



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**AMERICAN POWs/MIAs IN
SOUTHEAST ASIA
(SUMMARY)**

PART 18 OF 26

FILE NUMBER : 100-457899

SUBJECT

POW/MIA

FILE NUMBER

100-457899

Vol 8

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE NEWARK	OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW YORK	DATE 10/16/70	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 9/3/70 - 10/8/70
TITLE OF CASE COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM		REPORT MADE BY SA [REDACTED] b7c	TYPED BY [REDACTED]
		CHARACTER OF CASE IS-MISCELLANEOUS; RA-NORTH VIETNAM	BO 128122

b7c
EO 128122

REFERENCES

New York airtel and LHM, 6/9/70. *b7c*
 San Antonio letter to the Bureau, 8/27/70.
 Newark report of SA [REDACTED] 8/31/70.
 Springfield airtel dated 9/8/70.

low/MIA EO-128122 Special
 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE *7/23/93* BY *9803 [REDACTED]*
345,570

ADMINISTRATIVE

San Antonio letter dated 8/27/70 set forth a list of Air Force personnel who were described as either missing in action (MIA) or prisoner of war (POW). Included in the list were the names of the next of kin to be contacted at the request of the Department of Justice regarding activities and possible contacts made with them by individuals connected with COLIFAM. *b7c*

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		
							PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

APPROVED *[Signature]* SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

- COPIES MADE:
- 5 - Bureau (100-457899) (RM)
 - 2 - New York (100-168469) (RM)
 - 2 - San Antonio (100-11851) (RM)
 - 5 - Newark (97-353)
- 100 910 9 ED*

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

100-457899-144 **REC 16**
16 OCT 19 1970 *BO 128122*
b7c

Dissemination Record of Attached Report			
Agency	Request Recd.	Date Fwd.	How Fwd.
ARMY, OSI, (PAO - ISD)		11/4/70	R/S
By			

Notations
**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
 OTHERWISE** *b7c*

55 NOV 9 1970 *29*

Newark has contacted and is continuing its efforts to contact appropriate family members of Air Force personnel who are listed as POWs. Because of the extreme delicate nature of this matter, those relatives whose sons or husbands, as the case may be, appearing on the list as MIA are being passed over with the thought that they should not be approached regarding this matter in light of their traumatic experience of being unable to determine with certainty the life of the loved one.

Bo 12/12-2

Newark is continuing with this course of action, UACB.

b2c

On 9/23/70, Mrs. [redacted] N.J., mother of [redacted] refused personal interview stating she did not want to do or say anything which could jeopardize the safety of her son. Only after checking interviewing agents' identities through a telephone call to the Newark Office did she allow that she has been contacted by no one other than official government representatives concerning her son.

b2c

Bo 12/12-2

On 9/23/70, Mrs. [redacted] N.J., mother of [redacted] advised she has not been contacted by individuals or organizations concerning her son who is listed as a POW. She further advised her son's wife, Mrs. [redacted] resides at [redacted] Texas. She does not know if her daughter-in-law has had contact with COLIFAM.

b2c

On 9/29/70, Mr. [redacted] stepfather of [redacted] POW, advised that his wife received a card from her son approximately one year ago, which stated only that he was in good health. Mr. [redacted] suggested no contact be made with his wife so as not to upset her. He further advised his stepson's wife is [redacted] It will be noted that Mrs. [redacted] N.J., was contacted separately in this matter and her interview appears in body of instant report.

b2c

b2c
Bo 12/12-2

LEADS

SAN ANTONIO

b2c

b2c

AT [redacted] TEXAS: Will locate and interview Mrs. [redacted] Texas, per instructions set forth in New York airtel and LHM, 6/9/70.

- B -

COVER PAGE

NK 97-353

NEW YORK

EO 12812-2

AT [REDACTED] N.Y.: If not previously done, New York will locate and interview Mrs. [REDACTED] who is reportedly staying with her mother, Mrs. [REDACTED] N.Y., telephone [REDACTED] *b7c*

NEWARK

AT [REDACTED] NEW JERSEY: Will interview Mrs. [REDACTED] N.J. *b7c*

2. Will locate and interview Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED] N.J., parents of [REDACTED] (POW). *b7c*

AT [REDACTED] NEW JERSEY: Will locate and interview Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED] N.J., parents of [REDACTED] (POW). *b7c*

AT [REDACTED] NEW JERSEY: Will locate and interview Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED] N.J., parents of [REDACTED] (POW). *b7c*

AT [REDACTED] N.J.: Will locate and interview Mrs. [REDACTED] N.J., mother of [REDACTED] (POW). *b7c*

b7c
EO 12812-2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

b2c FO 1-812-2

Report of:

[REDACTED]

Office: Newark, New Jersey

Date:

October 16, 1970

Field Office File #:

97-353

Bureau File #: 100-457899

Title:

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM

Character:

INTERNAL SECURITY-MISCELLANEOUS;
REGISTRATION ACT-NORTH VIETNAM

b2c FO 1-812-2

Synopsis:

Mrs. [REDACTED] New Jersey, advised she has had no personal contact by any member of the Colifam Committee. She furnished copy of letter form sent to her by the Committee to use in sending communications to her husband. Mrs. [REDACTED] New Jersey, grandmother of [REDACTED] prisoner of war, reported that to her knowledge [REDACTED] parents have not received personal contact by Colifam; however, she is aware that communications and packages have been sent via the Committee to her grandson. Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED] New Jersey, advised they have never been contacted by Colifam. Mrs. [REDACTED] furnished address of her daughter-in-law, Mrs. [REDACTED] Mrs. [REDACTED] New Jersey, advised she has received letters from her husband as enclosures to mimeographed communications from the Colifam Committee. She has made public statement through the news media that she is not in sympathy with Colifam or any pacifist movement in the United States and condemned these organizations for the means they were using to protest the war in Vietnam. Although she has had no personal contact with this committee, she is willing to testify to any information she has furnished concerning literature from Colifam.

b2c

POW/MIA Special 60-12512
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/93 BY 982
345,570
b7c

FO 1-812-2

DETAILS:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date September 3, 1970

b7c *FOI 12812-2*

Mrs. [REDACTED] New Jersey, advised that the first letter she received from her husband, a prisoner of war in North Vietnam, was in December, 1969. It was received by her without any solicitation on her part and forwarded through a group known as Women Strike for Peace. She believes that a woman by the name of TAYLOR had gone to North Vietnam and was instrumental in sending the letter to her. It came from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The next letter she received in January, 1970. It came from the Committee of Liaison group accompanied by literature explaining the group and its purpose and urging her to forward any correspondence to her husband through this group. She has since discarded this literature as, after receiving it, she contacted the Air Force for their advice and they told her to use the regular government channels. As she recalls the literature stated, or at least implied, that the Government of North Vietnam would refuse any correspondence to her husband unless it went through this group.

She received a total of four letters from her husband in 1970 through this group. She knows that at least one of her letters sent through regular government channels was received by her husband. It was a letter she dated in October, 1969, which he said he received in March, 1970.

The only literature which she received from the Committee of Liaison group, which she presently has available is a letter form, copies of which were usually with her husband's mail when it was forwarded to her. It is similar to that provided by the government which she uses, except that it routes the mail via Moscow instead of direct to Hanoi.

