz's credibility, as he claimed to be sure that Americans still were being held there, and

own life in a December 1965 Valley in Vietnam.

Gritz told his audience, "As we landed right in the middle of the pickup zone, SF one of many machinegun bursts ears."

According to the transcript

Charles Beckwith said in an interview, "Gritz was not al mission where Hoagland was killed. You can quote me on

officials from several US intelligence agencies said Gritz could not have had proof the men still were being held.

The congressional session aroused the curiosity of another ex-soldier, former special forces sergeant Charles F. Hiner, now 47, of Fayetteville, N.C.

Hiner attended the hearing with the intention to confront Gritz over a speech Gritz made on May 29, 1981, before a Vietnam veterans lunch in Buffalo, N.Y.

In that speech, Gritz told a graphic tale of how a special forces sergeant named "Hoagland" took his

publication, Gritz continued:

"It was as if we were all hit down, his legs shattered. The hesitation. We all crashed back to encircle our comrade. Ho from pain or fear, but because to stay meant certain death or

Gritz then said, "Even as we straightened guns on our rem. bullets began cutting bark an

see GRITZ, page 12A

GRITZ

From page one

Still, we could hear Hoagland screaming, "Get the hell out of here, now!"

Gritz then told his audience that the men "couldn't bear to leave Hoagland to die alone."

But, Gritz said, "Hoagland's unspoken devotion and love for his buddies was stronger than life itself." With a whispered goodbye and a last look at his friends, Hoagland put his AR-15 to his head and, before any of us could react, pulled the trigger, eliminating in a twitch of a finger the need for all of us to be there. He had not died alone and yet we had a chance at life."

That is not the way Hiner remembers the action, where he got a head wound.

He furnished The Washington Times with official Army records that showed the battle where Sgt. George C. Hoagland died was held on Jan. 29, 1966, instead of in December 1965, as Gritz claimed.

The records also showed that the battle was at a different location, and they listed 17 Americans fighting there.

Gritz isn't among them.

In an interview, Hiner said, "I can state for a fact that Gritz wasn't there. I was, and I got a head wound."

And, Hiner charged, it would have been difficult for Hoagland to have taken his own life since he was "literally blown away... he was killed instantly."

Hiner described Hoagland as having one of his arms severed from his body and the other hanging by a thread.

Hiner said he heard about Gritz's speech on the "old boy network" among former special forces men and decided to come here to hear Gritz testify.

He almost confronted Gritz in the halls of the Cannon House Office Building after Gritz's testimony but did not because "I was so mad, I was afraid I would make a scene."

Hiner's story is backed up by Charles Beckwith, who has retired from the Army as colonel, and who led the 1980 raid into Iran that former President Jimmy Carter ordered in an attempt to free the American hostages there.

In 1966, Beckwith was a major in Vietnam leading the men in that area, including Hiner and Hoagland.

He said in an interview, "Gritz was not along on the mission where Hoagland was killed. You can quote me on that."

Reacting to these charges, Gritz confirmed in a telephone interview from his California home that the story was a "composite" of action he had seen in Vietnam and said, "I wasn't a part of that mission."

And, he conceded, he had only "concluded that" Hoagland had committed suicide from reports of the condition of the body he had heard from other soldiers who went in to rescue the surviving men.

Gritz said he had been in a similar action where such an incident took place, and made up the composite to "get a point across" to his veterans' audience about heroism on the battlefield.

He wanted to show, Gritz said, that special forces teams "do not leave a comrade on the battlefield."

He would not reveal the name of the actual soldier who did commit suicide, Gritz added. "I do use that illustration. And the point of the illustration is that a man did take his life to save a team... in building an illustration, I try to take a composite of experience. If you take one little tiny thing from each experience, it can be presented in a much more meaningful way."

Proof of POW Sightings Proves Elusive

By William Branigan
Washington Post Foreign Service

BANGKOK, March 22—Like a number of other Vietnamese refugees, the former captain in the Army of South Vietnam claimed to have seen an American in a reeducation camp long after the Hanoi government said all were gone.

Interviewed by U.S. officials in Indonesia last month after he had fled his homeland by boat, the refugee gave a physical description of the man he had last seen in June 1978. He said the American had taken a Vietnamese name, Nguyen Van Nam, and was employed taking care of the generators in a reeducation camp near the town of Yen Bai about 66 miles northwest of Hanoi.

A U.S. official here described the refugee's report as "very credible." In fact, he added, "I know exactly who it is. He's talking about Garwood."

Marine Private Robert Garwood, the former prisoner of war who opted to remain in Vietnam and returned to the United States in early 1979 to a court-martial for collaborating with the enemy, has been the subject of numerous "POW sightings" reported to the Pentagon.

Other alleged sightings are equally tantalizing at first, but not so easily dismissed. Yet none has provided any proof that any U.S. prisoners of war are still being held in Indochina.

The emotional issue, which came up again with the congressional testimony today of the ex-Green Beret POW hunter James G. (Bo) Gritz, continues to occupy the three-man Bangkok office of the Hawaii-based Joint Casualty Resolution Center. And it is a continuing source of frustration to those dealing with the

issue that Garwood—because of legal defenses and litigation pending over back pay—has never been officially debriefed.

The former marine has only hinted in press interviews that he knew of other Americans still in Vietnam while he was there.

At the same time that the presence of POWs cannot be confirmed, it cannot be finally refuted either. Thus there is still plenty of room for believers like Gritz to hew to their conviction that at least some Americans are still being held.

Gritz said this month after a series of forays into Laos that he is sure at least 10 U.S. POWs are still alive in Indochina. But U.S. officials here said that he admitted he had no solid proof.

In his testimony before the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs Tuesday, Gritz said he still believes at least 50 American POWs are being held in Southeast Asia but he could not provide Congress with any proof. The Associated Press reported.

"Five separate Laotian sources" gave his group evidence that Americans are alive, Gritz said. He promised to turn over his evidence to the committee but later admitted that it basically consisted of reports from his Laotian associates and was not of a "documentary" nature.

"I have the same evidence that might be presented by a clergyman to convince you that God exists," he said.

"Then your evidence rests exclusively on eyewitness reports?" he was asked by Rep. Stephen Solarz (D-N.Y.).

"That's correct, sir," Gritz answered.



James G. Gritz—The House Foreign Affairs subcommittee that he believes 50 U.S. POWs are being held in Indochina.

[When Gritz returns home, he said photographs taken by a Laotian working with his group would show a POW camp. But he told the committee that when he looks at the pictures now, "I find nothing there that would provide any usable evidence."]

Nevertheless, Gritz's mission raised at least one family's hopes when it was reported that a Laotian resistance fighter working with Gritz had returned to Thailand from Laos with a questionnaire allegedly completed by a POW. Gritz, then in California, received the name of the purported prisoner in code in a telephone call from an associate in the northeastern Thai border town of Nakhon Phanom. The name was Morgan Jefferson Donohue, an Air Force first lieutenant shot down over Laos in September 1972.

