

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

November 11, 1970

1

All b7c PER 12812-2

Date _____

Mrs. [redacted] Maryland [redacted] telephone number [redacted] was contacted concerning any contact her family may have had with anyone associated with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). Mrs. [redacted] advised that her son, [redacted] was reportedly shot down over [redacted] around January, 1967. They did send letters through the Red Cross, however, they were returned undelivered. b2c

She advised that no one has contacted her from COLIFAM.

Mrs. [redacted] remarked that she had been in contact with the Maryland Coordinator of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, identified as Mrs. [redacted] Maryland. Mrs. [redacted] husband, [redacted] was declared missing in action. b7c

b7c Mrs. [redacted] could possibly provide additional information as to any contacts made by representatives of COLIFAM concerning relatives of POW's and MIA's in the Maryland area.

b7c Mrs. [redacted] advised that she can furnish no additional information concerning her personal knowledge about the COLIFAM organization.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [redacted] b2c
CN345,570 POW/MIA FILED 12812

On 11/5/70 at [redacted] Maryland File # BA 100-27337
by SA [redacted] b7c Date dictated 11/5/70

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All 7c Per ED 12812-2

November 11, 1970

1

Date

b7c

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that he had received a form letter from COSA WIKES dated September 18, 1970, containing a letter from his son. It pointed out that letters were illegally seized at the Kennedy Airport and delayed their delivery. This letter pointed out that a ROBERT SCHEER had left Hanoi, where he had been given 379 letters from pilots, whose names appeared on a list of 235 previously confirmed prisoners. Mr. SCHEER with a delegation of 10, according to the letter, had spent three months in Algeria, Korea, China and North Vietnam and had accumulated a wide range of materials. It was pointed out that the U.S. Customs officials at Kennedy Airport were interested "only" in the whereabouts of the letters. According to the letter, Mr. SCHEER opened two packets of letters for the Custom 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". SCHEER refused to hand over the letters as they had been consigned to him for immediate delivery to families. Finally the officials agreed to place the letters in bond and the packages were officially sealed. This letter indicated that the State Department was contacted on the seizure of these letters and eventually the letters were released to Mr. SCHEER, who immediately transferred them to the Committee of Liaison for distribution. The letter criticized the U.S. Government for the above actions and commended the North Vietnamese for the increase in the volume of mail coming from prisoners. This letter pointed out that increasing numbers of packages and a wide assortment of food, medicine, and other articles had been received by the prisoners. Mr. [REDACTED] advised that he would notify the FBI concerning any further contacts he has with COLIFAM.

b7c

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [REDACTED]

b7c

CN345,570 POW/MIA AL E012812

On 11/5/70 at [REDACTED] Maryland File # BA 100-27337
by SA [REDACTED] b7c Date dictated 11/11/70

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

AH 67c PER ED 12812-2

Date November 11, 1970

[redacted] telephone number [redacted] was contacted concerning any contact made with representatives of the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. 62c

[redacted] advised that she is separated from [redacted] however, in connection with the situation involving her son, [redacted] who was missing in action, both have a sincere mutual interest. 62c

Since they were notified that he was missing in action by the Air Force, they have received no further information concerning his status nor have they received any correspondence nor have they been contacted by any representative of COLIFAM.

In the event any such contact occurs, [redacted] indicated that she would notify the FBI. 62c

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 62c
DATE 7/23/93 BY 7803 [redacted]
CNS45,570 POW/MIA PL ED12812

On 11/5/70, [redacted] Maryland File # BA 100-27337
by SA [redacted] 62c 11/11/70
Date dictated

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

All b7c REC EO 12812-2

Memorandum

TO: [REDACTED] b7c DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

DATE: 11/20/70

FROM: SAC, KNOXVILLE (100-4101) (P)

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

Re New York airtel to Bureau dated 6/9/70.

Enclosed for the Bureau and New York is one copy of an FD-302 showing the results of an interview with [REDACTED] on 11/6/70, at [REDACTED] Tenn.

The original of the FD-302 is maintained in Knoxville file 100-4154.

Mr. [REDACTED] advised during the course of the interview that he is almost positive his son, [REDACTED] of the Air Force, is dead. He did state, however, that should any information come to his attention concerning the captioned matter, he will immediately advise.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [REDACTED]

FOIA MIA per EO 12958
CN345,576

- 2 - Bureau (100-457899) (Enc. 1) (RM)
- 2 - New York (100-168469) (Enc. 1) (RM)
- 3 - Knoxville (2 - 100-4101)
(1 - 100-4154 C)

REC 16/00-457899-181

8 NOV 24 1970

ENCLOSURE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

57 DEC 8 1970

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All b7c PER 12812-2

1

Date November 17, 1970

[redacted] residence address [redacted]
 [redacted] Tennessee, employment [redacted]
 [redacted] Tenn., [redacted] he is
 the father of [redacted] in the
 U. S. Air Force. His son, according to Mr. [redacted] has
 been reported by a representative of the Air Force as
 missing in action. He advised that from the circumstances
 surrounding his disappearance it is only logical to believe
 that his son is dead.

Mr. [redacted] advised that the only individual
 he has been in contact with concerning his son has been
 a representative of the United States Air Force and that
 there has been no attempt on the part of any individual
 other than this representative to contact him. He further
 advised that he has no contact with the Committee of Liaison
 with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam and
 to his knowledge no effort has been made on the part of this
 group to contact either him or any member of his family.

According to Mr. [redacted] he does not know of
 any other family in the area who have relatives either
 missing in action or prisoners of war that have been
 contacted by the committee.

As there seems to be only small hope that his
 son might be alive, Mr. [redacted] strongly doubts that
 any effort will be made by any group to contact him concerning
 his son. Should this happen, Mr. [redacted] advised that he
 will immediately inform of the contact.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [redacted]

POW/MIA RUCO 12812
 CA245,570

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
 OTHERWISE

On 11/6/70 at [redacted] Tenn. File # KX 100-4154

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 11/10/70

100-457599-1
 ENCLOSURE

FBI

All 172 MAR 12812-2

Date: 11/18/70

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

AIRTEL

Via _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)
FROM: SAC, DETROIT (100-37260) (P)
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM
(COLIFAM)
IS - MISCELLANEOUS
REGISTRATION ACT
OO: New York

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803

POW MIA MED 12812
CA 345,570

Re New York airtel dated 6/9/70, San Antonio
letter dated 8/27/70, and Detroit letter to Bureau, 8/25/70.

Re San Antonio letters lists relatives of
Prisoners of War (POWs) residing in the different areas.

On this list was the following relative:

[Redacted Name]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Investigation at [Redacted] revealed that Mrs. [Redacted]
moved from that address without a forwarding
address. It was later determined that [Redacted] was
residing in [Redacted]

On 11/6/70, [Redacted] above address,
was interviewed and advised as follows: She said she has

- 2 - Bureau (RM) **REC-88 EX-100 100-457899-182**
- 1 - New York (100-168469) (info) (RM)
- 2 - Richmond (RM)
- 2 - Washington Field (100-50739) (Enc. 1) (RM)
- 2 - Detroit

22 NOV 20 1970

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

57 DEC 2 1970

All b7c PER EO 12812-2

DE 100-37260

never received a letter from her son, [REDACTED] b7c
[REDACTED] nor has she been contacted by a representative
of COLIFAM. She stated her son's wife probably hears from him
if anyone would, but her daughter-in-law and she are not
on speaking terms. Her son's wife is named [REDACTED] and b7c
does not have her address but she resides in [REDACTED]
Virginia. Her name is probably in the telephone book.

Mrs. [REDACTED] b7c supplied a pamphlet announcing the
first annual meeting of members of the National League of Families
of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, which
was held at the Marriott Twin Bridges Motor Hotel, Washington,
D.C. This pamphlet in the form of a ballot listed the
names of 45 members named by the Nominating Committee as
candidates for the Board of Directors. This pamphlet is
being enclosed for WFO for their informatin. Mrs. [REDACTED]
received this pamphlet through the mail from the group b7c
and it does not need to be returned.

It is to be noted that Mrs. [REDACTED] b7c

[REDACTED] No further contacts with her are contemplated.

LEAD

RICHMOND

AT [REDACTED] VIRGINIA b7c

Attempt to locate, and if feasible interview Mrs.
[REDACTED] b7c complying with instructions as set
forth in referenced New York airtel.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

All b7c per 50 APRIL-2

NOV 1970

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

TELETYPE

NR016 WF CODED

200AM NITEL 11-6-70 ALM (SENT 11-7-70)

TO DIRECTOR

ATTENTION DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

NEW YORK

FROM WASHINGTON FIELD IP

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN

DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM), IS - MISCELLANEOUS,

REGISTRATION ACT.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803

FOUO/HIA/ALM/281C
CN245,570

RE NEW YORK TELETYPE TO BUREAU, NOVEMBER FIVE, NINETEEN

SEVENTY.

INFORMATION FROM [REDACTED]

PROVIDED TO BUREAU FILE ONE ZERO ZERO - FOUR FOUR THREE NINE
ONE SIX BY WFO AIRTEL DATED OCTOBER EIGHT, LAST, WAS ALL THE
INFORMATION POSSESSED BY SOURCE. SOURCE RETAINS NO PERMANENT
RECORDS AND HAS NO DATA BESIDES THAT ALREADY SET OUT.

RUC.

END

REM FBI WASH DC

REC 83 100-4-
ST-111 NOV 24 1970

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

57 DEC 2 1970

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

All b7c b2 to 12812-2

TO

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

DATE: 11/23/70

FROM

SAC, SACRAMENTO (100-2745) (P)

SUBJECT:

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM

(COLIFAM)

INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS;
REGISTRATION ACT

OO: New York

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803

CN245.570 PDWMA MEDICAL

Re New York airtel to the Bureau, 6/9/70, and
Sacramento letter to the Bureau, 8/10/70.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eleven (11) copies
of an LHM containing the results of interviews with people
in relation to captioned organization. Two (2) copies of
this LHM are being enclosed for New York.

All persons interviewed were advised that the
investigation was being conducted at the specific request
of the Department of Justice.

The following people were interviewed on the
dates indicated and they all advised that they had not
been contacted by captioned organization:

Copy to LHM - RAO-ISA

by routing slip for

Info action

date 12/7/70

by

11/16/70

California

EX-105

REC-14

100-457899-184

11 NOV 27 1970

California

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN

OTHERWISE

cc 910-D

9/18/70

② - Bureau (Encs. 1) (RM)

2 - New York (100-168469) (Encs. 2) (RM)

4 - Sacramento



5010-108-01

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

1 Xerox of LHM to RAO
Robert Mardian 4/7/71

All b7c PER EO 12812-2

SC 100-2745

[REDACTED] b7c
[REDACTED] California
9/18/70

Mrs. [REDACTED] b7c
[REDACTED] California
10/27/70

Repeated attempts to locate and interview [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] b7c
[REDACTED] have been unsuccessful to date.

LEADS

SACRAMENTO

AT [REDACTED] CALIFORNIA: b7c

Interview [REDACTED] b7c
[REDACTED]

AT [REDACTED] CALIFORNIA:

Interview [REDACTED] b7c
[REDACTED]

AT [REDACTED] CALIFORNIA:

Interview Mrs. [REDACTED] b7c
[REDACTED]

AT [REDACTED] CALIFORNIA:

b7c

SC 100-2745

b2c

Interview

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b2c

EO 12812-2



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Sacramento, California

November 23, 1970

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

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

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [REDACTED]

FOUOIA ON ED 12812 ED 12812-2
EN 245,570

b7c

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.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

ENCLOSURE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All b7c RRR EO 12812-2

Date 6/17/70

1

Mr. [redacted] advised that his son, [redacted] also known as [redacted] United States Air Force, is presently a prisoner in North Vietnam.

Mr. [redacted] stated that during the early part of August, 1969, a telegram was sent to his son's wife, Mrs. [redacted] at their former address in [redacted] the telegram, which was received on a Sunday night, was accepted by Mr. [redacted] and he in turn sent a night letter to Mrs. [redacted] at [redacted] Georgia, repeating the message.

The aforementioned telegram was from RENNIE DAVIS, New York, New York, in which he stated that he had a letter from [redacted] and would forward same to [redacted] In the text of the telegram DAVIS quoted in full the contents of [redacted] letter.

On the following Tuesday a letter arrived in [redacted] addressed to Mrs. [redacted] from DAVIS enclosing the aforementioned letter from [redacted] The letter was from "RENNARD C. DAVIS, The National Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, 339 Lafayette Street, New York, New York, 10012".

Mr. [redacted] stated that in September of 1969, Mrs. [redacted] received a second letter from [redacted] this one from "The Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM), New York, New York". [redacted] letter was dated August 29, 1969, and Mr. [redacted] has a copy of same.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [redacted]

FOUO/HA/ED/12812
CA1345,570

On 8/13/70 at [redacted] California File# SC 100-2745

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 8/13/70

All MC PER EO 12812-2

2

SC 100-2745

[REDACTED] b2c
In the latter part of November or early December, 1969, two letters were received in [REDACTED] for Mrs. [REDACTED] b7c
[REDACTED] from [REDACTED]. These letters arrived in one envelope from COLIFAM.

Though the four aforementioned letters from [REDACTED] b7c
[REDACTED] were addressed to his wife, Mr. [REDACTED] opened the letters with Mrs. [REDACTED] prior approval.

By letter dated April 20, 1970, STEVEN E. HALLIWELL, COLIFAM, New York, New York, forwarded a letter from [REDACTED] b7c
[REDACTED] addressed to Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED] California. In HALLIWELL's letter he mentions the fact that a Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ, a member of COLIFAM, had brought back this letter from North Vietnam.

Mr. [REDACTED] b7c
[REDACTED] stated that neither he and his wife nor Mrs. [REDACTED] have received any additional letters from [REDACTED] since April of 1970.

Mr. [REDACTED] b7c
[REDACTED] advised that he has received approximately two letters from COLIFAM in which they offered to forward mail from the family to [REDACTED] b7c
[REDACTED] in North Vietnam. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that he has never acknowledged these letters and to his knowledge his son's wife has never contacted COLIFAM.

Mr. [REDACTED] b7c
[REDACTED] advised that neither he and his wife nor his son's wife have ever been personally contacted by any representative of COLIFAM. No personal objects have ever been delivered for them or brought back to them from [REDACTED]

Mr. [REDACTED] b7c
[REDACTED] also noted that he knows of no other prisoner of war families who have been approached in a similar manner.

Mr. [REDACTED] b7c
[REDACTED] advised that he is willing to cooperate should his testimony be needed at a later date as long as this testimony "would not prejudice my son".

³
SC 100-2745

All OK PER EO 12812-2

[REDACTED] b2c

b2c

[REDACTED] wife, Mrs. [REDACTED]
presently resides at [REDACTED]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

ALL BY PER ED 12812-2

Date September 23, 19701

b7c

b7c

Mrs. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] California, is the mother of [REDACTED] United States Air Force, a prisoner of war.

About December, 1969, she received a letter from the American Friends Service Committee, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, which indicated that "someone" was going to make a trip to North Vietnam and would be able to take letters to prisoners of war. She is not totally certain, but believes some representative of the United States Air Force also contacted her about the same time, indicating that mail for prisoners of war might be delivered via this means.

About March, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] received a letter from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). She recalled that the letter bore the printed signature of a person whose last name was WEISS. It was a cover letter enclosing a letter from her prisoner of war son. She subsequently received a letter in April and in June, 1970.

Mrs. [REDACTED] indicated that she is most grateful for this avenue of correspondence to and from her prisoner of war son. She stated that the letters from this committee have appeared to be courteous, sympathetic, and with a sincere desire to help. She recalled that there had been no demands, no requests for contributions or no solicitations in the letters.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that since this committee apparently provides the only possible source of contact with her son, she would prefer not to make any appearances which would in any way jeopardize that contact.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [REDACTED]

FOW/MIA PER ED 12812
CN345,570On 9/11/70 at [REDACTED] CaliforniaFile # SC 100-2745by SA [REDACTED]Date dictated 9/17/70

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All b7c PER EO 12812-2

Date September 24, 19701

Mrs. [REDACTED] Naval Air Station, [REDACTED] California, is the wife of [REDACTED] United States Navy, a prisoner of war in North Vietnam who was captured [REDACTED] 1968.

b7c Her first contact with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM), was at San Diego during the Easter season in 1970 via a phone call of an individual who identified himself as STEVE HALLOWELL of that committee.

HALLOWELL stated that he was then in San Francisco and had a letter which he would mail to her. The letter arrived with a cover letter from COLIFAM which indicated that this was one of a packet of letters from prisoners of war which a member of their committee secured while in North Vietnam. She was invited to communicate with her husband via that committee and has done so on several occasions since that time.

