

and the gentleman from Oklahoma [Mr. ISTOOK] for their leadership on this particular issue, and once again to reiterate \$39 billion every single year is spent on lobbying. It comes in many forms, whether it is lobbying against the flag amendment, which we recently had on the floor, or right back in my own district where they are funding \$165,000 in radio and television commercials spreading the big lie. And once again, that is taxpayer-funded, if not directly, indirectly, subsidizing the spreading of the big lie.

What we are trying to do, as the chairman, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MCINTOSH], has said, is bring trust back in Government. People will know that when money is sent to the Government, it is being spent as it is designed, not for partisan politics. It should be spent to help the people of the United States and spent wisely. What we are trying to do is bring trust and responsibility back to Government, and this really puts faith back in Government. I am excited by what you folks are doing, and I just want to commend your work on this issue.

Mr. EHRLICH. Directed to the gentleman from the State of Washington, you have helped me to regain some of my faith; not that I have lost much, it has been a great 8 months here, but your constituents can still discern the difference between the truth on one hand and a lie on the other, and I think you will be all the better for it. I thank my colleagues very much.

AMERICAN CITIZENS RECENTLY SENTENCED TO IMPRISONMENT IN COMMUNIST VIETNAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. DORNAN] is recognized for 30 minutes.

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, we have a tragic situation going on, as this, the most powerful, deliberative body in the free or democratic world, meets. We have American citizens sentenced to 7 and 9 years of imprisonment in Saigon, and some day it will be renamed Saigon again, not named after a Communist killer named Ho Chi Minh. Just as Lenin's name was removed from beautiful St. Petersburg in northern Russia, and as Stalin's name was removed from a strategic battle area in World War II, Stalingrad, and the city has back its less bloody name of Volgograd, some day it will be Saigon again. So as a free man, I will continue to call it Saigon.

In Saigon, and I want to speak slowly for our official recorder of debate here, so we get these names right, and unfortunately, the Americans sentenced to prison in Saigon are naturalized Americans; as was Alexander Hamilton naturalized, as is Henry Kissinger, as are a lot of great Americans who have invented things and fought and died for this country and our liberty.

Unlike Harry Wu, who I had a chance to meet as he was testifying before the

Committee on International Relations of the gentleman from New York, BEN GILMAN, they did not affect Christian first names, probably because they are not Christians, they are Buddhists. But if they had taken an anglicized name, it would be easier to imprint in the consciousness of the American people and freedom-loving people in Europe and around the world the name of a victim of Communist tyranny, as we were able to do with Mr. Wu, because he took my father's first name, Harry. "Harry Wu" became a battle cry for liberal Democrats like the gentlewoman from California, NANCY PELOSI. It got all mixed up with the trip of the First Lady over to the Beijing Conference, the very controversial U.N. conference.

□ 1715

So much international pressure that the Chinese communists in Beijing knew there would be no trip of Hillary Clinton if they did not release Harry Wu.

But meanwhile, in the other Chamber, and I am going to go slow here so that I do not skirt a line and violate comity with the other Chamber on the north end of this building. But how is it that the Senate could vote yesterday blocking Senator BOB SMITH of New Hampshire's reasonable amendment, endorsed by the chairman of Foreign Affairs, Mr. HELMS, the chairman of Defense, Mr. STROM THURMOND, and the leader of the Senate and leading presidential candidate, BOB DOLE? How is it that a bunch of Republicans over there could dismiss Senator SMITH of New Hampshire's reasonable amendment that no trade negotiations could be furthered with United States taxpayers' money, let alone setting up an embassy in the communist capital of Hanoi, unless these human rights violations are reversed and these two Americans are set free, as Harry Wu was set free in China, and that we get a fullest accounting, that is a very key word. Not "full" or "fully." But "fullest" means reasonable accounting with the communist giving up the politburo and the Communist Central Committee records on our missing in action.

Unless those two things, and a handful of other reasonable small things, are conformed with by this communist government in Hanoi, as we put tremendous pressure on Castro and the communist government in Havana Cuba today, unless these reasonable requests are taken care of, then no money from the taxpayers of the United States Treasury should be provided to the communist government in Hanoi.

There is a cover story on a national magazine in the last couple of weeks about communism being far from dead. Not as long as it is persecuting 1,260,000,000 people in China. That is the United States plus a billion people. Not as long as Russia is rebuilding its KGB apparatus under a new name, under one of their old leaders, Yevgeniy

Primakov. I have met with him in KGB headquarters with HENRY HYDE some years back. He is now helping to build up the intelligence capability of terrorist states like Iran, so designated by the State Department, even under liberal leadership under Clinton's appointed secretaries and under Secretaries.

Not only do we have that emerging problem in the much-reduced empire that is now down to Russia and a few adjoining countries they consider within their hegemony, countries that rely on them for gas and oil and other critical things to keep cities running. There are terror regimes still, depending on how you count the numbers of people that are terrorized, in Cuba, North Korea, we do not get much argument on North Korea, and communist Vietnam.

Very few, if any, Democrats in the other body, and most of the Republicans who voted against Mr. SMITH, all of them as a matter of fact, they dropped the word "communist" from any discussion of Vietnam and Hanoi, using it occasionally because "socialist" is in their title, as it was with all the communist countries at the height of the cold war when they were killing and jailing people by the tens of thousands, and killed hundreds of thousands, if not millions, in the Vietnam Southeast Asia area and in the Korean War. They always substituted the word "socialist" for "communist." Even they knew the dreaded impact of the word "communist."