According to a U.S. official here, Gritz asked his associate to keep the Laotian in Nakhon Phanom until Gritz could question him, but the resistance fighter disappeared across the border before the former special forces lieutenant colonel returned to Thailand in January.

The U.S. official suggested that the information about Donohue might have come from handbills that his father, retired Air Force Col. Vincent Donohue of Cocoa Beach, Fla., had distributed previously along the Thai-Laotian border in a fruitless search for his son.

The information about Donohue was apparently the "POW ID" Gritz said he had obtained and was trying to confirm in a reported trip into Laos in February.

Subsequently, Gritz has indicated that he feels partly responsible for Vietnam's decision to provide a team of U.S. officials with information this month on 12 Americans missing in the Vietnam and presumed dead. But a participant in the dealings with Hanoi on the MIA issue said it was unlikely that Gritz had anything to do with the development.

The U.S. officials never surprised that the Vietnamese never mentioned the Gritz raid during their meeting, the participant said.

The official said that in the March 10 meeting in Hanoi, the Vietnamese provided a list of 12 Americans on whom they said they had recently obtained information. All were airmen downed in North Vietnam, and the Vietnamese indicated they had recovered the remains of some but not all of them, the U.S. official said.

According to MIA specialists here, the remains of at least 12 Americans



Gritz prepares to testify on Capitol Hill. He said he had no proof of POWs he

ican servicemen unaccounted for during the Vietnam War currently are listed as missing, a classification that presumes they are legally alive and qualifies them for continued pay and promotions.

The rest are classified as killed-in-action, body not recovered. This means families are entitled to death benefits, but the listing occasionally has aroused sharp protests from re-

luctant is trying to classify them out of existence.

In 1973 the Pentagon lists about 1,500 persons as missing in Indochina. It is unclear how many of these are unaccounted for.

For example, as of 1980 Donohue was still listed as missing. By 1982 he was officially confirmed dead. U.S. officials here do not

26 MEN -- APPARENTLY DIED IN VAIN!

... In order to satisfy the concerns of our Pres. and to eliminate the threat of any embarrassing information flowing from Gen. Noriega -- and to protect family investments in Panama -- the Panamanian raid was organized just in time for all Israeli agents (along with front man Michael Harari) to escape ...

... Now that the threat to the Bush Presidency & family investments is eliminated, the State Dept. intends to eliminate all financial control and restrictions on Panama ... Sen. John F. Kerry, (D-Mass.) who has held extensive hearings on money laundering and the use of the Panamanian banks was quoted by the NYT as saying "I am very concerned about it" ... But, he doesn't intend to DO anything about it ...

... Maybe you ought to drop a note to Sen. Kerry indicating that you are also concerned with the appearance that the 26 men were sacrificed to insure the high ratings of Bush in the contrived polls -- and to protect his family's Panamanian Investments ...

THE INSANITY OF DRUG DECISIONS -- CANNOT BE EXPLAINED BY STUPIDITY!

... Nothing could more illustrate the insanity of the Bush Gov't's thrust in the "drug war" than the elimination of economic sanctions against Panama -- and the abandonment of the entire country back to the drug lords -- and the Israelis ...

... What did these 26 men die and 324 suffer wounds for?? ... Why is there little concern for the apparent betrayal of the nation's youth?

IS GENOCIDE -- Being Enforced on our nation's Youth??

Teen-agers trading sex for crack and money
Black youths worry about disease

BY BRENDA C. COLUMAN
 The Associated Press

... reported ever using a condom, and

Ch. Enq. 2/9/90

Why Free the Panamanian Banks Now ?? -- Just to reinvigorate the Bush hotel chain in Panama??

... The U.S. imposed economic sanctions on Panama in '88 -- supposedly in an attempt to stop money laundering -- and yet, after America has been shed, these sanctions are about to be dearly canceled! ... Insanity or Treason?

CONTROLS SHOULD BE TIGHTENED not eliminated!

... The financial control should not only be continued -- but also tightened -- and people installed, who are friendly to the U.S., in positions of power in the Panamanian Govt. -- so as to guarantee that the security of the U.S. is not threatened by drugs -- and that the invasion & loss of life was not in vain!

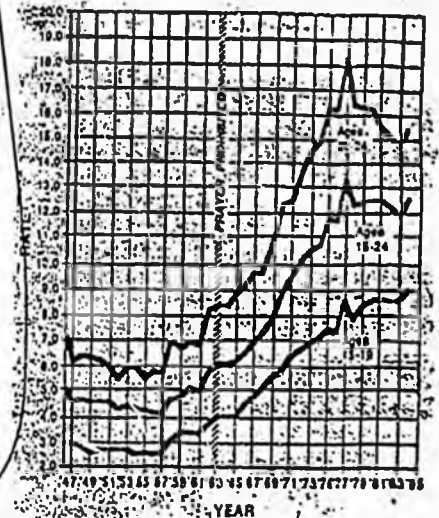
... After all, if our security interests are threatened by the drug flow -- (as George Bush has said), -- then why are we abandoning our controls over Panama and not installing U.S. citizens in positions of

... Indeed a military govt. under the direction of the Southern Command of the U.S. ARMY should be left in place to absolutely control the economy -- and to see that no drugs are allowed in -- and no drug profits deposited in the Panamanian banks ...

KIDS ARE DYING OF DRUG OVERDOSE -- IN OUR CITIES!

... Consider the clipping below describing how American youth are being devastated by crack cocaine and forced to sell their bodies to raise money for drugs! Just look at the suicide rate ...

MOST TEENAGE SUICIDES -- ARE DRUG RELATED!



... Suicides per 100,000 Total Population ... Basic data from National Center for Health Statistics, based on published and unpublished statistical data, Division of Vital Statistics, Department of Health and Human Services ... Reprinted from "America: to Pray or not to Pray?" ... if you haven't ordered this book yet, do so now -- only \$6.95 from our Cincinnati offices ... (Prayer was prohibited in public schools in 1963) ...

... Look at the suicide rate in the chart above to get an idea of what is happening in this country. Is George Bush insane -- or is he a vicious crook?

... I think that he has made a conscious decision -- to ignore the suffering of Americans and particularly youth -- in order to guarantee his personal survival as President -- and to put Noriega in a very deep hole so that he cannot reach the American press and reveal the true American policy on drugs or the existence of Bush family investments in Panama ...

PANAMA TO RECEIVE \$1 BILLION IN U.S. AID! -- FOR WHAT??

Congress Approves \$42 Million in Aid to Panama

BY ROBIN TONER
 The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, Feb 7 -- The House

Thomas S. Foley, the Speaker of the House, spoke with national press today at the Columbus Hotel in Washington

NYT 2/8/90 -- ... \$42 million is only the first payment toward the incredible sum of \$1 billion in U.S. Aid ... Is this \$1 billion

**YOUR TAX MONEY IS SUBSIDIZING --
THE DESTRUCTION OF AMERICA'S YOUTH!**

.... Not only are economic sanctions being lifted -- but the U.S. Congress has now passed a \$42 million aid package -- to be given to the very people who are helping to kill American teenagers and youth in U.S. cities The aid package has -- no restrictions *No strings attached!*

IMPEACHMENT --

.... *The Only Solution for Geo. "Carter" Bush!*

.... After a1, if the Panamanians wish to allow enemies of the U.S. to use their country -- then the Panamanians themselves are enemies and should be treated as such!

