FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

AMERICAN POWs/MIA's IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
(SUMMARY)

PART 16 OF 26

FILE NUMBER : 100-457899
subject

file number

Pow MIA

100-457899

vol 6
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: Indianapolis (100-20786) (P)

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

IS - MISC

REGISTRATION ACT

O0: New York

DATE: 8/13/70

Re Indianapolis letter to the Bureau, 8/4/70.

Enclosed for the Bureau is one information copy and for New York are nine copies of an FD-302 reflecting the results of an interview with Mrs. [REDACTED] on 7/24/70.

E012812-2

EX-109

RFC-58

100-45-7891-98

18 AUG 17 1970

Mrs. [blurred] of Kokomo, Indiana, advised the Federal Bureau of Investigation that she is the wife of a pilot in the United States Air Force. Mrs. [blurred] advised that her husband was shot down over North Vietnam approximately five years ago and is presently a prisoner of war. She stated that she believed that he is in fairly good health as she has viewed news photographs of him being paraded in Hanoi and she does receive mail from him occasionally. She advised that recently she has been receiving one letter a month from her husband.

Mrs. [blurred] stated that she is aware of an organization known as the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. She advised that she has received letters from her husband to her that have come through intermediaries which have belonged to various groups that she described as being leftist. She advised that some time around August of 1968 she was receiving these letters with cover letters from the American Friends Service Committee, a member of which was the Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ. She advised that the Reverend FERNANDEZ is also associated with this Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. She does not recall exactly when the letters started coming with cover letters from this committee, however, it has been for some time.

Mrs. [blurred] advised that she has never been contacted by the committee except to receive literature from them which would be included in a letter that also enclosed an envelope and letter from her husband. She recalled that in some of the correspondence from the committee she was told to send the letters to her husband back through that committee, but that she has not done so. She advised that the receipt of these letters from the committee has been the extent of her correspondence with that organization. She noted that she has received between seven and ten letters from her husband through this committee. She also advised that she has not received anything else from her husband other than these letters.
Mrs. [redacted] recalled that the cover letters usually were form letters and contained some statement to the effect that a member of the committee had been to North Vietnam and had brought the letter back. She stated that there has never been any attempt to describe the visit or identify the members of the committee who worked in North Vietnam or who brought the letters back with them.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that she believes that the wife of James Kasler at Indianapolis, Indiana, has had the same type of contact with the committee that she has had.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that she would be willing to cooperate with the United States Government in any way possible and would gladly testify concerning her association with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam.
**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

**REPORTING OFFICE**
- Newark

**OFFICE OF ORIGIN**
- New York

**DATE**
- 8/31/70

**INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD**
- 7/15-8/18/70

**REFERENCE**
- Memo of J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General, Internal Security Division, to the Bureau dated 5/26/70.
- New York airtel and LHM, 6/9/70.
- San Diego report of SA, 6/9/70.

**ADMINISTRATIVE**
A check of the following military intelligence agencies was conducted on 7/15/70 and 7/17/70 by SA with negative results regarding information concerning activities of Colifam in the New Jersey area:

- Captain [redacted], 108th MI Co., Newark, New Jersey

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED**

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<th>Conv.</th>
<th>Auto.</th>
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**CASE HAS BEEN:**
- Pending over one year
- Pending prosecution over six months

**SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE**
- RB

**DEPARTMENT**
- 5 - Bureau (100-457899) (RM)
- 2 - New York (100-168469) (RM)
- 4 - Newark (97-353)

**Deleted Copy Sent by Letter Dated 9/6/70 Per FOIPA Request**

**Dissemination Record of Attached Report**

**NOTATIONS**

**Cover Page**

**Cover 22/1970**

**Sept 2 1970**
Office of Security Investigation (OSI)
Newark, N.J.

Naval Investigative Service (NIS)
Newark, New Jersey

Set forth in the body of this report are interviews of Mrs. (FNU) and Mrs. (FNU) and all of whom furnished original copies of correspondence from Colfax, of which Xerox copies are included in instant report. Newark will retain original copies of mentioned communications.

Newark is unable to determine the home address of Captain (SEAL) who appeared in the list of prisoners being held in the Republic of North Vietnam and whose address was shown only as New Jersey (New York airtel and LHN, 6/9/70.)

On 8/12/70, an attempt to determine WEBB's address through the files of the Department of Motor Vehicles, Trenton, N.J., was made with negative results.

Mrs. (FNU) during interview on 7/27/70, furnished the name of one (FNU) who she advised has been in contact with RICHARD FERNANDEZ. According to (FNU) was seeking information concerning her husband who was shot down over Laos or Cambodia.

LEADS

NEWARK

AT TRENTON, N.J.: Will locate and interview Mrs. (FNU) N.J.

AT CAMDEN, N.J.: Will locate and interview Mrs. N.J.

AT MORRISTOWN, N.J.: Will locate and interview Mrs. N.J.
UNIVERSAL DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Report of:
Date:
Field Office File #:
Title:
Character:
Synopsis:

August 31, 1970
97-353
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH
VIETNAM

INTERNAL SECURITY-MISCELLANEOUS;
REGISTRATION ACT—NORTH VIETNAM

On 7/27/70, Mrs. [redacted], N.J., furnished a letter received from Colifam on 1/27/70 with information as to the method to be utilized in sending and receiving communications between families in the U.S. and prisoners being held by the North Vietnamese Government. She has had no personal contact with representatives of this organization. Mrs. [redacted], N.J., furnished an information sheet received from the Committee dated January, 1970, setting forth background, functions, and clarification that the Committee will be dealing solely with the Government of North Vietnam and would function entirely apart from the U.S. Government. She has never had personal contact with any member of the Colifam Committee but has knowledge that on occasion her mail has been delivered in North Vietnam by individuals willing to take a letter to her son. [redacted] recalls one such individual as the Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ, who is listed as a member of the Committee. Cinnaminson Township, N.J., furnished a quantity of literature and material received from Colifam. [redacted] advised that although he disagrees emphatically with the principals of this Committee and method of operation, he has never been encouraged or induced by this Committee to act in any manner contrary to the laws of the U.S.

 DETAILS:

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.
New Jersey, on July 29, 1976, said the following:

She has never had personal contact with members of
the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen
Detained in North Vietnam.

A letter dated May 29, 1976, carrying the letterhead,
Liberation, 5 Rodney Street, New York, New York 10036,
telephone (212) 758-4000, Celia Webster was addressed
to Mrs. [redacted] and her husband. [redacted]. It
stated that threeAmericans, [redacted], [redacted], and
[redacted] had just returned from a two-week visit in North
Vietnam. They brought with them the enclosed letter which the
Vietnamese asked to be forwarded to Mr. and Mrs. Vander.

The letter, Mrs. [redacted] said, also mentioned that
DAVE BALLINGER, Eltes, [redacted] of "liberation", had had
other contacts with the Vietnamese and, as a result, they
have had several letters from families and friends of
unrecovered American pilots. DAVE (BALLINGER) had written a
note to answer each letter and a copy was enclosed for the
letter was signed "Barbara Webster, secretary to Dave Ballinger."

In a postscript, WEBSTER apologized if she mis-
spelled the name as she could not make out their
Mrs. [redacted] said she telephoned and wrote DAVE
BALLINGER at the Liberation office thanking him for their
son's letter. The letterhead of the above letter from
"liberation" also listed the following individuals:
DAVE BALLINGER, Editor; BARBARA BERNSTEIN; PAUL GOODMAN;
MARTY LEROY; BRUCE LYON; LINDA ROYER, Managing Editor;
RALPH DI CRAZZI, Treasurer; Associate Editors: KAY ROYAL, TOM BYRD;
Herbert SHERFF, MAURICE BERNSTEIN.

Mrs. [redacted] said a letter dated December 5, 1969, on
a letterhead of the American Friends Service Council, Inc.,
503 North Fifteenth Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19141.

We document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency;
and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.
telephone 215-563-9372, over the signature of STEWARD MEAGHAM, Peace Education Secretary, advised that a colleague, LOUIS SCHNEIDER, was going to Hanoi soon and was willing to take letters to American pilots. If the recipient desired him to carry a letter, it should be sent to LOUIS SCHNEIDER at this address and the letter would be turned over to authorities in Hanoi with the request that it be delivered. If possible, SCHNEIDER would bring letters back with him. His last day would be December 10, 1969. The letter also bore the names of GILBERT P. WHITE, Chairman; HENRY J. CADBURY, Honorary Chairman; BRONSON P. CLARK, Executive Secretary.

By letter dated December 15, 1969, SCHNEIDER, Associate Executive Secretary, acknowledged receipt of a letter from Mr. and Mrs. [redacted].

In a letter dated January 20, 1970, signed by ROGER G. FREDRICKSON for LOUIS W. SCHNEIDER, SCHNEIDER said he delivered to representatives of the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity with American People about 500 letters that had been forwarded to him by family members of prisoners of war in North Vietnam. Before his departure, he received 65 letters from 64 American prisoners of war and in keeping with the North Vietnamese request, gave the letters to the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, 365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y., for transmittal to the individual addresses.

Mrs. [redacted] said she did not receive any letters from the foregoing, but had received two letters during December. One came to her through regular mail, and the other came from the Committee of Liaison. The latter addressed it to her in a plain white envelope which bore the return address of MR. K. TAYLOR, 365 West 42nd Street, New York, New York, but had a California postmark.

A letter dated January 27, 1970, on the letterhead of the "Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam," was a form letter signed by NUGGLEDYES. It assumed the addressee had already received the letter from North Vietnam which had been forwarded by members of the Committee. An information sheet was enclosed which explained the work of the Committee of Liaison.

A letter from the Committee of Liaison dated May 7, 1970, encouraged Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] to use the Committee's facilities in writing to their son. It also set out limitations on the size of packages that could be sent to
prisoners. Mrs. [redacted] said she advised [redacted] at Randolph Air Force Base of this letter and said she may have forwarded the letter to him.

Mrs. [redacted] contacted the Liaison Office in May, 1970, to inquire about some of the information in this letter and talked to CORA WHITES. She recalled that WHITES made a statement to the effect that "after all, our boys were there killing women and children."

Although she had never met with Liaison members personally, she said a Mrs. GERIL REYNOLDS, Bella Cynwyd, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, telephone 213-NO 4-5876, had a party for KERL TAYLOR following TAYLOR's return from North Vietnam during December, 1969. The purpose of the party was to have people ask her questions about their relatives being held in North Vietnam.

[redacted] also said that a Mrs. [redacted] in New Jersey, spoke to RICHARD FERNANDEZ when they met in Cambodia. FERNANDEZ at that time told them there were several members in the organization which were disapproved by the Liaison Committee and were to be thrown out. [redacted] said Mrs. [redacted] husband had been shot down over Laos or Cambodia and she had gone to East Asia in an effort to obtain information about him.

Mrs. [redacted] recalled that in January or February, 1970, CORA WHITES and BARBARA WEBER appeared on the "Contact Program" conducted by TOM SNYDER on Channel 3, Philadelphia. They discussed treatment of American prisoners by the North Vietnamese.