But with Cuba, North Vietnam, now all of tortured Vietnam, North Korea, and communist China still engaging in massive human rights violations, why are two naturalized United States citizens written off, rotting in prison for 2 years this November in Saigon?

Here are their names: Nguyen, N-G-U-Y-E-N which is the Vietnamese cultural equivalent to Jones and Smith combined. It is the most common name in Vietnam society. Nguyen Tan Tri. Not a hard name to remember. Nguyen Tan Tri.

He was given a 7-year sentence. Tran Quang Liem. My ninth grandchild is named Liam, Irish-Gaelic. Liem should not be so hard to remember. Mr. Tran and Mr. Nguyen, 7 and 4 years respectively sentenced, and the U.S. State Department said it was unwelcome; that it was an unwelcomed deed.

Further on in the press release from an Associated Press story on August 16, the day after they were sentenced during our break; no one here to speak up for them on the House floor, myself included, the State Department statement goes on further to say that it was "disappointing." "Disappointing and unwelcomed."

Disappointing, because the sentence happened 6 days after the U.S. Secretary of State, in the job that was first held by Thomas Jefferson, whose beautiful marble medallion is up here, Warren Christopher posed in front of a bust of communist killer, Ho Chi-Minh,

and 6 days later American citizens are sentenced to 6 and 4 years. Teddy Roosevelt, where are you when we need you to speak up for these two lost American citizens, Nguyen and Tran?

And by the way, they are both constituents of the Orange County delegation from southern California. Then, another constituent who used to be one of mine when he first fled communism and arrived in Westminster, that city since the reapportionment is now represented by my pal, DANA ROHRBACHER, this gentleman is thrown in prison—a businessman who went over there to promote democracy peacefully. But the communists have found out that if they capture businessmen, just like they are some Mafia thug operation, they can demand from their family in the United States ransom money, like it is King Richard the Lionhearted.

We will spit them out of our communist country if you give us ransom money; \$15 thousand is the going price. This businessman from Westminster, a member of the Lien Viet party, his name is Van Thanh Nguyen.

Here is a lady from Corona, just up the road from me, the first city out of my district into L.A. County. She is another businesswoman, one of seven thrown in prison, ransom being demanded on them. Her name is Mrs. Binh Thy Nguyen, and then her married name, Tran. You can call her for short, Mrs. Binh Tran. She is rotting in prison.

She was pregnant when they arrested her, and because she was 2 months pregnant and in great emotional distress and complications set in, they forced her to have an abortion. This is not China I am talking about, killing babies for gender selection and infanticide, on top of an abortion Holocaust even worse than the United States toll of 1,500,000 American babies killed in their mother's womb. This is forced abortion in Saigon by a communist government. It is unbelievable.

How about a monk, a Buddhist monk? Considering how it turned America's newspapers upside down when Buddhist monks immolated themselves in 1963 and 1964. Here is a monk who, without government permission, went to help the flood victims of the constant flooding, seasonally, of the Mekong River, and because he did it as a religious person, a Buddhist monk and a leader, he gets 4 years in prison. I will look up the exact time he is going to have to rot in prison. He goes to prison. They would not even give him the dignity of his religious name. His religious name is Thich Quang Do. They tried him under his former name, before he became a priest, and he is a deputy leader of the Unified Buddhist Church in Vietnam. But that is a church that believes in a Supreme Being, so it is banned in Vietnam.

They said, "You are undermining national solidarity," these are the communists speaking, "and taking advan-

tage of the right of freedom and democracy to damage the interests of the government and social institutions."

So, of course, great bipartisan groups like Human Rights Watch/Asia, have attacked this. Again, weak words from our State Department. So the Ho Chi Minh City, that is Saigon, People's Court jailed this monk for 5 years.

This is going on while the U.S. Senate debates, and my colleague, BOB SMITH, pours his heart out. And then another one of my friends gets up and attacks me and another couple of Members of this House.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, I may have to ask for some parliamentary guidance on this. I was described as insignificant, Mr. Speaker, by a U.S. Senator. That is OK. I am a peacetime combat-trained warrior. But our colleague and friend, one of the greatest heroes, including all the heroes who came home from World War II, who serves in this Chamber, was attacked also as insignificant, SAM JOHNSON of Dallas, TX.

SAM spent 7 years in Communist captivity; 3½ years in solitary confinement. Was one of the most tortured men, and one of those so loyal that like other people, would not play basketball or volleyball or decorate fake Christmas trees, because he knew they would be filmed and used in propaganda films. He and 10 other men stood up to the Communist manipulation of them.

He was put in a little camp that they, with great American bravado and spirit, called Alcatraz, and for 11 years, Senator Jeremiah Denton, who served 6 great years in the other body, and Coker and McKnight and another hero who just died recently in a plane crash that his grown son mercifully survived, God's calls are strange indeed, sometimes. Eleven of the best, including a man who got the Medal of Honor that Alcatraz camp, who Ross Perot chose to be his Vice President in 1992, James Bond Stockdale.

They are all on a letter that I will put in the RECORD saying that we should not normalize relations with Vietnam.

My squadron commander, Robby Risner, also tortured months on end, as was SAM JOHNSON and James Bond Stockdale, decorated with the Air Force Cross. They are in agreement with me. Are they also insignificant, as this Senator has called me?