She has in no way been intimidated, solicited or cajoled by the COLIFAM and has no wish to testify if that testimony would in any way jeopardize the continuance of the contact with her prisoner of war husband.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [REDACTED]

POW/MIA PER EO 12812
CN346,570

On 9/14/70 at [REDACTED] California File # SC 100-2745

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 9/17/70

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All b7c per EO 12812-2

Date September 24, 19701

b7c

[REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] California, is the wife of
 [REDACTED] United States Navy,
 who has been a prisoner of war in North Vietnam since
 [REDACTED] 1967.

b2c

During late 1969 and 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] received several letters from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM), which have enclosed letters from her prisoner of war husband. She has likewise sent several letters to him via that same source. She has in no manner been intimidated, solicited, or cajoled by this committee. She would prefer to send her letters via an official United States Government source, but to date, this committee appears to provide the only effective avenue for contact with her husband. She would prefer not to give any testimony against this committee that might jeopardize that source of contact with her husband.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 7/23/73 BY 9803 [REDACTED]
 POW/MIA per EO 12812
 CN345,570

b2c

On 9/14/70 at [REDACTED] California File # SC 100-3745

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 9/17/70

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

111 67c 152 ED 12812-2

September 24, 1970

1

Date

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] California, is the wife of [REDACTED] United States Navy, a prisoner of war.

During 1969, she was twice contacted by a United States Navy legal officer advising that representatives of the American Friends Service Committee were going to attempt to deliver mail to the prisoners of war in North Vietnam and invited her to send letters. She did send one letter. In return, during Christmas, 1969, she received a Christmas card from her husband via the American Friends Service Committee postmarked in San Francisco but with a Philadelphia return address.

Early in 1970, she received a letter from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM), which indicated that a group of persons were going to North Vietnam and that she was invited to send a letter to her husband to be delivered by that group. She did not respond.

About March or April, 1970, she received a telephone call from a Reverend FERNANDEZ, who identified himself as a member of that committee in Philadelphia. FERNANDEZ indicated that he had been to North Vietnam and had an interview with her husband and also indicated he had a letter from her husband for her but that first he had to take it to New York to be cataloged by the Liaison Committee. He indicated that her husband was in good health and was receiving good treatment. Ten days later the letter from her husband did arrive.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [REDACTED]
Pw/MIA ED 12812-2
CN345,570

On 9/14/70 at [REDACTED] California File # SC 100-2745

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 9/18/70

SC 100-2745

All b7c OER EO 12812-2

b2c

She has since received two more letters from her husband via this committee, latest being in August, 1970. She has not been harassed or cajoled or intimidated by this committee and is grateful for any avenue of contact with her husband. She would prefer not to make any public statements or committee court action, etc., which would possibly jeopardize the correspondence avenues which currently exist via this committee. She stated that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] California, were also wives of prisoners of war held in North Vietnam.

b2c

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All b7c PER EO 12812-2

1

Date September 23, 1970

b7c

Mrs. [redacted] was advised of the identity of Special Agent [redacted] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and that she was being contacted at the direction of J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General, whereupon she furnished the following information:

b7c

She stated her son, [redacted] was reported missing in action on [redacted], 1967, by the United States Air Force, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

b7c

She stated about two weeks later, she began receiving about two telephone calls per week, from unidentified individuals, who threatened her, and warned her on at least two occasions she would have her house burned to the ground. She advised these calls lasted until about November, 1969, and then suddenly ceased.

She advised she thought there were at least two persons calling her and added one had what she would describe as a "German sounding voice."

She advised she had no idea where these calls originated and that the callers made mention of belonging to no group or organization. She said for the most part the callers would speak out against the war in Viet Nam and berate her for letting her son fight in such a war.

She advised she received no mail or correspondence from anyone or any organization regarding her son.

She further added she knew of no other families with relatives missing in action or in prisoner of war status in the area.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/22/93 BY 9803 [redacted]

b7c

*FOUO MIA PER EO 12812
CN345570*

On 9/15/70 at [redacted] California File # SC 100-2745

b7c

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

b7c

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All b2 PER 100 128122

Date 9/24/70

Mrs. [REDACTED] *b2c*

advised that her husband has been missing in action since 1966. She stated that while she was in Denver in March of 1966, she received an anonymous phone call telling her that her husband had died and gave her the sites and particulars concerning his being missing in action. She stated that she reported this to Randolph Air Force Base. She advised that she heard no more concerning this call.

Mrs. [REDACTED] *b2c*

stated that in December of 1969, she received a telephone call from a man who said he was from "The Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM)", but did not give his name. She stated that he was in San Jose and that he wanted to meet with her and talk about her husband. She stated she refused to make this meeting. She stated that during this same month she also received a letter from COLIFAM which she recalls having said that they could help her get information concerning her husband's whereabouts. The letter had some propaganda concerning the United States causing the war in Vietnam, but they said in spite of this they exist to help families get in contact with servicemen detained in North Vietnam.

Mrs. [REDACTED] *b2c*

stated that she no longer has this piece of correspondence and has received no other correspondence or contact from COLIFAM since 1969. She stated the above was all that she could remember concerning the contact with COLIFAM and advised that she would notify the FBI if she received any further contacts.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED *b2c*
DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [REDACTED]
POW/MIA OME012812
CN345,570

On 9/18/70 at [REDACTED] California *b2c* 11

File # SC 100-2745

by SA [REDACTED] *b2c*

Date dictated 9/18/70

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All b7c PER ED 12812-2

Date 9/28/70

b2c
Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that she is the wife of [REDACTED]. She stated that she was first contacted by the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) on March 9, 1970, by means of a letter through them from her husband. She stated the letter contained quite a bit of propaganda about the United States' involvement in Vietnam and also recommending that the United States withdraw from the war.

b7c
Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she got a letter from her husband postmarked April 30, 1970, and that on May 4, 1970, she received a letter from Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ saying that he had obtained and forwarded the above letter under the auspices of COLIFAM.

b7c
Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that she forwarded letters to her husband as enclosures to letters to BARBARA WEBSTER on June 21, 1970, and September 20, 1970.

She advised that on September 21, 1970, she received a letter from COLIFAM which she produced and which is attached hereto.

b7c
Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that at no time during her contacts with COLIFAM has she been harassed or cajold; that she is not aware of how the organization makes its contacts; and advised that the only reasons she deals with this organization is because she has no other way to remain in some kind of contact with her husband. She stated that she would most assuredly testify concerning her knowledge of the operation of COLIFAM if the U. S. Government were to so request her.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [REDACTED]

PAW/MIA per ED 12812
CA345,570

On 9/22/70 at [REDACTED] California File # SC 100-2745

by SA [REDACTED] *b2c* Date dictated 9/22/70

COMMITTEE OF ISON

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
Corinne 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. Ben Spitzman
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.)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/83 BY 9803

POW/MIA OLC EDI/SSIL
CN345370

184

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1 All 67C PER EO 12812-2

Date 9/30/70

Mrs. [redacted] advised that she is the mother of [redacted] a member of the United States Air Force. She has been missing in action since [redacted] 1969.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that she has received no contact from her son. She also advised that she has not been contacted by anyone from the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that the only mail she has received regarding her son, or the prisoner of war situation, has been from Congressman and Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [redacted]
RW/MIA PER EO 12812
CNS/45,570

On 9/28/70 at [redacted] California File # 100-2745
by SA [redacted] Date dictated 9/28/70

b2c
Mrs. [redacted] advised that the letter mentioned above was from COLIFAN and it enclosed a letter apparently from her husband. She exhibited the original of the letter and it is identical with the one previously made available by the cousin of Mrs. [redacted] Small, Oklahoma.

b2c
Mrs. [redacted] also exhibited the letter from COLIFAN which was enclosed with the letter from her husband.

b2c
Mrs. [redacted] advised that the United States Air Force conducted some type of examination of the handwriting on her husband's letter and concluded that while it is not exactly like the other specimens of his handwriting, it is sufficiently the same, considering his probable physical and emotional state, to conclude it is his handwriting.

b2c
Mrs. [redacted] advised that the above mentioned letter is the only piece of mail or other personal item delivered to her by COLIFAN.

b2c
Mrs. [redacted] advised that COLIFAN has offered no explanation of the source of the letter from her husband except as stated in the letter which accompanied her husband's letter, which is as follows:

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:

Dove 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 Maccham
Prof. Bea Seitzman
Prof. Franz Schurmann
Ethel Taylor
*Barbara Webster
Trudi Young

*staff

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]: ^{b7c} 2012812-2

We're very happy to forward this letter to you which just arrived from North Vietnam along with 81 others.

We know it's been a long time since you were informed that this letter was en route, but it's a long trip and we too are delighted that they've arrived.

Sincerely,

Barbara Webster Maggie Geddes

Barbara Webster Maggie Geddes
for the Committee of Liaison

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [REDACTED]

POW/MIA PL E 12812
CW345,570

^{b7c} 2012812-2

All b7c b7d ED 12812-2

SL 100-2745

b7c
Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that she knows of no other persons who have received material from relatives but assumes that numerous others have been contacted as she was by COLIFAM, inasmuch as letters she has received appear to be form type letters which must receive wide distribution.

b7c
Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that she has not kept the correspondence from COLIFAM, and in fact she generally does not even open the envelopes. She stated, however, that she does still have the last envelope received from COLIFAM, which she had not opened. Mrs. PYLE opened the above mentioned envelope and advised that she did not want to keep it and furnished it to SA [REDACTED] b7c

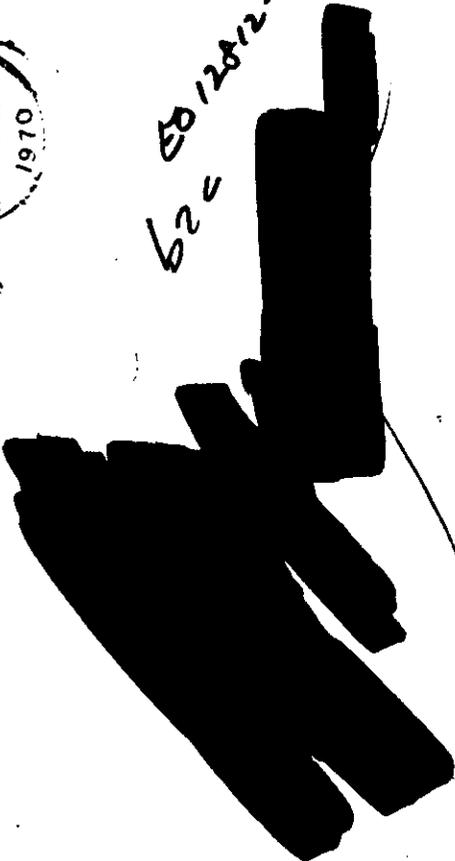
The following is a copy of the face of the envelope and a copy of a letter and a copy of one of three blank letter forms contained in the envelope:

NATIONAL CAP
ASTHMA WEEK
MAY 1

PM
7 MAY
1970

COMMITTEE OF-LIAISON
365 West 42nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10036
MAY 1-7

b2c EO 12812-2



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803
POW/MIA RU EO 12812
CA345,570

b7c EO 12812-2

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

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [REDACTED]

b7c
10/12/81-2

POW/MIA AU EO/LSH
CN 345,570

May 4, 1970

Co-chairmen:

Dave Dellinger
Cora Weiss

From: Rev. Richard Fernandez

To: The families of the 335 presently confirmed
prisoners held in North Vietnam

Treasurer:

Mrs. Anne Bennett

Re: Information on correspondence with prisoners

Committee

Richard J. Barnett
Rennie Davis
Madeline Duckles
Prof. Richard Falk
Rev. Richard Fernandez
Norman Fruchter

On April 20th I returned from a three-week trip to
Laos and North Vietnam. In North Vietnam I spoke
with officials responsible for communication between
pilots held in detention there and their families
here. The following information was emphasized to
me by the North Vietnamese authorities and we are
anxious to make sure that you are aware of it:

*Maggie Goddes
Steve Halliwell
Prof. Donald Kalish
Stewart Meacham
Prof. Leo Seitzman
Prof. Franz Schurmann
Ethel Taylor
*Barbara Webster
Trudi Young

- 1) The Vietnamese recommend that families use the
air-letter form (enclosed) for correspondence.
- 2) Communication to pilots should be limited to
matters of family and health.
- 3) Pilots are allowed to receive one letter per
month and one package every other month (not
over six pounds in weight).

Staff

Detention Camp authorities have said that they do not
wish to receive several letters and/or packages per
month for a given pilot from different members of the
same family. Families should make arrangements for
alternating letters each month if different members

want to write.

The North Vietnamese authorities indicated that, from this point
forward, they will not feel responsible for forwarding letters and
packages that do not adhere to the above.

If the letter form is mailed directly it can go in another envelope
but the mail route, "via Moscow, U.S.S.R.," should definitely be in-
cluded in the address. If letters are sent to the Committee of Liaison
for forwarding please enclose but do not affix stamps as we send letters
on in packets. The Committee cannot forward packages for families.

While I was in Hanoi, Prof. Douglas Dowd of Cornell University and I
met with three pilots: Cdr. Robert Schweitzer of Lemoore, California;
Cdr. Walter Wilbur of Virginia Beach and Lt. Col. Edison Miller of
Santa Ana, California. The three men were in good health, and said
they had daily exercise and reading material. The three pilots ad-
vised us that they had been getting letters and packages from their

Richard Fernandez memo - page 2

families, and asked that packages include toilet articles and canned foods. In particular they mentioned soap, shaving cream (no razors or blades), toothpaste, powdered milk and cream, instant coffee and non-melting candy. They said they do not need clothes.

Also, in my discussions with the Vietnam Committee of Solidarity with the American People, the Committee of Liaison's contact in North Vietnam, we confirmed that since December over 800 letters have been sent from Hanoi through the Committee of Liaison. Of those, 156 letters are still on their way from Hanoi to families here.

We hope that this information clarifies some aspects of correspondence for you. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

NGƯỜI GỬI (Addressor)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

SỐ LÍNH (Service number):

NƠI 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):

21-31-91
b2
EO 12812-2

Blank lined area for writing, with a dotted line for the date.

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

All b7c per CO 12812-2

Date: [redacted]

b7c

Mrs. [redacted]

advised that she is the wife of [redacted]. She stated that at approximately 9:00 a.m. on January 25, 1969, she was contacted by [redacted] Marine Air Force Base, Marysville, California, relative to the fact that her husband was missing in action. She indicated that [redacted] suggested that she may not wish to give this matter any publicity. She stated that it was the opinion of the family that they give this matter no publicity whatsoever. UTLEY stated that she does not belong to any clubs or groups who's members are related to dead or missing servicemen. She stated that she has not been harassed or bothered by anyone in any capacity. She indicated that she does not know of any other people who have loved ones dead or missing in action, who have been harassed.

b7c

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/93 BY [redacted]
PCH/HIA/AL 6213/12
CNS/S, 570

b7c

by [redacted]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All b7c PER EO 12812-2

REPORTING OFFICE SAN ANTONIO	OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW YORK	DATE 11/10/70	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 9/21 - 11/5/70
TITLE OF CASE COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)		REPORT MADE BY SA [REDACTED]	TYPED BY [REDACTED]
		CHARACTER OF CASE IS - MISCELLANEOUS REGISTRATION ACT	

REFERENCES: Report of SA [REDACTED], 9/23/70, at San Antonio.

- P -

LEADS

HOUSTON

AT [REDACTED] TEXAS. Will, if not already done, interview Mrs. [REDACTED] wife of [REDACTED] per instructions received in this matter.

ALEXANDRIA

Information copies being furnished to Alexandria inasmuch as Mrs. [REDACTED] wife of [REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [REDACTED]

*POW/MIA QMED 12812
CN345,570*

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: [REDACTED] SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

- COPIES MADE:
- 11 - Bureau (100-457899) (RM)
 - 2 - New York (100-168469) (RM)
 - 2 - Houston (RM)
 - 1 - Alexandria (Info) (RM)
 - 3 - San Antonio (100-11851)

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

REC-23

NOV 17 1970

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency	<i>FIRM, OSI, NIS, RAC-#50</i>
Request Recd.	
Date Fwd.	<i>11/24/70</i>
How Fwd.	<i>RIS</i>
By	<i>[REDACTED]</i>

Notations

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

70 DEC 7 - 1970

SA 100-11851

EO 12812-2

b2c

[REDACTED] "Members of the National League of Families of American Prisoners Missing in Southeast Asia," sponsored by the military services.

SAN ANTONIO

AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS. Will continue to interview dependents of prisoners of war in the San Antonio area.