A copy of the letter received by Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] from NAOMIE GENDES on January 27, 1970, is as follows:
January 27, 1970

Dear [Redacted]

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Maggie Geddes
Mrs. [redacted] stated her initial contact with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, address 365 West 42nd Street, New York, New York, was after Dave Dellinger and Cora Weiss, co-chairmen of the Committee, went to North Vietnam in August, 1968. These individuals brought a letter back to the United States from her son, and they forwarded the contents of the letter to her and her husband first in a telegram and the following day she received the letter itself. She stated she did not have any personal contact with these individuals. She did learn that they had also brought back a file containing an interview with her son; however, this file to her knowledge has never been released and she has never seen it nor does she intend to ask to see it.

In January, 1970, she stated she received a two-page leaflet bearing the letterhead "Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, 365 West 42nd Street, New York, New York, 10036-212-765-1490". It was dated January, 1970, and titled "Information Sheet". Co-chairmen were listed as Dave Dellinger and Cora Weiss. Mrs. [redacted] furnished a xerox copy of this leaflet which describes the Committee's background, functions, a clarification that the Committee will be dealing solely with the government of North Vietnam, would function entirely apart from the United States Government and a statement that all United States servicemen can return safely with a decision on the part of the United States Government to withdraw from Vietnam.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that in April, 1970, she was in receipt of a letter from her son dated March 18, 1970, in an envelope bearing the return address of the Committee in New York. This letter came by regular mail. Her son's letter had no stamp on it, it was on the prescribed form used by
prisoners of war in North Vietnam, and again she had no personal contact with any member of the Committee. In this letter he indicated that he had been injured at the time he had bailed out of his plane and parachuted into North Vietnam, and that he had received three letters in 1969 dated May 19, June 17, 1969; and July 20, 1969.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that outgoing mail to her son has been either handled by regular mail service or on occasion when the United States Navy has called and informed her and her husband that someone was going to North Vietnam and was willing to carry a letter to her son. She recalled one such individual as the Reverend RICHARD FERNANDES, whose address she could not recall, but who was listed on the leaflet as described above as a member of the Committee. She stated that other individuals have been likewise identified, but their names she could not now recall, who also carried with them to North Vietnam a letter from them for her son. She stated that the United States Naval Intelligence in Washington, D.C., has the full information on her son and contacts with her and her husband.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that neither she nor her husband has ever been personally contacted by any member of the Committee as described; that neither she nor her husband has ever been hassled in any manner by the Committee; nor have they ever received any personal objects via the Committee from her son. She stated they have sent via United States channels parcels to their son which they are allowed to do every two months. She stated that other than as described in the leaflet she had no knowledge of the Committee's contacts or sources of information in North Vietnam nor was she in contact with any other family who has a son as a prisoner in North Vietnam and been in similar contact with the Committee.

Mrs. [redacted] stated she has had first hand knowledge concerning the activities of the Committee other than as described above. She stated that in view of her son's status at this time she would not, while he is a prisoner, want to do anything that might jeopardize his position. She stated she is an American in every sense of the word, and she would cooperate in every way possible; however, if this meant giving open testimony at this time she would have to consider such a request at great length so as not to jeopardize her son's situation.

Mrs. [redacted] did not furnish any further information this time.
Mrs. [Redacted] furnished a copy of the two-page letter received in January, 1979, and it is as follows:
COMMITTEE ON MILITARY

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street New York N.Y. 10036
212-765-1490

January, 1970

INFORMATION SHEET

Background

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

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

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

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

Functions of the Committee

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

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

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

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

Clarification

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

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

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

Who We Are

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

We are active in a variety of organizations committed to ending the war: American Friends Service Committee, the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam, Women Strike for Peace, The Conspiracy, and Woman Against Deedy Murders. The Committee is supported by donations from individuals and organizations, and welcomes any gifts to sustain its work.
On June 23, 1970, the interviewee furnished the following information:

He is the father of [redacted], United States Air Force, who is presently a prisoner of the North Vietnamese Government, Hanoi, North Vietnam.

[Redacted] advised that his son, [redacted], was shot down over North Vietnam on October 1965, and was captured by the North Vietnamese forces at that time.

[Redacted] advised that he wishes to furnish all information at his disposal concerning his son and all correspondence directed to his son while a prisoner of war. He stated, however, that under no circumstances did he want his identity revealed as a source of any information concerning his son, [redacted], as he considered his son's life to be in extremely hazardous position as a prisoner of war. He stated that he feels if it becomes known that he furnished any information concerning activities of any organization in the United States who had cooperated with the government of North Vietnam, that his son's life would be in danger. He stated that he was explicit that he did not desire to be publicly identified as the source of any information concerning any organization, and under no circumstances would he be willing to appear as a witness to the information which he furnished.

[Redacted] advised that he is violently opposed to beliefs expressed by the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLVIN), and has publicly expressed his opposition to the views of this organization. However, he feels an obligation as the father of [redacted] to correspond with his son as frequently as possible in order to maintain his son's morale and ability to withstand any type of imprisonment. Consequently, he feels that where it is possible

8/7/70  W.J. Newark 97-303

Date dictated

Date

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to utilize services to exchange correspondence with his son, he will do so with the permission of the United States Government.

advised that he has maintained constant contact with the offices of the United States Air Force, particularly the Office of the Director of Personnel Services, specifically Lieutenant Colonel A.C. Clocker, who was stationed at B. West, who also served as director of Personnel Services of the United States Air Force. He has advised the Air Force personnel of all correspondences received by him from his son, and of all correspondences directed by him to his son, both through the United States Air Force itself and through AMTR, as well as the International Red Cross. He stated that he had been notified by the Air Force not to discuss his son's situation as a prisoner of war with any other person, but that the Air Force has never specifically forbidden or attempted specifically on activities of AMTR and their efforts to serve as an intermediary between him and the North Vietnamese Government concerning

advised that after his son was shot down and captured in 1965, there was no word concerning his welfare for 19 months, when he was notified by the United States Air Force that his son was a prisoner in North Vietnam. Prior to this time he had no information whether his son was dead or captured by the North Vietnamese.

advised that in approximately December, 1966, word was received by the public media that his son was alive in North Vietnam as a prisoner, and that letters from him had been delivered to the United States by three women who had visited North Vietnam for the purpose of obtaining correspondence from American prisoners of war. After hearing through the news media that a letter from his son was allegedly being delivered in the United States, he learned the identity of one of the three women, who had traveled to North Vietnam, Mrs. GAIL KAYES, of the American Friends Service Committee, Incorporated. He then located Mrs. KAYES and telephoned her with any information she might have concerning a letter from his son; and she advised him that another woman who had traveled to North Vietnam with her, Mrs. CONA WILBS of San Francisco, California, was in possession of that letter and had already mailed the letter in the United States to

Shortly after this telephone conversation with Mrs. KAYES, he was called by Mrs. CONA WILBS who advised him that she had mailed a letter from her son to his parents in the United States.
advised that the following day two letters from his son which had been transmitted to the United States by Mrs. AIRUS were received by [REDACTED] at their residence.

In early January, 1970, [REDACTED] was advised by parents or other-prisoners of war in North Vietnam that a meeting of parents and relatives of American prisoners of war was scheduled to be held at a church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He could not recall the name of the church or the exact date as regarding this meeting. However, by recall it was this meeting was not associated with any specific organization and particularly not with FICAUS. He stated, however, that Mrs. MAE BAILOR, whom he contacted following her return from North Vietnam, was appalled by the great number of this meeting of relatives and parents of American prisoners of war.

[REDACTED] was unable to recall a great deal of what Mrs. BAILOR, how, however, she indicated they were given extremely provable treatment by a committee of North Vietnamese, but that she had met and interviewed three prisoners of war. [REDACTED] recalled that he became extremely upset by the words of Mrs. BAILOR's speech and that he stood up to criticize her attitude towards the American Government and its policy in Vietnam.

[REDACTED] stated that he is extremely critical of any organization or person who criticized the policy of the United States Government in South East Asia. He advised that although his son is a prisoner of war, he feels strongly that the United States is acting correctly in South East Asia, and he is certain that his son has very strong feelings in support of the policy of the United States Government.

[REDACTED] made available a quantity of literature and material which he had received from FICAUS, as well as copies of correspondence which he had directed to that committee. Included among the items which were received from Mr. AIRUS, were the following items:

13
Dear Friend,

This is but a brief note to acknowledge receipt of your letter addressed to your family member who is being held as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam.

My current plans call for me to arrive in North Vietnam on or about 26 December at which point I hope to be able to turn your letter along with a large number of other letters from the immediate families of men being held to the appropriate authorities of the Democratic Republic of North Vietnam, along with my request that the letters be delivered to the individual prisoners.

After my return to the United States I will write to you again to let you know whether it was possible to deliver the letters.

Most sincerely yours,

Louis W. Schneider
Associate Executive Secretary A.N.V.I.

N. VIET.
S. VIET.
January 20, 1970

Dear Friend,

I am happy to report that during my visit to North Vietnam between December 25, 1969, and January 9, 1970, I was able to deliver to the representatives of the Viet Nam Committee for Solidarity with American People about 500 letters that had been forwarded to me by you and other family members of prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

Immediately prior to my departure from North Vietnam I was given 69 letters from 69 American prisoners of war, and in keeping with the North Vietnamese request these letters have been given to the

Committee of Liaison
with Families of Service
men detained in North
Vietnam
365 W. 42nd Street
New York, New York

for transmission to the individual addressees. We at the American Friends Service Committee are pleased to have had a part in opening a channel for communication between the prisoners and their families and hope that this will continue.

You may be interested to know that during my visit to North Vietnam I was able to deliver a second contribution of open heart surgical equipment to the Benh Vien Viet-Dac Hospital in Hanoi in keeping with a longstanding Quaker concern for civilian sufferers on both sides of a war.

Following my departure from North Vietnam I traveled on to Quang Ngai in South Vietnam to visit the American Friends Service Committee (Quaker) rehabilitation project for civilian casualties.

I have asked my colleagues in Philadelphia to mail this letter to you prior to my return to the United States, so that you might know more promptly that your letter has safely arrived in Hanoi and was given to the appropriate North Vietnamese authorities with my specific request that it be delivered to the individual addressees.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

For: Louis W. Schneider
INFORMATION SHEET

Background

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

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

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

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

Functions of the Committee

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

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

name of serviceman

Serial number
Camp of Detention of U.S. Pilots
Captured in the D.R.V.
Hanoi, Democratic Republic of Vietnam

Via Moscow, U.S.S.R.

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

Clarification

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

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

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

Who We Are

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

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

COMMUNICATION WITH CAPTURED AIRMEN

ESTABLISHED BY NEW COMMITTEE:

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. Core 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 addressess. Also," she continued, "I 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 servicemen known to be held in North Vietnam and relatives in this country. Letters from the U.S. will be addressed to prisoner, or 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 Weecham, 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 these letters will soon arrive from Hong Kong in New York, and will immediately be sent to the addressees." Mr. Weecham said that "the 69 letters en route to the U.S. were written by 69 prisoners and the Committee can presently confirm the names of 182 servicemen held by the North Vietnamese, or reported to be dead or known."