I want to ask a question to the Chair, because I want this to be perfect, what I put in the RECORD according to our rules of the House. Since I am mentioning a Senator, responding to him, trying to be respectful, I am not allowed to mention his name; is that correct, Mr. Speaker? Would you ask the Parliamentarian.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOBSON). For the benefit of the Member, the Chair will read the pertinent language of clause 1 of rule XIV. "Debate may include references to actions taken by the Senate, or by committees

thereof, which are a matter of public record, and factual descriptions relating to Senate action or inaction concerning a measure then under debate in the House, but may not include characterizations of Senate action or inaction, or other references to individual Members of the Senate."

Members will recall that on October 8, 1991, the Chair held as unparliamentary remarks in debate advocating certain Senate action with respect to the pending nomination of Judge Clarence Thomas for appointment to the Supreme Court.

Members should be guided by that recent precedent. The Chair expects the cooperation of all Members in maintaining a level of decorum that dignifies the proceedings of this body and maintains comity with the other body.

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, you will certainly get that. Let me ask one clarification problem. Yesterday's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD is public record now. Now, how can I discuss that debate and the words in that debate? Further clarification, if I do not mention a Senator's name, can I read his—well, I have already eliminated the seven or eight women over there—can I read his remarks from the public RECORD, the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of yesterday? I know I can give the results of the vote.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It is the Chair's understanding that the reference is improper unless there is a measure under consideration in the House.

Mr. DORNAN. There is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Only when under debate, then on the floor of the House, that the gentleman should refrain from referring to the proceedings in the Senate.

Mr. DORNAN. Right There is nothing on the House floor now, except my Special Order. So that is not the business relating to this business of Vietnam.

However, we have in conference a unanimous agreement by voice vote, with the only debate carried by the aforementioned SAM JOHNSON of Dallas, TX, a House item in our International Relations conference that no money shall be expended from the U.S. Public Treasury to send an ambassador to Vietnam, or to increase the size of our delegation there beyond what is was on July 12.

Now, since that has already passed the House and it is in conference, and the conference is pending, and I am meeting with the conferees in 5 minutes, does that make me able to make the case in countervention to the Senate case made yesterday that lost 58 to 39?

□ 1730

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOBSON). The short answer is no, you may not speak in characterization of that.

Mr. DORNAN. Right. OK, let me broaden this.

Mr. Speaker, I am not a courtroom attorney, and I do not want to be unfairly clever since I have already mentioned part of this, and do a Jonathan Swift "Gulliver's Travels" trick here that I see happen all the time on the other side of the aisle now, and talk about characterizations. But let me broaden it out then to those people out there in America who try to compare Vietnam to Germany where we won the war, hung the war criminals, walked the battlefields, solved most missing in action, captured most of the archives, and still had young Americans disappear into Stalin's gulag. Because our Soviet ally became our enemy before the ink was dry on the German unconditional signed surrender.

When this debate is couched in these terms on Communist Vietnam, that people hope the debate will go away, that it is over, the inflammatory language coming only from the House of Representatives, so few in number, although there is more than a few of us, that we are insignificant, that Mr. Clinton was right to normalize relations with Vietnam. Actually, that was his fifth deed in a rapid 18 months to try and insert this Communist dictatorship into the civilized nations of the world. And when people say that the Nation breathed a sigh of relief that Vietnam was finally over, it is not over for the families of missing in action Americans.

It is not over for the families of all of these people I have just discussed who are now in filthy, Communist dungeons in Saigon. It is not over for those who were arrested and throw in prison in Hanoi for wanting open elections. This is what is causing Castro to be embarrassed into his fourth decade, because he will not have an election. He is dictator for life.

What do we have in North Korea? For the first time in history, the worst of royal bloodline governments combined with Communist tyranny. A vicious dictator, Kim Il Sung, turns the reigns of power over to his pornography-loving and collecting son, Kim Jong Il, and it is ill for the country.

They are busy with Communist China and Iran, developing missiles and nuclear warheads to combine them with those missiles, and we have to spend millions and millions of United States taxpayers dollars to watch them like a hawk, with satellite imagery and slant imagery from outside their borders to make sure that they do not ignite that whole pathetic torn little peninsula into yet another Korean war.

Remember, when Clinton went to the dedication of one of the most stirring, tear-ripping memorials in this city, the Korean War Memorial, different from the Vietnam Memorial which was made sacred the second the first hero's name was chiseled into the wall, but to this date, still does not have an American flag on it. The American flag was pushed into the woods along with the statute of three heroic Americans coming out of the woods looking at the

State Department, one African-American, one Hispanic heritage American, and one just generally Anglo-looking American. That statue and a plaque at the base of the flag that says they served under difficult circumstances. Yes, alluding to a war criminal named Robert Strange, and Strange in his mother's maiden name. People ask me if I make that up. Robert Strange McNamara, a war criminal, is on his way to Hanoi and it is being set up for him by the Council on Foreign Relations.

Friends of mine like our speaker and Alexander Haig and Bill Buckley, my pal, and other distinguished Americans who belong to the Council on Foreign Relations, ask me why I have never joined and why my friend, Ronald Reagan, who slam-dunked George Bush in 1980 on February 23, 1980, and I was the only one there for Reagan when he said, "I do not belong and I never will."