The names of the members of the Committee of Liaison, such as DAVID BELLINGER and CORA WEISS, were familiar to her as they were on the literature she received; however, she has never met any of them and has never been personally contacted by any member of the Committee.

b7c *FOI 12812-2*

On 8/31/70 at [REDACTED] New Jersey File # NY 97-353

by SA [REDACTED] *b7c* Date dictated 9/2/70

2

2

HK 97-353

EO 12812-2

The only person she knows personally who has been contacted, as she has been, is [redacted] of [redacted] Florida, the wife of United States Air Force [redacted] who is also a prisoner.

b7c

b7c

Attached is a copy of the letter form received by Mrs. [redacted]

b7c

NGƯỜI GỬI (Addressor)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

.....

SỐ LÍNH (Service number):

MƠI VÀ NGÀY SINH (Date & place of birth):

.....

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

TRẠI GIAM PHI CÔNG MỸ BỊ BẮT TẠI
NƯỚC VIỆT - NAM DÂN CHỦ CỘNG HÒA
VIA MOSCOW, USSR *(Camp of detention for U.S. pilots captured
in the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC of VIETNAM)*

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON
with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

GỬI (Addressee)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

.....

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

.....

.....

.....

Handwriting practice lines consisting of a solid top line, a dotted midline, and a solid bottom line. The lines are spaced evenly down the page.

NGÀY VIẾT (Dated)

GHI CHÚ (N.B.):

- 1. Phải viết rõ và chỉ được viết trên những dòng kẻ sẵn (*Write legibly and only on the lines*).
- 2. Trong thư chỉ được nói về tình hình sức khỏe và tình hình gia đình (*Write only about health and family*).
- 3. Gia đình gửi đến cũng phải theo đúng mẫu, khuôn khổ và quy định này (*Letters from families should also conform to this proforma*).

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

20 1281-2

Date October 2, 1970

b7c

Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] New Jersey, advised that their son has been a prisoner of war for over four years and that only recently has he been heard from by his wife. The [redacted] have never been contacted by Colifam. Some years ago Mrs. [redacted] heard about DAVID DELLINGER from a woman who ran a gift shop in Cornwall, New York. She believes she may have sent one letter to the Colifam group, but when she told her daughter-in-law about it, she was told to send her mail only through regular government channels.

Mrs. [redacted] who is elderly, stated that her memory is not too clear, but she thinks that CORA WEISS called her right after they heard that their son was alive and a prisoner offering the services of Colifam, but she thanked her and declined her offer of help.

b7c

Her daughter-in-law, the wife of [redacted] resides at [redacted] Vermont, telephone [redacted], but has been visiting with her mother, [redacted] New York, telephone [redacted]

20 1281-2

b7c 180 1281-2

On 9/25/70 at [redacted] New Jersey File # Newark 97-353
by SA [redacted] Date dictated 9/30/70

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 2, 1970

1

FOI 1/2/70

Mrs. [redacted] New Jersey, advised that [redacted] the father of prisoner of war [redacted] is her son and resides with her at this address; however, [redacted]

b7c

She stated that she is familiar with the correspondence received from the prisoner of war, her grandson, and recalls that he was first reported missing in action in January, 1968, and it was almost a year before they received a telephone call from the Air Force to advise them that he was alive and a prisoner of war.

Some time in late 1969, they received a letter from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained In North Vietnam (COLIFAM) saying that a letter from [redacted] was on its way. In April, 1970, they received this letter which had been written by [redacted] on December 13, 1969. They have since received three more letters from [redacted] by this method and have sent him letters and packages through COLIFAM, which he has indicated in his correspondence that he has received.

b7c

They have had no personal contact with anyone from COLIFAM to her knowledge. They have just had correspondence similar to a letter she displayed signed by a BARBARA WEBSTER, dated June 26, 1970, which was a cover letter stating that there was enclosed a letter from [redacted] which had been brought out of North Vietnam by some people visiting there.

FO 1/2/70

b7c

She stated that [redacted] mother, [redacted] New Jersey, has also corresponded with [redacted] through COLIFAM.

b7c

FO 1/2/70

On 9/29/70 at [redacted] New Jersey File # Newark 97-353

b7c

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 10/2/70

b7c

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 8, 1970

1

FOI 12812-2

Mrs. [REDACTED] New Jersey, was interviewed and furnished the following information: *b7c*

She is the wife of [REDACTED] United States Air Force, who was shot down over North Vietnam while a member of the United States Air Force on [REDACTED] 1967. She first learned her husband's status as a prisoner of war by means of a voice tape identification in possession of the United States Air Force on May 19, 1969. *b7c*

On November 27, 1969, according to a newspaper article in the possession of Mrs. [REDACTED] "Two American Pacifists Have Released a Communist List of 59 U.S. Servicemen Allegedly Held Prisoner in North Vietnam." The name of [REDACTED] was contained in this list. *b7c* *FOI 12812-2*

b7c In December, 1969, the news media announced that three women had recently returned from Hanoi, North Vietnam, with 32 letters from American prisoners of war for their wives and mothers. Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that on December 24, 1969, she received her first letter from her husband which was postmarked North Vietnam and which was received through United States Post Office channels. On the same day, she received a letter from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM), postmarked New York City, New York, which enclosed a second letter from her husband. Newspaper articles indicated that the three women had returned from Hanoi in December, 1969, with 98 letters from servicemen who were prisoners of war.

Commencing in January, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] received a quantity of letters, all mimeographed from COLIFAM, which she made available at this time. Enclosed with several of these letters which she received over a period of several months were letters from her husband. *b7c* *FOI 12812-2*

In April, 1970, a member of the American Friend Service Committee and the National Leader of Women's Strike for Peace,

On 9/30/70 at [REDACTED] New Jersey File # Newark 93-353
 by SAs [REDACTED] Date dictated 10/5/70

COLIFAM

b7c CORA WEISS, contacted a television station in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, WCAU, and stated that they had letters from several servicemen who were prisoners of war. They publicly stated that included among these letters was one from [redacted] to Mrs. [redacted]. In this interview on WCAU, these individuals publicly suggested that WCAU interview Mrs. [redacted] concerning services performed for her by COLIFAM in transmitting letters from her husband.

b7c Mrs. [redacted] recalled that reporters from WCAU contacted her at her residence and in response to suggestions made by these individuals, asked Mrs. [redacted] if she was backing the peace movement. Mrs. [redacted] stated that she became very incensed at this time and publicly stated that she was not in sympathy with COLIFAM or any Pacifist movement in the United States in any fashion and publicly condemned these organizations for the means they were using to protest the War in Vietnam. *COLIFAM*

This interview was taped and subsequently appeared on public television.

b7c On one occasion immediately following this television interview, Mrs. [redacted] stated that although she learned that COLIFAM had a letter in their possession from her husband which would arrive in approximately "three days", she did not receive this letter from COLIFAM from five weeks.

b7c Mrs. [redacted] stated that at no time has any individual from COLIFAM or any organization in sympathy with that committee ever contacted her personally. At no time have they used any threats or attempted to cajole her into publicly identifying with that organization although she noted as previously stated that in a public interview they indicated that Mrs. [redacted] might be in sympathy with the peace movement in gratitude for services they had rendered in delivering mail from her husband. *COLIFAM*

b7c Mrs. [redacted] stated that she has communicated with Headquarters of the United States Air Force, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, concerning material which she has received from COLIFAM. She also made available a letter dated December, 3, 1969, from the Department of the Air Force Headquarters, 438th Air Base Group, McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey, subject "Address For Possible Delivery of Mail to POW Personnel", from next of kin. This letter indicated that the organization called International Service Division, American Friend Service Committee, 160 North 15th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, had offered to accept letters from the immediate family of men missing in action or

3
NK 97-353p

*Exemption
b2c*

... of his ... to ... in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on ... 15, ...
... available all information ...
... which she had received from ...
... possession, she had also ... literature received from ...
... 309 Cannon Building, Washington, D.C., which she stated she believed was a ... of the United States ...

b2c
... advised that although she is deeply concerned over the personal welfare of her husband that she would be willing to testify to any information she has furnished concerning ... literature received from ... She reiterated, however, that at no time has she ever been contacted personally by any member of that organization, nor has any attempt ever been made to induce her to act contrary to the laws of the United States by any member of that group.