.... The canal treaty should be canceled forthwith, -- the aid package administered only through U.S. military control -- and the U.S. grip on the country should be held for an indefinite period -- until the citizens of Panama can prove themselves not to be interested in Israeli hit squads and Israeli domination -- as explained in our January Issue

.... The lifting of sanctions is a crime against America -- and cannot be explained away with rationality, but is a further signal of the need to impeach George Bush and throw him out of office!

**YOU WILL PAY HIGHER TAXES --
TO HELP KEEP THE --
Fake "War on Drugs" In Operation!**

.... More prisons are being proposed across the U.S. on both Federal and State levels. Not only will the drugs continue to flow in, -- but we will be financing several billion \$'s for new prisons

.... These are not to house drug dealers particularly, -- but to lock up the youth of America -- who have been trapped into crack cocaine -- or even marijuana use by the very people who run this country from behind the scenes

.... Just look at the announcement below regarding the passage of additional sales tax in the state of Ohio to finance new prison construction

Sales tax hike may be needed to build new jail
By [unclear] Staff Writer
The Columbus Dispatch, Columbus, Ohio, 2/17/90

Cin. Post 2/17/90

.... This article from Cincinnati is typical of what is going on across America -- and is symptomatic of the criminal policies in the U.S. What sense does it make to lock up small time users of drugs -- and to charge us for the cost of building more prisons -- when the flow of drugs is being encouraged by Bush policies??

**ISRAELIS TO RESUME --
CONTROL OF PANAMA ... ?**

.... No doubt, once the restrictions have been lifted on Panamanian banking, -- the Israelis will

.... The \$42 million aid package obviously will include fast payments to the Jewish businessmen -- as discussed in last month's newsletter -- much faster than the aid provided by the Federal Govt. to the U.S. victims of hurricane Hugo and the San Francisco earthquake

**FEDERAL AID TO PANAMA PAID QUICKLY --
BUT NOT TO HUGO VICTIMS!**

.... ABC did a special documentary on earthquake aid in San Francisco The federal efforts to aid Americans are not only sickening, but criminal! The Federal Govt. doesn't deliver aid to the U.S. victims of disasters, -- they deliver blocks of paper (worthless paper) to be filled out

.... Panamanian businessmen, however will be promptly compensated by the State Dept. in cash -- and up front -- without any delays of weeks & months of waiting for bureaucratic processes to work We will take better care of the Jewish businessmen in Panama than we will our own disaster victims!

**PANAMA RESISTING --
U.S. PRESSURE --
TO ALTER BANKING LAWS!**

.... There will be no currency transaction reports (CTR's) in Panama! If Pres. Guillermo Endara has anything to say about it -- no Panamanian bank will have to file CTR's on their cash deposits -- and no local businessmen will have to file an 8600 form, as is the case for automobile dealers and others here in the U.S.

FRONT PAGE NYT STORY

Panama Resists U.S. Pressure on Bank Laws
American law enforcement officials said they have evidence that Panamanian banks were used to launder money. In a recent interview, President Endara acknowledged that the success of Panama's financial center in

Lead Story -- NYT 2/6/90

.... They will be free from these restrictions in spite of the invasion of their country by the U.S. -- supposedly to "win the drug war" Was this really the reason for the Panamanian invasion? ... I think not The invasion had much more sinister motives as we have discussed previously and on page 81.

**NYT REVEALS --
NORIEGA'S PEOPLE STILL IN CONTROL --
Of the Banking Commission of Panama!**

.... In a NYT cover story 2/6/90, Stephen Labaton discussed the shocking plans to release the Panamanian economy to the control of the local leaders. Such blatant disregard for a major opportunity to stop the flow of drugs into the U.S. proves the hypocrisy of

NORIEGA IS GONE --**But the Drugs and Money Launderers Remain!**

.... U.S. officials have long said that they have evidence that Panamanian banks were used to launder money during the Noriega regime. . . . All the banks with whom Noriega's staff are said to have dealt ~~and remain~~ -- and are operational. . . . The only question that remains is *whether we will let them get away with it*. . . .

.... According to the *NYT*, Guillermo Endara and other officials of the new Panamanian Govt. are resisting U.S. pressure to change the banking laws that made the country a drug haven in the first place.

.... Also -- our State Dept. has "strongly urged Panama to revise its banking laws". . . . What a joke! . . . You can judge how much pressure is being put on by the U.S. State Dept. regarding drug control matters by re-reading our discussion in last month's newsletter (pg. 11) . . . The *NYT* claims to have discovered a "growing tension" between the two nations over the question of banking regulation.

KEY PANAMANIAN OFFICIALS --**LINKED TO MONEY LAUNDERING!**

.... According to Mr. Labaton of the *NYT*, -- an extensive review of banking documents and court records in Panama show that senior leaders in the Endara Govt. had a strong tie to corrupt banks. . . . Several Panamanian banks have been indicted and/or shut down because of pressure from the U.S.

.... Now they will apparently be allowed to reopen. What's more, Pres. Endara is a director of a Panamanian bank used extensively by Colombia's Medellin drug cartel! . . .

.... V.P. Guillermo Ford is chairman of the banking comm. -- & is part owner of the Dadebank of Fla. -- which was named in a court case 2 yrs. ago as a central institution for the cartels.



Pres. Guillermo Endara

NO INTEREST IN DRUG CONNECTIONS!

.... According to the *NYT* -- the new Attorney General of Panama, Rogelio Cruz, is one of the bosses of the Cali drug cartel in Colombia. . . . Apparently the U.S. Govt. under George Bush is making no effort to get rid of the Panamanian Govt. officials who have drug connections. . . .

.... Thus we come to the obvious conclusion -- *the 26 men died in vain!* -- just for the personal security of George Bush and to protect his families' very large investments in Panama. . . .

PANAMANIAN BANK SECRECY --**SHOULD BE SUSPENDED!**

.... I am all for bank secrecy -- but *not for purposes of aiding the drug cartels in destabilizing the U.S.* . . . We know the CIA went to great lengths to "set up" the Swiss justice minister Elizabeth Kopp and her husband who had been aiding money launderers

.... Isn't it a little bit strange -- that such efforts would be used to implicate a *SINGLE* Swiss businessman and his politician wife -- while at the same time we *waste the lives of 26 American men* -- and *THEN* turn the Panamanian banking institute over to the drug money launderers who are still in power? . . .

BUSH AGENDA -- EXPOSED!

.... Obviously this exposes the hidden agenda -- which is *not to aid the U.S. in ridding itself of drugs* -- but rather to see that the drugs *continue to flow in*. . . . With regard to Switzerland, the policy seems to be to embarrass the country and implicate its legitimate banking secrecy laws for purposes of harassment, embarrassment and intimidation. . . .