They wonder why some of us find not a conspiracy, but an elitist group, people who do not care about the average family as kids die in these wars. They are sending a team over to Hanoi next week to grease the path for war criminal Robert Strange McNamara who walked off the battlefield on the bloodiest month of the war, January 30 through February 29. He resigned on leap year day, February 29, 1968, so he would only have to think about it every 4 years, and then he went on vacation for a month at Aspen and skied while our hospitals were filled to capacity, the worst month of the whole 10-year decade, with amputees, double amputees and yes, triple amputees, more blind American soldiers in hospitals, four or five nurses dead, women captured and dying on the Ho Chi Minh Trail, forced marches up to the North, and McNamara is skiing in Aspen for the whole month of March in 1968.

But that wasn't enough. Then he went to the Caribbean for another week to meet with officials that he was going to serve with at the World Bank, and then he went off to the World Bank, thanks to one of our corrupt Presidents, corrupt in all of the history books if you read them, and not even carefully, either, it is right out there blatant. Ask Bill Moyers about corruption, including womanizing.

Then we see McNamara at the Caribbean about to start drawing his World Bank salary that he drew for 13 years at \$250,000 a year. I must slow down and say this carefully three times: Tax free, tax free, tax free, and the Library of Congress told me in now dollars that is between \$900,000 and \$1 million a year. For 13 years McNamara, the architect of Vietnam, who created that immoral, sick vocabulary of gradualism, escalated response, strategic hamlets, body bags, fire fights, body counts, free fire zones, and the worst of all to airmen, Mig sanctuaries and SAM missile sites protected as they are built and only allowed to be targets intermittently after they have killed your wing man. Unbelievable.

And people are saying, in this city, that it is good, that Vietnam is over and the American people overwhelmingly want it over.

Well, I guess I cannot put the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in the RECORD here. It would be redundant, but I would like it to be a part of my debate, so I would ask people, the million-plus audience of C-SPAN who quite intelligently and historically follows the proceedings of this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, I would tell them that I can read this, something congratulatory, BOB DOLE saying he hopes the House language prevails on the Missing In Act we are trying to enact into law. Here is a letter from 85 former POW's. Lt. Gen. John Peter Flynn, Robinson Risner, Brigadier General, my former squadron commander, SAM JOHNSON, our proud Member of Congress, Eugene "Red" McDaniel, the most tortured man in all of those captive men. Anybody tortured beyond him died under torture. And "Red" was one of the ones that helped to get this letter. I am looking at those who have written great books and are still inspirational speakers. Charlie Plum. It is a roll call of the bravest and the best. Michael Bengue, who was over there 11 years, Col. Ted Guy, who testified before my Military Personnel subcommittee on June 28, Ted Guy, 4 years in solitary confinement. He was Senator JOHN MCCAIN's commander at the Plantation POW camp.

Look at this list. Here is Jack Bomar, one of the four colonels. They had four bird colonels in their hands. Leo Thorsness is my pal, Medal of Honor winner, former Senator in the State of Washington, now president of the Medal of Honor group.

As former POW's in Vietnam, here is what they say led by Red McDaniel, now president of the Defense Policy Association, "I strongly support the House version of the Missing Persons Act." And yet on "Meet The Press," a member of a legislative body around here told me that my figures were wrong when I said most POW's supported the gentleman from New York, Mr. GILMAN, and BOB DOLE's language on this.

Here is a letter from the National Alliance of Families. I have a letter from Ann Griffith and the League of Families. Here is a letter from the Korean Cold War Family Association of The Missing. These three I am pretty sure, yes, I know I can put them in the record. Vietnam Veterans of America. The Marine Corps League, just came in yesterday. A letter to FLOYD SPENCE, chairman of the Committee on National Security from Ted Guy. Veterans of the Vietnam war from their program director.

Mr. Speaker, I will include all of these following my remarks.

Disabled American Veterans. A letter to my counterpart on the Senate side, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel to DAN COATS, our good friend and

colleague who served with us here. From John Sommer, executive director of the American Legion. I cannot put that in, because it is critical of a member of the other body. The sister of Maj. Robert F. Coady begging that it go in. Pat Plumadore, who has lost a family member. The sister of a marine missing. When I went on "Meet The Press" and said that overwhelmingly, veterans groups want this Missing Persons Act, so we will not relive the nightmare of Korea and Vietnam and oppose normalization with Vietnam. When I said most POW's, when I said most Vietnam veterans of that conflict and Vietnam veterans of Korea, when I gave the percentages on most Vietnamese-Americans, and it is about 85 to 95 percent, when I talked about every person of the Democratic Freedom groups in Vietnam and in this country, and there is 1 million Vietnamese-Americans, about 700,000, 800,000 already American citizens, another 200,000 or 300,000, they have great family respect, a better than average birth rate among the Vietnamese community. This year or next, the Vietnamese-American community will tie the valiant anti-Communist Cuban-American community, and the valiant anti-Communist Hungarian-American community. When I gave all of those figures, someone from another legislative body says, "I do not buy any of Congressman DORNAN's figures or percentages or statistics," but offered none on the other side. These are the facts. Get the RECORD from today. I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that any American would get the RECORD from today and read how those of us, who are not insignificant, who are fighting for the honor of the 58,300 men and 8 women's names who are on that wall who should be honored with a plaque at the apex of the wall that simply says, "These good Americans died fighting Communism." Because Vietnam and Korea melted down the cold war, as its two biggest blood-letting subsets in what John F. Kennedy called that long twilight struggle against communism that is not over yet. And for the Vietnamese-American community, as I told them up in New York on August 19, you must study the success of the anti-Communist Cuban-American community and get into the political process, get your LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART's and ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN's and BOB MARTINEZ's on the other side of the aisle, get people of your heritage elected to this body so that they can speak up to those who would dismiss all of this history in this long struggle, bloody struggle against communism that still goes on against China, Vietnam, North Korea, at least we kept half of that peninsula free, and yes, Cuba, 90 miles from Key West.