ADMINISTRATIVE

EXTREME DISCRETION SHOULD BE USED DURING THE COURSE OF INTERVIEWS. ADVISE INDIVIDUALS INTERVIEWED THAT IT IS AT THE DIRECTION OF J. WALTER YEAGLEY, ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL. DETERMINE ALSO IF THE INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWED WOULD BE WILLING TO COOPERATE SHOULD THEIR TESTIMONY BE NEEDED AT A LATER TIME. PERTINENT INTERVIEWS SHOULD BE SET FORTH ON FD-302'S.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All b7c per EO 12812-2

Copy to:

Report of:

[REDACTED] *b7c*

Office: San Antonio, Texas

Date:

11/10/70

Field Office File #:

100-11851

Bureau File #: 100-457899

Title:

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

Character:

INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS
REGISTRATION ACT

Synopsis:

Mrs. [REDACTED] Texas;
Mrs. [REDACTED] Texas; Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED]
Texas; Mrs. [REDACTED]
Mrs. [REDACTED] Texas; and
any information from captioned group. Mrs. [REDACTED] *b7c*
Texas; Mrs. [REDACTED] Texas; Mrs. [REDACTED]
Texas; Mrs. [REDACTED] Texas; Mrs. [REDACTED]
Texas; and Mrs. [REDACTED]
Texas, have been in contact with COLIFAM regarding
relatives who are prisoners of war. Results of their
contacts set forth. Major FRED THOMPSON, U. S. Air Force,
Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, was released as a prisoner
of war in July, 1968. Major THOMPSON advised that his
family was not contacted by anyone prior to his release
other than military authorities.

b7c - P -
DETAILS: AT [REDACTED] TEXAS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED *b7c*
DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [REDACTED]
FOI/MLA per EO 12812-2 20345,570

SA [REDACTED] *b7c*

The following investigation was conducted by

On September 21, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] *b7c*

advised as follows:

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE~~

All b7c per EO 12812-2

SA 100-11851

She is the mother of [REDACTED] b7c
who is reported missing in action in Vietnam. She has
never heard from captioned committee and its known
members whose names were read to her. [REDACTED]

Mrs. [REDACTED] b7c
Virginia, is a representative of the "Members of the
National League of Families of American Prisoners and
Missing in Southeast Asia," sponsored by the military
services.

b7c

All b2c PER EO 12812-2
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 10/6/70

b2c [redacted] b2c b2c

Mrs. [redacted] Texas, wife of [redacted] (MIA), after being advised of the official identity of Special Agent [redacted] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation was informed that she was being contacted and interviewed concerning the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam at the direction of J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice.

11- b2c Mrs. [redacted] advised that she is the wife of [redacted] who is listed as missing in action in Vietnam. Mrs. [redacted] advised that she has neither been contacted by or had any contact with the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. Mrs. [redacted] did advise though that she has heard of this committee both on television and radio and that a close friend of hers by the name of Mrs. [redacted] Texas, has been in contact with the committee. She knows of no other servicemen's wives or families in the Waco area who have been contacted by this committee. When Mrs. [redacted] was asked as to whether or not she would be willing to cooperate should her testimony be needed at a later date, concerning the committee, she advised that since she has not been contacted by the committee at this time, she would not be able to say whether or not she would be able to cooperate in giving any testimony.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/93 BY 9903 [redacted] b2c
Paw/MIA PER EO 12812
CN345,570

On 10/1/70 at [redacted] TEXAS File # SA 100-11851
by SA [redacted] b2c Date dictated 10/1/70

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All b7c per EO 12812-2

10/6/70

b7c

Date

b7c

Mrs. [redacted] Texas, wife of [redacted] (PW), after being advised to the official identity of Special Agent [redacted] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation was informed that she was being contacted and interviewed concerning the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam at the direction of J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice.

b7c

b7c

Mrs. [redacted] advised that she is the wife of [redacted] who is listed as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. She advised that her husband has been a prisoner of war in North Vietnam for over four years. Mrs. [redacted] advised she had not had any contact with the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam until she received a telephone call on March 25, or 26, 1970, from a woman identifying herself as ETHYL TAYLOR, a member of the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. Mrs. [redacted] stated that ETHYL TAYLOR telephonically contacted her and the conversation went, as recalled, as follows:

b7c

b7c

ETHYL TAYLOR stated "Is this the wife of [redacted] who is a prisoner of war in North Vietnam?" Mrs. [redacted] stated, "Yes, this is. Who is this calling?" TAYLOR stated, "My name is ETHYL TAYLOR and I am a member of the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. A group of Quakers have just returned from North Vietnam with approximately 200 - 300 letters from American servicemen who are prisoners of war in North Vietnam. There is one letter here from your husband and will be forwarded as soon as possible to your address." Mrs. [redacted] could not remember anything further regarding the telephone conversation. She could not recall ETHYL TAYLOR ever mentioning from where she was calling but she had assumed that ETHYL TAYLOR was calling from the New York Office of the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. ETHYL TAYLOR had never informed Mrs. [redacted] where she had obtained her (Mrs. [redacted] telephone number or address.

b7c

b7c

b7c

Mrs. [redacted] advised she received two letters in April, one letter in May, one letter in June, and two letters in

b7c b7c

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [redacted] 100-11851

b7c

10/1/70

TEXAS

FOIA b7c EO 12812 File #

On

at

CN 345,570

SA [redacted]

b7c

10/1/70

by

Date dictated

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.

b2c All b7c PER CO 12812-2

100-11801

b2c Mrs. [redacted] further advised that each letter received from her husband had with it a letter from the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam explaining briefly how they had obtained the letter and what could be done to further the communications between herself and her husband in North Vietnam. Mrs. [redacted] advised that every letter that she had received from her husband she forwarded to the Randolph Air Force Base which has been set up as an information center for families of the prisoner of war servicemen.

b2c Mrs. [redacted] advised that the telephone contact was the only contact she has had with the committee aside from the letters that are forwarded to her with her husband's letters. Neither the one telephone call nor any of the letters have been derogatory or harrasing towards her in any manner. She advised that she had obtained the impression that the committee was trying to point out to her that it was the U.S. Government that was causing the delay in the letters being forwarded to her. She advised the committee had never informed her who their contacts in North Vietnam were but in each one of the letters it basically spelled out who the individual was that had obtained the letters in North Vietnam. Mrs. [redacted] knows of no other families of prisoners of war who have been approached in the base area by the committee.

b2c She advised that the only contact that she has actually had with the committee was the last time in June, July, or August, when she wrote a letter to her husband and addressed it via the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam in care of the office in New York City, New York.

b2c Mrs. [redacted] furnished for xeroxing purposes the original letters she had received enclosed with the letters from her husband. These letters had been removed and are attached. The originals were returned to Mrs. [redacted] at her request.

b2c When Mrs. [redacted] was asked if she would be willing to testify at a later date concerning her contact with the Committee, she advised she could not give a yes or no answer and would have to make that determination in the event she was actually asked to testify.

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
Cora Weiss

Dear  :

*b2c
EO 12812-2*

Treasurer:
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee
Richard J. Barnett
Rennie Davis
Madeline Duckles
Prof. Richard Folk
Rev. Richard Fernandez
Norman Fruchter
*Maggie Gaddes
Steve Halliwell
Prof. Donald Kalish
Stewart Maccham
Prof. Ben Seitzman
Prof. Franz Schurmann
Ethel Taylor
*Barbara Webster
Trudi Young

*staff

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

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803

*POW/MIA per EO 12812
CN345,570*

*b2c
EO 12812-2*

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

May 4, 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 Goddes
Steve Halliwell
Prof. Donald Kolish
Stewart Meacham
Prof. Bea Seitzman
Prof. Franz Schurmann
Ethel Taylor
*Barbara Webster
Trudi Young

*staff

From: Rev. Richard Fernandez
To: The families of the 335 presently confirmed prisoners held in North Vietnam
Re: Information on correspondence with prisoners

On April 20th I returned from a three-week trip to Laos and North Vietnam. In North Vietnam I spoke with officials responsible for communication between pilots held in detention there and their families here. The following information was emphasized to me by the North Vietnamese authorities and we are anxious to make sure that you are aware of it:

- 1) The Vietnamese recommend that families use the air-letter form (enclosed) for correspondence.
- 2) Communication to pilots should be limited to matters of family and health.
- 3) Pilots are allowed to receive one letter per month and one package every other month (not over six pounds in weight).

Detention Camp authorities have said that they do not wish to receive several letters and/or packages per month for a given pilot from different members of the same family. Families should make arrangements for alternating letters each month if different members

want to write.

The North Vietnamese authorities indicated that, from this point forward, they will not feel responsible for forwarding letters and packages that do not adhere to the above.

If the letter form is mailed directly it can go in another envelope but the mail route, "via Moscow, U.S.S.R.," should definitely be included in the address. If letters are sent to the Committee of Liaison for forwarding please enclose but do not affix stamps as we send letters on in packets. The Committee cannot forward packages for families.

While I was in Hanoi, Prof. Douglas Dowd of Cornell University and I met with three pilots: Cdr. Robert Schweitzer of Lemoore, California; Cdr. Walter Wilbur of Virginia Beach and Lt. Col. Edison Miller of Santa Ana, California. The three men were in good health, and said they had daily exercise and reading material. The three pilots advised us that they had been getting letters and packages from their

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Richard Fernandez memo - page 2

families, and asked that packages include toilet articles and canned foods. In particular they mentioned soap, shaving cream (no razors or blades), toothpaste, powdered milk and cream, instant coffee and non-melting candy. They said they do not need clothes.

Also, in my discussions with the Vietnam Committee of Solidarity with the American People, the Committee of Liaison's contact in North Vietnam, we confirmed that since December over 800 letters have been sent from Hanoi through the Committee of Liaison. Of those, 155 letters are still on their way from Hanoi to families here.

We hope that this information clarifies some aspects of correspondence for you. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Members of Servicemen Detainees in North Vietnam

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

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:
COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:
Dove Dellinger
Cara Weiss

Treasurer:
Mrs. Anne Bennett

June 14, 1970

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

*stuff

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

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DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [REDACTED]

POW/MIA PER EO 12812
CN 345,570

L7c
EO 12812-2

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 Dollinger
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:
Mrs. Anne Bennett

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

*staff

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

We're very happy to forward this letter to you which just arrived from North Vietnam along with 81 others.

We know it's been a long time since you were informed that this letter was en route, but it's a long trip and we too are delighted that they've arrived.

Sincerely,

Barbara Webster Maggie Gaddes

Barbara Webster Maggie Gaddes
for the Committee of Liaison

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POW/MIA OLC EO 12812
CN 345, 570

COMMUNIST PARTY

Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

363 West 42nd Street New York N.Y. 10018

212-765-1490

Cable address: COLLEAFAM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Co-chairman:
Dave Dellinger
Cora Weiss

COMMUNICATION WITH CAPTURED AIRMEN

Treasurer:
Mrs. Anne Bonnett

ESTABLISHED BY NEW COMMITTEE:

Committee (in formation):
Rennie Davis
Rev. Richard Fernandez
Maggie Golden
Steve McQueen
Stewart Meacham
Prof. Ben Schuman
Ethel Taylor
Barbara Webster
Trudi Young
Staff

LETTERS EN ROUTE NOW

Chicago, Jan. 15: In an unprecedented move, six anti-war activists announced today the formation of a Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. The Committee will, according to Mrs. Cora Weiss, a co-chairman of the new group and a housewife from Riverdale, N.Y., "facilitate communication between servicemen held in North Vietnam and their relatives in the United States."

Specifically, "the Committee will receive letters from the captured American pilots," according to Mrs. Weiss, "and immediately forward them to the addressee. Also," she continued, "we will forward inquiries from families in the United States to the North Vietnamese authorities and they will attempt to confirm the status of their missing relatives."

According to Mrs. Weiss, "the North Vietnamese have agreed to send and receive one letter per month between airmen known to be held in North Vietnam and relatives in this country. Letters sent from the U.S.," she continued, "should be addressed to prisoner, serial number, Camp of Detention for U.S. Pilots Captured in the DRV, Hanoi, Democratic Republic of Vietnam, via Moscow, Soviet Union." Packages, Mrs. Weiss added, can be sent every other month and are not to exceed six pounds. Mrs. Weiss noted that the Committee will forward letters for the families to North Vietnam if requested by relatives to do so.

Dave Dellinger, the other co-chairman of the Committee and presently being tried on conspiracy charges in Chicago, outlined the background of previous prisoner releases to the American peace movement and said that "It is understandable that the North Vietnamese indicate their confidence in the American people through the peace movement in this way. We who are on this Committee," he continued, "firmly believe that the safe return of American pilots held in North Vietnam can only come from a decision on the part of the U.S. government to withdraw from Vietnam."

Mr. Dellinger decried the U.S. government for its ignoring the fate of thousands of prisoners in jails in South Vietnam who, with full knowledge and assistance of American personnel, are subjected to grotesque tortures, as has been frequently documented, most authoritatively by Congressman John Conyers and the Rev. Robert Drinan, Dean of Boston College Law School, in a recent survey of South Vietnamese prisons.

Another member of the Committee, Stewart Meacham, Peace Education Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee, said that "Lou Schneider of the AFSC has recently been given a packet of 69 letters in Hanoi from servicemen and those letters will soon arrive from Hong Kong in New York, and will immediately be sent to the addressees." Mr. Meacham said that "the 69 letters en route to the U.S. were written by 64 prisoners and the Committee can presently confirm the names of 182 airmen held by the North Vietnamese, or reported to be dead or unknown." Mr. Meacham emphasized that the list (available upon request) of 182 names was neither final nor comprehensive. He said that "While these names are known to us, there are undoubtedly others known to their families."

Other persons participating in the press conference included Ronnie

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Davis, a defendant in the conspiracy trial, the Rev. Richard Fernandez, Director of Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam, and Maggie Geddes and Trudi Young, staff members of the Committee.

In December 1969, Mrs. Cora Weiss and two other women, Ethel Taylor of Philadelphia and Madeline Duckles of San Francisco, all active with Women Strike for Peace, came from Hanoi with 138 letters from prisoners for Christmas. Mrs. Weiss said at the press conference that she had worked out the details for this Committee during this recent trip. Historically, the development of the Committee is unprecedented in time of war.

Other members of the Committee of Liaison not present at today's press conference include Mrs. Anne Bennett, Prof. Ben Seitzman, Steve McIlwain and Barbara Webster. The Committee's office is at 365 West 42nd Street, 2nd floor, New York, N.Y.

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Note: Since this release, 87 more letters from prisoners have been sent from North Vietnam for forwarding by the Committee.

Antiwar Group Seen As Liaison To U.S. POWs

NEW YORK (AP)—An office to arrange and facilitate exchange of mail between American prisoners of war in North Vietnam and their families will open here today, a group opposed to the war announced yesterday.

The office carries the name of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, and its organizers are Mrs. Cora Weiss and David Dellinger.

Mrs. Weiss said the organization has had numerous contacts with families of prisoners it hopes to aid. She said 49 letters from 44 servicemen, brought by hand to Hanoi, were flown to Philadelphia Saturday, then mailed to the families.

She said the North Vietnamese had approved mail arrangements by which families could send one letter and one package of no more than six pounds each month to relatives held prisoner.

Mrs. Weiss, national head of the Women's Strike for Peace and a co-chairman of the New Mobilization to End the War in Vietnam, returned recently from a trip to Hanoi.

Dellinger is one of the seven defendants being tried in Chicago on charges growing out of the disruption during the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

Mrs. Weiss said North Vietnamese officials have agreed to "reply to the extent possible" to inquiries from families.

The office will be at 365 West 42nd St., Mrs. Weiss said.

Fees of War Form Group to Forward Letters to P.O.'s

CHICAGO, Jan. 16—Organizers of a new antiwar group announced today the formation of a committee to "facilitate communication" between American prisoners held in North Vietnam and their relatives in the United States.

At a news conference here today, the founders said the new Government had agreed to "facilitate" the new committee which is called Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam.

Mrs. Cora Weiss, national head of the Women's Strike for Peace, said the group, a branch of the New Mobilization to End the War in Vietnam, "hopes that West-said Hanoi had agreed to send all mail from American prisoners of war to the committee,

which will have offices at 365 West 42nd Street in New York City. She said the committee would then forward the letters to the prisoners' families.

Mrs. Weiss, who spent two weeks in North Vietnam in December, said the North Vietnamese had also agreed to "facilitate" the new committee,

including men and would "attempt to confirm their status."

Mrs. Weiss said this was the first time the North Vietnamese had agreed to answer such inquiries. She said the committee hoped for reasonably prompt responses.

Mrs. Weiss outlined the program and their relatives in this country. She said the family of any prisoner would contact the committee's New York office and ask it to approach Hanoi.

She said the committee would send a telegram to North Vietnam, "assuming that West-said Hanoi had agreed to send all mail from American prisoners—we've had some trouble with that."

If the alien has been confirmed killed or is unknown to the North Vietnamese, Mrs. Weiss said, Hanoi will respond by telegram. If the man was injured or in a prison camp, she said, the North Vietnamese would attempt to get the man out of the camp.

With regard to mail from men known to be held in North Vietnam, Mrs. Weiss outlined the procedure to be followed. She said North Vietnam had agreed to send and receive one letter a month between prisoners and their relatives in this country.