U.S. BANKS ALSO GUILTY --**OF MONEY LAUNDERING!**

.... Panamanians have taken the position that the U.S. should reorganize its *own* banking system first -- and leave Panama alone. . . . *Their point is well taken!* . . . After all, the punishment meted out against the two largest drug cases in the U.S. shows that the U.S. officials are not particularly tough on banks which launder drug money. . . . Consider: . . .

FINES = INTEREST ON CAPITAL --**FOR 14 DAYS!**

.... Fines and settlements of \$5 million were paid (over a period of 4 years) -- in the case of Banco Occidente -- and \$15 million for the bank of Credit Commerce International. . . .

.... Both banks admitted in court that their Panamanian branches extensively laundered drug money. . . . Panamanians asked "how can you ask us to close a bank in Panama when all you do in the U.S. is charge them with minimal fines?" *Good Question* -- when the \$15 million in fines on CCI Bank is equal to interest on the bank's capital for about 14 days!

.... The Panamanians correctly point out that it is *not the policy* of the Bush Admin. to stop the flow of drugs -- but simply to play games and fool the public -- *and they are correct!* . . . They know Bush's "Drug War" is fake!

.... The bottom line: -- we have an Admin. that has avoided any opportunity to close Panama as a drug center -- and will continue to avoid the opportunities unless we force them to do otherwise! . . . You can help by distributing thousands & thousands of sample copies of "Criminal Politics". . . . *Meanwhile, your children and grandchildren in our neighborhoods will continue to suffer!* Let's do *something* about it!

.... *Are we as Americans afraid to place this bumper sticker on our cars??* . . . The Bush impeachment process -- starts *NOW!* . . . We have nothing to lose -- and *everything to gain!* . . .



Order now -- \$1.00 each -- "IMPEACH BUSH"
-- bumper stickers or wall

WHITE HOUSE CALLS FOR -- CONCENTRATION CAMPS FOR KIDS ON DRUGS!

... Several federal judges have publicly called for decriminalization of drugs in recent days At the same time, the Bush Admin. has apparently asked Congress to pass "emergency legislation" calling for concentration camps!!!



... A shocking development! According to a new bill -- "The National Drug and Crime Emergency Act" -- minor drug offenders will be held for lengthy sentences in concentration camps -- or facilities that would be considered equal to a concentration camp.

... The White House is asking that the bill be introduced by the end of February ... According to the "Spotlight" of 2/12 the sponsors of these bills are Sen. Phil Gramm (R-Tex.), and Rep. Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.)

... This incredible legislation would last indefinitely or supposedly until the "Drug War" had been won ... It calls for housing prisoners in tents, military barracks, or other temporary shelters surrounded by barbed wire -- with the ostensible purpose of solving the overcrowding problem in existing prison facilities.

... In other words they cannot build prisons fast enough! ... This is a scandal of national proportions! ... How far will Americans let them go -- before they realize just what is going on?

DRUG POSSESSION IS NOW A CIVIL CRIME!

... In case you didn't know it, on 12/2/89 under orders from the White House, Attorney Gen. Thornburgh announced that possession of no more than one ounce of marijuana -- or a gram of heroin, cocaine, or methamphetamine -- would be prosecuted as a "civil violation" -- not criminal!

... This means that under federal law they have done away with the 4th Amendment! ... There is no requirement for civil violations to establish probable cause before being searched ... They have also done away with protection against unwarranted searches and seizures.

... There are no warrants issued by a judge required under civil proceedings ... Thus they have destroyed the 4th Amendment -- as well as the concept of a person being innocent until proven guilty.

... This apparently is in preparation for tempo-

COULD YOU BE "SET UP" -- ON DRUG CHARGES??

... It isn't very difficult to "plant" an ounce of marijuana -- or a gram of cocaine in your car, your truck, your office desk drawer, or in your home

... Once this trick is performed, all they have to do is march in, conduct a search (without a warrant) -- and you can be convicted under civil regulations for drug violations (\$10,000 fines and jail sentences)

THE "CONCENTRATION CAMP" -- CONGRESSMEN



Newt Gingrich 2438 Rayburn
House Office Building
Wash. D.C. 20515-1006
(202) 225-4501



Phil Gramm SR-370 Russell
Senate Office Building
Wash. D.C. 20510-4303
(202) 224-2934

... You need to write those gentlemen and angrily protest this Gostopo so-called "emergency legislation."

BUSH REFUSES -- TO STOP SHIPMENT OF CHEMICALS

... Required to Produce Cocaine!

(more evidence for a special prosecutor)

... The U.S. is the #1 supplier of chemicals necessary for the production of cocaine ... It is also a major supplier of arms to the drug cartels! ...

... In case you doubt this, you may refer to the ABC evening news on 2/8/90 which carried a report of Congressional testimony by Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV) who complained that U.S. based oil companies were not being regulated in the shipment of chemicals necessary to the production of drugs ... These drugs are:

- 1) Acetone
- 2) Ethyl-Ether

... The drug companies involved are large international Trilateral concerns including Chevron, Exxon and Shell ... These companies are incredibly large concerns whose gross revenues (each one) are as large as the GNP of many small countries ...

BUSH REFUSES TO LIMIT SHIPMENTS OF CHEMICALS BY TRILATERAL COMPANIES

... For example, Exxon's gross revenues are in the area of \$40 billion. They operate in every corner of the globe and produce literally thousands of energy related products and chemicals ... While prisons are being built, and emergency temporary facilities contemplated for the casual drug user, George "Carter" Bush refuses to sign executive orders limiting ship-

COLOMBIA INDIGNANTLY DEMANDS -- BUSH ACT --

.... To Stop Chemicals and Arms Shipments!

.... Pres. Barco of Colombia has indignantly demanded that Bush act to stop the shipment of "drug chemicals" and arms to the drug cartels. The two chemicals were the subject of international agreements worked out in Jan. in Colombia by State Dept. deputies responsible for international narcotics matters.



NYT 2/10/90

.... It is only because the leaders of Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia *demanded* action -- that the situation reached the U.S. press at all Otherwise there would have been no public notice regarding their belief that these "drug chemicals" are being made available by *U.S. Trilateral companies!* The Latin leaders also insist that we curtail the illegal export of semi-automatic weapons and firearms to their countries

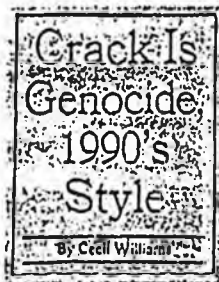
DOUBLE STANDARDS ON FIREARMS!

.... I think it is interesting that George Bush is involved in a major campaign to limit *American citizens'* access to firearms -- while he has done nothing (until forced) to limit the shipment of firearms to the areas in which the drug cartels operate

.... The Santa Cruz agreements forcing Bush to act on both those points will be signed Thursday Feb. 15th when they meet for a 6 hour session in Cartagena, Colombia

A POLICY OF GENOCIDE -- BY DRUG ADDICTION!