Mr. Speaker, I will keep returning, as I told several U.S. Senators in conference, I will return to this issue until the day I die. The motto is, "faithful until death," for me. I am not going to forget the missing or what communism did to Southeast Asia, what it did to

Cambodia, the killing fields, Laos, Vietnam with over 100,000 executed, 68,000 people who befriended us, thought we were a superpower and a reliable ally, and they were executed under death orders, under the same Communist killers that shake hands with Members of Congress or are toasted to by Members of Congress and by General Giap who is called a war hero. General Giap is a war criminal who ordered children to be killed. I shall be back on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the material previously referred to.

AMERICAN DEFENSE INSTITUTE,
ALEXANDRIA, VA,
September 18, 1995.

Hon. ROBERT K. DORNAN,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN DORNAN: As a former POW in Vietnam and now president of a defense policy organization, I strongly support the 1995 House version of the Missing Persons Act (H.R. 945). I am dismayed to learn of the efforts of some to "water down" this important legislation and decrease its impact.

I can think of nothing more critical to the morale of our fighting men than to know that, if they should go missing while fighting America's battles, their country will do everything humanly possible to determine their fate. Especially in view of the tragic manner in which information about our MIAs and POWs in Southeast Asia has been handled by our government, active duty personnel and their families need reassurance of their nation's commitment to them—and in the strongest language possible!

It is hard for me to imagine any high-ranking military officer implying that limited time and resources during conflict preclude accounting for missing soldiers. How can such an officer possibly lead men into battle? Accounting for missing personnel is a matter of military honor—and a matter of national honor.

Sincerely,
EUGENE "RED" McDANIEL,
CAPT, USN (RET),
President.

Attachment:

John Peter Flynn, Lt. Gen, USAF (ret).
Robinson Risner, Brig. Gen, USAF (ret).
Sam Johnson, Member of Congress.
Eugene "Red" McDaniel, CAPT, USN (ret).
John A. Alpers, Lt. Col, USAF (ret).
William J. Baugh, Col, USAF (ret).
Adkins, C. Speed, MAJ, USA (ret).
F.C. Baldock, CDR, USN (ret).
Carroll Beeler, CAPT, USN (ret).
Terry L. Boyer, Lt. Col, USAF (ret).
Cole Black, CAPT, USN (ret).
Paul G. Brown, LtCol, USMC (ret).
David J. Carey, CAPT, USN (ret).
John D. Burns, CAPT, USN (ret).
James V. DiBernardo, LtCol, USMC (ret).
F.A.W. Franke, CAPT, USN (ret).
Wayne Goodermote, CAPT, USN (ret).
Jay R. Jensen, Lt. Col, USAF (ret).
James M. Hickerson, CAPT, USN (ret).
James F. Young, Col, USAF (ret).
J. Charles Plumb, CAPT, USN (ret).
Larry Friese, CDR, USN (ret).
Julius Jayroe, Col, USAF (ret).
Bruce Seeber, Col, USAF (ret).
Konrad Trautman, Col, USAF (ret).
Lawrence Barbay, Lt. Col, USAF (ret).
Ron Bliss, Capt, USAF (ret).
Arthur Burer, Col, USAF (ret).
James O. Hivner, Col, USAF (ret).
Gordon A. Larson, Col, USAF (ret).
Robert Lewis, MSgt, USA (ret).
James L. Lamar, Col, USAF (ret).

Armand J. Myers, Col, USAF (ret).
Terry Uyeyama, Col, USAF (ret).
Richard D. Vogel, Col, USAF (ret).
Ted Guy, Col, USAF (ret).
Paul E. Galanti, CDR, USN (ret).
Laird Guttersen, Col, USAF (ret).
Lawrence J. Stark, Civ.
Michael D. Benge, Civ.
Marion A. Marshall, Lt. Col, USAF (ret).
Richard D. Mullen, CAPT, USN (ret).
Philip E. Smith, Lt. Col, USAF (ret).
William Stark, CAPT, USN (ret).
David F. Allwine, MSgt, USA (ret).
Bob Barrett, Col, USAF (ret).
Jack W. Bomar, Col, USAF (ret).
Larry J. Chesley, Lt. Col, USAF (ret).
C.D. Rice, CDR, USN (ret).
Robert L. Stirm, Col, USAF (ret).
Bernard Talley, Col, USAF (ret).
Paul Montague, Civ.
Leo Thorsness, Col, USAF (ret).
Robert Lerseth, CAPT, USN (ret).
Ray A. Vodhen, CAPT, USN (ret).
Richard G. Tangeman, CAPT, USN (ret).
John Pitchford, Col, USAF (ret).
Steven Long, Col, USAF (ret).
Brian Woods, CAPT, USN (ret).
Dale Osborne, CAPT, USN (ret).
Ralph Galati, Maj, USAF (ret).
Ronald M. Lebert, Lt. Col, USAF (ret).
Harry T. Jenkins, CAPT, USN (ret).
John C. Ensch, CAPT, USN (ret).
Render Crayton, CAPT, USN (ret).
Henry James Bedinger, CDR, USN (ret).
Brian D. Woods, CAPT, USN (ret).
Read B. Mcclary, CAPT, USN (ret).
Ted Stier, CDR, USN (ret).
James L. Hutton, CAPT, USN (ret).
John H. Wendell, Lt. Col, USAF (ret).
John W. Clark, Col, USAF (ret).
Carl B. Crumpler, Col, USAF (ret).
Verlyne W. Daniels, CAPT, USN (ret).
Roger D. Ingvalson, Col, USAF (ret).