Mr. Weecham 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 Rennie
PRESS REL.

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 Maudeline Dukakis of San Francisco, all active with the Women Strike for Peace, came back 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. Ed Seitzman, Steve Halliwell 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.

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Antivan Group Seen As Liaison To U.S. POWs

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

The office is sponsored by the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, and its organizers are Mrs. Cora Weiss and David Brogan.

Mrs. Weiss said the organization has had numerous contacts with families of prisoners who hope to aid. She said 66 letters from 66 servicemen, brought by hand to Hong Kong, were flown to Philadelphia Saturday, then mailed to the families.

She said the North Vietnamese government 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 prisoners.

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

Brogan is one of the seven defendants being tried in Chicago on charges growing out of the disturbances 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 125 W. 42nd St., Mrs. Weiss said.

from The New York Times, 1/16/70

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Fees of War Flash Group to Forward Letters to P.O.

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from The New York Times, 1/16/70

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San Diego Union, 1/19/70
Dear [Redacted]

We're very happy to forward this letter to you which just arrived from North Vietnam along with [Redacted] 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
January 27, 1970

Dear [Redacted]

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Maggie Geddes

Maggie Geddes
March 17, 1970

Dear Mr. [Name]

Thank you very much for your donation to the Committee of Liaison. We appreciate your generous help.

We forwarded the letter to your son you'd sent us for March. There will be people leaving in the next few weeks on a trip to North Vietnam, who will be taking letters with them if you would like to send your next monthly letter a little early to us. They will be leaving by March 28th, I think, so if you would like to send us a letter, we would be glad to see that it goes with them to Hanoi.

Again, thank you, on behalf of the Committee, for your support.

Sincerely,

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,

Cora Weiss  Dave Dellinger

Cora Weiss  Dave Dellinger
Dear friend:

We are very glad to send you the enclosed letter which we received from North Vietnam today.

Over 400 letters are en route from servicemen being held in North Vietnam. The enclosed letter, along with 79 others, was in the first packet to arrive here out of a total of five packets which we have been expecting.

We are also enclosing a letter form which the North Vietnamese have suggested relatives use when writing to servicemen in North Vietnam. You can mail it or regular letters directly to Hanoi or to our office for forwarding. If you send letters to us, please enclose but do not affix stamps as we forward them on in packets.

For those of you who may not have already received one, we are enclosing an Information Sheet which explains what the Committee of Liaison is.

With hopes for an early decision by the United States to withdraw from Vietnam,

Sincerely,

[Signatures]
Committee of Liaison
2nd Floor
365 West 42nd Street
New York, N. Y. 10036

Att: Mrs. Maggie Geddes

Dear Mrs. Geddes:

Enclosed is a short letter to our son, Tom, on the form you provided. We are also sending to your care a food package for him. This is being done as you suggested in one of your memorandums.

Enclosed is $5.00 in cash to help defray expenses. This will also acknowledge that we have received the two short letters from Tom, which were handled by your Committee.

Sincerely,
April 17, 1970

Dear [Redacted]

We received your note a few days ago, in time for the letter you enclosed to your son to be taken directly to Hanoi by a group of anti-war activists leaving for a visit to North Vietnam.

Then, today, the food package you sent to us for forwarding arrived at the post office. We do not forward packages (I can't recall any of our material saying we did--our Info. Sheet says we don't.) Consequently I refused it at the post office, as it should be returned to you in a few days. You should just send it the way packages are usually sent, with the "via Moscow" address on it. I assume you have the card necessary for mailing such packets to North Vietnam.

Thank you for your contribution to the expenses of the Committee's work; we are grateful for your help.

Sincerely,

Maggie Geedles

Maggie Geedles
April 20, 1970

Dear [REDACTED - E012812-2]

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

Att: Maggie Geddes

May 11, 1970

Dear Miss Geddes:

Re: __________________________

This will acknowledge that we received letters brought in by various people on your Committee, the last one being brought in by Rev. Richard Fernandez. We appreciate this favor.

Please forward this short letter to our son through your channels.

Sincerely yours,
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 Palomond, 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
June 19, 1970

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

Att: Mrs. Barbara Webster

Dear Mrs. Webster:

This will acknowledge receipt of a letter from our son, which was sent to us by you as of June 14, 1970.

As indicated in your letter, we are sending you a letter for our son to be delivered by your group.

Sincerely yours,
Dear friend:

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
July 14, 1970

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

Dear Sirs:

We are enclosing a short letter to our son, [redacted] for you to deliver to him.

And I appreciate all the past favors done by your Committee in bringing back letters from [redacted] to us. We just hope that you have accomplished the same thing in forwarding our letters to him.

I am enclosing a $25.00 contribution to your Committee work to help defray the expenses of handling this mail to the prisoners.

Sincerely yours,
stated that although he did not sympathise with or believe in the activities or actions of the Committee of Liaison or any other anti-war group, that his intense personal feelings towards the welfare of his son virtually demanded that he accept any correspondence from his son concerning his present health and welfare as a prisoner of war.
Advised that in regard to contributions which he has donated to COLJAN, he stated that although he
approves emphatically with the principles of this organization and its methods of operation, that he felt a personal obligation
to defray a portion of expenses which this committee had incurred
in obtaining correspondence and directing correspondence to
his son. He advised that although it was against his better
judgement to offer these contributions, that his feelings towards
his son's imprisonment are so intense and so personal, that he
felt morally obligated to defray some expenses connected with
the activities of the committee.

Advised that he has never been contacted
personally by any member of the committee, and they have not
directed any personal correspondence to him regarding his son's
imprisonment. At no time did they attempt to influence him or
encourage him to act in any manner contrary to the laws of the
United States. He advised that he is aware of the strong personal
feelings which relatives of prisoners of war will feel, and that
it is his belief that the committee is utilizing these intense
personal feelings for political gain and its own benefit. However,
he was at a loss to explain any other reasonable course of action
which a relative might take toward activity where a son or a
loved one is a prisoner of war.

Advised that he is not aware of any
other person who has been contacted by this organization. He
stated that he is aware of the existence of another group formed
by relatives of prisoners of war which has no association with
COLJAN. This is known as the National League of Families of
American Prisoners and Missing in South East Asia. The State
coordinator in New Jersey is Mr. David Davis, 23 Ambler Court,
Willingboro, N.J. He advised that he is not aware of the identity of any other person contacted by any other organization
relative to the status of American prisoners of war.

Again reiterated strongly that he does not desire
any information that he has furnished to be used in any manner
which might injure his son or create a difficult situation for him
as a prisoner of war. He reiterated his previous statement that
as a parent he will accept any mail from his son regardless of
its means of transmittal.
FBI

Date: 8/25/70

Transmit the following in

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via

AIRTTEL

AIR MAIL

(Priority)

TO:

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

FROM:

J.B.C., LOUISVILLE (100-5474) (P)

SUBJECT:

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

IS - MISC.

REGISTRATION ACT

OO:

NEW YORK

Re New York airtel to the Bureau, 6/9/70, and Louisville airtel to Boston, 8/13/70.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau and New York is one copy each of a list of 335 names alleged to be officially confirmed by Hanoi as prisoners held in North Vietnam as of 4/30/70.

The list was received by Mrs. Louisville, Kentucky, as an enclosure to a letter dated 7/27/70, received from Mr. KENN KIRKPATRICK on letterhead of the American Friends Service Committee, Inc., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The letter also returned her letter to her husband, with the indication that the North Vietnamese had not verified the fact that her husband was a prisoner of war.

Since the extent of investigation conducted in this matter is unknown, the lead value of the enclosed list is questionable and any leads set out on the basis of the enclosed are, therefore, being left to the discretion of the office or origin.

Approved:

Sent

54 SEP 70 - 9 VP

Agent in Charge
Relatives of both servicemen have been located and interviewed.
The following 335 names have been officially confirmed by Hanoi to be prisoners held in North Vietnam; -- April 30, 1970 -- :

Alabama

Michael K. McGiustion, 71416, Montgomery
Herbert Benjamin Ringsdorf, FR75446, Elba

Arizona

Kile Dog Berg, 3103302, Glendale
Jock Williamson Bomar, FV2251452, Mesa
Larry Edward Carrigan, 519504, Scottsdale
Joseph Crecca, Jr., FR63-81, Phoenix
Laird Gutterson, 26405, Tucson
Thomas Mack Madison, 2249519, Phoenix
Dennis Anthony Moore, 541532, Scottsdale
John Joseph Pitchford, Jr., FV2245522, Scottsdale
Lewis W. Shattuck, 5036821, Mesa
Jack H. Thomas, FR55155, Chandler
Charles Robert Tyler, 58050, Phoenix
Jack Linwood VanLoan, 65085, Tucson

Arkansas

James Lasley Lomar, 1905733, Little Rock

California

Wilfred Keese Abbott, 3081739, San Diego
Everett Alvarez, Jr., 544124, Santa Clara
Anthony Charles Andrews, FR3146551, Chico White
Frederick C. Ballock, Jr., 665620, Lemon Grove
Robert W. Barnett, FR31021, Hawthorne
Cole Black, 504387, San Diego
Ralph Ford, 614217, Long Beach
William Neil Bixler, 706, Lemoore
William Wallace Burt, 3138430, San Rafael
Carl Dennis Chambers, FV3133001, Yuba City
Artie Ray Cheung, 614798, Lemoore
Claude Douglas Closer, 50547, San Diego
James Quinley Collins, 27909, Atherton
Michael Paul Cronin, 555252, Berkeley
\(\text{Baroness Elizabeth Schott, 50561, Raymond \text{see Kansas}}\)
Edward Dale Davies, 605484, Lemoore
John Fer, 63523, San Pedro
Herbert Kelly Flasher, 32199, Sacramento
David Edward Ford, FV3122074, Sacramento
Henry Pope Fowler, FV3148574, Palo Alto
Charles R. Gillespie, Jr., 542951, Miramar
Collins H. Gaines, 503915, San Diego
James Martin Hikerson, 561065, Lemoore
Harry Turle, 50442, Lemoore
Theodore Frank Kaufman, 50751, Lemoore
Carl William Lasater, 63064, San Diego
Earl Gardner Lewis, Jr., 83095, San Diego
Alan Pierce Lurie, FV65266, Apple Valley
John Michael McGrath, 559291, San Diego
George P. Noll, 587713, Montrose
John B. McCormick, 614791, Lemoore
Edward Holmes Martin, 594587, Coronado
Raymond James Merritt, 44729, Colton
Edison Wehrwright Miller, 654802, Santa Ana
Joseph Scott Mobley, 701357, Manhattan Beach
Ernest R. Moore, Jr., 553659, Lemoore
Richard Dean Mullin, 584929, La Jolla
John H. Nasmyth, Jr., FV3120117, South San Gabriel
Dale Harrison Osborne, 614229, Monrovia San Diego
James Glenn Purcell, 614185, Lemoore
Leo T. Puleo, 526413, Palo Alto
Darrell Edwin Fyfe, FV3145935, Santa Ana

... more...more...
California (cont'd.)