.... *Genocide is defined as the extermination of a national or racial group -- as an organized criminal plan.*



NYT 2/15/90

.... It would appear to this observer that George "Carter" Bush appears well on the way to the extermination of a viable economy and the healthy youth of America -- based upon his refusal to limit the required drug chemicals necessary in the production of cocaine

.... Note carefully, -- with 650,000 teenage drug addicts created every year, our nation's youth has been *especially targeted*.

.... *This Bush policy would be akin to the Soviet policy of dropping toys from aircraft which explode upon being picked up by young children in Afghanistan. Both are Trilateral policies -- one executed by the Soviets -- the other by the Occupational Gov. here in the U.S.*

.... *In both policies the youth of the nation are targeted -- crippled and handicapped emotionally and/or physically destroyed*

TWO CLASSES OF U.S. CONGRESSMEN

.... On one hand we have Senator Harry Reid who intelligently offered testimony and pleaded for the Govt. to do something about limiting these chemicals from U.S. concerns

.... On the other hand, we have the "puppets" of the Trilateral regime of George Bush, (Gingrich and Gramm) who are working against America's interests in attempting to set up concentration camps which are to be used to incarcerate recreational drug abusers.

.... Thoughtful citizens (especially of Georgia & Texas) will want to communicate their *outrage* to Gingrich of Georgia and Gramm of Texas -- and to congratulate and encourage Harry Reid to introduce a bill to prohibit the export of these chemicals except under the strictest licensing procedures

.... It should be noted that black Americans should take special interest in drug chemical limitation -- because of the higher level of suffering by black citizens through drug usage and overdose *In short, I believe that our George "Carter" Bush Admin. has adopted a policy of genocide against the American people*

SOLUTIONS LIE -- IN NEW PENALTIES FOR BANKS --

not in Concentration Camps!

.... As we have pointed out so often in the past, banks are totally free of reporting requirements -- if the money is *wired offshore!* This may be hard to believe, but the fact remains that a drug dealer can walk into a bank lay down \$500,000 in cash -- and have it *wired to Panama or Israel!*

.... This money can then be *rewired back* to the U.S. bank without having any reports filed or without breaking any law *There is STILL no impediment to a bank accepting drug deposits so long as the money is wired offshore*

ANNUNZIO STANDS UP TO TRILAT BANKS

.... An old friend of mine, Rep. Frank Annunzio (D-Ill.) fortunately -- has introduced an honest to God *anti-drug bill* (HR3848)

.... It requires federal bank regulatory agencies (against their will if necessary) -- to *revoke the charters of financial institutions found guilty of knowingly accepting deposits from illegal narcotic traffickers*

Continued pg 7

Bombshell Dropped -- In Los Angeles Times Accusations never challenged!

NORIEGA RENEGED -- ON BUSH FAMILY BUSINESS DEAL! -- TRIGGERING INVASION!

. . . . This is one of the most shocking articles ever published! It proves beyond doubt that Pres. Bush is a criminal and a first class traitor to America! The invasion of Panama was a desperate move to protect his families' investments The 26 men who were sacrificed were (unknown to them) part of a "hit squad" -- Bush's personal army -- NOT America's!

\$4 MILLION PAYOFF TO NORIEGA -- BY BUSH'S BROTHER!

. . . . The L.A. Times, all the way back on Dec. 30 has dropped a bombshell! It was one of those holiday week-end issues that very few people read!



. . . . The Bush family is deeply involved in Panamanian business affairs -- and has made substantial investments in the hundreds of millions of \$'s in Panama.

. . . . Part of Aoki's vast holdings -- the Marriot When our first editor Aoki was asked about Prescott Bush's connections they would only say -- "We've been ordered not to comment!"

. . . . This has never been disclosed before in any privately circulated publication, is a lie -- although there was an innocuous story making these charges in a little read new year's issue of the LA Times.

PRESCOTT BUSH -- THE PRESIDENT'S BROTHER!

. . . . George Bush's brother, Prescott S. Bush, is a major partner in the Aoki Corp. (a Japanese company) This Japanese firm and their partners have invested \$350 million in Panama!

. . . . Their holdings include the major hotels of Panama including the Marriot Hotel, and a luxury resort on the Island of Conacora called Caesar Park. Many Central American peace conferences have been held at this Bush family resort!

. . . . George Bush has never admitted a family commitment of capital to Panama -- which is a very serious breach of ethics in itself because of the extensive negotiations with former dictator Manuel Noriega since Bush's inauguration over the last 12 months.

NO INVESTIGATION OF -- Bush's Involvement in Panamanian Business!

. . . . Under normal circumstances an independent prosecutor would certainly have been called for -- and undoubtedly appointed by this time to investigate the President's family investments in this world capital

. . . . The more money that comes in, the more the major "trophy properties" would be worth -- and certainly those major hotels are "trophy properties."

DEMANDS FOR IMPEACHMENT -- SHOULD BE FORTHCOMING!

. . . . This shocking piece of news should have a major effect on your personal feelings regarding Pres. George Herbert Walker Bush -- and the legitimacy of Patterson charges in this publication -- that he is, in fact, dishonest, without morals -- and a first class liar!

. . . . It also lends credibility to my demand that he should be impeached! Remember, your publisher called for it first -- when months from now the impeachment demand becomes widespread

LA TIMES (12/30/89) REPORTERS -- Discover Criminal Violations of Ethics Laws!

Bush's Brother-Linked to Firm in Panama Deal

□ Noriega, Prescott Bush is a partner in a venture with Japanese firm accused of paying bribes to the ousted dictator.

After dealings with Noriega and another aspect of controversy as the Administration tries to ensure the stability of a post-Noriega government in the wake of last week's military invasion.

THESE ARE PUBLISHED CHARGES -- NEVER RETRACTED!

. . . . The Bush family investments in Panama have been detailed in a published article by Doug Frantz and Jim Mann, (LA Times investigative reporters) It should be noted however, that the LA Times wire service did not publish the story -- nor did the story appear in the AP, UPI or NYT wire services -- thus the ugly facts remain a deep secret!

CHARGES AGAINST BUSH -- UNCHALLENGED BY WHITE HOUSE

. . . . Obviously your local paper didn't carry the story. It is for this type of censorship that you pay for an expensive privately circulated magazine or newsletter -- remember this when it comes time to renew! It should be quite obvious that we could not possibly publish these charges if they were not factual. . . . To our knowledge, the LA Times published no retractions The Justice Dept. & the

LUXURY RED CHINESE -- RESORT EXPLAINS -- BUSH CHINA POLICY!

... A few months ago -- a 2-line announcement appeared at the bottom of a column in the WSJ -- regarding the family of George Bush making an \$18 million investment in a hotel and resort complex with golf course facilities outside Shanghai. . . . The LA Times investigators throw considerable light on this story. . . .

... According to the LA Times, the Aoki Corp. is identified as the organization that is constructing these luxury resort facilities in Red China. . . . The Shanghai project is separate from Aoki Corp's. dealings in Panama. . . . Don't forget, George Bush's brother, Prescott, is a partner in business with the Aoki Corp.