Letters from the prisoners are to be sent in bundles to the committee's office and then forwarded from there to the families.

from The New York Times, 1/16/70

from San Diego Union, 1/19/70

COMMITTEE G. LAMSON

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
Reanie 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.)

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EO 12812-2

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.

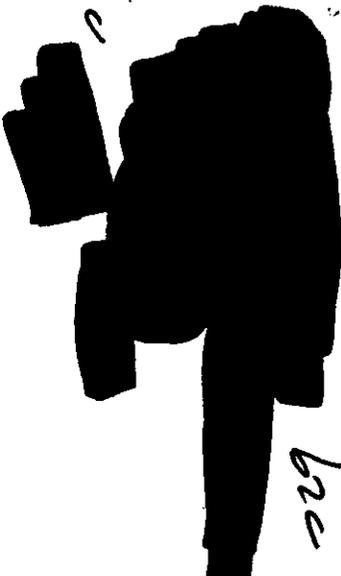
Sincerely yours,

Cora Weiss
Cora Weiss

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON
65 West 42nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10036

NO. 80201
MAY 1964

AIR MAIL
Special Delivery

b2c


(Handwritten mark)

(Faint circular stamp)

EO 12812-2

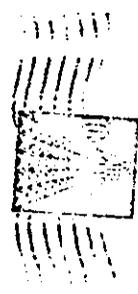
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DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803

POW/MIA per EO 12812-2
CN345,570

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



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EO 12812-2



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RAW/MIA per EO 12812
CN345,570

b2c
EO 12812-2

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All b7c PER EO 12812-2

Date 10/12/70

Mrs. [redacted] was interviewed by SA [redacted] at her residence, [redacted] b7c

Mrs. [redacted] was advised that the reason for the interview was to determine whether or not she had had any contact with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). I.C.

In response, Mrs. [redacted] stated that she has received 12 letters in all from her husband since he was captured in [redacted] 1966. The last six letters which she has received since December, 1969, have all been received through the Committee (COLIFAM). She advised that prior to December she had gone approximately 1 1/2 years without a letter from her husband. She stated that the letters are sent to her in an envelope bearing the return address for the committee, 3645 North 42nd Street, New York City, and that they usually contain a letter from the committee on letterhead stationery stating how they received the letters, how many letters they received, and that they would be happy to assist in any manner whatsoever. Mrs. [redacted] stated that she has not contacted the committee at any time, has never sent them a donation, and has not been contacted in person by any member of the committee other than the receipt of the letters which she stated she gratefully receives. b7c

She advised the last letter she received from her husband was dated by her husband in May, 1970 and postmarked in New York by the committee June 14, 1970. She exhibited the form letter which was contained with her husband's letter which was on the stationery of the committee. In the details of the letter, it indicated that 142 other letters had been brought out by JEAN PALONDON, NANCY RUBIN and JUDY CLAVER who had returned several weeks ago from North Vietnam but had been delayed in Montreal, Canada, by Customs and all letters seized and subsequently returned. The letter continued that another group would be going to Vietnam in the very near future to obtain some more letters.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that in one of the letters there was a copy of the news release dated Chicago, January 15, 1970, b7c

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [redacted] b7c
On 10/8/70 at [redacted] Texas File # 100-11851
Pow/MIA per EO 12812
by SA [redacted] jsm Date dictated 10/9/70 b7c

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

10/16/70

Date

FRED NEALE THOMPSON, Major, U. S. Air Force, Casualty Division Headquarters, Military Personnel Center, advised that he was a prisoner in North Vietnam and that he had been released in July of 1968. He advised that the first indication he received of being released occurred on July 4, 1968, when the POW Camp Commandant called him into his office and asked him how would he like to go home. He advised that at this time he did not actually give any thought to it being true but that during the period from July 4 through 14, 1968, he was called into the Commandant's office on several occasions, each essentially the same as the first. On July 13, 1968, the Commandant advised Major THOMPSON that he was going to be released along with two other prisoners of war. On July 14, 1968, Major THOMPSON was moved into quarters at the POW Camp with the two other prisoners scheduled to be released with him. He stated that he still was not entirely convinced that they were to be released.

On July 16, 1968, the three prisoners attended a news conference also attended by high camp officials, Vietnamese photographers and three Americans. Major THOMPSON advised that the three Americans were STEWART MEECHAM from the American Friends Society in Pennsylvania, VERNON GRIZZARD and Mrs. ANN SHEAR, wife of ROBERT SHEAR. On July 17, 1968, there was another meeting and a ceremony in which the Government turned the three prisoners over to a North Vietnamese peace committee, and subsequently, the Vietnamese peace committee turned the prisoners over to the American peace committee. At this time the three prisoners were taken to down town Hanoi hotel and locked up. He advised that a Vietnamese interpreter was housed with them and that there was an attempt to control meetings between the prisoners and the Americans on the American peace committee. He advised that they remained at the hotel until August 1, 1968, at which time the three prisoners and the three Americans on the peace committee departed Hanoi on a courier flight en route to Vin Tine, Laos. Major THOMPSON advised that they were guests of Ambassador SULLIVAN in Vin Tine, Laos, that night

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DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [redacted] b2c

POW/MIA Per EO 12812 CS 305, 570

On 10/12/70 at Randolph Air Force Base, File # SA 100-11851
Texas

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 10/13/70

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SA 100-11851

The next morning they flew to Bangkok, Thailand. He advised that they continued their journey from Bangkok to New York, New York, and then from New York to Washington, D. C.

Major THOMPSON advised that the two other prisoners released with him were JOE V. CARPENTER, a Captain at the time of release, currently a Major, and Major JAMES LOW. He advised that Major CARPENTER is currently assigned to Williams Air Force Base, Arizona, and Major LOW is currently assigned to McCoy Air Force Base, Florida.

Major THOMPSON advised that their families were not contacted by anyone prior to their release, other than officials from the Casualty Division Headquarters, Military Personnel Center, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

All b7c PER EO 12958-2

SA 100-11851

The following investigation was conducted by

SA [REDACTED]

AT [REDACTED] TEXAS

Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED] were interviewed October 12, 1970. They advised their son, [REDACTED] has been a prisoner of war for approximately three and one-half years. During this time they have not been contacted by any individual or organization other than the United States Air Force regarding their son.

Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that their daughter-in-law, Mrs. [REDACTED] has been contacted by some organization, possibly the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. They were unaware of any of the details of this contact other than two letters from their son were delivered to [REDACTED] wife through this organization.

Mrs. [REDACTED] is currently residing at [REDACTED] Texas, residence telephone [REDACTED]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

ALL 6X PER ED 12912-2

Date 10/22/70

[Redacted] b2c

b2c

Mrs. [Redacted] Texas, mother of [Redacted] was made aware of the identity of interviewing Agent. She was advised that this investigation was requested by J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General of the United States, who requested that investigation be undertaken to ascertain if the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) is in fact acting within the United States at the request of the Government of North Vietnam and if it is engaged either in political activity or as a publicity agent as defined in the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

Thereafter, Mrs. [Redacted] advised the following: b2c

She has neither corresponded with nor has she received correspondence from this committee.

No one had contacted her in person regarding this committee.

In conclusion she said she could not recall having heard of this committee.

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b2c

POW/MIA per ED 12912
CN345,570

On 10/16/70 at [Redacted] TEXAS File # SA 100-11851

b2c

by SA [Redacted] Date dictated 10/20/70

b2c

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

b2c All 176 MR EO 12812-2
b2c

Date 10/22/70

Mrs. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Texas, was made aware of the identity of interviewing Agent. She was advised that this investigation was requested by J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General of the United States, who requested that investigation be undertaken to ascertain if the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) is in fact acting within the United States at the request of the Government of North Vietnam and if it is engaged either in political activity or as a publicity agent as defined in the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

Thereafter, Mrs. [REDACTED] advised the following:

She heard about COLIFAM through a wife who had received a letter from her husband through COLIFAM.

She wrote to COLIFAM about one year ago in New York and asked if her husband was on any Prisoner of War list.

She received an answer from COLIFAM advising her the committee had no information regarding her husband but that a wire had been sent to Hanoi inquiring about her husband.

She has received nothing further.

In conclusion she advised that the lady through whom she had heard about COLIFAM has already been interviewed in this matter.

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DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [REDACTED]
POW/MIA per EO 12812 CN345,570
b2c

On 10/14/70 at [REDACTED] TEXAS File # SA 100-11851
b2c

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 10/20/70
b2c

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All b7c PER EO 12812-2

b7c Date 10/22/70

b7c
Mrs. [REDACTED] Texas, was made aware of the identity of the interviewing Agent. She was advised that this investigation was requested by J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General of the United States, who requested that investigation be undertaken to ascertain if the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) is in fact acting within the United States at the request of the Government of North Vietnam and if it is engaged either in political activity or as a publicity Agent as defined in the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

b7c
Thereafter Mrs. [REDACTED] advised the following:

She heard about COLIFAM through a lady who has already been interviewed in this matter.

The past spring, she wrote COLIFAM in New York containing a letter to her husband and received following in reply:

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [REDACTED] *b7c*
FOUOIA per EO 12812
CN 345,570

b7c
On 10/15/70 at [REDACTED] TEXAS File # SA 100-11851
by SA [REDACTED] *b7c* Date dictated 10/19/70

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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
Cora Weiss

July 28, 1970

Treasurer:

Mrs. Anne Bennett

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

*b2c
EO 12812-2*

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. Beo Seitzman
- Prof. Franz Schurmann
- Ethel Taylor
- *Barbara Webster
- Trudi Young

As you may already know, Ken Kirkpatrick of the American Friends Service Committee took more than 700 letters from families on his recent trip to Hanoi. The North Vietnamese accepted only those for the 335 men who are officially confirmed to be prisoners there, and asked him to convey that to us. We are, therefore, regretfully returning the enclosed.

While there has been no statement from the North Vietnamese that the list of 335 is the total number of men they are holding, it is our feeling that it is very close to - may even be - the total. Should we ever receive specific information about your husband we will certainly contact you right away.

*staff

Sincerely,

Barbara Webster

Barbara Webster

P.S. I am sorry for the delay in writing but we wanted to wait ~~xxx~~ until Ken had returned and we could talk with him.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [REDACTED]

*POW/MIA PER ED 12812
CN345,570*

*b2c
EO 12812-2*

3
SA 100-11851

b2c E0 12812-2

In conclusion, Mrs. [REDACTED] advised this was her only contact with or knowledge of COLIFAM.

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE _____ BY _____~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All b7c PER EO 12812-2

Date 10/22/70

b7c

b7c

Mrs. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Texas, was made aware of the identity of interviewing Agent. She was advised that this investigation was requested by J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General of the United States, who requested that investigation be undertaken to ascertain if the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained In North Vietnam (COLIFAM) is in fact acting within the United States at the request of the Government of North Vietnam and if it is engaged either in political activity or as a publicity agent as defined in the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

Thereafter Mrs. [REDACTED] advised the following:

She has heard of COLIFAM. She has not been contacted by the committee either in person or by mail. She has not written to the committee.

In conclusion she said therefore she has no information regarding the committee.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [REDACTED]
POW/MIA PER EO 12812 CN345,570

On 10/15/70 at [REDACTED] TEXAS File # SA 100-11851

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 10/19/70

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All b7c PER ED 12812-2

Date 10/22/70

b7c

Mrs. [REDACTED]

Texas, was made thoroughly aware of the identity of interviewing Agent. She was advised that this investigation was requested by J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General of the United States who requested that investigation be undertaken to ascertain if the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) is in fact acting within the United States at the request of the Government of North Vietnam and if it is engaged in political activity or as a publicity agent as defined in the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

Thereafter, Mrs. [REDACTED] advised the following:

She has never had personal contact with any member of this committee.

About two years ago a letter from her husband was brought back from North Vietnam by STEWART MEACHAM and this letter was forwarded to her. Sometime later another letter was brought back by ANTONIO COLLADO, a journalist from South America, and forwarded to her.

Then there was a lapse of some eighteen months and she received a letter from her husband forwarded by COLIFAM and she believed this was brought back by ROBERT SCHEAR described in the cover letter as a member of the Black Panthers. The cover letter tells who brought the letter over.

She has sent letter to COLIFAM at 365 West 42nd Street, New York, New York, to be forwarded to her husband. She believes that some or all of these letters have reached her husband. Her correspondence has simply requested that her letter be delivered to her husband.

She feels that COLIFAM has quite an expense in stamps, travel to and from North Vietnam, etc., and the question has entered her mind as to how this committee finances itself as it has never solicited a donation.

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DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [REDACTED]

CNS45,910 POW/MIA PER ED 12812 TEXAS SA 100-11851

On 10/14/70 at [REDACTED]

File #

by SA [REDACTED]

Date dictated

10/20/70

2
EA 100-11851

b2c 6012812-2

In conclusion, Mrs. [REDACTED] said that the following three letters from COLIFAM are the only ones she retained and that these are self-explanatory.

COMMITTEE OF L. 7N

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
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 Mrs [redacted] :

b7c
EO 12812-2

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

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [redacted]

CN345,570

POW/MIA per EO 12812

b7c
EO 12812-2

COMMITTEE OF LI. JN

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

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

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:
COLIAFAM

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [REDACTED]

62c
5012812-2

May 4, 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

From: Rev. Richard Fernandez

To: The families of the 335 presently confirmed prisoners held in North Vietnam

Re: Information on correspondence with prisoners

On April 20th I returned from a three-week trip to Laos and North Vietnam. In North Vietnam I spoke with officials responsible for communication between pilots held in detention there and their families here. The following information was emphasized to me by the North Vietnamese authorities and we are anxious to make sure that you are aware of it:

- 1) The Vietnamese recommend that families use the air-letter form (enclosed) for correspondence.
- 2) Communication to pilots should be limited to matters of family and health.
- 3) Pilots are allowed to receive one letter per month and one package every other month (not over six pounds in weight).

Detention Camp authorities have said that they do not wish to receive several letters and/or packages per month for a given pilot from different members of the same family. Families should make arrangements for alternating letters each month if different members

want to write.

The North Vietnamese authorities indicated that, from this point forward, they will not feel responsible for forwarding letters and packages that do not adhere to the above.

If the letter form is mailed directly it can go in another envelope but the mail route, "via Moscow, U.S.S.R.," should definitely be included in the address. If letters are sent to the Committee of Liaison for forwarding please enclose but do not affix stamps as we send letters on in packets. The Committee cannot forward packages for families.

While I was in Hanoi, Prof. Douglas Dowd of Cornell University and I met with three pilots: Cdr. Robert Schweitzer of Lemoore, California; Cdr. Walter Wilbur of Virginia Beach and Lt. Col. Edison Miller of Santa Ana, California. The three men were in good health, and said they had daily exercise and reading material. The three pilots advised us that they had been getting letters and packages from their

families, and asked that packages include toilet articles and canned foods. In particular they mentioned soap, shaving cream (no razors or blades), toothpaste, powdered milk and cream, instant coffee and non-melting candy. They said they do not need clothes.

Also, in my discussions with the Vietnam Committee of Solidarity with the American People, the Committee of Liaison's contact in North Vietnam, we confirmed that since December over 800 letters have been sent from Hanoi through the Committee of Liaison. Of those, 156 letters are still on their way from Hanoi to families here.

We hope that this information clarifies some aspects of correspondence for you. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON
365 West 42 Street, New York, N.Y. 10036
212-KY9-4478

September 14, 1970

Dear friends:

We are very happy to forward the enclosed letter to you which just arrived with 142 others from Hanoi. This is the first mail since June because no one has travelled to North Vietnam during the summer. The Vietnamese no longer rely on unpredictable postal channels as experience has proven it delayed and risky. Therefore, they wait for travellers to guarantee safe and rapid delivery.

We are also enclosing some letter forms for your convenience.

Visitors to North Vietnam usually let us know of their departure and are willing to take mail with them. A number of people are planning to go this fall and winter, and we would be happy to forward your mail for you. Kindly seal the letter forms, even if they contain photos, and do not affix stamps.

To ease some of the administrative difficulties in North Vietnam, including translation, you might consider typing your letters on the suggested letter form, with a clear signature.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with us, and kindly inform us of any changes in address to facilitate further forwarding of mail.