David George Rahmann, 688502, Lancaster
Kendall Burke Rivers, 555144, Oxnard
David John Rollins, 633526, San Diego
Ray Russell, 563557, San Diego
Richard Eimer Auslade, 506435, San Diego
Paul Henry Schultz, 616785, San Diego
Robert James Schweitzer, 571894, Lemoore
William L. Shankel, 664251, Jackson
Robert Harper Shumaker, 548955, La Jolla
Charles Everett Southwick, 544716, Cupertino
Charles David Stackhouse, 647984, Lemoore
William David Stier, 59944, Claremont
Theodore Gerhard Stier, 589500, San Diego
Robert Lewis Stirm, FV303919, Foster City
James Bond Stockdale, Coronado, 79571
Richard Allen Stratton, 502087, Handford Palos
Gary L. Thornton, 700903, Porterville
Richard-bd Thurlow, 695395, Westminster
Brian Dunstan Woods, 618053, Lemoore

Colorado

William David Burroughs, PR27184, Aurora
Johnny Allen Singleton, 68076, Colorado

Connecticut

Read Blaine Maxfield, 678298, Old Greenwich
Ralph J. Browning, FR73555, Orlando
Kenneth L. Coffee, 525305, Sanford
Kenneth Williams Cordier, 71351, Tampa
Carl Boyette Crumpler, 27705, Orange Park
John Howard Dunn, 059951, Jacksonville
John Stewart Finlay, III, 19805, Satellite Beach
Kenneth Fischer, 57431, Sebring
Robert Byron Fuller, 542942, North-Miami-Beach Jacksonville
Ralph Ellis Geithers, 566635, Miami
Danny E. Glenn, 555152, Jacksonville
David Fletcher Gray, Jr., 3158230, Tampa
Guy Dennis Gruters, 78550, Sarasota
Lawrence N. Guarino, 52573, Satellite Beach
Keith Norman Hall, FR61501, Port Walton Beach
Thomas Renick Hall, Jr., 582719, Pensacola
William Morgan Hargeman, 525171, Center Hill
John Haigis, 557042, North-Miami Beach
Robert Bruce Hickley, 3145679, Port Walton Beach
James Ovis Hiner, 50815, Tampa
James Leo Hutton, 602748, Lakeland
Charles Negus James, Jr., 544080, Sanford
Richard Paul Keirn, 0093812, Temple
Wilson Denver Key, 569207, Jacksonville
Kenneth Payton Ligon, Jr., 33828, Melbourne Beach
John Sidney McCain, 624787, Orange Park
Johnson M. Perkins, 57101454, Orlando
Douglas Brian Peterson, FR54527, Marianna
Peter Van Schoeffel, 584717, Naples
Kenneth Adrian Simont, 23521, West-Palm Beach
Ronald G. Smith, 907019, Port-Lucie 622 Club
Wayne Ogden Smith, FR80670, Dunedin
Thomas James Sterling, FR45475, Port Walton Beach
Richard George Tangeman, 569370, Sanford
Dewey Wayne Weddell, 54772, Port Walton Beach
Lewis Irving Williams, 594463, Tampa
James Faulds Young, FR46511, Hollywood
Georgia

George G. McKnight, A03051289, Honolulu

Idaho

Donald Glenn Waltman, FR53895, Kellogg

Indiana

Richard Tremperman, FV3158661, Mishawaka

Michael Thomas jars, 3107P766, Mishawaka

Ronald Edward Byrne, Jr., 279214, Kokomo

James Heinz Kaiser, FR24551, Indianapolis
Robert John Regnier, 643227, Sheldon
Larry Howard Spencer, 674085, Daviess

Kansas

Carroll Grace Bard, FR72604, Liberal
Maxine Alice Millison, PA901
Edward Die Hubbard, FV3122327, Overland Park
Gerald David Jones, FR3003133, Overland Park
Harold Eugene Johnson, FR782372, Overland Park
Ronald Lambert Martin, FR79950, Overland Park
Joseph Charles Plumb, Jr., 579505, Overland Park
Leroy William Stutz, 78935, Cummings

Kentucky

Robert Baldwin Purcell, 53736, Louisville
Dewey Lee Smith, 64990, Valley Station

Louisiana

Lawrence Savage, 3051027, Baton Rouge
Murphy Neal Jones, FR89500, Baton Rouge
Hayden James Lockhart, Jr., 62569, Alexandria
Bruce Gibson Seeber, 47155, West Monroe

Maine

Robert Erwin Bliss, FV3103220, Bangor
Allan Russell Carpenter, 557951, Sanford
Markham E. Cartley, 703544, Greenville
Roger Dean Ingvalson, FR30713, Sanford

Maryland

James Franklin Bell, 515877, Le Vale
Arthur William Burer, 3087646, Rockville
Hugh Allen Stafford, 614922, Cambridge

...more...more...
Bernard Lee Talley, Jr. 3129281, Baltimore

Massachusetts
Paul Gordon Brown, 004576, Newton
Leonard Corbett Eastman, 624192, Bernardston
Charles Edward Greene, Jr. 3061054, Needham
Laurel Robert Longley, FR3051254, West Peabody
Kenneth Walter North, 53694, Wellfleet
Frederick Raymond Furrington, 680259, North Dartmouth
Anthony Bernard Sullivan, 585505, Springfield

Michigan
Robert Archie Abbott, FR31453, Sawyer APD
Willard Sellock Gideon, 3025293, Mt. Clemens
Martin James Nevens, FR98821, Iron Mountain
Donald Eugene O'Neil, FV3057261, Mt. Clemens
Joseph Francis Shanahan, FR72120, Grand Rapids
James Mack Warner, 092816, Ypsilanti

Minnesota
Richard Eugene Bolstad, FR81275, Minneapolis
David Everson, FR56895, Coon Rapids
David Robert Wheat, 677374, Duluth
David Williams Winn, 36346, Minneapolis

Mississippi
James William Bailey, 564790, Carthage
Thomas Edward Collins, III, 58082, Jackson
Carlyle Smith Harris, 46663, Tupelo
Rodney Allen Knutson, 657751, Billings

Richard Allen Buxton, PR22497, North Las Vegas
Richard Eugene Smith, Jr., 57992, Las Vegas
Dwight Everett Sullivan, 3025878, Las Vegas
Robert F. Waggoner, 3055137, Reno

New Jersey

Joseph Abbott, Jr., FV3057099
George Thomas Coker, 569409, Linden
John Arthur Damesi, 55520
Jeffrey Thomas Ellis, FV3135610, Madison
Willis Ellis Forby, 3040351
Robert Campbell Jones, PR81333, Chatham
Edwin Frank Miller, Jr., 705510, Oakland
Joseph Edward Mulligan, 3155215, IMMEDIATE ANNEXATION
Thomas William Sims, FV3038065, RIVERSIDE CHASE
Ronald Santo Venanzi, FV3173807, Trenton
Ronald John Webb, PR72928

...more...more...more...
New Mexico

James Carol Robinson, FM 43211, Santa Fe
Thomas Wayne Sumpter, Jr., 32044, Holloman AFB

New York

Edward A. Bucino, 78285A, Harrison
Arthur Collier, AP 1246-750, Bay Shore
Raymond L. Nowicki, AFD 30551, Ossining
Wayne Conners, 691569, Belfair
Richard M. Diener, 7303033, New York
Kevin Joseph Driscoll, 76036, Brightwaters
James Frank Hubbard, 771372, Hempstead
Malcolm Pollock, 79149044, Long Beach
Charles Donald Rice, 710266, Setauket
Charles P. Schenker, 691550, Jamesport

North Carolina

Arthur E. Hall, Jr., 51815, Lake Lure
Barry October Burdon, 513165, Bladenboro
Edward Jones, 513338, Andrew Jackson Co.
David C. Allen, 26779, Winston-Salem
David Barnett, 50409, Mt. Airy
James Howard Nitsch, 31165, Goldsboro

North Dakota

Loren Harvey Torkelson, FV35665, Crosby
Oklahoma

Fred A. P. Pranke, Jr., 513570, Midwest City
Calistus D. Holiday, FW155895, Tulsa
Arnold R. Dobson, FW161422, Tulsa
Thomas Shyu Piao, WI, FW105812, Cordell
Robinson Riner, 23903, Oklahoma City
Herbert Clifford Walker, Jr., 3145724, Tulsa

Oregon

James Eldon Schorn, 3132084, Forest Grove

Pennsylvania

Frederick Reed Alcorn, 658707, Kittanning
Bartholomew Anderson, 682482, Kane
Arthur Keith Black, AM12666475, Bethlehem
John Douglas Bunge, 613414, Paoli
David Jack Carmel, 677965, Jeannette
John C. Stein, 3152420, Reading
Edward Matthew Davis, 652959, Leola

David Henry Davis, FW1965321, Canton
Eben Leo Ford, 511984, Pittsbugh
Tom A. Reynolds, FW105554, Beal Cynwyd
Mark John Rannels, FW1331969, Pittsburgh
Robert Ralston Schill, Jr., PR25101, Carnegie

Konrad W. Trautman, FW1909945, Steelton

...more...
South Carolina
William Norwick Austin, II, 71568, Simpson
Blind Ray Gayley, PV3034565, Sumter
Robert S. Clair Faint, Jr., 655343, Anderson
William Harvey Keen, Jr., 3058503, Sumter
Herschel Scott Morgan, 3057445, Sumter
Albert Edward Runyan, PV49475, Sumter

South Dakota
Laurence Victor Friese, 091579, Huron
Leo Keith Thorsness, PV3025937, Sioux Falls

Tennessee
William Porter Lawrence, 543032, Nashville
Robert N. Peel, AC317963, Paris
Charles H. Strickler, 588973, Covington
Raymond Arthur Vohden, 536702, Memphis

Texas
Elmo Sinnard Baker, 30345432, San Antonio
John Charles Blevins, 62666, San Antonio
Ronald Glenn Bliss, PV78537, Temple
Donald Ray Burns, PV27184, Mineral Wells
James Allen Clements, PV3021073, Queen City
H.C. Copeland, 3015953, Austin
Thomas Terry Curtis, 47750, Houston
Glenn H. DeWitt, 667122, Corpus Christi
Robert Roland Daughtrey, AC305691, Del Rio
George Robert Hall, 25105A, Waco
Julius Skinner Jarro, 3058550, San Antonio
Robert Duncan Jeffrey, PV317965, Dallas
Samuel Robert Johnson, PV59535, Plano
Gordon Albert Larson, PV30878, San Antonio
Warren Robert Lilly, 57755, Dallas
Louis Frank Makowski, PV151, Hudspeth
Alton Benno Meyer, 74697, College Station
Armand Jesse Myers, PV47337, Universal City
James Edwin Ray, 80893, Conroe
Robert James Sandwick, 47735, Farwell
Thomas Gordon Storey, 73177, Austin

Ross Randie Terry, 522562, Lone Jackson
Terry Jun Uyeyama, 308335, Austin
John Henry Wendell, Jr., PV51247, Houston
Glenn Hubert Wilson, PV35537, Universal City
Virginia

James E. Bean, 35014, Arlington
James Robert Berger, IV31192/2, Lexington
Allen Colby Brady, 542855, Virginia Beach
Fred Vann Cherry, 4555/4A, Suffolk
Michael Durham Christian, 6755/4, Virginia Beach
Kenneth Leon Coskey, 571060, Virginia Beach
Frederick Austin Crew, Jr., 85080, Hampton
Jeremiah A. Dantona, Jr., 485087, Virginia Beach
Dale Walter Dox, 591159
Kenneth R. Fleenor, BM217797, New York
Paul Edward Galanti, 659047, Massachusetts

...more...more...
Virginia (cont.)