BUSH CHARGED WITH KOWTOWING -- TO THE RED CHINESE

... Secy. of State James Baker was caught in a flat out lie on National T.V. -- when he said that no emissary had been sent to China recently.



"Longnose" Bush -- smug and everconfident. . . .

... It was later admitted that Brent Scowcroft (of Kissinger & Associates) had made secret trips to Red China just a few days after the Tiananmen Square massacre!

... One can only assume, now that the Bush family investment scheme has been revealed, -- that the purpose of the secret trips to China were to help shore up Chinese permits for the Aoki Corp's. projects to continue. . . . A direct violation of federal ethics laws!!

... Probably every member of Congress has commented in one way or another: on the "kowtowing" by our Long-Nosed President to the Red Chinese outchers after the Tiananmen Square disaster. . . .

BOSTON GLOBE CHARGES --
ETHICS VIOLATIONS! --
... Ye! -- Nothing "Bad" Happens to George!
... Isn't it time he was put in his place??

In China, being Bush's brother 'doesn't hurt'

... [Small text from Boston Globe article]

The Boston Globe 2/6/90 --
When questioned by Boston Globe reporters about:

... The Bush investments in Red China, now that they have come to light, throw a different light on this "kowtowing!" . . . Obviously the Bush family investments come first -- and our "kinder, gentler" Pres. couldn't care less about the impression he makes on the general public. . . . He has no concern for press attacks on his character & continues unscathed as President because he works for the same group as the owners of the NYT & Wash. Post. . . .

... He is part of a highly secret structure of govt. -- which this magazine has repeatedly disclosed to involve David Rockefeller and Henry Kissinger -- who in effect operate as an "Occupational Govt." in America backed up by the extremely powerful publishing and media conglomerates which can twist any story (or bury any story) that it so desires! . . .

... Bottom line: -- the Bush actions regarding the Tiananmen massacre and reestablishment of Chinese relations -- and the approval of export-import financing for a number of Chinese deals should be sufficient grounds for impeachment! . . . But that's just part of the story. . . . There's much more: . . .

BUSH'S BROTHER -- ARRANGED \$4 MILLION -- PAY OFF TO NORIEGA!

... According to the LA Times, a \$4 million bribe was paid by the Aoki Corp., arranged by the Bush family, to Gen. Manuel Noriega for purposes of getting a license to build a major hydroelectric project in Panama. . . .



Prescott Bush -- co-conspirator with Longnose!

SHOWDOWN BETWEEN NORIEGA & -- BUSH FAMILY COST 26 LIVES!

... A test of wills between Noriega and the Bush family obviously developed -- with a bribe being taken and the contract or the license not being granted for the project as promised. . . .

... Here we see the clear reason for the breakdown in relations between Bush and Noriega.

26 MEN DIED -- TO PROTECT -- THE BUSH INVESTMENTS IN PANAMA!

... The obvious fact is -- that the invasion of Panama was hatched by our Pres., not because he is concerned about the drug dealing going on in Panama, -- but to protect his family's \$350 million investment in the Marriott and other resorts in Panama. . . .

... Noriega had apparently threatened to nationalize these investments in a show of strength against the Bush family. . . . For this reason alone.

EVIDENCE ESTABLISHES BUSH'S -- LONG TIME CRIMINAL INVOLVEMENT

.... According to the *LA Times*, the liaison between the Bush family and Noriega was retired Admiral Daniel J. Murphy -- who was Chief of Staff to George Bush when he was Vice President.

.... Murphy is now a private consultant in Wash. D.C. Murphy testified before Senate hearings that he represented "private businessmen" on many trips to Panama at which time he visited with Noriega.

.... Admiral Murphy also indicated that prior to each one of those trips he was briefed by officials of the CIA, the State Dept., the Defense Dept. and Vice President George Bush's office. In other words, President George Bush has been involved in *criminal violations of ethics laws* -- not only as Pres. but for a number of years as Vice President.

SHANGHAI AGREEMENTS -- GUARANTEE NO COMPETITION!

.... The Aoki Corp. controlled by the Bush family (it should be noted) has a legal status and presence here in the U.S. in Maryland. According to the *LA Times*, phone calls to the President's brother, Prescott Bush were not returned, (nor were calls to his home in Connecticut). The agreements for the Shanghai development were signed on 5/12/88 by representatives of the Aoki Corp. and Prescott Bush's *Resources Limited*.

BUSH FAMILY OFFERS -- LUXURY RESORT IN RED CHINA -- To U.S. Execs Doing Business in China!

.... The China project is to offer tennis, swimming, water sports, fishing and hunting -- plus an 18 hole championship golf course to be designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr. (no loss) of Palo Alto, CA. Jones is the leading golf course designer in the entire world.



.... Confirming a "Criminal Politics" earlier report, the Bush family is also involved in a major housing project near Shanghai airport -- and could be rented (or sold) to foreigners doing business in Red China (an obvious business move to profit from expanding trade with the Chinese Govt.)

BUSH BIZ DEALS -- GUARANTEE -- No U.S. Reaction to Red Chinese Atrocities

.... Prescott Bush has also received payments of \$250,000 as a consultant to an American company establishing a communications network in China. The company is called *Asset Management International Financing and Settlement Ltd.* -- which arranged for Hughes Aircraft Co. (a subsidiary of GM) to export 3 communication satellites to China. On

.... Keep in mind that what you read here is only the ~~tip of the iceberg!~~ These are only the *published reports*. This information has been unchallenged in the public domain. The results of a further investigation by an independent prosecutor might reveal *additional* information about which we are simply not aware at this time. *How serious are these charges?* Let's examine that question.

COMPARE BUSH DEALS -- WITH THE WATERGATE SCANDAL!

.... It should be easy to recall that the nation was brought to a standstill and an uproar because Richard Nixon's staff personnel had ordered the ransacking and pilferage of Democratic party paperwork in one of their Watergate offices.



Richard Nixon

.... It was a dirty tricks effort to find out what the Democrats were up to. No money was made, nobody profited illegally, -- and -- an invasion was *not ordered to protect Richard Nixon's investments!* What's changed?? Explain to me why Bush shouldn't be impeached!

SOME QUESTIONS THAT -- MUST BE ANSWERED!

.... Just compare Watergate's simple childish games to what George Bush has been *publicly* cheerful with. Here are several questions for the independent prosecutor.

- 1) Did the 26 men who died and the 324 men who are wounded suffer and die simply to protect George Bush's family investments in Panama??
- 2) Did his service as "Drug Czar" under Ronald Reagan fail so miserably -- because his family had secretly made large investments in Panama??
- 3) Was he unduly influenced by those hundreds of millions of dollars -- invested in Panamanian trophy properties??
- 4) Why weren't these investments disclosed during the Presidential election campaign?
- 5) Did the media cover-up these investments? ... If so why?

.... We could go on and on and on. It is not within our ability to conduct Presidential Investigations, -- but I think you can see that there is *far more here than even we have been able to disclose*.