Sincerely,

Cora Weiss

Cora Weiss

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7/23/93 BY 9803 [REDACTED]

CN245,570

POW/MIA PRE 012812

67c
EO 12812-2

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

ALL 67c PER EO 12812-2

Date 10/28/70

Mrs. [REDACTED] *67c*
 [REDACTED] Texas, was advised of the identity of the
 interviewing Agent and was made fully aware of this identity.
 She was advised that she was being contacted in connection
 with an investigation instigated at the request of J. WALTER
 YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General of the United States, who
 had requested that investigation be undertaken to ascertain
 of the Committee of Liason with Families of Servicemen
 Detained in North Vietnam, COLIFAM, was acting within the
 United States at the request of the government of North
 Vietnam. Further to determine if that committee was en-
 gaged with political activities or as a publicity agent in
 violation of the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

Thereafter, Mrs. [REDACTED] *67c* advised that her husband
 went down in South Vietnam and that she had had no occasion
 to contact this committee and had not been contacted by
 the committee; hence, had no information concerning COLIFAM.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED *67c*
 DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [REDACTED]
POW/MIA PER EO 12812
CNS45,570

On 10/27/70 at [REDACTED] *67c* TEXAS File # SA 100-11851
 by SA [REDACTED] *67c* Date dictated 10/28/70

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1 *AK 67c PER ED 12812-2*

Date 11/10/70

b2c
[Redacted]

who was previously interviewed, furnished the following material, which has been xeroxed, that he received through the mail from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/93 BY [Redacted]
b2c
Pw/MIA PER ED 12812
CN845570

On 11/5/70 at [Redacted] Texas *b2c* File# SA 100-11851

by SA [Redacted] Date dictated 11/5/70

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036 212 (549 4478)

October 30, 1970

(212) 965-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:
COLIAFAM

ADMINISTRATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7/23/83 BY 9803 [REDACTED] ED 128122
POW/MIA PER ED 128122 CNS 45,570

Co-chairmen:
Dave Dellinger
Cora Weiss

Dear families,

Treasurer:
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee
Richard J. Barnett
Rennie Davis
Madeline Duckles
Prof. Richard Folk
Rev. Richard Fernandez

Norman Fruchter
*Maggie Geddes
Steve Halliwell
Prof. Donald Kalish
Stewart Meacham
Prof. Beo Seitzman
Prof. Franz Schurman
Ethel Taylor
*Barbara Webster
Trudi Young

*staff

This letter is being sent to all families of confirmed prisoners of war in North Vietnam as a general information memo to respond to the many questions we have received in recent weeks. Kindly excuse the form, but so many of your concerns are similar that we thought this more efficient. We are enclosing air letters for your use. One letter a month is still allowed. Kindly seal all letters sent thru the Committee of Liaison, and staple or clip photos inside the letter form. We have no interest in seeing mail.

A delegation of lawyers is leaving shortly for a visit to the DRV. They have expressed willingness to carry mail with them. Anyone wishing to avail themselves of this opportunity should have mail in our office no later than Nov. 7. We guarantee only that the mail will arrive safely in North Vietnam and will be delivered to the appropriate authorities. We have no way of guaranteeing that the prisoners will get each letter. That is beyond our ability. However, if the mail conforms to the regulations we have no reason to doubt its delivery. We believe that from what we have been told by families, there is some delay, even risk, in sending mail thru postal routes. Much of the mail sent has obviously gotten thru, but some has been returned, or may wait for long periods for irregular flights. The Vietnamese are using hand delivery only for getting mail to the US because of the risky and unpredictable postal channels. Mail has been delayed and has taken months to arrive. They now wait for delegations to bring it.

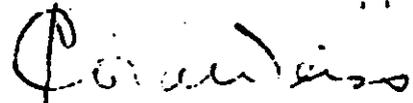
Last month we sent 250 letters to North Vietnam with a group. All mail presently in the office will be delivered with the next group. As of now, over 1600 letters have been received since Dec. We do not know why some men have written more frequently than others. We also do not know if the list of 335 men announced in April is final for those being held by the North Vietnamese. When asked by family members, we have inquired about specific servicemen for whom there is substantial evidence of their capture. When we have a reply we will, of course, let the families know. It is our understanding that until there is some movement in Paris to respond to the proposals put forward by Mme. Binh on Sept. 17, there will be no further move vis-a-vis POW's. That is, until the two conditions are met, setting a fixed date for

the total withdrawal of all US forces from Vietnam, and agreeing to withdraw support from the Thieu Ky Khiem regime, they will not be willing to discuss the prisoner issue. They have made it clear that they view this issue as part of the overall solution to the war, and it cannot be dealt with separately. Upon fixing that date and agreeing to withdraw support, prisoners from both DRV as well as those being held by the NLF in the South, will be released. They do not have to wait for the completion of withdrawal of troops.

Many articles, comics, newsletters have appeared on the subject of prisoners. We thought you might be interested in seeing the enclosed which may shed more light on this subject. Mr. Van Dyke is an international lawyer currently on staff at the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, Santa Barbara, Calif. He was formerly employed in the State Department working on the matter of prisoners. We send these along because they provide facts and a point of view not frequently seen in a discussion of this topic.

We appreciate being kept informed as to your changes of address, and continue to welcome your questions. We hope you continue to remember that we are here, not there, have no authority in handling prisoner affairs, and have tried to maintain a clear and efficient and reliable channel for communication between you and your sons and husbands. We look forward to the end of our task, for that will represent America's agreement to conclude the war and the release of the prisoners:

Sincerely yours



Mrs. Cora Weiss

P.S. We expect other delegations will be invited to North Vietnam in December and through the winter months. Any mail arriving after Nov. 7 will be held for the next group.

PRISONERS OF WAR IN VIETNAM

(ED. NOTE: *The following excerpts are drawn from a paper which Visiting Fellow Jon M. Van Dyke presented for discussion at a recent Center roundtable.*)

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

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

Reprinted from the CENTER REPORT Oct. 1970

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

For the past year and a half, the U.S. has condemned the North Vietnamese for their treatment of captured Americans. The North Vietnamese are portrayed as evil captors who unrelentingly harass American prisoners. The American prisoners are portrayed as virtuous men who find themselves in North Vietnamese prisons through an unfortunate and totally fortuitous series of events. The "prisoner-of-war problem" is depicted as an issue unrelated to the bombing and fighting that have been taking place in various parts of Southeast Asia throughout the past decade.

Although this effort succeeded in persuading the North Vietnamese to adhere more closely to the formal requirements of the Geneva Convention on Prisoners of War, it is based on two false premises: (1) that the Geneva Convention can be applied without difficulty to the conflict in Vietnam and (2) that the United States and its allies conform to the requirements of the Convention. (The Geneva Convention was drafted in 1949 to deal with the problems of conventional warfare on European battlefields. It is difficult, if not impossible, to apply these provisions to a guerrilla war in Southeast Asia.)

The United States pays only minimal attention to the Convention when it is not in its interest to do so. American soldiers frequently torture captured Viet Cong in order to obtain information about nearby enemy units. Even more frequently, the U.S. permits the Saigon forces to torture prisoners after capture and throughout their period of captivity. The U.S. has failed to punish in any significant way soldiers who have killed or mistreated enemy captives, thus elevating this practice to an official policy. The U.S. also conducts a program of terror to eliminate Viet Cong political cadre a program that operates with total dis-

regard for the safeguards of the Geneva Convention. Finally, because of its desire to give the American public the bleakest possible view of what the enemy's prison camps are like, the Pentagon has muzzled freed Americans who want to talk about the experiences they had in captivity.

The furor that has been created over North Vietnam's prison camps is understandable from a human point of view. There are men in prison who have been separated from their families for a period longer than in any previous war the United States has been involved in. One man has now been in Hanoi over six years.

The furor nonetheless does an injustice to the North Vietnamese, who have probably treated their captives better than any other nation fighting in Asia during this century. During World War II, prisoners of war in Asia were killed and allowed to die with little remorse. Twenty-seven percent of the prisoners held by the Japanese during that war died, and a shockingly high percentage of the Japanese held in Allied camps failed to survive captivity. The treatment of prisoners during the Korean war was, at best, primitive. And the handling of captives by the United States and the Saigon government is in many respects worse than that of North Vietnam and the Viet Cong.

It is in this perspective that North Vietnam's prison camps must be analyzed. The most serious charges lodged against the North Vietnamese are the accusations of physical abuse brought back by two pilots a year ago. These charges are serious indeed, but the manner in which the Pentagon has handled public information about North Vietnam's camps makes it difficult to accept the statements at face value. The other seven pilots who have been released by North Vietnam have never been formally pre-

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DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [redacted]

WAS, S70 POW/MIA PLEDGE [redacted] 62c
EO 12812-2

WERE THEY TORTURED?

JON M. VAN DYKE

Mr. Van Dyke, assistant professor of law at Catholic University, Washington, D.C., is now on leave of absence doing legal research in San Francisco. He is the author of North Vietnam's Strategy for Survival, to be published this year by Pacific Books.

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7/23/93 BY 9103

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Two of the American fighting men most recently released from North Vietnam held a press conference in early September to "blow the whistle" on North Vietnam's treatment of its prisoners, but their statements raised more questions than they answered—questions not only about North Vietnam's handling of its captives but also about how the Pentagon is using the released men.

At the elaborately staged press conference in the auditorium of the Bethesda Naval Medical Center, Navy Lieut. Robert F. Frishman and Apprentice Seaman Douglas B. Hegdahl said they had been tortured, by being put in small, ovenlike rooms and exposed to mosquitoes and rats. They also asserted that they had heard that other prisoners had received even worse treatment.

Until this press conference the authorities had not permitted any of the nine freed prisoners to give the press more than the most general information about their experiences. Wives of the pilots still in North Vietnam have similarly been discouraged from talking about the letters they receive from prison. The Defense Department's explanation of this muzzling has been that public discussions might dissuade Hanoi from releasing pilots in the future or cause them to retaliate against those remaining in prison.

After the torture-chamber tales of Frishman and Hegdahl, it seems hard to imagine how additional discussion could jeopardize the pilots remaining in North Vietnam, but the day after the press conference, officers of the Pentagon's Public Information Division phoned the seven other released pilots and told them to stay quiet.

Most of the seven followed these instructions and have continued to elude reporters. However, one pilot who was released in August 1968, Maj. Joe V. Carpenter, expressed surprise at the statements made by Frishman and Hegdahl. Although he would not go into any details because of the orders, Carpenter said he had not been tortured in North Vietnam nor had he heard of anyone being tortured. "In general," he stated, "my treatment was good." When asked why the Defense Department would not allow him to speak freely even after the press conference, Carpenter responded, "It's all part of a plan." The question inevitably arises: what plan?

Aside from the issue of the Pentagon's motives, the details given by Frishman and Hegdahl raise some doubts about their broad charge of "torture." The only first-hand examples they mentioned in their prepared statements were (1) being placed in solitary confinement in small rat-infested rooms with tin roofs which became inordinately hot; and (2) being exposed to mosquitoes which bit their legs until they swelled. These episodes, while certainly unpleasant, are different only in degree from the

treatment the United States Army gave the Green Beret officers who are charged in the recent slaying of a Vietnamese counterspy. They were placed in solitary confinement in 5 by 7 foot cells with no toilet facilities and only a bare light bulb inadequate for reading. The Green Beret officers complained that their cells became inordinately hot.

Frishman and Hegdahl supported their charge of torture by giving examples of more serious physical harassment suffered by two other pilots. They said that Navy Lieut. Comdr. Richard A. Stratton, who made a well-publicized confession in March 1967, gave his statement only after having been strung up by his wrists and having his fingernails pulled out.

The confession was delivered through a loud-speaker to a Hanoi press conference at which one American photographer and a Japanese television crew were present. An American voice from behind a curtain gave a long statement about the war. When this was completed Stratton appeared from behind the curtain. He bowed deeply several times and then left without speaking. When the American photographer reported this scene, the United States protested that its pilots were being brainwashed, a charge which Frishman and Hegdahl now endorse.

It is hard to believe that Stratton actually had his fingernails pulled out, however, when none of the many persons who have seen him have reported physical harm. Because of the storm of protests which followed Stratton's "confession," North Vietnam invited many visitors, including Americans, to meet Stratton. Nobody reported seeing any scars or missing fingernails. Pictures taken of Stratton when he appeared from behind the curtain show that his hands were visible to the reporters, none of whom reported any injury. Pictures taken of Stratton in prison later show him to be a bit downcast, but in good health.

The second example offered by Frishman and Hegdahl was Navy Lieut. Comdr. John S. McCain III, son of the American Commander in the Pacific. McCain was injured quite severely when he landed in a lake in the heart of Hanoi after trying to bomb the city's main power plant on October 26, 1967. According to the two returned pilots, McCain has been kept in solitary confinement during most of his captivity. "It's hard enough just being in solitary confinement," Frishman said, "but when you're wounded like John it's harder." Frishman made no complaint that McCain had actually been physically hurt by the North Vietnamese, so it is difficult to understand why this is an example of torture. Furthermore, McCain was not kept in solitary confinement during the first six months of his captivity when his injuries were most severe. Air Force Lieut. Col. Norris M. Overly said after his release in February 1968 that he had shared a room with McCain.

There are other reasons for wondering about the charges made by Frishman and Hegdahl:

(1) None of the prisoners who had been released earlier complained of unprovoked physical mistreatment. Navy

1. David P. Matheny, who was released in February 1968, said that he was beaten on one occasion but only after he had struck a guard. The other pilots, both in the limited public statements they have made and in private discussions with government officials, have uniformly described their treatment as decent. Air Force Maj. Fred N. Thompson, released in August 1968, said that he was obliged to participate in formal interrogation several times, but that the North Vietnamese did not use any threats or pressure during their questioning. When Thompson told his interrogator that a question involved classified matter, the interrogator dropped the subject.

(2) Frishman and Hegdahl gave no hint to the Americans who accompanied them from Hanoi that they had suffered physical mistreatment. Rennie Davis, the leader of the group, said he had long and frank discussions with the men and that they had said nothing about being tortured. Only after the pilots had gone through extensive debriefings did they tell their torture stories.

(3) Hegdahl is a man of limited experience and training who suffered greatly while in North Vietnam, not because of the conditions of prison life but because of his inability to adjust to a situation of confinement. One of the few prisoners who was not shot down while bombing North Vietnam, Hegdahl was captured in the South China Sea after falling off the U.S.S. *Cumbrera* while it was maneuvering to evade shelling from the North Vietnamese shore. He had grown up in a small town in South Dakota, had enlisted in the Navy at an early age, was only 20 when captured in 1967, and had received none of the conditioning that pilots are given. According to Maj. James F. Low, who had shared a room with Hegdahl for a while before his own release in August 1968, Hegdahl was in a distressed mental state and it was very difficult to live with him. Hegdahl may, therefore, not be the most reliable of commentators on North Vietnam's prisons.

(4) The Pentagon's previous conduct regarding released prisoners has failed to produce a record that inspires trust. After the first group of three pilots was released in February 1968, the Pentagon, with the active assistance of William H. Sullivan, then ambassador to Laos, persuaded the pilots to return to the United States on a military plane, despite the express desire of North Vietnam that the representatives of the U.S. peace movement who had received the prisoners in Hanoi be allowed to accompany them on commercial flights all the way home. (See *The Nation*, April 1, 1968.) No additional prisoners were released until the United States promised to allow them to return on commercial flights. An even more serious breach of the spirit of North Vietnam's releases occurred in the fall of 1968 when the Air Force assigned two of the three pilots freed in August 1968 to teach other pilots to fly and bomb. It costs about \$300,000 to train a jet fighter pilot, and the North Vietnamese did not like the thought that they were saving the Pentagon money by releasing future teachers. A member of the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris complained to Averell Harriman in December 1968, and he arranged for the pilots to be assigned to other duties. Because of this incident North Vietnam apparently canceled a release it had scheduled for early 1969. Rennie Davis

thinks that, by encouraging Frishman and Hegdahl to make their statements, the Pentagon has discouraged similar gestures by other pilots in the future.

There are, of course, grounds for criticizing the treatment of American prisoners. North Vietnam refuses to release the names of even the total number of Americans it holds, insisting that this is a state secret which it wishes to retain for bargaining purposes in future negotiations. Partly to keep the number of captive pilots secret, North Vietnam refuses to allow many to write to their relatives. At least 388 and perhaps as many as 800 prisoners are held in North Vietnam. Fewer than 100 have been allowed to write home, and those 100 have written a total of only 600 letters. Also, perhaps, to keep the number secret, many prisoners are held in solitary confinement. This treatment is a clear violation of the requirements of the 1949 Geneva Convention on Prisoners of War (which North Vietnam signed in 1957) and it has had a demoralizing effect on many of the pilots. But until Frishman and Hegdahl spoke, that was all.

However, because the first six pilots who were released had all been in prison for less than eight months, because the prisoners whom Hanoi displayed to reporters tended to be the same ones again and again, and because many of the prisoners have yet to be identified, some U.S. officials devised the "Two Groups" theory. They surmised that North Vietnam treated some prisoners well, so that they would tell the world that the prisons were humane, and so that they could be sent home in good shape when the occasion suited, but that another group was kept in the background and treated badly. The release of Hegdahl after twenty-eight months, and of Frishman after twenty-one months, disrupted this theory, particularly when the two prisoners claimed mistreatment.