Howard Hill, 80343, Alexandria
Eugene L. McDaniel, 602046, Virginia Beach
James Alfred Mulligan, 504324, Virginia Beach
Edwin Arthur Stumph, III, 524735, Virginia Beach
William Michael Tschudy, 630451, Virginia Beach
Richard Dale Vogel, FR49584, Hampton
Walter Eugene Wilber, 539459, Virginia Beach

Washington

Richard L. Brunhaver, 621212, Monroe
Michael E. Scott Kerr, 63644, Sequim
Wesley Darle Schierman, 3058242, Spokane
James Richard Shively, FR78909, Spokane
Raymond Walter Vissotzky, 3006144, Veradale
Laurence D. Writer, FV315689, Olympia

West Virginia

William John Maynew, 691395, New Manchester

Wisconsin

Daniel James Doughty, 3037760, Ladysmith
Frederic A. Flom, 3157103, Appleton
Gerald Lee Gerndt, 3153157, Suring
Donald Lester Heiliger, 55023, Madison
William John Metzger, Jr., 584859, Wisconsin Rapids

Kenneth Raymond Hughey, 31352

England

Robert R. Craner, FV3034313, Formby, Lancashire

Italy

Thomas Henry Kirk, Jr., 20794, Trieste
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE: LOUISVILLE
OFFICE OF ORIGIN: NEW YORK
DATE: 8/31/70
INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD: 6/19 - 8/13/70

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

REPORT MADE BY: SA
CHARACTER OF CASE: INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS REGISTRATION ACT

REFERENCE:
New York airtel to Bureau dated 6/9/70.
Louisville airtel to Boston dated 8/13/70.
Louisville airtel to Bureau and New York dated 8/25/70.

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA:
All persons interviewed were advised that this investigation was being conducted at the specific request of Mr. J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General, Internal Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

It is noted information furnished in referenced

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED
CONVICTED
Arrest
Fugitive
Fines
Savings
Recoveries

CASE HAS BEEN:
PENDING OVER ONE YEAR
PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE
6 - Bureau (100-457899) (RM)
2 - New York (100-168469) (RM)
1 - Louisville (100-5474)

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

70 SEP 16 1970
COVER PAGE
New York airtel to Bureau dated 6/9/70, has been furnished to each Resident Agency within the Louisville Division with instructions to conduct appropriate inquiries in accordance with leads set forth for all offices. The results of negative inquiries have not been incorporated into the details of the attached report.

INFORMANTS:

The source mentioned in the attached report is Mr. Louisville, Kentucky, (REQUEST) (Location-request for file).

ED 12/12/3
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)

INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS REGISTRATION ACT

wife of [redacted], received Information Sheet from COLIFAM "which has been recently formed at the initiation of the North Vietnamese". Information Sheet attached as exhibit "B". 

wife of [redacted] received four letters from husband enclosing "L" format letter. 

wife of [redacted] in contact with COLIFAM through letters initiated by her and also with American Friends Service Committee, Philadelphia, Penn., from whom she received list of 335 POW's as of 4/30/70. List attached as exhibit "L". Interviews with above persons and with other wives and members of families of POW's and military personnel missing in action indicates all contacts with COLIFAM are on friendly, congenial basis. Of those wives of POW's in contact with COLIFAM, none willing to testify.

DETAILS:

A review of these articles reveals the names of the following military personnel, who are Prisoners of War (POW) in North Vietnam. Also listed below are names and addresses of wives and known relatives of these military personnel. (Some of the names listed may be persons missing in action rather than prisoners of war):

**Major ROBERT B. PURCELL**

Mother, MARY B. PURCELL, 11905 LaGrange Road, Louisville, KY.

Wife, MARIAN P. PURCELL, 1107 King Arthur Road, Louisville, KY.

**Major DENNY SMITH**

Wife, NORMA J. SMITH, 3711 Iron Horse Way, Valley Station, Kentucky.

Father, JOHN L. SMITH, address unknown.

**Major CHARLES SHELTON**

Wife, residing at 3007 Bon Air, Louisville.

**Major DON E. WILLIAMSON**

Wife, residing at 3817 Burning Bush Road, Louisville, KY.

Father and stepmother, Mr. and Mrs. LLOYD WILLIAMSON, 187 Westwind Road, Indian Hills.

**Major BEN POLLARD**

Wife, residing in Shelbyville, Kentucky.

Father and stepmother, Mr. and Mrs. LLOYD POLLARD, address not listed, but possibly residing in Shelbyville, Kentucky.

In addition to the above, the articles furnished by the source also mention another Kentuckian held as a prisoner of war by the name of MARKHAM L. GARTLEY. However,
no information concerning him is listed and no address is recorded.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date July 30, 1970

She is the wife of [redacted] United States Air Force. She stated her husband is an Air Force pilot and his plane was shot down in June of 1967. She stated her husband has been a prisoner of war in North Vietnam since June, 1967.

She stated she did not hear anything from her husband until February of 1968 when a group of United States prisoners were released by North Vietnam and stated her husband was possibly a prisoner.

She stated her stepmother [redacted], Louisville, Kentucky, had written several letters attempting to locate her husband. She stated [redacted] wrote DAVE DELINGER concerning

She said that the first contact she had with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam was in a letter to [redacted] dated February 21, 1970, signed BARBARA WEBSTER. She said this letter requested service number and details on his disappearance.

She stated she did not furnish this information to the Committee, but did write a letter to them in an effort to locate her husband.

She stated the Committee called sometime in April of 1970 and stated her name was on the latest list of prisoners they had. She stated she called the Committee on the following Monday and determined they had a letter from [redacted]. She stated at this time she talked to CORA WEISS, Co-chairman. She stated she received a letter from the Committee, dated April 7, 1970, signed CORA WEISS and DAVE DELINGER. She stated that approximately two weeks later she received a letter from her husband, dated December 9, 1969.

On 7/20/70 of Louisville, Kentucky

File # LS 100-5474

by SA [redacted]

Date dictated 7/24/70

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She stated she received a letter from the Committee of Liaison, dated May 15, 1970, and July 1, 1970. She stated she had written the Committee on a few occasions for information.

She stated she received a letter written May 2, 1970, received June 15, 1970, and a letter written May 12, 1970, was received June 30, 1970. She stated her husband indicated in his letters that he had received her letters.

She stated the only contact she has had with the Committee of Liaison is one phone call and the above letters. She stated she has had no personal contact with the Committee. She stated she had not been asked for any contributions and had no pressure applied concerning the Committee.

She stated she would be willing to cooperate in any way concerning the Committee after her husband is released. She stated she does not want to do anything to jeopardize her safety or any other prisoner's safety. She stated she does not wish to do anything to keep her from sending or receiving letters from
The following exhibits received from Mrs. [redacted] are being attached to this report:

Exhibit "A" - Letter dated February 21, 1970, on Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) letterhead, addressed to Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] and signed "BARBARA WEBSTER".

It is noted this letter enclosed an "Information Sheet" and contains the statement that "The enclosed Information Sheet explains the Committee of Liaison which has been recently formed at the initiation of the North Vietnamese".


Exhibit "C" - Document on COLIFAM letterhead entitled "For Immediate Release".

Exhibit "D" - Letter dated April 7, 1970, on COLIFAM letterhead, addressed to [redacted] and signed by CORA WEISS and DAVE DELLINGER.

Exhibit "E" - Letter dated May 15, 1970, on COLIFAM letterhead addressed to [redacted] and signed "BARBARA WEBSTER".

Exhibit "F" - Letter dated July 1, 1970, on COLIFAM letterhead addressed to [redacted] and signed "BARBARA" (WEBSTER).
Louisville, Kentucky, furnished the following information:

_{[Redacted]_ stated that he is the father of _[Redacted]_ United States Air Force. He stated his son, _[Redacted]_, was captured by the North Vietnamese on _[Redacted]_, 1967, after his plane was shot down.

He said that he has had no direct communication with his son since his capture. He stated that his daughter-in-law, _[Redacted]_, Kentucky, has received letters from _[Redacted]_.

He stated that he did not know how she had gotten these letters.

_{[Redacted]_ stated he had never had any contact, in person or in writing, with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. He stated he does not know anything about the committee.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

August 3, 1970

Mrs. [Name Redacted], Louisville, Kentucky, furnished the following information:

She is married and lives with her husband, [Name Redacted], who is a prisoner of war (POW) of the North Vietnam Government. She stated her husband is the father-in-law of [Name Redacted], Valley Station, Kentucky, the daughter of [Name Redacted] and the wife of [Name Redacted].

She stated that she was shot down over North Vietnam on June 1967, and was taken prisoner. She stated that since the time of her capture, she had written to several people, including United States Senators, in an effort to determine the condition and location of her husband.

She stated that in September or October of 1967, she read an article in Life Magazine describing a trip to North Vietnam by DAVE DELLINGER and his inspection of prisoner of war camps while there.

She said she went to the Louisville Public Library, secured an address, and wrote to DELLINGER requesting help in locating and communicating with her husband. She stated that at the time she wrote DELLINGER, he was with a magazine called "Liberation" at 5 Beekman Street, New York, New York 10038.

She stated she received a letter from "Liberation", dated January 20, 1968, and signed BARBARA WEBSTER, Secretary to DAVE DELLINGER. She stated that a copy of the "Liberation" was received with the letter of January 20, 1968.

She stated she received a letter from "Liberation" signed BARBARA WEBSTER, and dated April 3, 1968.

Stated she received a letter, dated 7/23/70 by SA [Name Redacted] at Louisville, Kentucky. File # LS 100-5474

Date dictated 7/29/70

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February 21, 1970, from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. She stated she gave this letter to [redacted] since it was asking for information which she thought she should furnish if it was furnished.

[redacted] stated she has received no further correspondence since the letter, dated February 21, 1970. She stated that she has never been personally contacted by a representative of the Committee of Liaison and has never had any pressure or coercion of any kind used against her by the Committee of Liaison.

[redacted] stated that she would be willing to cooperate if her testimony is needed concerning the Committee of Liaison. She stated she would not testify or make any statement prior to the time of [redacted] release since she feared for his safety and the safety of other United States servicemen in custody of North Vietnam.
The following exhibits received from Mrs. are attached to this report:

Exhibit "G" - Letter dated January 20, 1968, on "Liberation" letterhead, addressed to and signed "BARBARA WEBSTER, Secretary to DAVE DELLINGER".

Exhibit "H" - Letter dated April 3, 1968, on "Liberation" letterhead addressed to Mr. and Mrs. and signed "BARBARA WEBSTER".