.... We suggest with this kind of a treacherous, crooked, racketeering operation in charge in the White House that they will stop at nothing -- NOTHING to accomplish their goals -- including, -- *confiscation of private property, embezzlement, currency call-ins, termination of currency in circulation, bank closures, withdrawal of a moratorium on Govt.*

Hunt for POWs Led Gritz to Drug Pipeline Discovery

On October 3, Col. James "Bo" Gritz was interviewed on Radio Free America. Following is an edited transcript of that broadcast. Comments by Gritz are in light-face; questions by host Tom Valentine are in boldface.



Col. Bo Gritz went to southeast Asia looking for POWs and found a drug pipeline.

When you started out, you were a loyal American soldier with a tremendous record—and you had great faith in your government.

But after you came out of Vietnam, and got interested in the prisoners of war still held in southeast Asia, you began to uncover some very interesting things. Could you tell us about it?

Tom, I came out of Vietnam and was assigned to the Pentagon. From there I was sent to command Special Forces in Latin America.

It was in 1976, the chief of military intelligence came to Panama. He told me two things: One, he said, keep your hands off of Manuel Noriega, because he has the greatest importance at the highest levels.

Of course at that time George Bush was head of the CIA. I knew that Manuel Noriega was the funnel for the drugs coming into America from Latin America. And I had proposed that we assassinate him.

And secondly, I was told that there was strong evidence to indicate that there were still American prisoners of war, not just one or two, but hundreds that were left behind in the hands of the enemy.

As a soldier, for one, I didn't choose to go to Burma. I was chosen. I was asked, ironically, by the office of then-Vice President Bush.

A National Security Council staff officer by the name of Tom Harvey said that the vice president had information that Burmese drug lord Khun Sa was holding five American prisoners of war and had knowledge of 70 more and that this was getting absolute top priority at the highest levels.

But neither the CIA nor the Defense Intelligence Agency nor the Drug Enforcement Agency had any

means or anyone that could penetrate Khun Sa's stronghold.

And he just asked me, "Bo, do you think that it's possible with your network to do so?"

And I didn't know, but Scott Weekly, a Navy SEAL, and I were successful, using credentials from the White House, in getting to see Khun Sa.

When you ultimately got in to see Khun Sa, he acknowledged that he knew of American POWs being held in southeast Asia, but he also made a special offer, didn't he?

Well, we had it on videotape, and it was simply a dual-pronged offer from Khun Sa. He said, very succinctly, on tape, "I will stop 900 tons of heroin in 1987." And he said, "I will divulge every U.S. government official that has been my best customer for more than 15 years."

Well, to me, that was a great offer. After all, Nancy Reagan was "saying

Santo Trafficante was the organized crime boss in Havana before Castro took over. The CIA got him out of jail and hired him to assassinate Castro. He failed.

At the Bay of Pigs, everyone was angry because Trafficante was supposed to go back into Cuba and take over again. Trafficante was identified by Khun Sa as being the major syndicate distributor for the U.S. government.

And Richard Armitage, a man who at that time was currently serving as the assistant secretary of defense.

When Bush was elected president, he picked Richard Armitage as his assistant secretary of state for east Asia. It would have made him the most powerful man in America over the heroin part of the world and our prisoners of war.

And you don't have to watch the television to know that when you've got the bag man, you've got the whole batch of bananas. And Khun Sa named Armitage as being the bagman for this government operation.

[Armitage's name was ultimately withdrawn, largely because of Gritz's revelations, according to SPOTLIGHT sources within the administration.—Ed.]

And so you went back again to see Khun Sa and asked for a formal agreement?

We did just come back from Burma with a proposal signed, sealed and delivered, not just by Khun Sa but by all of the leadership of the Shan principalities, saying that they are willing to eradicate opium—which means heroin—from the Golden Triangle that produces 90 percent of what the world uses.

We have an honest-to-God offer to literally eradicate—he doesn't say "stop," he says "eradicate"—heroin. You can read it in the packet that our Center for Action will send to you for free.

It's under his signature and the signature of the other Shan leaders. He's going to eradicate heroin.

And here we've got Bush declaring war on drugs, giving \$300 million to Colombia, and he won't turn around and square away with Khun Sa.

The reason, of course, is because

there has been government involvement with Khun Sa for decades where elements within the U.S. executive branch bypassed our Congress and the Constitution in order to buy up covert operations that weren't authorized.

But how can we be really certain that Khun Sa and his allies weren't misleading you for some reason?

That's a good question. Well, we deal with Gorbachev when we want to reduce the missiles, and he is a communist. Khun Sa is an anti-communist. He controls the drugs. If we

want to reduce the drugs, then we ought to at least approach him.

And if he doesn't come through with his end of the deal, then we go ahead and use B-52s to bomb him out of existence.

But if he does come through with his deal, and I believe he will, and he is not asking for any \$300 million, not in any combination of years, we should provide him the aid he and his allies ask for. Khun Sa simply wants to legitimize the economy of the Shan nation—to get out of the drug racket—so that they can become a true nation state.



TOM VALENTINE
... interviewed "Bo" Gritz on Radio Free America.



But he says, that America won't let him, because all they buy from

the Shan people are heroin and opium.

I believe we should at least try Khun Sa.

How can people reach you, Bo? Well, we've established a special clearinghouse headquarters called the Center for Action to help get this information out to the American people, in hopes that they will get this information to their congressman and senators and to local newspapers, radio and television stations.

The address for the Center for Action is Box 9, Boulder City, Nev. (See DRUG, Page 12)

Drug Pipeline

(Continued From Page 11)
89005. It won't cost you a red cent. You can call me toll free at 1-800-634-3494 (in Nevada, it's 293-3100) and talk to me personally about what we're discussing here.

Isn't it true that you collaborated closely with ABC in hopes of bringing out your story to a national audience, but then ABC failed to tell the whole story?

As a matter of fact, my team in 1989 took Tom Jarriel of ABC-TV's 20/20 program into the Golden Triangle. We wanted the story to go national.

I watched that show waiting to see if ABC would report the fact that it was you who made it possible for ABC to visit Khun Sa. But not a mention of you or your work.

Jarriel and his program mentioned nothing about the heroin highway.

Anytime Khun Sa or any of my team members tried to mention the U.S. government involvement in drugs, Jarriel shut the cameras off and said: "We are here only to do a piece on Khun Sa. We're not here for any political purpose."

But in fact, our tax dollars paid for a highway that permitted 10-ton trucks to run heroin from the Golden Triangle into the free world, where before it was coming out on the backs of mules.

There are other examples of how the media has helped cover up the truth, aren't there?

Well, there is a man named Ray Bream who has a nationwide radio program. He had me on his radio program, and he said, "Bo, you cannot mention any names."

And while we were on the radio program, a gentleman called in and said, "Bo, I want to know why the Establishment media have not

picked up on this story?" And I simply said to him, "All you have to do is look at the membership of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Trilateral Commission, and you'll know why the major media haven't picked up on this story."

[Many prominent media personalities, along with government officials, key diplomats, financiers and other influential figures comprise the membership of the two groups mentioned.—Ed.]

Then he said: "Bo, I'll tell you one newspaper that will run this story. And that's The SPOTLIGHT."

And as soon as he mentioned The SPOTLIGHT, Bream bleeped him off the air. During the break, I asked the host: "Why did you do that? I mean, what did the man say that was so bad?"

And he said, "We cannot allow the name of The SPOTLIGHT to be mentioned over ABC radio."

The SPOTLIGHT was the first and the only publication that has really revealed what has been going on inside and outside of our government.

What do you think about the current "war against drugs" that we've been hearing so much about?

I'll guarantee you something. Signing a check is no way to win the war on drugs. All you do is fuel the corruption that is already there. So Bush has simply declared another war of words.

I believe we'd better watch out, because in his words I detect a suspension of those parts of the Constitution that have to do with legal search and seizure of a man's domain. I also detect there a suspension of our right to keep and bear arms.

I believe, and I saw in a public opinion poll, that he can lure America into saying we will give up our freedom in order to win this "war." And Bush is saying we're going to "crush the individual user."

This means we send the drug armies into homes, into your assembly areas, into your vehicles. And now we also have to collect the weapons, of course, because we can't have any danger to [the agents].

Once that happens, you know what happens right after that. We become U.S.A. Inc. instead of the United States of America. ●



Asian drug lord Khun Sa named names for Bo Gritz.



Gen. Manuel Noriega was protected by U.S. officials.



CENTER FOR ACTION

711 Yucca Street, Boulder City, Nevada 89005
(702) 293 3011 FAX (702) 293 4416

Paul Fisher, President
"Planning the Work"

Bo Gritz, Chief of Staff
"Working the Plan"

BO GRITZ INTRODUCTION

Our quest was selected by General William Westmoreland out of 5-million Vietnam Veterans to represent "The American Soldier".

He has been decorated 52 times for valor in combat, and has held a variety of challenging assignments, including:

Intelligence officer and reconnaissance chief of Delta Force
Commander of Special Forces in Latin America
Chief of Congressional Relations, the Pentagon
Principle Agent, Intelligence Support Activity (ISA)

He has been 8 times behind communist lines in Asia in search of U.S. Prisoners of War. Hollywood has used his life as the model for such films as "Rambo", "Mission MIA", "Uncommon Valor", and he has been the subject of many book and media presentations.

He is the author of one of the most controversial and informative books you'll ever read, "A NATION BETRAYED".

Ladies and gentlemen, Colonel Bo Gritz...

Additional Info:

Bo is a Life Member or regular member of:
Special Forces Association
Special Operations Association
Intelligence - Counter Intelligence Officers Association
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Veterans of Foreign Wars
American Legion
Kiwanis
Vietnam Veterans of America
National Rifle Association
Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association
American Council on Karate Instruction
American Association of Retired Persons
Disabled American Veterans
Boy Scouts of America

Bo is a Scout Master and Merit Badge Counselor, church elder, Young Men's Teacher (church), Community Karate Instructor, Flight Instructor. He is fluent in Chinese Mandarin and Swahili. Bo attended several universities including University of Georgia, NC State, University of Kansas, University of Nebraska, The American University, USA Command & General Staff College with degrees in Law and Corrections, Psychology, Communications, Military Science. Bo worked as an engineer for Hughes Aircraft Company and designed a security system for the space shuttle. He has received the Military Order of World Wars Patrick Henry Patriotism Medal and the Freedom Foundation George Washington Medal of Honor, along with special recognition from the American Legion and Moral Majority.

Anch Daily News
3/28/90

Compliments of
Rep. Ramona Barnes

It just ain't so Bo — the war is long over

Old soldiers never die, they just fade away — except former Green Beret James G. (Bo) Gritz.

For this highly decorated warrior, now 51, the Southeast Asia war Americans abandoned in the mid-70s hasn't ended and probably never will. As his former commanding officer Col. Charlie Beckwith said Saturday, "Bo Gritz has been chasing shadows in Southeast Asia for 20 years."

Lt. Col. Gritz, self-proclaimed chief of staff of the Center for Action in Boulder City, Nevada, has found a new enemy to replace the Viet Cong: corrupt American leaders.

According to Gritz, the United States is secretly governed by an unelected "parallel government" of criminals and traitors.

Since Alaska is always the last to get the word, the message Gritz preached during the '80s didn't get here until the '90s.

A few weeks back Gritz showed up in Juneau. There he peddled a plan, born of his conspiracy theories, to have the United States government reduce the flow of drugs by paying the warlord who reputedly runs the Burmese drug trade, Khun Sa,



**michael
carey**

millions of dollars to stop producing heroin.

Khun told Gritz that if the United States agreed, Khun would support U.S. efforts to find Vietnam-era prisoners of war. Gritz, who claims Rambo is in part modeled on his exploits, has organized private-sector strike forces to rescue American fighting men allegedly held captive in Laos. Neither his "Operation Velvet Hammer" nor "Operation Lazarus" has freed a soul.

These failures did not prove troublesome in the Alaska Legislature. Only Rep. Ramona Barnes voted against the final version of a House resolution inspired by Gritz that asked Washington to cut a deal with unsavory Khun.

No wonder Charlie Beck-

with says Gritz visited Alaska because "He perceives that ya'll are a bit naive."

Over the years Gritz' anti-government paramilitary road show has received nasty reviews from the National Security Council, the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, the Congress, the press and fellow veterans.

Jim Graves, managing editor of Soldier of Fortune magazine, says of this man, "If Bo Gritz told me it was daytime outside, I'd go look for the sun."

In 1988, an unsigned NSC review of Bo Gritz activities found he had "contributed nothing of value to the POW/MIA issue. In fact, his activities have been counterproductive." In 1981, his rescue operations were publicly repudiated by the National League of Families.

In 1983, he offered "evidence" that 50 servicemen were still in Indochina to the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee — and his "facts" were torn to pieces by Congressmen and witnesses. In 1983, the Washington Times published a story that conclusively proved Gritz fabricated a story he routinely told about his heroic ex-

ploits in Vietnam.

Charlie Beckwith, commander of the Delta Force that attempted to rescue American hostages from Iran in 1980, maintains "He's a good soldier but he's still living in a fantasy. He still sees the war going on."

Bo Gritz has supporters in Anchorage. I've talked to them: I've read their literature; I've watched their Bo Gritz video, "A Nation Betrayed."

These are sincere people — and they have been had by a terrific salesman who sells conspiracies with the same conviction and authority that other salesmen sell used cars.

Once upon a time, Bo Gritz was a hero. But he couldn't give up the war. Peace, for him, was a betrayal. He had to have a fight.

So now he's shadow boxing with imaginary enemies — and hawking his story to Alaskans. In Charlie Beckwith's words, "He thinks you old sourdoughs don't know no better."

Michael Carey is editor-in-chief and page editor of the Anchorage Daily News