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam
365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036 (212) 769-1820

Dear Mrs. [redacted] *bia* *FOI 12/12/2* *bia*

We are enclosing a letter to you from [redacted] written from a camp of detention in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The letter is forwarded to you through the newly formed Committee of Liaison of which we are members.

This letter, along with 68 others, was recently handed to Louis Schneider by Vietnamese authorities in Hanoi, and he mailed them to us from Hong Kong. This was in line with a system for handling such letters which has been opened up to our Committee by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

The Committee of Liaison is composed of individuals active in the American peace movement and opposed to the U.S. military intervention in Vietnam. The Democratic Republic of Vietnam has decided to use our Committee as a channel for communication between the captured airmen in detention camps in North Vietnam and their relatives in the United States.

Please excuse the fact that this letter is dittoed rather than typed on letterhead. We are a new committee and we want you to receive the enclosed without delay. Therefore we are mailing this letter immediately without waiting for printed letterhead and envelopes.

We shall send you further information within the next few days regarding the liaison services our Committee is now able to perform.

In closing we wish to express the deep hope that the U.S. government will come to its senses, withdraw its armed forces from Vietnam, and thus make it possible for the families, both American and Vietnamese which have been separated as a result of this cruel war, to be reunited.

Sincerely yours,
For the Committee of Liaison

<i>Richard Fernandez</i>	<i>Stewart Meacham</i>	<i>Ethel Taylor</i>
Richard Fernandez	Stewart Meacham	Ethel Taylor
Clergy and Laymen	American Friends	Women's Strike
Concerned About Vietnam	Service Committee	for Peace

Other members of the Committee are: ST David Dellinger, Cora Weiss, Rannie Davis, Anne Bennett, Bea Seitzman, Maggie Gaddos, Trudi Young, Steve Halliwell, Barbara Webster

5
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street New York N.Y. 10036

212-765-1490

January, 1970

INFORMATION SHEET

Co-chairmen:
Dave Dellinger
Cora Weiss

Background

Treasurer:
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee (in formation):

Rennie Davis
Rev. Richard Fernandez
*Maggie Geddes
*Steve Halliwell
Stewart Mescham
Prof. Bea Scitzman
Ethel Taylor
*Barbara Webster
*Trudi Young
*staff

In the course of the Vietnam war, links have been built between the people of Vietnam and Americans who oppose the war through numerous meetings and conferences. These meetings have taken place in Europe, Canada, Cuba and Southeast Asia and have included people from both the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam) and the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam (now part of the Provisional Revolutionary Government).

In these meetings the Vietnamese have always stressed a distinction between the U.S. government, whom they hold responsible for the policy of war, and the U.S. people, whom they believe still value the goals upon which this country was founded--independence, justice, freedom and equality. This same distinction is evident to those Americans who have visited North Vietnam and found that even though the nation is armed to defend itself, the people are encouraged by their government to believe that the American people are basically decent and humane.

It is therefore understandable that the Vietnamese should indicate their basic confidence in the American people through the peace movement which they believe embodies American ideals, rather than the government. And in the past, the Vietnamese have asked the peace movement to receive U.S. servicemen--primarily pilots whose planes were shot down--when the North Vietnamese government has decided to release them. On three separate occasions--February 1968, July 1968 and July 1969--the peace movement has gone to Hanoi and returned with released servicemen; on one occasion an American peace activist went to Phnom Penh, Cambodia to receive three released NLF captives.

In addition, Americans visiting Hanoi have frequently carried letters there at the request of families, and have brought back letters from servicemen. There have also been occasions when American peace activists have met prisoners and talked with them.

Functions of the Committee

A Committee of Liaison has now been established as an extension of these past efforts at the request of the North Vietnamese. As on past occasions, the peace movement is responding to a request by the Vietnamese to meet a specific, immediate need and is not in any sense representing the government of North Vietnam.

The Committee will seek to facilitate communication between families in the U.S. and servicemen now imprisoned in North Vietnam. Basically, the Committee will receive letters from servicemen, forward them through the domestic mails, thereby decreasing, we hope, past problems in the receipt of such mail. We will also forward letters to North Vietnam at the request of relatives. Families are of course still free to send letters and parcels directly but should note that the instructions on mailing previously issued by the State Department are wrong. The correct address is:

name of serviceman
serial number
Camp of Detention of U.S. Pilots
Captured in the D.R.V.
Hanoi, Democratic Republic of Vietnam
via Moscow, U.S.S.R.

In addition, it is possible that the U.S. Embassy will be able to verify

requests for information about servicemen from families who are uncertain if their relatives are being held in North Vietnam. Requests should be submitted to the Committee, but there is no certainty when and if the North Vietnamese will be able to respond. The Committee will of course transmit immediately any information that it receives to the family.

Clarification

Two clarifications are in order: first, it should be noted that the Committee will be dealing only with the government of North Vietnam and will not have any information on men held in South Vietnam by the Provisional Revolutionary Government. Nor will we be able to provide information at this time concerning men held in Laos or any other South east Asian country where U.S. troops and aircraft are presently involved in combat missions.

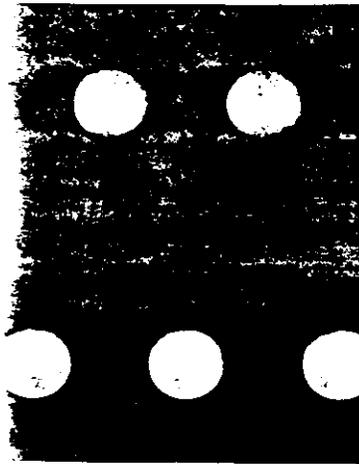
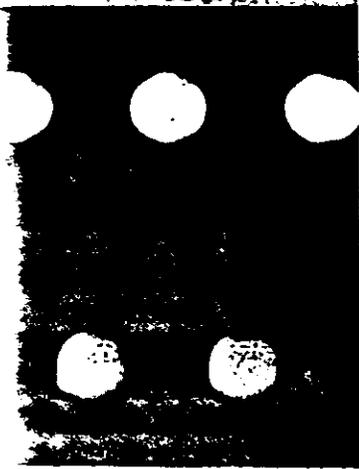
Secondly, the Committee will function entirely apart from the U.S. government. The U.S. government has frequently made it more difficult for the Vietnamese to be open to the concerns of American families by using the families' genuine desires as a propaganda ploy. The government has further attempted to provoke an angry response from the Vietnamese by publicizing unsubstantiated and inflammatory testimony from fliers already released: apparently, the government has decided to jeopardize existing communications and the possibility of future releases for the sake of propaganda aimed at prolonging the war. The North Vietnamese are also very aware that the U.S. government's claims of humanitarian concerns are contradicted by the well-documented policy of torture and brutality practiced on prisoners taken in the South by U.S. and Saigon troops.