SEPTEMBER 20, 1995.

Hon. FLOYD SPENCE,
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN SPENCE: Strong legislation that will ensure the accountability of past and future missing in action (MIA) and prisoners of war (POW) is an absolute necessity. The revelation in the September 18, 1995, U.S. News and World Report concerning former President Bush and the Vietnam POW/MIA issue confirms this necessity.

Many former POWs, family members, activists and I have long suspected and have knowledge of Hanoi continually lying about the accountability of POWs and MIAs. I, and I suspect many others, have felt that U.S. government officials aided and abetted in these lies in an effort to save face. Thus the necessity of a strong and enforceable "Missing Persons Act."

As you may or may not know, I was the Senior Ranking Officer (SRO) of all prisoners captured in South Vietnam and Laos and separately interned in North Vietnam. During and after "Operation Homecoming" it was disclosed that some of us had been declared 'Killed in Action. Body not Recovered' (KBNR). In at least one case, one of my enlisted men's "remains" had been returned to the United States and buried! Needless to say, he was still very much alive.

The term missing in action (MIA) should be banished and all persons who disappear during a conflict should be carried as alive unless there is overwhelming evidence that survival was impossible. This alive status should continue until board action can determine status after the cessation of hostilities. No one expects all to be accounted for, but the lessons of Vietnam strongly suggest that premature actions were taken. The cost of pay and allowances to the family is insignificant when compared to other daily expenditures of the U.S. government.

I assure you that Senator John McCain does not speak for the families of the non returned nor for the majority of the returned

POWs. As I recall, Senator McCain was the leading advocate of normalization with Vietnam, a move strongly opposed by many former POWs and many veterans' groups. To let McCain solely influence decisions concerning the "Missing Persons Act" is a discredit to the suffering families and concerned POWs.

Sincerely,

THEODORE W. GUY,
Col. (Ret) USAF,
Former POW 68-73.

SYRACUSE, NY,
September 11, 1995.

Hon. DAN COATS,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR COATS: As the sister of a Marine missing from the Vietnam war, I implore you to support the House version of The Missing Service Personnel Act of 1995. Any change from the language of the House version of this Bill would be yet another obstacle on the path to truth and/or closure for the families of our nations missing heroes and abandonment of our loved ones by this government once again.

Sir, no one, not the President, DOD, the Service Casualty Offices, nor the people supposedly responsible for accounting for our missing, ever seem to listen to the voices that have been screaming for help in unraveling the mystery of this travesty for so many long, long years. What has happened to my brother and subsequently, to his family, is a horror story that at times seems unbelievable even to me. I have lost faith in so many things that I held sacred and dear, my President, my party, my confidence in the honor and honesty of my elected officials. It appears that one of the first Orders of THE NEW WORLD is to wipe the slates clean without any real accounting, and to never, never use the words POW/MIA again.

Please, I beg you, don't let yourself be influenced by those who have their own agenda and who believe that money and the love of money are more important than my brother. My brother Kenny was left behind in 1967, please don't allow them to leave him behind again. We, the families of the missing, need this legislation as it is written by the House. If you could walk in our shoes for even one day, maybe you would understand why it is so important. My last attempt at getting answers from our government resulted in their telling me it would cost me \$3,147.00 to process my FOIA request. Our government lost my brother, yet they want me to pay to find out how and why!

Please do not let the language of this bill be changed in any way?

Sincerely,

PAT PLUMADORE.

THE NEW YORK TIMES,
July 12, 1995.

It may be that many Republican primary voters, a more conservative subset of the more conservative party, are more opposed to Mr. Clinton's action than are Americans as a whole. Mr. Dole's stance may play well with them.

But the steps along this road that Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton took earlier, including the lifting last year of a 19-year embargo on trade with Vietnam, failed to produce the groundswell of protest that the die-hards predicted. And Vietnam is now clearly a land of opportunities, which will inevitably draw much more American investment and many more visits by American tourists.

As a web of everyday political and economic links grows between the United States and Vietnam, as more and more Americans come to know Vietnam at peace, the old passions, already nearly spent for most Ameri-

cans, will seem increasingly irrelevant. Normality is the enemy of grudges and hatreds.

At any rate, the deed is done. Congressional threats to withhold money for an American embassy in Hanoi are likely to come to nothing. Mr. Clinton acted just as the question of full diplomatic ties was beginning to be sucked into the vortex of the 1996 campaign. He could not have waited much longer, and by moving now, he may benefit from looking resolute on a tough issue.

Reminiscing this morning with a reporter he has known since the days of air raids over Hanoi and ground combat in the Central Highlands, Senator McCain commented that he was determined that his generation not leave a legacy of anger and vindictiveness.