Shortly after the Frishman-Hegdahl press conference, some officials at the CIA expanded upon the "Two Groups" idea to suggest that the prisoners may be kept in three separate places. According to this theory, one camp holds those prisoners who cooperate, another those who are unusually difficult, and the third those who are neither cooperative nor difficult. This might explain the difference in treatment reported by the various pilots who have returned, but it poses another question: why would North Vietnam release prisoners who had been tortured?

Another explanation of the difference in treatment was offered by Frishman himself. He said that what he called "torture" may be the doings of jailers who act without the knowledge of North Vietnam's leaders. Frishman stated, as an example, that his conditions improved whenever a North Vietnamese general visited the camp.

North Vietnam's treatment of its prisoners and its method of choosing those it releases may be puzzling, but the behavior of the United States toward those who have been freed is at least as mysterious. After ordering all the released pilots to say nothing, the Pentagon has allowed two of them to tell melodramatic stories, while demanding continuing silence of the others. Before the accounts by Frishman and Hegdahl can be accepted, the other freed prisoners must be allowed to tell their stories.

Handwritten notes:
Date 3/31/69
1600
Lester
Since 1/69

GỬI (Addressee)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

SỐ LÍNH (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, 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**

NGƯỜI GỬI (Addresser)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

ALL b7c PER EO 12812-2

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

DATE: 11/23/70

FROM : *JKH* SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (100-66674) (RUC)

SUBJECT: *b7c*
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN
NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)
IS - MISCELLANEOUS
REGISTRATION ACT
OO: New York

Re San Francisco letter and LHM to Bureau, dated 11/12/70.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 8 copies of LHM. Two copies are enclosed for New York.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE *7/23/93* BY *9803*

b7c
POW/MIA PU ED/2812
CN345,570

- 5 destroyed*
- 2 - Bureau (Enc. 8) (RM)
- 2 - New York (Enc. 2) (RM)
- 1 - San Francisco

REC 16

b7c
100 910-D
(5)

Copy to *LHM - RHC ISD*
by routing slip for

Info action

date *12/7/70*

by *[redacted]*

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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

57 DEC 8 1970



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

San Francisco, California

November 23, 1970

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

Following is a result of interviews with Mrs. [REDACTED]

b2c

[REDACTED]

b7c

All b7c PER EO 12812-2

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/83 BY 9803 [REDACTED]

b2c

POW/MIA PER EO 12812
CN 345,370

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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.

1 51177-

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

ALL b7c PER ED 12812-2

Date 11/16/70

b7c

Mrs. [redacted] telephone number [redacted] advised that she is aware of the existence of the Committee of Liason With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). She advised that she has received a total of seven letters from her husband since Easter and she has written many letters to her husband but has no idea whether he has received any of these letters. She stated that she does not believe that her husband has ever received any of her letters as he has never acknowledged any of these letters when writing to her. She advised that she had first heard of the COLIFAM through the United States Air Force Casualty Office when they advised in 1970 that COLIFAM had a list of names of prisoners in North Vietnam and her husband's name was on this list.

Mrs. [redacted] b7c advised that she has written one letter to her husband and has sent this letter to her husband through the auspices of COLIFAM. She advised that in the future she plans to send all of her letters to her husband through this committee. She stated that she is willing to use any possible means to communicate with her husband and if COLIFAM is a way of reaching her husband, she plans to use this committee.

Mrs. [redacted] b7c has advised that she has had no personal contact with anyone that is a member of this committee and has had no personal objects either delivered or brought back.

Mrs. [redacted] b7c made available copies of all correspondence she has had with this committee.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [redacted]

b7c

FOUO/MIA PER ED 12812
CN345,570

b7c²

On 11/13/70 at [redacted] CALIFORNIA File # SF 100-66674

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 11/16/70

b7c

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

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

CABLE ADDRESS:
COI AFAM

All b7c per EO 12812-2

(212) 765-1490

April 7, 1970

Co-chairmen:
Dave Dellinger
Cora Weiss

Dear *Mrs.* [redacted] *b7c*

Treasurer:
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Our Committee has recently received official confirmation of 81 more servicemen being held in North Vietnam. By now you should have

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

heard that [redacted] *b7c* is on this list. The North Vietnamese have now confirmed through the Committee of Liaison a total of 335 men being held.

This notification also means that a letter is en route from him. The enclosed release explains how mail is forwarded via our office. Because mail from Hanoi is very slow we cannot be sure when the letter will come, but we will forward it as soon as it arrives here.

*staff

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 any questions.

At the same time, we are continuing to work towards the immediate and complete withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Southeast Asia so that soon all families, American and Vietnamese, can be united again.

Sincerely,

Francis Dave Dellinger
Cora Weiss Dave Dellinger

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE *7/23/93* BY *9903* [redacted] *b7c*

AW/MIA per EO 12812
CN345,670

P.S. Kindly excuse the mimeographed letter, but there are many families to reach at the same time.

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

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

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:
COLIAFAM

INFORMATION SHEET

Co-chairmen:
Dave Dellinger
Core Weiss

Treasurer:
Mrs. Anne Bennett

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

*staff

Functions of the Committee

The Committee of Liaison seeks to facilitate communication between servicemen imprisoned in North Vietnam and their families in the United States. The Committee receives letters from servicemen and forwards them to the families through the domestic mails. It also forwards letters to North Vietnam at the request of families. Families are, of course, still free to send letters directly but should not the correct address for both letters and packages:

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.

Captured servicemen may receive one letter a month and one package (not over six pounds in weight) every other month. The Committee does not forward packages. It is suggested that letters sent to the Committee for forwarding be sealed and that stamps be enclosed (not affixed) as letters are forwarded in packets.

The Committee is only able to be of help with respect to men who have been shot down over North Vietnam.

The Committee also is able to request information regarding the status of men thought to have been shot down over North Vietnam and captured there. For such inquiries the Committee needs to have the individual's service number, and any available information as to when and where he was shot down. With respect to such requests the Committee would expect to receive a letter to his family if the individual is being held in North Vietnam. If the individual is known to be dead or if the North Vietnamese have no information regarding him, the Committee expects to receive that word to the extent possible. In any case the Committee will communicate with the family concerned as soon as it receives word. In this way we expect that, as Xuan Thuy, head of the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris, has said, gradually all families of servicemen held in North Vietnam will hear from their relatives.

Background

The Committee of Liaison has been established in response to an initiative

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803

POW/MIA PU EST/812
CA 345,570

62c
5012812-2

3
SE 100-30385

All b7c Max EO 12812-2

and the manner in which alleged identities were compiled has become somewhat confusing. She recalled that when she telephoned CORA WEISS in April, 1970, to inquire about WEISS' call to the casualty office, WEISS asked if the list of prisoners that Mrs. [redacted] had obtained from the casualty office was the same as the list of 81 prisoners previously reported in a California newspaper. CORA WEISS asked Mrs. [redacted] to send her a copy of the list of which Mrs. [redacted] did after obtaining approval from the casualty office (Colonel GRATCH) at Randolph Air Force Base. b7c

This list, Mrs. [redacted] stated, was simply a compilation of names put together by some newsmen in California. She sent this to CORA WEISS in May, 1970, and CORA WEISS returned a letter thanking her for the list and giving her a list of 335 prisoners which she said had been released by Hanoi as being identities of persons detained. b7c

Then, when Mrs. [redacted] along with Mrs. [redacted] and Mrs. [redacted] went on a world trip to seek information about the prisoners, Mrs. [redacted] learned that a Mr. KIRKPATRICK of the American Friends Service Committee did not have this list, but he apparently had gone to Hanoi and returned in June, 1970, and did have the list then. b7c

It was confusing to Mrs. [redacted] that CORA WEISS would have a list of 335 alleged prisoners much sooner than KIRKPATRICK did, when KIRKPATRICK had been to Hanoi. The impression she got was that the American Friends Service Committee and the COLIFAM were not coordinating efforts. b7c

[redacted] CORA WEISS said that the list she furnished to Mrs. [redacted] had been confirmed by Hanoi. b7c

Mrs. [redacted] advised further that on their world trip they were in contact with the United States delegation to the Paris peace talks, and got the impression that COLIFAM was the official liaison agent for the North Vietnamese government. They were also told this by the International Red Cross in Paris and the North Vietnamese Embassy in Paris. b7c

Mrs. [redacted] stated that no one from the committee has ever written her directly, except as mentioned above. Forwarding letters from her husband through the committee b7c

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

4
SE 100-30385

All b7c R.R. 50 12812-2

have been mimeographed with only her name entered, and she assumes that every relative of the servicemen detained in North Vietnam who receive letters by that means, receive only the mimeographed letters from the committee also. No one has ever come to contact her in person, and the only direct communication she has had has been with CORA WEISS, as described above. The committee did send Mrs. [REDACTED] some forms to use in writing to her husband, but she not used them. They have the return address of COLIFAM. She has used the prescribed or recommended form sent to her by the casualty office and has used one that the Navy had put out. b7c

She has attempted to communicate with her husband by regular mail channels, but in May, 1970, she did send one through the committee for her husband, but it was not written on the form they provided. She has written her husband otherwise through the State Department or channels suggested by the State Department and the casualty office of the Air Force. She has sent letters through some other peace groups whenever the casualty office would notify her that someone was going to Hanoi.

There has been no evidence that letters from her husband have been held up by anyone for any unusually long time. She has received absolutely no acknowledgement from her husband that he has ever received any of her letters, although she writes every once monthly.

b7c
Correspondence from COLIFAM has not been interpreted by Mrs. [REDACTED] as any effort to harass or cajole her and contact with the committee has been strictly as described above.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

AN 67c PER EO 12812-2

Date 10/5/70

67c

Mrs. [REDACTED]
 Washington, advised that she had recently received a letter from her son, [REDACTED] who is a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. She said the letter came from the Committee of Liaison with families of servicemen detained in North Vietnam and was accompanied by a mimeograph letter of transmittal signed by CORA WIESS. The cover letter mentioned the fact that this letter, as well as others, had been seized illegally by the U.S. Customs Service in New York and that the Committee was disturbed at the action of the U.S. Government following the beneficial action the committee had taken to see that the lines of communication were kept open between the family and prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

62c Mrs. [REDACTED] said that there has been no personal contact and she understood that four other families in the State of Washington who have prisoner of war sons in North Vietnam were also in receipt of at least one letter from the prisoners of war. They are [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] (received two letters); [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]; and (FNU) [REDACTED] (PH) in [REDACTED]

67c Mrs. [REDACTED] said she is in no way sympathetic with the Communist cause in Vietnam or any other place, however, she is reluctant to "make waves" which would result in any harm to her son or delay in his return to the United States.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7/23/73 BY 9803 [REDACTED]
 POW/MIA PER EO 12812
 CN 345,570

67c

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

On 9/28/70 at [REDACTED] Washington File# SE 100-30385

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 9/29/70

67c

67c

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

All b7c PER EO 12812-2

1

b7c Date 11/6/70

Mrs. [redacted] Washington, advised that her son, [redacted] was shot down in an airplane while fighting in the Vietnam War in [redacted] of 1965. She first heard that he was a prisoner of war some time in 1967 and heard through the news media on [redacted] 1970, that he had written a letter. She received the letter in the mail on April 14, 1970, and stated that the letter came through the Committee of Liaison with families of service-men detained in North Vietnam. She added that she has had no personal contact with this committee or anyone on the committee and that they have never corresponded with her. b7c

Mrs. [redacted] advises that she keeps in touch with Lieutenant Commander MALMBERG, Service Center, Naval Reserve Training Center, 860 Terry Avenue, N., Seattle, Washington. b7c

She added that sometimes the letters have been enclosed in envelopes stating that the above-mentioned committee had a friend by the name of CORA WEISS, who had been in North Vietnam and who had picked up the letters. Mrs. [redacted] affirmed that she does not recognize her work with this committee and that she never will. She had no further comment concerning her son or the above-mentioned committee. b7c

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/73 BY 9803 [redacted]
FOIA REF ID: A12812-208451270 b7c

On 10/27/70 at [redacted] Washington File# SE 100-30385
by SA [redacted] Date dictated 10/30/70 b7c

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All b7c PER EO 12812-2

1

b7c Date November 5, 1970

On October 27, 1970, Mrs. [redacted] Washington, was interviewed at her place of residence by [redacted] who identified himself as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. At the outset of this interview, Mrs. [redacted] was advised this investigation is being conducted at the request of J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General, United States Department of Justice.

b7c

b7c Mrs. [redacted] advised she is the wife of [redacted] who has been a prisoner of war in Hanoi, North Vietnam since 1966. She stated she is now in correspondence with her husband and although she is willing to discuss this matter, she will not testify or do anything that might in any way jeopardize her husband's life or release from imprisonment.

b7c

b7c Mrs. [redacted] stated she had no word from her husband until April, 1970, when she received one of his letters enclosed in a Special Delivery envelope bearing the return address of The Committee of Liaison, New York City, New York. Only her husband's letter was enclosed in this envelope and there was no written communication as to how the letter was forwarded to her. Mrs. [redacted] stated she had no prior contact with anyone representing this committee but she was so happy to receive this letter that she immediately wrote to the committee at New York thanking them. She stated she has never received an acknowledgement to this letter; however, since that time six additional letters have been forwarded to her by the committee and in each of these letters there was a printed form letter explaining that the letter was among those brought back from Hanoi and the name of the individual returning from Hanoi was mentioned in this letter. Mrs. [redacted] stated none of these letters contained any threats or promises or requests for money. She stated she has furnished all of these printed letters to the U. S. Air Force. Mrs. [redacted] stated the last letter she received from her husband was in July, 1970. She further advised she knows of no one else in contact with the committee or receiving letters through them.

b7c

b7c

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

b7c DATE 7/23/83 BY 9808 [redacted]

On 10/27/70 at [redacted] Washington File # SE 100-30385

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 10/30/70

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Seattle, Washington
November 23, 1970

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Title	COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)
Character	INFORMATION CONCERNING
Reference	LHM dated and captioned as above at Seattle, Washington

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [REDACTED]
POW/MIA, EO 12812
CN245,570

EO 12812-2
67c

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

All 67c PER ED 12812-2

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

DATE: 11/25/70

FROM : SAC, RICHMOND (100-11215) - RUC -

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

(OO: NEW YORK)

Re Detroit airtel to Bureau 11/18/70.

In connection with the lead set forth in referenced airtel, no action is contemplated by Richmond with respect to locating and interviewing Mrs. [REDACTED] as Richmond has received no information relative to the "National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia" or that this organization is in any way connected with COLIFAM. Also, there is no information to indicate COLIFAM has in fact contacted Mrs. [REDACTED]

In view of the instructions in Bureau letter to all offices 10/12/70 captioned as above, no action in this matter is being taken by Richmond.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [REDACTED]

- 2-Bureau (REGISTERED MAIL)
- 1-Detroit (Info.) (100-37260) (REGISTERED MAIL)
- 1-New York (100-168469) (REGISTERED MAIL)
- 1-Richmond

(3)

REC 11 10 - 11 99 - 188

NOV 30 1970

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NOV 9 1970

TREAT AS YELLOW

FBI

All b7c per EO 12812-2

Date: 11-12-70

IMMEDIATE

URGENT

Priority

Transmit the message that follows by coded teletype:

TO: THE PRESIDENT

THE VICE PRESIDENT

ATT.:

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM ³

ATT.: *Dr. Henry A. Kissinger*

SECRETARY OF STATE 270

DIRECTOR, CIA ³

DIRECTOR, DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

AND NATIONAL INDICATIONS CENTER

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY ³

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

NAVAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE

U. S. SECRET SERVICE (PID)

ENCODED

PLAINTEXT

ATTORNEY GENERAL (BY MESSENGER)

NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY, ATT: SENIOR OPERATION OFFICER

REC 85

DEC 1 1970

From: DIRECTOR, FBI

Classification: *Secret*

Subject:

Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (Colifam)

(Text of message begins on next page.)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

NOV 13 1970

11-10A

TELETYPE

MAIL ROOM

TELETYPE UNIT

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81

NOV 20 1972

Approved _____

M Per _____

b7c

FIELD DISSEMINATION b7c

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/83 BY 9803

FOIA b7c
EN 345, 570

329-9B
MIA-POW Special

189

CODE PRIORITY

TO: WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM
ATT.: DR. HENRY A. KISSINGER

~~SECRET~~

TO: SECRETARY OF STATE
TO: DIRECTOR, CIA

TO: DIRECTOR, DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

TO: DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

TO: DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

TO: NAVAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE

TO: ATTORNEY GENERAL (BY MESSENGER)
FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S)

62c
12/14/73
5012812-2

~~SECRET~~

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

A SOURCE WHO HAS PROVIDED RELIABLE INFORMATION IN THE PAST
ADVISED ELEVEN TWELVE, SEVENTY THAT COLIFAM IS CONDUCTING NEWS
CONFERENCE AT DIPLOMAT HOTEL, NYC, ELEVEN AM, ELEVEN THIRTEEN NEXT.