In addition to all these factors, there is the simple fact that the resolution of the fate of all the servicemen now held in North Vietnam waits ultimately upon a U.S. decision to end the war and withdraw all its forces and materiel.

The We Are

We firmly believe that the safe return of these men and the half million others that the U.S. maintains in South Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and aboard naval vessels--who can also be viewed as prisoners, prisoners of their own government since many have been sent to fight in a war against the dictates of their own conscience--can only come with a decision on the part of the U.S. government to withdraw from Vietnam. Because of this conviction, we who are serving on this Committee will continue our efforts to create popular pressure strong enough to force the government to withdraw.

We are active in a variety of organizations committed to ending the war: American Friends Service Committee, the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, Clergy and Laymen Concerned about Vietnam, Women Strike for Peace, The Conspiracy, and Women Against Daddy Warbucks. The Committee is supported by donations from individuals and organizations, and welcomes any gifts to sustain its work.



COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:
COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:
Dave Dellinger
Cara Weiss

Treasurer:
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee (in formation):
Rennie Davis
Rev. Richard Fernandez
*Maggie Geddes
*Steve Halliwell
Stewart Meacham
Prof. Bea Seltzman
Ethel Taylor
*Barbara Webster
*Trudi Young

*staff

January 27, 1970

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

We assume that by this time you have received the letter from North Vietnam which was forwarded to you by members of our Committee. We are enclosing an Information Sheet which explains the work of the Committee of Liaison.

The North Vietnamese have said that prisoners will be able to receive and send one letter a month. As noted in the Information Sheet, you may send letters directly to North Vietnam (note the mail address and route). If you would like us to forward them for you, please enclose but do not affix stamps as we will be sending them on in packets. We are also enclosing a letter form which you might wish to use, whether you send it directly or through us. Prisoners can also receive one package, not over six pounds in weight, every other month.

To insure the safe and rapid delivery of mail from prisoners, the North Vietnamese will send periodic packets of letters through our office. The letters will then be dispatched immediately to the families to whom they are addressed.

The only way to secure the eventual release of prisoners is through the decision by the United States to end the war. But in the meantime we are pleased to be able to assist in the communication between men and their families. We hope to forward letters on to you again soon.

Sincerely,

Maggie Geddes
Maggie Geddes

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:
COLIAPAM

Jan./Feb. 1970

Co-chairmen:
Dave Dellinger
Core Weiss

INFORMATION SHEET

Treasurer:
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Functions of the Committee

Committee (in formation):
Rennie Davis
Rev. Richard Fernandez
*Maggie Goddes
*Steve Helliwell
*Stewart Meehan
Prof. Boe Seitzman
Ethel Taylor
*Barbara Webster
*Trudi Young

The Committee of Liaison will seek to facilitate communication between servicemen imprisoned in North Vietnam and their families in the U.S. Basically, the Committee will receive letters from servicemen and forward them to their families through the domestic mails. We will also forward letters to North Vietnam at the request of families. Families of missing servicemen are of course still free to send letters directly but should note the correct address for both letters and packages:

*staff

name of serviceman
serial number
Camp of Detention of U.S. Pilots
Captured in the D.R.V.
Hanoi, Democratic Republic of Vietnam
via Moscow, U.S.S.R.

Prisoners can receive one letter a month and one package (not over six pounds in weight) every other month; the Committee will not be forwarding packages. Letters sent to the COL to forward should be sealed, and should not have stamps affixed to them since letters are forwarded in packets. Stamps should be enclosed with the letters however.

In addition, the Committee will make requests to the North Vietnamese on behalf of families who do not know whether their missing relative is a prisoner in North Vietnam. We need to have the serviceman's service number, and information on when and where he was shot down in order to make an inquiry. If an individual is being held in North Vietnam, we would hope to receive back a letter from him to his family. If he is known to be dead or if the North Vietnamese have no information on him at all, we expect to receive that word from them. In any case we will contact the family concerned as soon as we received word. In this way we expect that, as Xuan Thuy (head of the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris) has said, gradually all families of prisoners held in North Vietnam will hear from their relatives.

Clarification

Two clarifications are in order: first, it should be noted that the Committee will be dealing solely with North Vietnam and will not have any information on men held in South Vietnam by the Provisional Revolutionary Government. Nor will we be able to provide information concerning men held in Laos by the Pathet Lao or in any other Southeast Asian country where U.S. troops and aircraft are presently involved.

Secondly, the COL will function entirely apart from the U.S. government. The government has frequently made it more difficult for the Vietnamese to be open to the concerns of American families by using the families' genuine desires as a propaganda ploy. The government has further attempted to provoke angry response from the Vietnamese by publicizing unsubstantiated and inflammatory testimony from released fliers; apparently, the government has decided to jeopardize existing communications and the possibility of humanitarian concerns are contradicted by the well-documented policy of torture and brutality practiced on prisoners taken in South Vietnam by U.S. and Saigon troops.

In addition to all these factors, there is the simple fact that the

resolution of the status of all the servicemen now held in North Vietnam waits ultimately upon a U.S. decision to end the war and withdraw all its forces and materiel.

Background

The Committee of Liaison has been established as an extension of past efforts at the request of the North Vietnamese. As on past occasions, the American peace movement is responding to a request by the Vietnamese toward opening communications between Americans and Vietnamese and is not in any sense representing the government of North Vietnam.

In the course of the Vietnam war, links have been built between the people of Vietnam and Americans who oppose the war through numerous meetings and conferences. These meetings are a matter of public record and have taken place in Europe, Canada, Cuba, and Southeast Asia and have included people from both the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam) and the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam (now part of the Provisional Revolutionary Government).

In these meetings the Vietnamese have always stressed a distinction between the U.S. government, which they hold responsible for the policy of war, and the American people, whom they believe still value the goals upon which this country was founded--independence, justice, freedom, self-determination. This same distinction is evident to those Americans who have visited North Vietnam and found that even though the nation is armed to defend itself, the people are encouraged by their government to believe that the American people are basically decent and humane.

It is in this context that the Vietnamese have indicated their basic confidence in the American people through the peace movement, which they believe embodies American ideals, rather than the government which flaunts them. In the past, the Vietnamese have asked the peace movement to receive U.S. servicemen--primarily pilots whose planes had been shot down--when the North Vietnamese government has decided to release them. On three separate occasions--February 1968, July 1968, and July 1969--representatives of the American anti-war movement have gone to Hanoi to return with released servicemen; on one other occasion an American peace activist went to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, to receive three released N.L.F. captives. Americans visiting Hanoi have frequently carried letters there at the requests of families, and have brought back letters from servicemen being held in North Vietnam. There have also been occasions when peace activists have met prisoners and talked with them there.

The Committee

The Committee of Liaison firmly believes that the safe return of U.S. prisoners in North Vietnam and the half-million others that the U.S. maintains in South Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, and aboard naval vessels--who can also be viewed as prisoners, prisoners of their own government since many have been sent to fight in a war against the dictates of their own conscience--can only come with a decision on the part of the U.S. government to completely withdraw from Vietnam. Because of this conviction, we who are serving on this Committee will continue our efforts to create popular pressure strong enough to force the government to withdraw.

As individuals Committee members are active in a variety of organizations and groups committed to ending the war: American Friends Service Committee, the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, the Conspiracy, Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam, Women Strike for Peace, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Newsreel, Lawyers Committee on Vietnam, and Women Against Daddy Warbucks. The Committee of Liaison is entirely dependent on donations from individuals and organizations, and welcomes any gifts to sustain its work.