Exhibit "I" - Letter dated April 2, 1968, from DAVE DELLINGER concerning "Information For Relatives and Friends of Men in the Armed Forces Who Have Written Asking for Possible Assistance in Finding Out About Their Loved Ones or In Getting Letters To And From Prisoners Of War."
that she is the wife of United States Air Force, who is a prisoner of war being held by the Viet Cong and has been since September 1965. She stated that she has not had any correspondence or heard from her husband since that time.

was unaware of the Committee of the Liaison with families of servicemen detained in North Viet-Nam and could not recall ever having been contacted by that committee.
Louisville, Kentucky, advised that the only contact she has had with Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) has been through the mail. She received a letter from her husband, on Christmas Eve of 1969 through the normal mail, at which time reference was made to COLIFAM. This letter had one of COLIFAM's form letters in it and she was instructed in future correspondence with her husband to use their form. She feels that this expedites her letters to her husband. She has received no telephone calls or personal contacts from any representative of COLIFAM.

Mrs. [Redacted] further advised that her husband has been a prisoner of war for the past five years. She has received three other letters from him which contained a similar COLIFAM form. She has also received one letter from her husband direct. She feels that the representatives of COLIFAM possibly contacted her husband since and furnished him with these forms to send to her.

Mrs. [Redacted] further advised that she possesses no additional information regarding COLIFAM. In the event any information comes to her attention regarding COLIFAM she will immediately contact the FBI.

Mrs. [Redacted] concluded by saying that her mother-in-law, Mrs. [Redacted] is elderly and in poor health. She is in almost daily contact with her mother-in-law and she knows for certain that her mother-in-law has had no contact with this organization. She felt that if the FBI contacted her mother-in-law it might upset her and she was certain her mother-in-law could not furnish any information concerning COLIFAM.

Mrs. [Redacted] also said that although she realizes that this organization possibly is a means for her to communicate with her husband and that she "did not knock it," she was questioned that if she received information concerning COLIFAM would she furnish it to the FBI and she answered in the affirmative.
The following investigation was conducted by SA

On July 13, 1970, Shelbyville, Kentucky, stated that since the detainment of his son, in North Vietnam, that he has received no communications or contacts from COLFAM. Mr. stated he believed the Greenland Park Sub-division, Shelbyville, Kentucky, had been in contact with some peace organization out of New York, but he thought it was some group such as the Quakers.

Mr. stated that is out of town, but she is expected to return to Shelbyville from California where she is visiting sometime after July 22, 1970.

Efforts were made to contact Mrs. at Shelbyville on July 23 and 24, but she apparently has not yet returned from California.

Mr. also furnished copies of an Associated Press Wire photograph identifying Mrs. MADALINE DUCKLES of Berkeley, California, shaking hands with MARK GARTLEY of Greenville, Maine, and others at a meeting in Hanoi.
Kentucky stated that her husband has been missing in action in North Vietnam for several years and is thought by the Air Force to be a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. However, no information has been received indicating that her husband is actually being held captive.

She stated that she and other wives of Air Force pilots missing in action get together frequently in Louisville and exchange information received regarding their husbands and often discuss and devise means by which they might obtain further information regarding their husbands. She stated that since she herself has not obtained any information one way or another indicating that her husband is either dead or alive, she has become desperate in attempting to obtain some source which might resolve the question as to whether her husband is even still alive.

For the above reason she is not concerned with the politics of the prospective source and would even "deal with the devil himself" if the latter could furnish some positive information regarding her husband. She pointed out that the Air Force has been most courteous but has apparently exhausted all the means available to it in attempting to resolve the matter.

She stated that about one year ago she took it upon herself to telephonically contact the COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN RETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM with headquarters in New York City. She stated that she spoke with a woman who identified herself as CORA WEISS, thought by MRS. [redacted] to be the President of the above organization. MRS. [redacted] stated that she explained to WEISS her situation and WEISS was very courteous and understanding and advised she would do what she could in any effort to learn if her husband is still alive. Some months later WEISS called MRS. [redacted] and stated she had been unable to resolve the question, but if she did later obtain some positive information in this regard, MRS. [redacted] would be advised.

MRS. [redacted] stated that her telephonic contacts with

On 8/11/70

File # L8-100-474

by 8A

Date dictated 8/2/70

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WEISS were most pleasant and at no time has anyone else ever contacted her and harassed or cajoled her in any fashion.

MRS. WEISS did relate in one of her telephone conversations with WEISS that the latter appeared to be quite oriented to the position of the North Vietnamese government and criticized the United States for not proceeding with discussions in the Paris Peace Talks. WEISS stated that the United States was using the prisoner of war issue as a stumbling block in the Paris peace discussions.

MRS. WEISS stated that WEISS herself did not say that her organization was representing the North Vietnamese government in this country, but from discussions with other wives of Prisoners of War and from public news sources, she has gained the impression that it does.

MRS. WEISS stated that she would not testify regarding the above events for fear of reprisal against her husband by the North Vietnamese, that is, if he is still alive. She again pointed out that her contact with the above organization was entirely initiated by her, that they were kind and courteous to her and that for these additional reasons she would not appear against them.

MRS. WEISS stated that the only correspondence she has received from this organization was a form letter requesting background information which she returned.
Louisville, Kentucky, was interviewed at her residence and advised that she is the wife of [REDACTED], who has been missing in action in Vietnam. She stated that she has heard of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLFAN), and that she has been in contact with them twice through letters. She stated that she first heard of this Committee through some of the other wives of prisoners of war and men missing in action, and that she was told through the grapevine that if she sent a letter for her husband to them, they could probably deliver it to him. She said that she has never been contacted personally by this Committee and that she has never spoken to any of their representatives. She said that the first time she wrote was around Christmas time, 1969, and that she addressed her letter in care of CORA UNISS. She said shortly after that she received a short note back from the Committee acknowledging receipt of her letter. She said that she sent a letter to them which was to be delivered to her husband when a Mr. KENN KIRKPATRICK went to Hanoi, North Vietnam. She said that she then received a letter from Mr. KIRKPATRICK dated July 27, 1970, on the letterhead of the American Friends Service Committee, Incorporated, 160 North 15th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, which returned her letter to her husband and indicated to Mrs. [REDACTED] that the North Vietnamese had not verified the fact that her husband was, in fact, a prisoner of war. Also enclosed with the letter from KIRKPATRICK was a list containing the names of the 335 servicemen who are allegedly officially confirmed by the Hanoi government to be prisoners presently held in North Vietnam.

Mrs. [REDACTED] also furnished letter dated July 31, 1970, and signed BARBARA WEBSTER on the letterhead of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, which letter again was acknowledging that her letter to her husband had not been delivered by Mr. KIRKPATRICK, who had gone to Hanoi.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she has never had anything delivered from her husband to her, nor, as stated
above, has she been able to have anything, including letters, 
delivered from her to her husband through this committee. 
She said that she does not have any idea where the above 
committee gets their information or how they get their 
information. She said that the only other persons in the 
Louisville area, whom she knows to have been in contact 
with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen 
Retained in North Vietnam are Mrs. [REDACTED] Mrs. 67c 
both of Louisville, and Mrs. [REDACTED] 
Kentucky.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she was the one who 
initiated the correspondence between her and the committee, 
and that it was done after one of the wives had told her 
about COLIFAM and that she should write in care of CORA WEISS.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she does not know at 
this time if she would be able to testify against this 
committee should it be necessary, in view of the fact that 
she is extremely interested in determining whether or not 
her husband is still alive and if he is in the hands of 
the North Vietnamese. She said that this committee apparently 
is trying to determine this for her, and although she does 
not go along with all of their ideas and statements, she 
would find it extremely difficult at this time to testify 
against them.

Mrs. [REDACTED] furnished the Interviewing Agent 
with the originals of the above described letters and advised 
that she desired to have these letters returned to her after 
xerox copies were made.
The following exhibits received from Mrs. [redacted] are attached to this report:


Exhibit "K" - Letter dated July 31, 1970, on COLIFAM letterhead to Mrs. [redacted] from BARBARA WEBSTER.

Exhibit "L" - Copy of list of 335 names officially confirmed by Hanoi to be prisoners held in North Vietnam - April 30, 1970.
August 12, 1970

Mr. [redacted]

Louisville, Wir [redacted] a to the home of his daughter-in-

law, Mrs. [redacted], who is missing in action in North Vietnam.

Mr. [redacted] stated that he has never been contacted or
been in contact with the Committee of Liaison with Families
of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLPAN), and
he has never tried to write to them. Mr. [redacted] said
that he knew of no other families in the Louisville area
who have been in contact with this committee. Mr. [redacted]
stated that the only thing he knows of the committee is what
he has read in the newspapers or what he has read in letters
from the Air Force concerning his son and the committee.
Louisville, was interviewed at the home of her daughter-in-law, Mrs. [Redacted]. She advised that she is the mother of [Redacted], who is missing in action in North Vietnam. Mrs. [Redacted] stated that she has never been contacted or been in contact with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLLEAM), and she has never tried to write to them. Mrs. [Redacted] said that she knew of no other families in the Louisville area who have been in contact with the Committee.
February 21, 1970

Mr. and Mrs. Williams:

Louisville, Kentucky

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Williams:

You may remember writing to Dave Dellinger and myself during the last two years regarding your son-in-law, At that time we were sorry not to have been able to find out about him for you but are now in a position where we are very hopeful of being of help.

The enclosed Information Sheet explains the Committee of Liaison which has been recently formed at the initiation of the North Vietnamese. As you will see, the North Vietnamese only have information on individuals who were shot down over the North. Since your original letters to Dave were carried to Hanoi I don't know whether he may be one of those held in the North rather than the South or Laos.

I would hope that by now you have had some word from or about him but if not, and if he was shot down over the North, we'd be very glad to try and get some information about him. To do so we need his service number and any details on his disappearance. We would then send a request in our next cable to Hanoi (we send cables about once a week).

With hopes that you have already heard from Dewey or, failing that, that we will be able to be of help in getting some word from or about him,

Sincerely,

Barbara Webster

Barbara Webster
INFORMATION SHEET

Functions of the Committee

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

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

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

Clarification

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

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

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

Background

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

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

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

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

The Committee

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

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

COMMUNICATION WITH CAPTURED AVIATION

ESTABLISHED BY NEW COMMITTEE:

- LETTERS ON ROUTE NOW

Chicago, Jan. 15: In an unprecedented move, six anti-war activists announced today the formation of a Committee of Liston with Families of Service-man Detained in North Vietnam. The Committee will, according to Mrs. Core Weiss, a co-chairman of the peace 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 addresses. 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 six men known to be held in North Vietnam and relatives in this country. Letters sent from the U.S. will be received, 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, are to 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 Dollinger, 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 the one 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. Dollinger 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 Kaufman, Peace Education Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee, said that "Lou Schmeidler of the APSC has recently been given a packet of 69 letters in Hanoi from servicemen and these letters will soon arrive from Hanoi to New York, and will immediately be sent to the addresses." Mr. Kaufman said that "the 69 letters on route to the U.S. were written by 66 prisoners and the Committee can presently confirm the names of 182 American names held by the North Vietnamese, or reported to be dead or unknown."

Mr. Kaufman emphasized that the list, available upon request of 182 names is 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 Rennie
Device, a defendant in the conspiracy trial, the Rev. Richard Fernandez, Director of Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam, and Maggie Coddies and Trudi Young, staff members of the Committee.

In December 1969, Mrs. Corina Weiss and two other women, Ethel Taylor of Philadelphia and Madeleine Buckles of San Francisco, all active with Women Strike for Peace, came back from Hanoi with 138 letters from prisoners for Christmas. Mrs. Weiss said at the press conference that she had carried 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. Anna Bennett, Prof. Eve Seitzman, Steve Hallwell and Ervino Webber. The Committee's office is at 360 West 42nd Street, and Floor, New York, N.Y.

--- 30 --- 30 --- 30 ---

Note: Since this release, 57 more letters from prisoners have been sent from North Vietnam for forwarding by the Committee.

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from The New York Times, 1/16/70
April 7, 1970

Dear [Redacted]

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

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,

[Signature]

Cora Weiss  Dave Dellinger

P.S. Kindly excuse the mimeographed letter, but there are many families to reach at the same time.
May 4, 1970

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 letter on in packets. The Committee cannot forward packets for families.

While I was in Hanoi, Prof. Douglas Dow 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.
CABLE ADDRESS:
COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:
Dave Dellinger
Coro Weiss

Treasurer:
Mrs. Anne Bennett

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

Dear [Redacted]

May 15, 1970

We held up sending you the enclosed memo so that we could answer your letter of April 21 at the same time. But that was delayed because we received 3 packages of mail (with a total of 205 letters) which we, of course, immediately forwarded on to the families, which takes a little time.

As you will see from the enclosed memo, the North Vietnamese strongly suggest that families write on the letter forms which we are sending. Different members of the family can write but we feel much care should be taken so that only one letter is sent each month. We can appreciate your feelings that one letter of six lines a month is not very much, especially if there are several people who would like to write, but we do feel that that is the best way to insure that he will receive mail regularly. You see, aside from other considerations such as their obvious concern for security, the detention camp authorities have the purely technical problem of having to translate all the letters they give the prisoners -- which is one reason they ask the families to cooperate with the guidelines mentioned in Dick Fernandez’ memo.

Photographs can be sent, although we would suggest that no message be written on them other than identify who is in the picture if necessary. From what some families have told us, photographs have been received -- both those sent in packages and in letters. We have not received guidelines on that one way or the other from the North Vietnamese.

Please do not hesitate to write again if you have other questions.

Sincerely,

Barbara Webster
July 1, 1970

Dear [Name]

Our relationship with the North Vietnamese on the prisoner issue is a little complex -- basically, we are in touch with a citizens' group (Vietnam Committee for Solidarity with the American People), who are in turn in contact with the military authorities there. Another factor which mitigates against our getting involved in dealing with very specific questions such as yours is simply the difficulty in communication between the U.S. and North Vietnam (mail takes forever, cables are very expensive, the groups that have been going and will be going are not Committee of Liaison members and by and large don't discuss prisoner issues with the Vietnamese).

Therefore, I would suggest that you consider just sending the slide viewer (unless money is a problem-- I don't know how much they are). I think that the worst that could happen is the detention camp authorities would just not give it to him -- I can't imagine it would jeopardize your hearing from him or him from you. Or, if you don't mind waiting, you could try asking your husband in your next letter. I should think there is a possibility he might be able to get a response from the camp authorities.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Barbara Webster
January 20, 1968

Louisville, Kentucky

Dear [Name]

I am terribly sorry we have not responded to your letters regarding your son-in-law before this. We are always so very busy that even under the best of circumstances letters take a long time to answer -- and in the past three months Dave Dellinger has been out of the country for long spells and then was ill for a time when he was here. He is currently out of the country again, due back this coming week. But I thought I would write you now to let you know that we do have your letters and very much hope we will be able to help in getting information about Dewey Smith.

We have communicated your request to our Vietnamese contacts by mail but it is most likely that we will get a response only if someone goes to Hanoi for a visit. The bombing of the North has been particularly heavy since November and all foreign visits were cancelled. There are at least two groups which are all ready to go as soon as arrangements can be made with Hanoi, which may be as early as February. In any case, as soon as anyone goes we will ask them to try and find out about your son-in-law.

In the meantime I am sending copies of Liberation under separate cover which contain Dave's reports of his visits to North Vietnam. Several Americans have talked with captured pilots but Dave and Nick Egleston are the only ones to have actually visited a POW camp. His account of that visit is in the May-June issue.

We sincerely hope we will be able to be of assistance to you in finding news of your son-in-law and, even more, that the war will soon be over so all husbands and sons can return to their families.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
April 3, 1968

Dear Mr. and Mrs. [Redacted Name],

Thank you for your kind letter of January 24th. It seems that we have not had an opportunity to respond before this.

We are sorry to learn of the illness of your son and wish him a speedy recovery.

Barbara Derniger has just written a fairly extensive new article relating to prisoners of war in Vietnam and has enclosed one for your interest.

I hope you may have seen in the papers, Franz Schurmann and his family were to have been in April and we did write to you about your son-in-law's death. The next letter will you they go in a month or so and would be pleased to take letters to your son-in-law in the hope you will get them.

While we know the situation is quite expensive (about $1,500 per month) and the money is always hard to come by but, though contributors are always very welcome, we certainly do not expect remuneration from the families of captured pilots.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Barbara Derniger

[Redacted Name]
INFORMATION FOR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF MEN IN
THE ARMED FORCES WHO HAVE WRITTEN ASKING FOR POSSIBLE
ASSISTANCE IN FINDING OUT ABOUT THEIR LOVED ONES OR IN
GETTING LETTERS TO AND FROM PRISONERS OF WAR

FROM DAVE DESSLINGER

First of all let me say that I am touched more than I can say by
many if the letters I have received and in any case am deeply moved
by the plight of the men themselves and of those who love them and
are separated from them under extremely painful and difficult cir-
cumstances. Unfortunately, as I am sure most of you realize, in
most cases there is all too little that I or any other American can
do to be of help. Before I discuss what may and may not be possible
however, let me apologize for not being able to write each of you
personally, promptly, and in adequate detail. I have literally been
swamped by letters and phone calls. Even if I had no other work, I
doubt if I could keep in proper touch with all those who have written
but unfortunately, my work requires that I travel a great deal and,
particularly when I am out of town, there is often a gap between the
time your letter arrives and the time I am able to read it, let alone
answer it. However, if there is anything that can or should be done
in my absence, my associate, Barbara Webster, makes sure that it is
taken care of promptly. Because I don't like to keep you in suspense
in a matter as heartrending as that which has occasioned your letter
and because I am ashamed already to have kept a number of you waiting
for too long, I have finally decided to write this memo, which Barba
can send out at once to everyone. Whenever possible we will write
you individually as well, and will certainly do so if at any time
we have more precise information that applies to you personally. If
you do not hear from us it is because we have nothing more specific
to tell, but be assured that we are doing everything in our limited
power to get your inquiry into the hands of the proper Vietnamese,
or your letter into the hands of your relative or friend.

Now, as to what can be done, what probably can't be done, and the
things that I am presently unclear about, let me write as accurately
as I possibly can and hope that I do not understate or overstate the
case.

GENERAL RELATIONSHIPS AND PRISONER RELEASES

I myself have visited Hanoi twice, once in October-November 1966 and
once in May-June 1967. Sometimes as long as six months go by with-
out a visit by an American journalist or member of the anti-war move-
ment and sometimes there is a trip every month or six weeks. In
addition to these trips, I and a number of other members of the anti-
war movement have intermittent contacts with North Vietnamese and
members of the National Liberation Front in Paris, Prague, Havana or
in various other cities on occasions when international conferences
of one kind or another take place. In all such contacts, both the
NLF and representatives of North Vietnam (the Democratic Republic
of Vietnam) stress that their opposition is to the "war-making U.S.
government" and not to the American people. In particular they are
Now I wish to speak to people who are opposed to the war, whom they consider to be the true representatives of American ideals and of the democratic and peace-loving American people. I say this not to weigh the accuracy of their beliefs or to try to appraise all the probably complicated reasons for their friendliness to the anti-war movement, but to indicate the hopeful side of our attempts to intercede with the Vietnamese or at least of men captured in Vietnam. In line with their general attitude, the N.L.P. has twice released prisoners "to the American peace movement." (In 1965 and again in November 1967.) The D.R.V. released three captured pilots to representatives of the anti-war movement in February of 1968.

On the more difficult side of things, the Vietnamese are horrified by what they consider to be a war of imperialist aggression by the United States government and in particular, I judge from my contacts that, however hard they try to live up to their belief that the individual is not the enemy, they find it extremely difficult to "excuse" those who have bombed their cities or attacked their villages. When I spoke with the chief in Hanoi, he took a dual approach. On the one hand, he stressed the anguish of all Vietnamese at having their cities bombed, their wives, husbands, parents, children or friends killed and wounded. On the other hand, he surprised me by expressing great sympathy with and compassion for those Americans who, as he sees it, have been either brainwashed by their culture or conscripted by the Armed Forces, into fighting in Vietnam. He said over and over that North Vietnam desires no revenge or punishment but only an end to U.S. attempts to control Vietnam.

In our contacts with American prisoners, we have found that a number of them were threatened or struck by angry peasants, when they parachuted down or were separated from their unit, but were protected and well treated and cared for as soon as the militia or other representatives of the government took them under control. On my second visit I was allowed to visit a prisoner-of-war camp in Hanoi and I talked freely and at length with two of the prisoners. I always distrust such situations, no matter who the captor or captive is, because I know that the situation is highly artificial and that, even with the best of intentions, a prisoner is a prisoner. Nilly nilly the prisoner is under extreme psychological pressure, just from the fact that it is a prison, that he is dependent upon his keepers, is separated from his loved ones etc. So I do not want to overstress what I saw or was told (by either the Vietnamese or the U.S. prisoners) but everything that I did see and hear was encouraging. Housing conditions in this particular prison were comfortable and sanitary; the prisoners spoke and acted as if they were in good mental health, and said that they knew of no torture or brainwashing. Incidentally, one of the difficulties I have run up against when talking to representatives of the N.L.P. and the D.R.V. is that they are naively aware of the torture and beatings of N.L.P. prisoners carried out by the U.S. and Saigon copies.