\$(21)

END PAGE ONE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~SECRET~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~SECRET~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [redacted]

EO 12812-2
62c

Classified by 1259
Excluded from GDS Category 2
Date of Declassification Indefinite
10-2-78 JSP/BTS

POW/MIA RA EO 12812
CW 346,570

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

~~SECRET~~

PAGE THREE (S E ~~C~~R E T)
VOICE OF VIETNAM
ENGLISH TRANSMISSION"

TWC. FOLLOWING STATEMENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM WILL BE RELEASED;

IN CONFORMITY WITH THE HUMANITARIAN POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM TOWARD THE AMERICAN
PILOTS CAPTURED IN NORTH VIETNAM, ON THE OCCASION OF CHRISTMAS
AND NEW YEAR NINETEEN SEVENTY ONE;

IT IS PERMITTED TO THE FAMILIES OF THE AMERICAN PILOTS
CAPTURED IN NORTH VIETNAM TO SEND CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR
PACKAGES OF FIVE KGS EACH (USUALLY PACKAGES OF THREE KGS ARE
ALLOWED). SENDING OF PACKAGES MUST OBSERVE THE USUAL REGULATIONS,
BY POSTAL ROUTE THROUGH MOSCOW. ANY OTHER MEANS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTABLE.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CARDS MAY BE SENT TO AMERICAN
PILOTS CAPTURED IN NORTH VIETNAM FROM THEIR FAMILIES WITH
THE HELP OF THE COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN
DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM. THE SAID COMMITTEE MAY SEND ITS
REPRESENTATIVE TO BRING THESE CARDS DIRECTLY TO HANOI.

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR (S E C R E T)

WE REQUEST THE COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM TO TIMELY INFORM THE FAMILIES OF AMERICAN PILOTS CAPTURED IN NORTH VIETNAM OF THE AFOREMENTIONED POINTS.

THREE. SOURCE FURTHER STATED THAT WEISS AND DELLINGER WOULD REFER IN THEIR CONFERENCE TO "TEXT OF THE VIETCONG PROPOSAL AT TALKS IN PARIS", CARRIED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER EIGHTEEN, NINETEEN SEVENTY. HE FURTHER ADDED THAT SUFFICIENT COPIES OF THIS ARTICLE AS WELL AS PRINTED COPIES OF THE RECORDING OF ROBERT JAMES SCHWEITZER AND THE DRVN STATEMENT WILL BE HANDED OUT.

FOUR. COLIFAM WILL ANNOUNCE THE COMMENCEMENT OF MAILING NEW LETTERS TO THE POW RELATIVES WHICH WERE RECEIVED RECENTLY BY A GROUP FROM COLIFAM.

FIVE. LASTLY, COLIFAM INTENDS TO DISTRIBUTE XEROXED LETTERS FROM THE STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE ON VIETNAM DATED ELEVEN FOUR SEVENTY, IN SUPPORT OF UPCOMING CONFERENCE ON ELEVEN TWENTY EIGHT-THIRTY, NINETEEN SEVENTY.

END PAGE FOUR

(W)

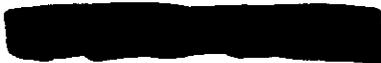
PAGE FIVE (S E C R E T)

SOURCE STATED HE IS UNAWARE THAT THE CONFERENCE WILL
DISCLOSE NEW NAMES OF POW'S. ~~(S)~~ (N)

GP-1

BT

NNNN

APPROVED BY SA 

END

brc
EO 12812-2

[Handwritten mark]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

ALL 610 PER EO 12812-2

NOV 12 1970

TELETYPE

NR 032 NY CODE

7 15 PM URGENT 11-12-70

TO DIRECTOR 100-457899

ATTN DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

FROM NEW YORK 100-168469

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED
IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM), IS-MISC, REGISTRATION ACT,
(OO-NY).

RENYAT TO BUREAU, NOVEMBER TEN, LAST.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP (S) OF [initials]
DATE 12/14/73

[REDACTED] COLIFAM IS HOLDING A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE HOTEL
DIPLOMAT, NYC, ON NOVEMBER THIRTEEN, NEXT. SOURCE ADVISED
THAT COLIFAM IS CONTACTING LOCAL NEWS AGENCIES AND IS ADVISING
THEM THAT DAVID DELLINGER AND CORA WEISS WILL HAVE A PRESS
CONFERENCE AT ELEVEN AM CONCERNING NEW LETTERS FOR FAMILIES
OF PRISONERS OF WAR BROUGHT TO THIS COUNTRY BY A GROUP OF
ATTORNEYS. *EX-102*

NYO WILL COVER AND PROMPTLY ADVISE.

LOCAL AGENCIES ADVISED

DECLASSIFIED BY 9803 [REDACTED]

END

Classified by 1259
Exempt from GDS, Category 2
Date of Declassification Indefinite
10-2-77

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

MR. [REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

57 DEC 3 1970
CC-MR. BRENNAN

created by the North Vietnamese and is an extension of previous effort. It is not in any sense representing the government of North Vietnam.

Since 1965 there have been a number of meetings between people of Vietnam (from both the North and the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam) and Americans who oppose the war. On three separate occasions representatives of the American anti-war movement have gone to Hanoi and have returned with released servicemen. On one occasion an American peace activist went to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, to receive three American soldiers who were released by the National Liberation Front. Americans visiting Hanoi have frequently carried letters to captured servicemen at the request of their families and they have brought back letters when they have returned to the United States. On several occasions such visitors from the peace movement have met with captured pilots in Hanoi.

The Committee

The Committee of Liaison believes that the safe return of U.S. service members captured in North Vietnam and the half-million others that the United States maintains in South Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, and aboard naval vessels 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 also continue our efforts aimed at immediate and complete withdrawal of all U.S. armed forces and weapons.

As individuals Committee members are active in a variety of organizations and groups committed to ending the war: the New Mobilization Committee, End the War in Vietnam, The Conspiracy, Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam, U.S. Inter-religious Committee on Peace, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Newsreel, Women Against Daddy Warbucks, Lawyers Committee on Vietnam, and Women Strike for Peace.

The Committee of Liaison is entirely dependent on donations from individuals and organizations, and welcomes any gifts to sustain its work.

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

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

CABLE ADDRESS:
COLIAFAM

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [REDACTED]

(212) 765-1490

67C 12812-2
ED
May 4, 1970

Chairman:
Dave Dellinger
Cor. 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

From: Rev. Richard Fernandez
To: The families of the 335 presently confirmed
prisoners held in North Vietnam
Re: Information on correspondence with prisoners

On April 20th I returned from a three-week trip to Laos and North Vietnam. In North Vietnam I spoke with officials responsible for communication between pilots held in detention there and their families here. The following information was emphasized to me by the North Vietnamese authorities and we are anxious to make sure that you are aware of it:

- 1) The Vietnamese recommend that families use the air-letter form (enclosed) for correspondence.
- 2) Communication to pilots should be limited to matters of family and health.
- 3) Pilots are allowed to receive one letter per month and one package every other month (not over six pounds in weight).

Detention Camp authorities have said that they do not wish to receive several letters and/or packages per month for a given pilot from different members of the same family. Families should make arrangements for alternating letters each month if different members want to write.

The North Vietnamese authorities indicated that, from this point forward, they will not feel responsible for forwarding letters and packages that do not adhere to the above.

If the letter form is mailed directly it can go in another envelope but the mail route, "via Moscow, U.S.S.R.," should definitely be included in the address. If letters are sent to the Committee of Liaison for forwarding please enclose but do not affix stamps as we send letters on in packets. The Committee cannot forward packages for families.

While I was in Hanoi, Prof. Douglas Dowd of Cornell University and I met with three pilots: Cdr. Robert Schweitzer of Lemoore, California; Cdr. Walter Wilbur of Virginia Beach and Lt. Col. Edison Miller of Santa Ana, California. The three men were in good health, and said they had daily exercise and reading material. The three pilots advised us that they had been getting letters and packages from their

Richard Fernandez memo - page 2

families, and asked that packages include toilet articles and canned foods. In particular they mentioned soap, shaving cream (no razors or blades), toothpaste, powdered milk and cream, instant coffee and non-melting candy. They said they do not need clothes.

Also, in my discussions with the Vietnam Committee of Solidarity with the American People, the Committee of Liaison's contact in Vietnam, we confirmed that since December over 800 letters have been sent from Hanoi through the Committee of Liaison. Of those, 150 letters are still on their way from Hanoi to families here.

We hope that this information clarifies some aspects of correspondence for you. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

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

(212) 765-149

CABLE ADDRESS:

C: LIAFAM

Co-chairmen:

Dave Dellinger

Cora Weiss

May 13, 1970

Treasurer:

Mrs. Anne Bennett

Dear friend:

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

Today we received two packages of letters which we have been expecting from prisoners held in North Vietnam. The total number of letters in both packages was 156. Although the packages were mailed a month apart, they both arrived here today.

We are very happy to send herewith the letter addressed to you.

Sincerely,

Barbara Webster

Barbara Webster

*staff

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/83 BY 9803

POW/MIA/PAED/12812
CA1245,570

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

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

(212) 765-1445

CABLE ADDRESS:
COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:
Dave Dellinger
Coro 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

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [REDACTED]

POW/MIA QUESTIONS
CN 345,570

67c 12812-2
60

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
Cora Weiss

June 26, 1970

Treasurer:

Mrs. Anne Bennett

Dear friend:

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

We are very happy to send you the enclosed letter. It, along with 105 others, was brought back to this country by a group of anti-war people who have just returned from a visit to North Vietnam.

This brings to a total of 1,110 letters which the Committee of Liaison has forwarded on to families since last December.

Sincerely,

Barbara Webster

Barbara Webster

*staff

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/27/93 BY 9803 [redacted]

Paul MIA per EO 12812
CN345,570

62c
EO 12812-2

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
Coro Weiss

Dear Friends,

Treasurer:
Mrs. Anne Bennett

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.

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

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.

*staff

(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.)

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [REDACTED]
FOW/MIA FILED 12812
CJ 345,570

62c
1160 (12812-2)

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

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

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

212 (549 4478)

October 30, 1970

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:
COLIAFAM

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 families,

This letter is being sent to all families of confirmed prisoners of war in North Vietnam as a general information memo to respond to the many questions we have received in recent weeks. Kindly excuse the form, but so many of your concerns are similar that we thought this more efficient. We are enclosing air letters for your use. One letter a month is still allowed. Kindly seal all letters sent thru the Committee of Liaison, and staple or clip photos inside the letter form. We have no interest in seeing mail.

A delegation of lawyers is leaving shortly for a visit to the DRV. They have expressed willingness to carry mail with them. Anyone wishing to avail themselves of this opportunity should have mail in our office no later than Nov. 7. We guarantee only that the mail will arrive safely in North Vietnam and will be delivered to the appropriate authorities. We have no way of guaranteeing that the prisoners will get each letter. That is beyond our ability. However, if the mail conforms to the regulations we have no reason to doubt its delivery. We believe that from what we have been told by families, there is some delay, even risk, in sending mail thru postal routes. Much of the mail sent has obviously gotten thru, but some has been returned, or may wait for long periods for irregular flights. The Vietnamese are using hand delivery only for getting mail to the US because of the risky and unpredictable postal channels. Mail has been delayed and has taken months to arrive. They now wait for delegations to bring it.

Last month we sent 250 letters to North Vietnam with a group. All mail presently in the office will be delivered with the next group. As of now, over 1600 letters have been received since Dec. We do not know why some men have written more frequently than others. We also do not know if the list of 335 men announced in April is final for those being held by the North Vietnamese. When asked by family members, we have inquired about specific servicemen for whom there is substantial evidence of their capture. When we have a reply we will, of course, let the families know. It is our understanding that until there is some movement in Paris to respond to the proposals put forward by Mme. Binh on Sept. 17, there will be no further move vis-a-vis POW's. That is, until the two conditions are met; setting a fixed date for

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DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803

PAW/MMA/AL/EO 12812 00345,570

b2c 13

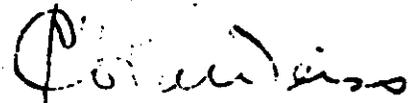
CB 12812-2

the total withdrawal of all US forces from Vietnam, and agreeing to withdraw support from the Thieu Ky Khiem regime, they will not be willing to discuss the prisoner issue. They have made it clear that they view this issue as part of the overall solution to the war, and it cannot be dealt with separately. Upon fixing that date and agreeing to withdraw support, prisoners from both DRV as well as those being held by the NLF in the South, will be released. They do not have to wait for the completion of withdrawal of troops.

Many articles, comics, newsletters have appeared on the subject of prisoners. We thought you might be interested in seeing the enclosed which may shed more light on this subject. Mr. Van Dyke is an international lawyer currently on staff at the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, Santa Barbara, Calif. He was formerly employed in the State Department working on the matter of prisoners. We send these along because they provide facts and a point of view not frequently seen in a discussion of this topic.

We appreciate being kept informed as to your changes of address, and continue to welcome your questions. We hope you continue to remember that we are here, not there, have no authority in handling prisoner affairs, and have tried to maintain a clear and efficient and reliable channel for communication between you and your sons and husbands. We look forward to the end of our task, for that will represent America's agreement to conclude the war and the release of the prisoners.

Sincerely yours



Mrs. Cora Weiss

P.S. We expect other delegations will be invited to North Vietnam in December and through the winter months. Any mail arriving after Nov. 7 will be held for the next group.

GỬI (Addressee)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

.....

SỐ LĨNH (Service number):

NƠI 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**

NGƯỜI GỬI (Addressor)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

.....

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

.....

.....

.....

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

DATE: 11/23/70

FROM : SAC, SEATTLE (100-30385) (P)

All b7c per EO 12812-2

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN
NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)
IS - MISC
REGISTRATION ACT
OO: NEW YORK

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/73 BY 9803 [redacted]

*Pow/MIA per EO 12812
CN 345,570*

Re Seattle airtel and LHM 8/31/70. Seattle letter 9/3/70. Bureau letter 10/12/70.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eleven (11) copies and for New York three (3) copies of an LHM concerning captioned matter.

The LHM is classified "Confidential" in view of the request of some of the interviewees to protect the information for fear of retribution against their relatives who are POWs in Hanoi.

LEAD

SEATTLE DIVISION
At Seattle, Washington

Will follow and report additional interviews with relatives of POWs in North Vietnam.