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:
COLIAFAM

February 20, 1970

Co-chairmen:
Dave Dellinger
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Senator Clifford P. Case
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

FEB 25 1970

Dear Senator Case:

Committee (in formation):

Rennie Davis
Rev. Richard Fernandez
*Maggie Geddes
*Steve Halliwell
Stewart Meacham
Prof. Boo Seitzman
Ethel Taylor
*Barbara Webster
*Trudi Young

*staff

Thank you for your letter of February 11th enclosing the letter from Mrs. Joan Abbott whose husband is a prisoner in North Vietnam and who has received mail from him through our office. We certainly understand Mrs. Abbott's and other families' distress over the absence of their relatives, caused by this long and horrifying war; and we of course do not want to add to it.

Enclosed is our Information Sheet which explains our functions, background and perspective.

Our intention is not to "use" the families or to exploit their difficult situation. However, since the government has made this a public issue by making a major propaganda issue of prisoners, we do feel it is necessary to let Americans know that specific men are known to be prisoners and that mail is being received from them. For that reason we publish a list of names of prisoners sending letters, and of the recipients, as we receive them from North Vietnam and re-mail them. In fact most of the responses from families has naturally been one of gratitude and joy at receiving a letter and since we in no way force them to accept our politics they are free to, and often do, ignore our role in forwarding them the letter. We will certainly respect Mrs. Abbott's wish to not make her name public in the future. I might also add that we never have and never intend to publicize the contents of any of the letters.

Since we feel it is important for the families to understand who we are and why the North Vietnamese have asked us to act as a liaison, we do send them

17-353

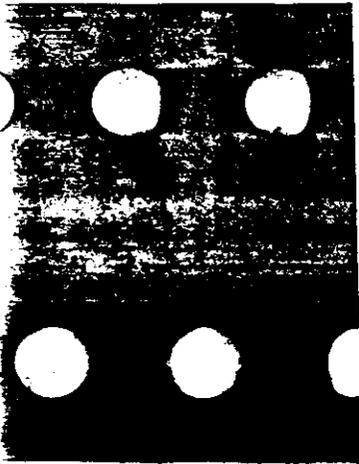
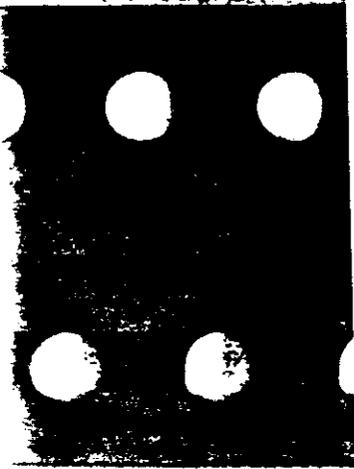
a covering letter and the Information Sheet. They are of course free to disregard our accompanying material. Specifically as regards Mrs. Abbott we will try not to add to her anguish; should we have any letters for her in the future we will forward them on without a covering note.

If we can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to write again.

Sincerely yours,

Cora Weiss

Cora Weiss



COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

TABLE ADDRESS:
FOUNAFAM

ED 12/12-2

March 25, 1970

Co-chairmen:
Dove Dellinger
Cora Weiss

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

b2c

Treasurer:
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee (in formation):
Rennie Davis
Rev. Richard Fernandez
*Maggie Goddes
*Steve Halliwell
Stewart Meacham
Prof. Bea Seitzman
Ethel Taylor
*Barbara Webster
*Trudi Young

*staff

We have just received word from Hanoi that a letter from [REDACTED] has been mailed to you from North Vietnam. His name was included in a list of 80 servicemen just received; this list represents advance notice of 82 letters mailed together in a package due to arrive soon. As soon as it comes, we will forward it to you. Forgive this mimeographed communication, but we wanted you to know as quickly as possible.

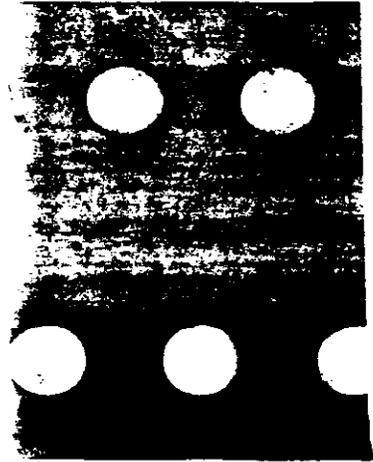
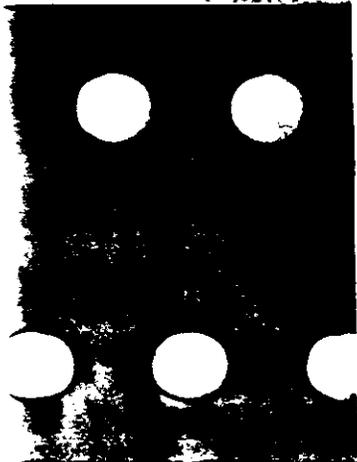
The Committee of Liaison was set up to facilitate communication between men who are held in North Vietnam and their families in this country. You may be interested to know that since this new arrangement was made with the North Vietnamese in December, 376 letters have been sent from Hanoi through us to families, and that as of this current notification 256 servicemen have been confirmed as held by the North Vietnamese. More mail is en route and it is expected that mail will soon be normalized.

The arrangement for mail is described in the announcement enclosed. We are very pleased to be able to perform this service and hope that you will feel free to be in touch with us should you have further questions. In the meantime we continue to work for the immediate and complete withdrawal of all troops from Vietnam; to bring to an end the fighting, killing and capturing; and to hasten the day when all families, American and Vietnamese will be reunited.

Sincerely yours,

Cora Weiss Dave Dellinger
Cora Weiss Dave Dellinger

*2 Letters arrived
April 22nd
1 letter arrive
April 27 - part
in their envelope
no propaganda*



COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:
COLIAFAM

April 20, 1970

Co-chairmen:
Dave Dellinger
Coro Weiss

Treasurer:
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee
Richard J. Barnett
Rennie Davis
Madeline Duckles
Prof. Richard Falk
Rev. Richard Fernandez
Norman Fruchter
*Maggie Geddes
Steve Halliwell
Prof. Donald Kalish
Stewart Meacham
Prof. Bea Seitzman
Prof. Franz Schurmann
Ethel Taylor
*Barbara Webster
Trudi Young

*staff

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED] b2c

Rev. Richard Fernandez, a member of the Committee of Liaison, returned today from a two-week trip to Laos and North Vietnam. He brought back the enclosed letter along with 201 others from prisoners being held in North Vietnam.

While there, Rev. Fernandez held a lengthy interview with three pilots, Cdr. Robert Schweitzer, Cdr. Walter Wilber and Lt. Col. Edison Miller. He also was advised by North Vietnamese authorities that families should write letters monthly on the enclosed air-letter forms. We are therefore sending several to you at this time and will send more with subsequent mail.

We are of course very pleased to be able to forward this letter to you.

Sincerely yours,

Steven E. Halliwell
Steven E. Halliwell

216 97-353
12

NGƯỜI GỬI (Addressor)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

.....

SỐ QUÂN (Service number):

NGÀY VÀ NƠI SINH (Date & place of birth):

.....