"I got over the war about 45 minutes after the plane bringing me home took off from Hanoi," he said. "But not everyone feels that way. Some people hate me for backing this, call me the Manchurian Candidate, say I'm a collaborator, the most awful stuff. There will always be people like that, but fewer and fewer. Not many people talk about the dirty Japs anymore."

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE,
September 18, 1995.

Hon. ROBERT DOLE,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR DOLE: Why haven't you used your powerful position as Senate Majority Leader to push the House of Representatives language of the Missing Service Personnel Act of 1995?

We support the House language of the Missing Service Personnel Act of 1995.

Semper Fidelis,

WAYNE R. SILL,
Nat'l Chairman, POW/MIA Committee.
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC.,
Washington, DC, Sept. 14, 1995.

Hon. BOB DORNAN,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DORNAN: Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) urges you to preserve the House-passed provisions derived from the Missing Service Personnel Act (Section 563) as the conference committee deliberates the Defense Authorization Bill (HR 1530). The House-passed provisions are preferable, as they provide enhanced protection for families of service personnel listed as Missing-In-Action (MIA).

The Missing Service Personnel Act is a critical piece of legislation for MIA families because it would spell out in law a procedure for handling the very delicate question of how and when a member of the Armed Forces considered missing-in-action can be declared legally dead. VVA believes this legislation will correct mistakes realized in past wars. Most importantly, families would know what to expect and would be spared years of turmoil and pain.

VVA greatly appreciates your strong support for this legislation in the past, and urges you to maintain the House-passed language in the Defense Authorization conference report.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. BRAZEE, Jr.,
President.

KOREAN/COLD WAR FAMILY
ASSOCIATION OF THE MISSING,
Coppell, TX, Sept. 18, 1995.

Representative ROBERT DORNAN.

DEAR SIR: The families of the POW/MIA's from the Korean War (8,177) and the Cold War (139) sincerely request your assistance in passing the SB 256 in its original language which was very similar to that of the HR 945. It has come to our attention that Senator McCain and possibly others on the review committee are attempting to "water down"

this bill. It is the view of the Families that this bill has already been "watered down" in excess.

We, the Families of the Missing, have been battling the bureaucracy for over 40 years, just trying to get the truth as to what happened to our loved ones. We have been shunned, hung-up on, ignored, called crazy and generally demeaned for requesting information to which we are entitled.

Most importantly, the Prisoners of War and the Missing in Action are denied their civil rights under the old Missing Service Personnel Law. This law was intended to financially assist the Families of the Missing. We did not know that this law would be used to "write off" the Missing. Even though the HR 945 is not nearly strong enough, it does give the Families some recourse when the government FAILS to do its duty by these Missing Service Personnel.

There have been letters written by Generals and Department of Defense personnel saying this new bill would put undue burden on them to account for their troops. If this is their attitude, God help the men and women they send into battle because their leaders certainly will not.

We would like to hear your response to our request.

Most sincerely,

PAT WILSON DUNTON,
President/Founding Director.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF FAMILIES,
Bellevue, WA, Sept. 19, 1995.

Re U.S. House of Representatives' Version of the "Missing Service Personnel Act of 1995"

(Attention: Mr. Duke Short.)

Hon. STROM THURMOND,
Chairman, Armed Services Committee,
Washington, DC

DEAR SENATOR THURMOND: The more than 10,000 members of the National Alliance of Families categorically support the above "House version" of this legislation which will make great strides in correcting the errors of the past and prevent a repeat of those errors during future conflicts.

Specifically, we endorse the provisions which call for board review at three year intervals, access to information for "immediate" family members, judicial review and retroactivity.

Many, including ranking military officers, are attempting to water down this relevant legislation claiming "reopening and mandatory review of cases from the past . . . will only cause great emotional and financial strain on the families involved." NAF membership glaringly resents the condescending and patronizing attitude of the Pentagon. Our family members wish the right to choose for themselves; if they will or will not avail themselves of those provisions cited in the "House version" of the "MSPA 1995". For too many years, the U.S. Defense Department has been allowed to "act" on behalf of the families, choosing what information was or was not submitted to the families for review. Due to research in the National Archives and the Library of Congress, many of our family members are only now, after twenty to forty years after the fact, able to view records and documents relating to their loved ones' cases which were not and have not been provided to them via the military casualty offices.

The families are quite capable of acting and speaking in their own behalf. We resent any attempt by those in the military to portray the families as emotionally fragile, in need of their protection. Our Family members do not need protection. They need the truth.

In the opinion of our membership, the "House version" of the "Missing Service Personnel Act of 1995" is the single most important POW/MIA Legislation to come before the U.S. Senate in years. The POW/MIA Families are tired of being lied to, chided, and patronized by an uncaring Executive and Legislative Branch of the U.S. Government. It is time that a truly meaningful piece of legislation is passed to protect America's fighting men and women. The old unwritten attitude of "just don't get captured" is not acceptable! Our service personnel and their families deserve protection under the law. That protection will come with the passage of this law as is.

Sincerely,

DOLORES APODACALFOND,
National Chairperson.

VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM WAR, INC.,
Dallastown, PA, Sept. 19, 1995.