- 2 - Bureau (Enc. 11) (REG)
- 3 - New York (100-168469) (Enc. 3) (REG) **NOV 30 1970**
- 2 - Seattle

(1) [redacted] *b7c*

Copy to LHM - RHC - SSD
by routing slip for

Info action

date 12/17/70
by [redacted] *b7c*

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DEC 8 1970

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Seattle, Washington
November 23, 1970

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RE: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN
NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Set out hereafter are the results of interviews with various relatives of alleged Prisoners of War (POW) in North Vietnam. Some of the persons interviewed indicated a fear of retribution on their relatives who may be POWs and they requested that this information be handled discreetly.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S)

dark
12/14/73
[Redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

7/23/93 9803 [Redacted] b2c
Pbw MIA PR EO 12812
CN345,510

EO 12812-2

b2c

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.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~GROUP 1~~

~~Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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OTHERWISE

DECLASSIFIED BY [Redacted]
ON 10-2-78 [Redacted]

1259 b2c

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All b7c per EO 12812-2

Date September 17, 1970

On September 10, 1970, Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] were contacted at their home, [redacted]. Mr. [redacted] is employed as a [redacted].

b2c

Mrs. [redacted] who appeared more familiar with the details of this matter of which inquiry was being made, furnished the following information:

She and Mr. [redacted] have two children, a daughter and a son. [redacted] U.S. Air Force, their son, was stationed in Thailand flying missions over Vietnam and on [redacted] 1967, the U.S. Air Force notified the parents that [redacted] had been shot down and might be a captive of the North Vietnamese. She understood this information was from a broadcast by the North Vietnamese from Hanoi. Immediately thereafter, the North Vietnamese released a news photo of their son. In the photo also were two other U.S. Air Force pilots, Colonel JAMES HUGHES of Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Colonel GORDON ALBERT LARSON of San Antonio, Texas.

b2c

Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] received their first letter from [redacted] in October, 1967. It was forwarded through an East Berlin, Germany, photographer, Heynowski and Scheuman. The letter was sent special delivery with a cover letter from the photographic firm to the effect they had been in Hanoi and had a photograph of [redacted] and asked if the [redacted] wanted it. [redacted] then contacted the U.S. Air Force Casualty Office, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, where they have frequently been in contact with Colonel GRATCH, the Deputy Commander there, and asked what they should do. They were instructed to answer Heynowski and Scheuman and request the photograph which they did. The photographic firm wrote again, but did not send the picture, but said, however, they were going to publish a book on some of the American airmen held in North Vietnam

b2

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [redacted]

POW/MIA per EO 12812
CN 345,570

b2c

On 9/10/70 at [redacted] Washington File# Seattle 100-30385

b2c

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 9/11/70

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.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

and requested pictures of [redacted] family, etc. *b7c*
 This request was ignored by the [redacted] *b7c*

The next letter received from [redacted] was upon the release of some U.S. prisoners by North Vietnam in February, 1968. The letter was brought back by some Americans who received the prisoners. There was a cover letter with [redacted] letter and sent also were copies of news releases made in Hanoi announcing the release of the prisoners. They could not recall who sent this letter. *b7c*

The third letter received from [redacted] was about May, 1968. It came by regular mail in a plain envelope. It had postmarks of Hanoi and New York City. Mrs. [redacted] does not think the letter was addressed by her son, but the Air Force Casualty Office said it appeared this was [redacted] handwriting. She never knew who sent this letter to her. *b7c*

In August, 1968, the [redacted] received a letter from [redacted] through American Friends Service Committee in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The cover letter was signed by ~~BERNARD GRIZZARD, 10 Gilman Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts, ANNE WEILL SCHEER, 6458 Benvenue Avenue, [redacted] California, and STEWART MEACHAM of the American Friends Service Committee.~~ *b7c*

A further letter was received from [redacted] which was most peculiar in source. They are certain it was in their son's handwriting and it was sent to them apparently by some magazine or publication in Brazil. The cover letter with [redacted] note bore the letterhead "JORNAL DO BRASIL, DIRETORIA, Rio de Janeiro." It was dated October 8, 1968, and signed "M. F. do NASCIMENTO BRITO." The letter said, "One of our journalists, ANTONIO CALLADO has just returned from North Vietnam today and was the bearer of this letter." *b7c*

Neither Mr. nor Mrs. [redacted] have had any contact with the Committee of Liaison with families of Servicemen detained in North Vietnam which, Mrs. [redacted] said, is usually referred to as the Committee of Liaison. They had two more letters from their son in June, 1969, which were received via regular mail, but written on North Vietnamese stationery, apparently furnished by the prison or camp of detention. It was a form type with spaces for the sender *b7c*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SE 100-30385

AK BK PER 60 128122

to enter the addressee's name. The instructions were written in both Vietnamese and English. These two letters, received June 12, and 13, 1969, apparently were in the original envelope, both postmarked in Berlin and one postmarked in Fort Worth, Texas also, which the [redacted] do not understand.

On August 11, 1969, the [redacted] received another letter from their son which was sent to them by RENNIE DAVIS upon the release of some more prisoners from North Vietnam. They first received a telegram from DAVIS who signed as RENNARD C. DAVIS and then the letter from [redacted] was received in an envelope with the printed letterhead of the National Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, 339 Lafayette Street, New York City. RENNARD C. DAVIS' name was under the return address on the envelope.

It was shortly after then that the [redacted] received a mysterious phone call which they still believe was some crank or possible extortion attempt. It apparently was from the East Coast as they received it during the early morning hours. Some man asked for a girl with a German sounding name and when told that no such person was known, the caller said that [redacted] name and address and phone number had been found in the girl's purse. The call was very peculiar, the operator broke in for some reason and the connection was broken. Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] never learned what significance, if any, this call had.

The next letter received from [redacted] was at Christmas time, 1969. Actually there were two letters received just before Christmas. One, December 20, 1969, had no cover letter, but was in an envelope of the organization Women Strike for Peace, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, they believe. The name under the organization on the envelope was ETHEL TAYLOR. They understood ETHEL TAYLOR had been to Hanoi with CORA WEISS, but had returned before WEISS. On December 22, 1969, another letter was received from Captain [redacted] directly from him at Hanoi and on December 24, still another was received in an envelope of the American Friends Service Committee which had the name of CORA WEISS on it.

In May, 1970, Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] received another letter from [redacted] in a cover envelope of the Committee of Liaison. There was no cover letter nor name of anyone connected with the committee. The committee has

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b2c sent them a form letter describing how to write to b7c American prisoners of war in Hanoi and sent also were some forms to use, similar to the type [REDACTED] has used to write to them from his camp of detention, but Mrs. [REDACTED] resents this effort to instruct her how to write to her son so she threw the forms away. They all had the return address of the Committee of Liaison. She maintains that as long as the U.S. Postal Service is in operation she intends to attempt to communicate with her son in that fashion and has done so regularly every month, but she has received no acknowledgment that any of her letters have been received since 1968. He has acknowledged a letter he received about Christmas time, 1967, but not during 1969, nor since has she received any acknowledgment he received her letters. However, in 1969, he acknowledged he received a Christmas package for Christmas, 1968, and he has acknowledged receiving a package sent August 8, 1969.

b2c In June, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] along with Mrs. [REDACTED] b7c and Mrs. [REDACTED], both of [REDACTED] went to Paris under somewhat sponsorship of the Spokane Chamber of Commerce in an effort to obtain information through the North Vietnamese Embassy regarding their imprisoned relatives. Mrs. [REDACTED] husband, [REDACTED] has been missing since [REDACTED] 1966, and she has never heard anything from the Committee of Liaison. Mrs. [REDACTED] husband, [REDACTED] was missing in action from [REDACTED] 1965, to [REDACTED] 1969, when the U.S. Government changed his status to prisoner of war. Mrs. [REDACTED] first heard from him in April, 1970, and the letter came through the Committee of Liaison. The Air Force Casualty Office at Randolph Air Force Base called Mrs. [REDACTED] b2c and said the Committee of Liaison had asked for her address. This was in March, 1970, and she received a letter from him in April, 1970, and again in May, 1970.

b2c While in Paris, Mrs. [REDACTED] b7c and the two other ladies from [REDACTED] talked to the French Red Cross about attempting verification of the condition and status of the prisoners, but the women were asked if they had contacted "The North Vietnamese Delegation in New York." Knowing that North Vietnam has no embassy nor other delegation in the United States, the Red Cross representative was asked if it was meant the Committee of Liaison, and it was learned that this is the representative of North Vietnam referred to. They were referred to the Committee of Liaison for information.

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All b2 PER EO 12812-2

In their efforts to get information at the North Vietnamese Embassy in Paris, they were permitted only to talk to some secretary who again suggested they contact the Committee of Liaison in New York City. From Paris the women went to Stockholm, Sweden, and sought information through the North Vietnamese Embassy there, and were again referred to the Committee of Liaison in New York. The [redacted] have received no letters from [redacted] since then. b2c

b2c Mrs. [redacted] advised that she is in contact with many other mothers and wives of American servicemen held prisoners in North Vietnam. Specifically, she mentioned Mrs. [redacted] mentioned above, who lives at [redacted] telephone [redacted] Mrs. [redacted] telephone [redacted] Mrs. [redacted] Washington, [redacted] telephone [redacted] Mrs. [redacted] has received four letters through the Committee of Liaison. She had been told by the Air Force her husband was a POW. He has been missing since November, 1967. Also there is a Mrs. [redacted] of [redacted] Washington, whose husband, [redacted] is a POW and who has received letters through the Committee of Liaison, the first one being about Christmas, 1969. b2c

b2c The above are all relatives of Air Force prisoners but Mrs. [redacted] said there is a Navy mother she knows of in the State of Washington, Mrs. [redacted] Washington, whose prisoner son is [redacted]. b2c

b2c Mrs. [redacted] advised that she has no misgivings about the publicity and propoganda aims of the Committee of Liaison and she steadfastly refuses to attempt communication with her son through that organization. She naturally, will accept any correspondence from her son through any source. Her reluctance in this regard is somewhat prompted by a message in one of the very first letters she received from [redacted] when he cautioned her not to join any "peace groups." No correspondence from the Committee of Liaison has taken on the nature of any harassment and in fact they have received no letters direct from the organization other than the form letter and the suggested forms for use in writing to the prisoner as described above herein. No one connected with the Committee of Liaison has ever contacted the [redacted] in person. b2c

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ALL b7c PER EO 12812-2

1

Date 10/1/70

[Redacted]

Mrs. [Redacted] furnished the following information:

Her husband is [Redacted] (since promoted [Redacted] and was shot down in North Vietnam, [Redacted] 1967, while flying a combat mission for the U. S. Air Force. He was carried as missing in action by the Air Force until [Redacted] 1968, when the casualty office of the U. S. Air Force at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, notified her of a change in his status stating he had been identified as one of the prisoners being held by North Vietnam.

She was advised that he had been identified by one of three prisoners released in February of that year. Apparently one of the three men released saw [Redacted] in a camp of detention in North Vietnam.

Mrs. [Redacted] heard nothing further of nor from her husband until March 26, 1970, when she received a mysterious telegram from the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). The telegram was mysterious in that it wished Mrs. [Redacted] a happy birthday, and it was on or near her birthday, and she has never learned how the committee found this out. It is possible her husband mentioned this to someone or to one of his captors, but in any event, the telegram said a letter had arrived from Hanoi, and that mail from her husband was enroute.

Then on April 22, 1970, she received a letter from her husband with a cover letter from COLIFAM, and in an envelope of that organization. The cover letter was signed by CORA WEISS and DAVE DELLINGER. This was a mimeographed letter and Mrs. [Redacted] got the impression that probably many like it was sent out with letters from prisoners in North Vietnam.

Just prior to April 22, 1970, however, she received a letter from COLIFAM dated April 27, 1970, which was signed STEVEN E. BALIWELL and said that Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ, member of the committee, had returned that day and brought back some letters. The letter received from her husband in

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/99 BY 9803
[Redacted] 62c
[Redacted] 62c
[Redacted] 62c

9/22/70

Washington

SE 100-30385

On

at

File #

SA [Redacted]

Date dictated

9/24/70

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SE 100-30385

All b7c per EO 12812-2

April, 1970, was dated by him March 30, 1970, and was a six-line form on paper apparently furnished by the camp of detention.

b2c

Shortly thereafter, on April 29, 1970, Mrs. [redacted] received a postcard and a letter, a six-line letter, dated December 13, 1969, which was received in a cover letter and envelope of COLIFAM. The letter was signed by BARBARA WEBSTER and MAGGIE GEDDER, stating that the letters had just arrived and had come with a packet of others. This was somewhat curious to Mrs. [redacted] as there had been no prior notice of this second letter.

b7c

b2c

The next letter received by Mrs. [redacted] from her husband was May 14, 1970, and dated by her husband January 17, 1970. It was received with a cover letter of COLIFAM dated May 13, 1970. It said that date they had received two packages of letters totalling 156, but they had been mailed a month apart. There was no explanation for the delay. This letter was signed by BARBARA WEBSTER.

b2c

On May 4, 1970, Mrs. [redacted] had received a mimeographed letter from the committee unsigned, but was in memorandum form from Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ, a member of the committee, who stated he had just returned April 20, 1970, from a three week trip to Laos and North Vietnam. This memorandum gave instructions for writing to persons in detention and suggesting the committee be used for this purpose, but Mrs. [redacted] has not.

b7c

Another letter from her husband was received June 29, 1970, when this was a seven-line note on a form, apparently provided by the camp of detention. This was airmailed from New York through COLIFAM. Her husband had dated this letter May 20, 1970. The cover letter of COLIFAM was signed by BARBARA WEBSTER and related that this letter had been received along in a group of 105 letters from servicemen detained in North Vietnam.

b2c

Mrs. [redacted] advised on September 21, 1970, she received another seven-line note from her husband dated June 25, 1970. It was postmarked September 18, 1970, and was sent with a cover letter of the committee dated that date. This letter was in mimeograph-type form also.

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The only other time Mrs. [REDACTED] has had any contact with the committee or similar group was in December, 1969. The address of the American Friends Service Committee had been furnished her by the State Department, and it had been suggested to her by the State Department of a possible source of communication with her husband. She had no knowledge then it was other than a Quaker or Friends organization. She sent a letter to her husband through the American Friends Service Committee. This organization responded, acknowledging receipt of the letter stating that it was hoped that it could be delivered. This was December 15, 1969. b2c

Correspondence with other groups Mrs. [REDACTED] has received was January 20, 1970, when ROGER G. FREDRICKSON apparently writing for LOUIS W. SCHNEIDER, Associate Executive Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee, stated that he had been to North Vietnam from December 26, 1969, to January 9, 1970, and was able to deliver to the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity With American People (VIETMY) about 500 letters from relatives in the U. S. prior to departure, and that he had been given 69 letters from 64 prisoners, and in keeping with the North Vietnamese request, those letters had been given to the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, 365 West 42nd Street, New York City, for transmittal to the individual addressees. b2c

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that although she regularly writes to her husband through regular mail channels, she has never sent a letter through COLIFAM. b2c

From letters received by her husband, it is not possible yet to determine if letters from Mrs. [REDACTED] are being received regularly by her husband. In two letters, he has acknowledged packages sent in December, 1969. In the March, 1970, letter he acknowledged the December, 1969, package. b2c

In the letter she received September 21, 1970, her husband acknowledged an earlier letter, but she cannot tell which one he referred to, because she has told him twice that she has sold one of their cars, and he mentioned that he was glad she did.

In the letter received April 22, 1970, he said to

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b2c

tell his mother, Happy Birthday. Actually his mother had passed away some months earlier, and Mrs. [REDACTED] has told him repeatedly in letters that the mother had died, but he has not mentioned it whatever, so she is certain that not all of her letters are getting through to him.

He asked her once to send some pictures, and she already had, but she does not know whether he was trying to tell her he got the pictures or trying to say that they had been removed before he got the letter. No letter sent to him has ever been returned. She has not been harassed by COLIFAM, and the extent of her correspondence is as described above.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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All b7c per EO 12812-2

1

Date 10/1/70

Mrs. [redacted] furnished the following information:

Her husband is [redacted] U. S. Air Force. He has been a prisoner of war in North Vietnam for about five years. He was shot down and captured in North Vietnam while flying a combat mission [redacted] 1965. He was considered as missing in action until 1969, when the casualty office of the U. S. Air Force at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, telephoned her and told her the status of her husband had been changed from missing in action to prisoner of war. This was done with no explanation as to the reason, and shortly thereafter, a letter of confirmation to this effect was received from the Air Force.

Mrs. [redacted] heard absolutely nothing from nor regarding her husband subsequently until April, 1970, when a Colonel GRATCH of the casualty office at Randolph Air Force Base called her and stated that CORA WEISS of the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) had called the casualty office asking for Mrs. [redacted] address and phone number and indicating that they, the committee, had some knowledge of a letter possibly from [redacted]

Colonel GRATCH stated he needed Mrs. [redacted] permission to furnish them her address and phone number and suggested that she do so, so she did, and she then telephoned CORA WEISS at the committee headquarters in New York City, who said the committee had heard that North Vietnamese officials in Hanoi had released the names of some prisoners being detained, and that [redacted] name was among them, and that there was a letter enroute.

The next day, the Spokesman-Review newspaper at Spokane called Mrs. [redacted] and said that the information regarding her husband being in custody had been on the wire services.

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/93 BY 9803 [redacted]

POW/MIA per EO 12812
CN 345,570

On 9/21/70 at [redacted] Washington File# SE 100-30385
by SA [redacted] Date dictated 9/24/70

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Shortly thereafter, Mrs. [REDACTED] ^{b2c} received a letter written by her husband in a prisoner of war camp in North Vietnam, which was sent to her via a cover letter on printed stationery of the COLIFAM, and in their envelope mailed from New York City.

The letter written by her husband was on a form used in the detention camps and was dated by her husband in March, 1970. The cover letter of COLIFAM was signed by a staff member of COLIFAM, whose identity Mrs. [REDACTED] could not recall.

In May, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] ^{b2c} received another letter from her husband through COLIFAM. It came in an envelope of the committee also, and with a cover letter signed by someone she assumes was a staff member of the committee. ^{b2c}

Mrs. [REDACTED] ^{b2c} heard nothing further from her husband until this date, September 21, 1970, when she received another letter from her husband sent by the committee with their cover letter, which was a mimeographed note signed by CORA WEISS, and explained that the letter would have been sent sooner, but that it, along with others, had been confiscated by U. S. authorities.

It mentioned an incident Mrs. [REDACTED] ^{b2c} had read about in the local newspaper, which reported that ARTHUR SCHEER had been to Hanoi and brought the letters back, but they were confiscated by U. S. Customs, but eventually returned. The letter from COLIFAM was dated September 18, 1970, and bore the return address 365 West 42nd Street, New York City.

Mrs. [REDACTED] ^{b2c} stated she had read or had heard from news reports that ARTHUR SCHEER had gone with ten Black Panther Party members to Algiers, where they, along with ELDRIDGE CLEAVER, Black Panther Party member fugitive, had gone to North Korea, Communist China and to North Vietnam and had brought the letters back to the United States.

Mrs. [REDACTED] ^{b2c} stated that the alleged verification of the number of prisoners being held in North Vietnam