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

**TRẠI GIAM PHI CÔNG MỸ BỊ BẮT TẠI
NƯỚC VIỆT - NAM DÂN CHỦ CỘNG HÒA**

VIA MOSCOW, RUSSIA
*(Camp of detention for U.S. pilots captured
in the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC of VIETNAM)*

**COMMITTEE OF LIAISON
with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

GỬI (Addressee)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

.....

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

.....

.....

.....

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:
COLIAFAM

September 18, 1970

Co-chairmen:
Dave Dellinger
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee
Richard J. Barnett
Rennie Davis
Madeline Duckles
Prof. Richard Falk
Rev. Richard Fernandez
Norman Fruchter
*Maggie Geddes
Steve Halliwell
Prof. Donald Kalish
Stewart Meacham
Prof. Bea Seitzman
Prof. Franz Schurmann
Ethel Taylor
*Barbara Webster
Trudi Young

*staff

Dear Friends,

We are very happy to forward the enclosed letters to you. I would like to give you an account of the events that took place around the illegal seizure of these letters at Kennedy Airport on Wednesday. You would have had your mail a day or two earlier had it not been for this interference.

Robert Scheer announced when he left Hanoi that he had been given 379 letters from pilots whose names appeared on the list of 335 previously confirmed prisoners. Mr. Scheer, with a delegation of 10, had spent three months in Algeria, North Korea, China, and North Vietnam, and had accumulated a wide range of materials. However, U.S. Customs officials at Kennedy Airport were interested only in the whereabouts of the letters. Mr. Scheer opened the two packets of letters for the Customs officials to see. They then took him into a private room and demanded that he turn over the mail, saying, "We must open it and read it." He refused to hand over the letters as they had been consigned to him for immediate delivery to families. Finally, the Customs officials agreed to place the letters in bond, where the packages were officially sealed and a receipt given to Mr. Scheer.

(Last Saturday 143 letters were brought by a traveller returning from Hanoi. That brought to 1243 the number of letters from prisoners that have been delivered by hand to the U.S. without interference.)

No explanation has been offered by anyone for the seizure of the mail, and no guarantees have been made that this will not happen again. On Thursday afternoon the State Department assured me that the mail was available to be claimed and expressed concern that it be forwarded immediately to relieve anxiety of waiting families. We reminded the State Department that it was the government that had seized the mail in seeming disregard for the families, prisoners, and the future of communication between them. Mr. Scheer offered to meet with representatives of the State Department at the airport to discuss the situation and see what could be done to prevent future occurrences of this nature. His request was rejected. When he went with Rennie Davis and myself to reclaim the mail, he was unnecessarily harrassed, and the press was ejected from observing the reclamation, despite the fact that the very same people had observed the seizure. When he finally got the letters, Mr. Scheer immediately transferred them to the Committee of Liaison for distribution.

We are very distressed about this incident. This delivery of mail brought first letters from previously confirmed prisoners for four families, some of whom had had no mail for five years. We have devoted considerable time and effort to maintaining a reliable and efficient channel for communication between you and the pilots. At the initiative of the North Vietnamese both the volume and frequency of mail has increased. The pilots have been receiving increasing numbers of packages, including a wide assortment of food, medicines, clothing and various kinds of games. We are not responsible for the consequences that acts of governmental interference may produce.

Please do not hesitate to be in touch with us if you have any questions, and kindly inform us of any changes of address. Should you wish us to forward mail to your relatives in North Vietnam we will be glad to do so. There will be several people travelling there in the coming months.

Sincerely yours,

Cora Weiss
Cora Weiss

Mr. Tolson _____
 Mr. Sullivan _____
 Mr. Mohr _____
 Mr. Bishop _____
 Mr. Brennan _____
 Mr. Callahan _____
 Mr. Casper _____
 Mr. Conrad _____
 Mr. Felt _____
 Mr. Gale _____
 Mr. Rosen _____
 Mr. Tavel _____
 Mr. Trotter _____
 Mr. Tele. Room _____
 Miss Holmes _____
 Miss Gandy _____

FBI
 Date: 10/9/70

CONFIDENTIAL

Transmit the following in _____
 (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
 (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-12394)
 FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (157-963)

[REDACTED]

Classified by 712
 Declassify on: OADR
 DATE: 5-8-80

Re Kansas City airtel and LHM dated 8/11/70,
 and other communications to and from the Bureau, etc.

Enclosed for recipients are indicated copies of
 self-explanatory LHM.

LHM is classified confidential to protect sources
 of continuing value

UACB BY 10/16/70, KANSAS CITY CONTEMPLATES
 DISSEMINATION OF LHM LOCALLY TO APPROPRIATE MILITARY AGENCIES,
 SECRET SERVICE, AND TO THE USA, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI.

- 4 Bureau (Encs. 11) (RM)
- 1 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 100-457899 (COLIFAM)
- 3 New York (Encs. 3) (RM)
- 1 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 100-168469 (COLIFAM)
- 3 Philadelphia (Encs. 3) (RM)
- 2 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 100- [REDACTED] (PROPOSED TRAVEL OF)
- 1 WFO (Enc. 1) (RM) (157-3257)
- 4 Kansas City (2 - 157-963)
- 1 - 100-14050 (COLIFAM)
- (15) (1 - 66-3401A)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
 OTHERWISE

NOT RECORDED
 12 NOV. 6 1970

AGENCY: ICSSO, SEC. SERV., IFA,
 DEPT. OF STATE, STATE E, OSI
 HOW FORW: AS
 DATE FORW: 10-19-70

36 NOV 9 1970

CONFIDENTIAL

KC 157-963

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Sedition has been added to captioned character of this airtel pending evaluation by the Bureau and Department of contents of LHM as to possible violation of (peace time) Sedition law, Title 18, USC, Section 2387. Section 3238 of Title 18 indicates probable Venue at Kansas City, Missouri, should prosecution be indicated against LAWSON.

[REDACTED] b7c 80-1212-2 b7c

No further investigation of Seditious aspects is contemplated in the Kansas City Division, including possible interview [REDACTED] in absence of specific instructions from the Bureau.

SOURCES:

b7c 80-1212-2

[REDACTED] - Instant file (PROTECT IDENTITY PER REQUEST).

cbl 80-1212-1

[REDACTED] Instant file (Bureau routing slip of 9/8/70, and Bureau airtel of 10/2/70, re Items 1 and 2;

b1 [REDACTED] b1

[REDACTED] (REQUESTED PROTECTION OF IDENTITY).

b7c [REDACTED] (PROTECT IDENTITY PER REQUEST).

[REDACTED] (PROTECT IDENTITY PER REQUEST).

80-1212-2

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FBI

Date: 10/13/70

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____ (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)
FROM: SAC, CHARLOTTE (100-10986) (P)

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN
NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)
IS - MISCELLANEOUS
REGISTRATION ACT

(OO: NEW YORK)

Re New York airtels to Bureau, 6/9/70 and 7/14/70;
and Charlotte airtel to Bureau, 8/19/70, enclosing LHM.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 11 copies of LHM regarding
captioned organization; three copies are enclosed for New York.

On 9/2/70, Mrs. _____
N. C., advised SA _____ that
_____ wife of _____ who is a
prisoner in Vietnam, is residing in _____ Va., and can
be located through a sister-in-law, _____
Va. _____

Lead set out for Alexandria by Charlotte letter to
Bureau, 9/8/70.