Congressman STEVE BUYER,
Attention: Myrna Dugan

DEAR MYRNA DUGAN: As National POW/MIA Program Director for the Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc., we need the Congressman to back Congressman Gilman's language of the House version of H.R. 945 so that we have the strongest language possible to protect our American servicemen and women. We strongly urge the Congressman to pass H.R. 945 "The Missing Service Personnel Act of 1995". We need this bill passed so that the families of our POW/MIA's won't ever have to endure the suffering that the Vietnam families have had to and continue to endure.

We as Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. want to guarantee that our present and our future American servicemen and women have the best chance of being returned home to their loved ones. That's why we strongly urge Congressman Buyer to pass this very important bill. Thank you for your help and time on this urgent matter. I would greatly appreciate a response to this letter on the Congressman's feelings on this matter.

MICHAEL T. BREIGHNER,
National POW/MIA Program Director.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS,
Washington, DC, September 20, 1995.

Hon. STROM THURMOND,
Chairman, Senate Committee on Armed Services,
Russell Senate Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THURMOND: As National Commander of the more than one million members of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and its Auxiliary, I am writing you to express our concern regarding attempts to erode the effectiveness of the provisions of the Missing Service Personnel Act, section 563 of H.R. 1530, the Fiscal Year 1996 Defense Authorization Act.

The DAV supports the House language in the Missing Service Personnel Act because of the additional safeguards contained in the House version. The key provisions include: legal counsel for the missing person, access to information by immediate family members of the missing person, the availability of judicial review, and the retroactive provision of this legislation. We believe that these are important provisions; however, these provisions are missing from the Senate version.

As this measure is being considered in conference, I would urge you, in your leadership position, to encourage your colleagues to support the inclusion of these key provisions in the final version of the Defense Authorization Act. Otherwise, it is DAV's position that this legislation would be seriously flawed.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

THOMAS A. MCMASTERS III,
National Commander.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,
Washington, DC, September 11, 1995.
Hon. DANIEL R. COATS,
Chairman, Senate Armed Services Subcommittee
on Personnel, Russell Building, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR COATS: The American Legion urges you in the strongest possible terms to support Section 563, H.R. 1530, the House version of the Missing Persons Act of 1995. In particular, there are four features of the bill we are interested in: board review at three year intervals; access to information for immediate family members; judicial review; and retroactivity. Senator Robert Dole has expressed his support of the House version of the Missing Persons Act in a written statement for the Congressional Record on September 5. We have worked very closely with Senator Dole on this issue for some time.

The House version of the Missing Persons Act will provide family members the ability to review records on which the Pentagon has kept close hold but that family members have the right to see.

The American Legion takes this issue very seriously and regards its passage as extremely important. This measure directly and substantially supports ongoing efforts to obtain information about missing American servicemen. Section 563, H.R. 1530 will provide an equitable basis for making status determinations on missing personnel not only from past wars, but also future conflicts.

Sincerely,

JOHN F. SOMMER, JR.,
Executive Director.

September 12, 1995.

Senator TRENT LOTT,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR LOTT: As the sister of Maj. Robert F. Coady, USAF, lost in Laos whose family believed the Air Force when they told us that we would be the first to know if there was information on Maj. Coady. Our first knowledge of information came 22 years after my brother's shoot down, when I requested to see my brother's file. I was amazed to find declassified documents that were 19 and 22 years old. I worked with Senators Shelby, Heflin, Mack and Johnson who wrote letters on my behalf. The Air Force told the Senators that I had all the information. I was given an opportunity to view my brother's file (after being told there was no more information) only to find new information.

We all remember what the Cold War families were told and the family from TN whose son was killed in the Gulf War by friendly fire. Along with what has happened in my family's case are disgraceful examples that explain the importance of the House version (H.R. 945) of the Missing Service Personnel Act.

Our country was founded on checks and balances. The House version (H.R. 945) of the Missing Service Personnel Act is our check and balance for family members that should not be taken away from us.

As a United States Senator, please protect our right to reopen and have a mandatory review as this is the only check and balance we have left.

Sincerely,

JUDITH COADY RAINEY.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1977,
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

Mr. REGULA submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (H.R. 1977) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

CONFERENCE REPORT (H. REPT. 104-259)

The Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1977) "making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes," having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the Senate recede from its amendments numbered 4, 21, 24, 26, 40, 54, 57, 67, 77, 83, 85, 94, 99, 100, 105, 107, 111, 117, 118, 123, 136, 138, 147, 148, 155, 163, 166, 171, 172, and 173, and agree to the same.

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendments of the Senate numbered 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 28, 32, 34, 36, 38, 45, 46, 48, 50, 51, 52, 56, 59, 61, 62, 66, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 78, 80, 81, 82, 86, 87, 88, 93, 96, 97, 102, 103, 106, 109, 113, 121, 124, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 133, 134, 137, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 149, 150, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, and 162, and agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 1:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 1, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the matter stricken and inserted by said amendment insert the following: . and assessment of mineral potential of public lands pursuant to P.L. 96-487 (16 U.S.C. 3150 (a)). \$568,062,000; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 2:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 2, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

Restore the matter stricken by said amendment, amended as follows:

After the first comma in said amendment insert: of which \$2,000,000 shall be available for assessment of the mineral potential of public lands in Alaska pursuant to section 1010 of P.L. 96-487 (16 U.S.C. 3150), and; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 3:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 3, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment insert: \$568,062,000; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 5:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 5, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment insert: \$3,115,000; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 6:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 6, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment insert: \$101,500,000; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 7: