

July 2 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1993

application of subsections (a) and (b) of section 402 of the Trade Act to Romania. He determined that this waiver will substantially promote the objectives of section 402, and, pursuant to section 402(c)(2) of the Trade Act, notified the Congress that he had received assurances that the emigration practices of Romania will henceforth lead substantially to achievement of those objectives.

I urge that the Congress act as soon as possible to approve the "Agreement on Trade Relations Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Romania" and the proclamation extending non-

discriminatory treatment to products of Romania by enactment of a joint resolution referred to in section 151 of the Trade Act.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. The proclamation and related Presidential determination are listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume. The agreement was published in the *Federal Register* on July 7.

Statement on United States Policy Toward Vietnam July 2, 1993

It has always been my firm belief that America's highest priority in its approach toward Vietnam is to secure a full accounting on our prisoners of war and missing in action. Today I am announcing two new steps toward that goal. The first involves access by Vietnam to the International Monetary Fund. The second is my decision to send a new high-level delegation to Vietnam to press for further progress on unresolved POW/MIA issues. Together, these steps offer the best hope of providing America's POW/MIA families the answers and peace of mind they deserve.

Over the past several months, I have given intense thought to how best to achieve the fullest possible accounting for our POW/MIA's and how to shape U.S. policy toward Vietnam to achieve that goal. I have met with veterans, with the families whose loved ones have not returned, and with Members of Congress who have a strong interest in this issue, including some who were held as prisoners of war.

Last night I met with a group of impressive, dedicated representatives of veterans organizations and families who care deeply about our Government's efforts to achieve the fullest possible accounting of our missing. They share my own belief that our policy toward Vietnam must be driven not by commercial interests but by the overriding purpose of achieving further progress toward the fullest possible accounting of our POW/MIA's. Vietnam has long been a

divisive issue for America. It remains so today. I know there is strong disagreement among all those with an interest in the POW/MIA issue on how best to further our mutual goal. Where there is no disagreement, however, is on the need to ensure that any decision taken is made in answer to the only relevant question: Will it help us discover the truth about our missing?

One of the tragedies of this issue is that our own Government has often denied unnecessarily information about this issue to the American public. That is why I have instructed all U.S. Government POW/MIA related documents to be declassified by Veterans Day of this year, except for that tiny fraction that could still affect our national security or invade the privacy of the families. I have also been working to consolidate the POW/MIA agencies and resources to enhance the efficiency of these operations and access by the public. They have a right to know, and I intend to ensure they do.

Since taking office, I have reviewed the progress made to date in resolving unanswered questions concerning the fate of American service personnel who did not return from Vietnam. I have insisted on the fullest possible accounting from the Vietnamese Government and pressed for further progress. As part of this effort, I dispatched Gen. John Vessey to Vietnam last April as my Special Emissary for POW/MIA Affairs to press for further progress. In addition, Members of Congress and representatives of

veterans groups have traveled to Vietnam to press for that goal.

In an effort to encourage further progress, it is appropriate at this time to recognize what the Vietnamese have done in our effort to account for our missing. Attached is a summary outlining that progress. Therefore, I have decided to end our opposition to the efforts of other nations to clear Vietnam's arrears in the IMF. I believe, as do former POW's John McCain and Douglas "Pete" Peterson and other veterans such as John Kerry and others in Congress, that such action will best serve the goal of achieving further progress toward the fullest possible accounting.

Any further steps in U.S.-Vietnamese relations will strictly depend on further progress by the Vietnamese on the POW/MIA issue. We should not be swayed from that course; America owes no less to the brave men and women who fought in Vietnam and to their loved ones. Progress to date is simply not sufficient to warrant any change in our trade embargo or any further steps toward normalization.

In order to press for further progress and send a clear message to the Vietnamese Government, I will send to Hanoi a high-level delegation. The official delegation will include Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs Hershel Gober, Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord, and Lt. Gen. Michael E. Ryan.

I also have invited representatives of the three largest veterans groups to accompany the delegation. The American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Disabled American Veterans have each agreed to send representatives with the delegation, and I am grateful for their willingness to participate in this important mission. In addition, I have invited the National

League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia to send a representative. I have also asked our current Ambassador in Thailand, David Floyd Lambertson, who has extensive experience in Vietnam, to assist the delegation.

The delegation will make clear to the Vietnamese that any further steps in relations between our two nations depend on tangible progress on the outstanding POW/MIA cases. We insist upon efforts by the Vietnamese in four key areas:

Remains: Concrete results from efforts on their part to recover remains and repatriate American remains.

Discrepancy cases: Continued resolution of 92 discrepancy cases, live sightings, and field activities.

Laos: Further assistance in implementing trilateral investigation with the Lao.

Archives: Accelerated efforts to provide all POW/MIA related documents that will help lead to genuine answers.

The individuals on this delegation share my own determination to do all we can to find the truth surrounding those who did not come home. They will press hard for results.

The delegation will also raise with the Vietnamese continuing human rights concerns and press for progress in the areas of basic freedoms, democracy, and economic reform.

For many Americans, the Vietnam war left deep wounds that have yet to heal. One of the ways to help the process of healing is to help the friends and families of POW's and MIA's learn the truth. The steps I have outlined today will advance that goal.

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's Meetings With South African Leaders

July 2, 1993

The President held separate meetings this afternoon with South African State President F.W. de Klerk and African National Congress President Nelson Mandela. The meetings lasted about 30 minutes each.

The two meetings focused on the process of democratic reform in South Africa and how the

United States can assist that historic process. The President expressed his appreciation for the leadership demonstrated by both individuals in moving South Africa towards the threshold of a nonracial democracy. He expressed particular