Investigation continuing. REC-62 100-EX-146 -145

- 144 destroyed
- 3 - Bureau (Encs. 11) (RM)
- 2 - New York (100-168469) (Encs. 3) (RM)
- 2 - Charlotte

AGENCY: ARMY, DNY, OSI, SEC. SER., STATE, CIA
 (7) b2c folson
 DATE FORW: 10/21/70
 HOW FORW: R/S
 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
 OTHERWISE
 47-9-100 A-Pow special

BY: _____ b2c
 OCT 30 1970 cc + encl 910-D. Sent
 Special Agent in Charge

DATE 9/10/82 Per SP6
 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1969 O - 347
 # 200,673 710293 903
 # 200,673 710293/MSA Special 1281



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Charlotte, North Carolina

October 13, 1970

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN
NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)

Interviews of relatives of servicemen missing in
action or being held prisoner by North Vietnam are set out
herein.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS NEITHER
RECOMMENDATIONS NOR CONCLUSIONS OF
THE FBI. IT IS THE PROPERTY OF THE
FBI AND IS LOANED TO YOUR AGENCY;
IT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE NOT TO BE
DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE YOUR AGENCY.

9803 [redacted] 4693 MIA-POW Special B012812-2 b7c

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

b7c ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9/2/82 BY [redacted]

#220,673 b7c

7/23/98 9803 [redacted] 345.570 B012812-2 b7c

POW/MIA Special EO.12812

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date August 25, 1970

[REDACTED]

80 M 81 2-2

b7c

[REDACTED] advised her husband, [REDACTED], a pilot in the United States Air Force holding the rank of [REDACTED] was shot down in his airplane over North Vietnam in 1967, while attached to the [REDACTED] Thailand. She was officially notified her husband was missing in action on [REDACTED] 1967.

b7c

b7c

In February of 1968, Mrs. [REDACTED] read in an [REDACTED] North Carolina, newspaper that a STEWART MEACHAM of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, personally helped escort three released United States pilot prisoners of war from North Vietnam to the United States. She telephonically contacted MEACHAM in Philadelphia asking him if her husband was a prisoner of war and his whereabouts. Mrs. [REDACTED] was told he did not know. She heard nothing more from MEACHAM until she again telephonically contacted him in Philadelphia in February of 1970, advising she had definite reason to believe her husband a prisoner of war. At 11:15 P. M. on March 14, 1970, MEACHAM, who is a member of the American Friends Service Committee, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, telephonically advised her he received a list of thirty-four names released by the North Vietnamese through the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, 365 West 42nd Street, New York, New York, and one of the names listed was her husband's. He also advised her husband was permitted to write her a letter. MEACHAM telephonically contacted Mrs. [REDACTED] on Friday morning, April 24, 1970, stating he had the letter and was sending it special delivery to her residence in South Carolina. The letter, dated January 22, 1970, and postmarked Hanoi, was received by Mrs. [REDACTED] at her residence on April 27, 1970. The envelope which forwarded the letter

b7c

b7c

On 8/17/70 at [REDACTED] N. C. File # Charlotte 100-10986

b7c

b7c

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 8/18/70

b7c

was from the Committee of Liaison. The envelope contained one six line letter, a Christmas card, and a form letter from the Committee of Liaison with the following individuals listed on the letter as members:

Co-chairman DAVE DELLINGER and CORA WEISS

Treasurer Mrs. ANNE BENNETT

Committee RICHARD J. BARNETT, RENNIE DAVIS, MADELINE DUCKLES, Professor RICHARD FALK, Rev. RICHARD FERNANDEZ, NORMAN FRUCHTER, MAGGIE GEDDES, STEVE HALLIWELL, Professor DONALD KALISH, STEWART MEACHAM, Professor BEA SEITZMAN, Professor FRANZ SCHURMANN, ETHEL TAYLOR, BARBARA WEBSTER, and TRUDI YOUNG

form letter
Mrs. [REDACTED] *b2c* continues she heard nothing more from MEACHAM until May of 1970, when he telephonically contacted her advising a Mr. KIRKPATRICK, American Friends Service Committee, Seattle, Washington, was traveling to North Vietnam, date unrecalled, and a letter could be sent to her husband through him. She used this means.

b2c
The letter received by Mrs. [REDACTED] on April 27, 1970, was forwarded to RANDOLPH Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas, the Personnel Center for missing in action and prisoner of war veterans, for analyzing. The results of this analysis were depressing to Mrs. [REDACTED] and she telephonically contacted MEACHAM on August 14, 1970, advising him of same and asked him to determine if her husband was ill, as she believed so. She also requested to send him appropriate supplies if necessary. MEACHAM returned the telephone call the same day saying he furnished the information given him by her to a psychiatrist at one of the largest universities in the United States, name not given, and was advised by this individual the conclusions are that of one man only. Nothing further transpired regarding this conversation.

b7c *501-712-2*
Mrs. [REDACTED] further stated she received two additional six line letters from her husband on June 15, 1970, one dated April 7, 1970, and the other May 2, 1970, postmarked Hanoi. These letters were mailed to her in Committee of Liaison envelopes with the enclosed form letter as described above, after being hand carried by members of an unknown American Women's group which toured North Vietnam.

b7c
Mrs. [REDACTED] advised she has on approximately three occasions used the Committee of Liaison resources to transmit three letters to her husband and on each occasion received a form reply letter from the committee saying they sent same to North Vietnam. This is the only contact she has had with the Committee of Liaison except on one other occasion when they forwarded her an Anti-War and Withdrawal from Vietnam pamphlet during the time of the Chicago seven trial. Her only contact with MEACHAM has been telephonic. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated all contacts have been business like and no pressure or influence has been brought to bear. *b7c*

b7c
Mrs. [REDACTED] added there is no reason to use the committee's facilities to send packages or letters to her husband, as she is allowed to send one package every other month, which she began doing in December of 1969, and one letter every month.

b7c
Mrs. [REDACTED] could not furnish the name or source in North Vietnam contacted by MEACHAM, as he never identified same. She could not furnish additional names of wives or prisoners of war. *501-712-2*

b7c
Regarding possible testimony, Mrs. [REDACTED] stated it would be necessary to contact her for a decision when trial was imminent so she could evaluate her personal situation. She emphatically expressed displeasure with the necessity to deal with the Committee of Liaison and their operation but added this is the only source, including United States Government sources and channels, available to her to receive communications from her husband.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 28, 1970

1

EO 12812-2

b2c
Mrs. [redacted] advised that she is the mother of [redacted] who has been in the United States Air Force about [redacted] was present during the interview, but [redacted] was unable to talk.

b2c
Mrs. [redacted] stated that her son was in Vietnam on duty on [redacted] 1966, and according to the Air Force he was on a mission in an airplane with a crew of seven, which was supposed to have returned to its base about 8 a.m., [redacted] 1966, but failed to do so. She stated that about 5 p.m., [redacted] 1966, she was notified that her son was reported missing in action. She stated that neither she nor husband has had any contact with anyone concerning their son other than official Air Force personnel. She stated that the Air Force had then on several occasions write letters to her son, however, she has not received any word whether or not he is alive. She stated that she has not been contacted by any other individual or organization, other than the Air Force.

b2c
Mrs. [redacted] stated that on or about September 1, 1970, there was a film showing photographs of prisoners that had been in custody of the Viet Cong and her daughter thought that she saw Mrs. [redacted] son in one of the photographs. Mrs. [redacted] stated that she would immediately contact the Federal Bureau of Investigation in event that she was contacted by any individual concerning her son.

b2c EO 12812-2

On 9/18/70 at [redacted] N. C. File # CE 100-10986

by SA [redacted] *b2c* Date dictated 9/21/70

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

100-812-2

SEP 20 1970

Mrs. [redacted] North Carolina, was advised of the nature of the investigation and identity of the interviewing agent. She furnished the following information.

b2c

b2c

Mrs. [redacted] stated that she is the wife of [redacted] United States Air Force, who has been missing in action for approximately four years.

b2c

She cannot state specifically that she was contacted by the "Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam," but did note that, as best she can recall, several months ago she received one questionnaire through the mail which indicated that she was on a committee and, therefore, her answers to certain questions were being solicited. The questions asked of her pertained to President NIXON's policy in Vietnam and the Vietnam War. She cannot recall the name of the group sending her the letter or where the letter had been postmarked. She just ripped the letter up because she did not know the validity of the questionnaire and did not wish to become involved in something or with some group she knew nothing about.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that in the event she receives a similar type questionnaire in the future or in the event she received any information concerning the "Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam," she would immediately contact the FBI.

b2c

100-812-2

On 9/22/70 at [redacted] N. C. File# CE 100-10986
By SA [redacted] Date dictated 9/23/70

b2c

100-812-2

b2c

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

fol 12/12/70

b7c

1

Date September 28, 1970

[Redacted] *b7c*

OK
Mrs. [Redacted] North Carolina, advised her son, [Redacted] has been missing in action since 1968. Her son was assigned to the United States Air Force Base in [Redacted] as a pilot flew a two plane mission on [Redacted] 1968, and never returned to the base. [Redacted] stated that she and her husband were advised of their son's status by personal contact with a United States Air Force Lieutenant Colonel from Charlotte, North Carolina, on May 22, 1968. Since that time, they have received no additional information concerning their son's whereabouts or physical condition. *b7c*

b7c
[Redacted] continued that on two occasions she attempted to have letters forwarded her son through Hanoi, Vietnam. On one occasion she forwarded her letter to the American Friends Service Committee, Incorporated, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in December, 1969. Her letter was not returned but she was advised by this organization that they were unable to deliver the letter. Mrs. [Redacted] stated that on June 2, 1970, she wrote to KENNETH KIRKPATRICK, American Friends Service Committee, 814 Northeast Fortieth Street, Seattle, Washington, requesting him to forward an enclosed letter to her son in North Vietnam. By letter dated July 27, 1970, on the letterhead of the American Friends Service Committee, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, KIRKPATRICK advised that he went to Hanoi in June, 1970, and met with a Mr. TRAN TRONG QUAT of the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity with the American People. He attempted to have the letter forwarded to [Redacted] however, this individual advised that since [Redacted] name did not appear on the list of 335 acknowledged prisoners of war, he would be unable to deliver the letter. *b7c*

Mrs. [Redacted] advised that she has on a number of occasions forwarded a package to her son at Hanoi and letters through the International Red Cross; however, these efforts have met with negative results, in that no acknowledgement has been received. *b7c*

Mrs. [Redacted] advised that she has never been contacted *b7c*

On 9/22/70 at [Redacted]

b7c
N. C.

fol 12/12/70
File # CE 100-10986

by SA [Redacted]

b7c
Date dictated 9/22/70

CE 100-10986

2

by the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. She stated, however, if this in fact did occur she would immediately notify her personal liaison contact at Shaw Air Force Base, Sumter, South Carolina, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Asheville, North Carolina.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 29, 1970

Bo 12812-2

1

b2c

Mr. [REDACTED] North Carolina, was interviewed in the presence of his wife. Mr. [REDACTED] advised that his son, [REDACTED] is a member of the United States Air Force and currently missing in action presumably in Viet Nam. Mr. [REDACTED] advised that his son was a [REDACTED] in Phantom jet-propelled aircraft and while on a mission from the Da Nang Air Force Base, South Viet Nam, did not return. Mr. [REDACTED] stated he has not heard anything from his son since [REDACTED] 1969, when he was officially listed as missing in action. He was notified by a representative of the United States Air Force of his son's status on [REDACTED] 1969.

b2c

Mr. [REDACTED] stated he has not been contacted by the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Viet Nam, however, will notify the FBI if so approached.

Bo 12812-2

Bo 12812-2

b2c

On 9/23/70 at [REDACTED] N. C. File # CE 100-10986

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 9/24/70

b2c

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date October 2, 1970

EDM
b7c

Mr. [redacted] in care of [redacted] North Carolina, advised that he has had no contact whatsoever with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). Mr. [redacted] advised that he had been notified by the Military authorities that his son, [redacted] was missing in action, but no other contact officially or unofficially from any outside groups regarding his son. Mr. [redacted] advised that several friends and relatives have asked him intimate questions regarding his son; however, these were personal inquiries. Mr. [redacted] advised that he had no information of other families of servicemen being approached by the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam; however, he has seen articles in the local newspaper regarding this organization. Mr. [redacted] advised that if any contact is made, he would contact the nearest Federal Bureau of Investigation Office.

b7c

Bolman

On 9/23/70 at [redacted] *b7c* N. C. File # CE 100-10986

by SA [redacted] *b7c* Date dictated 9/25/70

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

[REDACTED]

Date 10/12/70 *b7c*

Boles

b7c Mrs. [REDACTED] North Carolina was interviewed at her place of employment, [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] Mrs. [REDACTED] was informed of the identity of the interviewing agent and of the nature of the inquiry. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she was the wife of [REDACTED] who is a Prisoner of War in North Vietnam. She advised that she had received some correspondence from the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. She stated that the only contact she had had with COLIFAM was in the form of the letters from said organization. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated she would attempt to locate said letters and make them available to the FBI. Further, that if there is no further contact with said organization she would contact the FBI Office in Charlotte, North Carolina. *b7c*

[REDACTED]

b7c

Boles

b7c

On 10/7/70 at [REDACTED], N.C. File # CE 100-10986

by SA [REDACTED] *b7c* Date dictated 10/12/70

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

fo 12812-2

Date 10/12/70

L2c

Mrs. [redacted] North Carolina, made available copies of the following letters which she received from the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM), same being received on October 9, 1970. See attached.

fo 12812-2

On 10/9/70 at Charlotte, N. C. File # CE 100-10986
by SA [redacted] *L2c* Date dictated 10/12/70

12

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

305 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10018

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:
COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:
Dave Dellinger
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:
Mrs. Anne Bennett

June 14, 1970

Committee

Richard J. Barnett
Rennie Davis
Madeline Duckles
Prof. Richard Falk
Rev. Richard Fernandez
Norman Fruchter
*Maggie Geddes
Steve Halliwell
Prof. Donald Kalish
Stewart Meacham
Prof. Bea Seitzman
Prof. Franz Schurmann
Ethel Taylor
*Barbara Webster
Trudi Young

*staff

Dear friend:

We are very glad to send you the enclosed letter from North Vietnam. It, along with 142 others, was brought to this country by Jean Palomdon, Nancy Rubin and Judy Claver -- anti-war activists who spent two weeks in North Vietnam.

The letters were slightly delayed in getting here because all the material they brought back with them, including the letters, was confiscated by the Canadian Customs upon their arrival in Montreal. This was totally unexpected and unprecedented; but they generated enough pressure so that everything was returned to them.

There will be another group going to North Vietnam at the end of this month. If you would like them to take a letter from you, please send it to us in the next week or so.

Sincerely,

Barbara Webster
Barbara Webster