(I have written at greater length of my visit to the Hanoi prison camp in the May-June 1967 Liberation and will be glad to send you a copy if you desire. I am not sending it out routinely because in the article I tell of other things that I saw and express my opposition to the war, and I don't want to seem to force my political viewpoint on you or add...
Also on the negative side of things, the NLF held off on further release of prisoners for two years after its first release, because the two released men, Smith and McClure, were whisked away by the U.S. Command to China, held incommunicado for many weeks, and finally released under threat of being charged with having given "aid and comfort to the enemy" during their imprisonment, if they made any public statements about the war or about the conditions of their imprisonment. Similarly, after discussions with the D.A.V. had led them to tell us that they would release three to six prisoners in August 1967 as an act of humanitarianism and as a friendly gesture to the American people, they cancelled these releases because of what they called "inhuman bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong" which began during the very period when the releases were planned. In particular, they were afraid that a release coming at the time of American bombing escalation would be falsely interpreted as a "sign of weakness" and a willingness on their part to negotiate a loss of their sovereignty and independence. When they finally released three prisoners, in February, they told our representatives (Father Daniel Berrigan and Prof. Howard Zinn) that this was a non-political act of humanitarianism associated with their Tet or Vietnamese New Year, for which they asked nothing in return. However, they did release the prisoners to the American peace movement and were understandably disappointed when U.S. Ambassador Sullivan boarded the International Control Commission plane at Vientiane, Laos, and told the men that the matter had been discussed in the White House and at the highest military levels and that instead of returning to the U.S., as planned, on an ordinary commercial flight with Father Berrigan and Prof. Zinn, they should board an Army plane for Thailand (going to one of the bases from which bombers take off for Vietnam) and thence, by military plane, to the U.S. (Howard Zinn discusses this and other questions relating to this prisoner release in The Nation of April 1. Copies of that issue can be obtained from The Nation, 333 Sixth Avenue, New York City, for 50c.)

LETTERS AND INQUIRIES ABOUT MISSING PERSONNEL

Trips to Hanoi are erratic and uncertain. In November 1967 four U.S. students who had been granted visas by Hanoi got as far as Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and then were turned back because the intensive bombardment of North Vietnam made the visit impractical. They were carrying letters for and inquiries about U.S. prisoners. They gave the letters to the North Vietnamese in Phnom Penh, and we assume they were delivered to Hanoi. We have received no answer to the inquiries. Prof. Zinn and Father Berrigan left New York on January 31, 1968, arrived in Hanoi on February 2th. They gave letters and inquiries to the Vietnam Peace Committee and were assured that the letters would be delivered and the inquiries passed on to the proper authorities. As in all visits by Americans, they brought back a number of letters from prisoners, which they mailed on their return to this country on February 19th. They brought back no answers to the inquiries. On the one hand they were in Hanoi only a week; on the other hand, there are some indications that the Vietnamese may consider it a matter of
with any policy not to reveal how many prisoners they have or that their names are. Many of us have urged them to release this information, for humanitarian reasons, but this may be one of the places where our advice as anti-war Americans is overridden by other, Vietnamese considerations. Or perhaps we will receive an answer to the inquiries some day, any day. I hesitate to predict, but we will continue to forward such inquiries to them and to let them know how helpful it would be, from our point of view, for them to answer in any cases where they do have information.

Prof. Franz Schurmann of California University at Berkeley left New York on March 10th and took all letters and inquiries that I had received by that date. When he and Mary McCarthy, the writer, return from this trip they will undoubtedly bring letters which will be mailed at once. If they have any additional information relevant to your concern I will get it to you right away.

Future trips will continue to be unpredictable but there is a possibility of one or two trips in the next two months, plus the possibility of contacts with North Vietnamese in Europe, who may then return to their homeland. I think that if I had a relative in prison over there I would use both channels—regular mail and the erratic, unpredictable route of the anti-war movement. To the best of my knowledge regular mail goes by way of China and takes a very long time. It also is unreliable. Remember North Vietnam is torn up and under day and night bombardment. It can take weeks, perhaps months, to get to out-of-the-way places, which may mean to some of the prisoners ages. In addition, the train or truck or bicycle or peasant carrying the mail may be blown up, preventing delivery. Except in the case of prisoners housed in Hanoi, this problem remains, whether the mail is sent by regular post or is hand delivered in Hanoi.

I hope that you take this for granted, but send your letters sealed. Naturally I have no guarantees that the Vietnamese won't open them — to the best of my knowledge that is customary in all prisons all over the world. But they will travel better in sealed envelopes and none of us wants to intrude on your privacy.

I hope that this covers the main areas about which you have questions and about which I have even tentative information. Please do not hesitate to write if there is some other way in which you think I might be able to be of assistance. And, as I indicated at the beginning, please forgive me if sometimes it takes me a little longer to answer than seems right.

April 2, 1968

Liberation
5 Beekman Street
N.Y., N.Y. 10038
July 27, 1970

Dear Mrs. [redacted]

I deeply regret that it was not possible for me to deliver the enclosed as you had requested when I went to Hanoi in June 1970. I was told in Hanoi by Mr. Tran Trong Quat of the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity with the American People that that Committee has compiled a list of 335 American servicemen who it says are held in detention camps in North Vietnam. (See attached list.) This Committee does not have responsibility for the administration of camps of detention in North Vietnam, but is the committee which invited me to visit Hanoi. Mr. Quat would accept from me only those letters which were addressed to persons on the list of 335. This is the same list which was turned over to the Committee of Liaison last April.

Mr. Quat informed me that the North Vietnam authorities have no information regarding Americans who have been captured in areas outside North Vietnam. In other words, although the name of a person who is believed to have been shot down over Laos, Cambodia, China or South Vietnam does not appear on the North Vietnam list of 335, this does not mean that that person has not survived. It only means that according to the North Vietnamese he is not a person known to them or held by them and that they, therefore, cannot deliver letters or packages to him.

Regarding those reportedly shot down over North Vietnam the refusal of Mr. Quat to accept letters for delivery because their names are not on the list of 335 implies, of course, a more somber situation, but I learned nothing more specific than that as to any particular individual.

My recent trip to Southeast Asia took me both to Hanoi and to Saigon. Both in North Vietnam and in South Vietnam, as well as here in the United States, one cannot help but see how this war has brought tragedy and sorrow into the lives of all affected by it, Americans and Vietnamese alike.

Again let me express my sincere regret that I was not able to deliver the enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth Kirkpatrick
Peace Education Secretary
AFSC
814 N.E. 40th Street
Seattle, Washington 98105

KK: vh
encl.
July 31, 1970

Dear Mrs. [censored]

After writing you on June 8th we received word that the North Vietnamese had accepted only letters for the 335 men who are officially confirmed to be prisoners. The occasion was a trip to Hanoi by Ken Kirkpatrick, of the American Friends Service Committee, who had taken with him over 700 letters from families. We wanted to wait until Ken returned to this country so we could talk with him; hence the delay in our writing to you and 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 of course let you know right away.

Sincerely,

Barbara Webster

Barbara Webster
The following 335 names have been officially confirmed by Hanoi to be prisoners held in North Vietnam; -- April 30, 1970 --:

Alabam

Michael M. McDougal, 71116, Montgomery
Herbert Benjamin Ringgold, FR75446, Elba

Arkansas

Kyle Doug Sang, 303302, Glendale
Jack Williamson Somar, FV2251452, Mass
Larry Edward Carrigan, 3119504, Scottsdale
Joseph Crecca, Jr., F85381, Phoenix
Laird Gutierrez, 25406, Tucson
Thomas Mark Jackson, 2249519, Phoenix
Danny Anthony Moore, 541532, Scottsdale
John Joseph Pitchford, Jr., FV2245522, Scottsdale
Lewis M. Shattuck, 303821, Mass
Jack R. Toms, FR65155, Chandler
Charles Robert Tyler, 55050, Phoenix
Jack Linwood VanLoan, 65085, Tucson

Arkansas

James Lasley Lamar, 1907733, Little Rock

California

Wilfred Keese Abbott, 3081739, San Diego
Everett Alvarez, Jr., 544124, Santa Clara
Anthony Charles Andrews, FR3145561, Santa Clara
Frederick O. Bellock, Jr., 655520, Lemon Grove
Robert W. Barnett, FR31021, Hawthorne
Cole Black, 564947, San Diego
John William lohner, 55092, San Diego
Hernando Lewis, 219, 83095, San Diego
Alan Piero Leavitt, C.R. 2565, Apple Valley
John Michael O'Grady, 559951, San Diego
George P. Haldeman, 697713, Montrose
John B. Haldeman, 614791, Lemoore
Edward Holley Harris, 554687, Coronado
Raymond James Herrick, 44729, Colton
Hubert Wightman Miller, 054602, Santa Ana
Joseph Scott Kibbee, 701667, Manhattan Beach
Ernest W. Moore, Jr., 553558, Lemoore
Richard Dean Miller, 554929, Leona
John H. Nestor, Jr., FV3120117, South San Gabriel
Dale Harrison Osborne, 614229, Ncwico San Diego
James Glenn Pitzer, 614189, Lemoore
Leo T. Profitas, 508413, Palo Alto
Jarl Tin Pyle, FV3145925, Santa Ana

... more... more...
DAVID GEORGE TIMM, 698502, Lancaster
Romie Ellis, 699378, San Francisco
Paul Anthon, 535433, San Francisco
Mary Russell, 653585, San Francisco
Harry Elmer Rutledge, 509435, San Francisco
Paul Henry Schwartz, 616785, San Francisco
Robert James Schott, 671994, Lemoore
William L. Shankel, 564281, Jackson
Robert Harper Shumaker, 546955, LeJolla
Charles Everett Southwick, 544715, Cupertino
Charles Dave Stockhouse, 647984, Lemoore
John Edward Stewart, 52946, Claremont
Theodore Gerhard Stier, 569300, San Diego
Robert Lewis Sturm, FV3053919, Foster City
James Bond Stockdale, Coronado, 71884
Richard Allen Stratton, 502037, Homeland
Gary L. Thornton, 700903, Porterville
Robert Paul Hedin, 589050, Westminster See Also
Brian Dunster Woods, 618053, Lemoore

COLOADO

William David Burroughs, FR27184, Aurora
James Allen Singleton, 510078, Cherry See Tex22

Connecticut

Read Blaine McCormick, 678398, Old Greenwich
Ralph H. Browning, 847568, Orlando
Tommy L. Burtenshaw, 27705, Miami & Key West
Carrie L. Cameron, 279505, Sanford
Kenneth Williams Cordier, 71951, Tampa
Carol Boyette Crumpler, 27705, Orange Park
John Howard Dunn, 850041, Jacksonville
John Stewart Finley, 89805, Satellite Beach
Kenneth Fisher, 56431, Sebastian
Robert Byron Fuller, 562942, North-Mount Beach Jacksonville
Ralph Ellis Geither, 566355, Miami
William H. Glenn, 565152, Jacksonville
David Fletcher Groom, Jr., 3158230, Tampa
Guy Dennis Gruters, 785350, Sarasota
Lawrence W. Guerin, 52873, Satellite Beach
Keith Norman Hall, 8501501, Fort Walton Beach
Thomas Kenneth Hall, Jr., 592719, Pensacola
William Morgan Hardman, 525171, Center Hill
John Heilig, 597042, North Miami Beach
Robert Bruce Hinkle, 3148679, Fort Walton Beach
James Otto Hizer, 56925, Tampa
James Leo Hunt, 602748, Lakeland
Charles Negus James, Jr., 544080, Sanford
Richard Paul Keirn, 4035812, Tampa
Walter Denver Key, 569267, Jacksonville
Vernon Payton Ligon, Jr., 33025, Melbourne Beach
John Sidney McCain, 624787, Orlando

Douglas Brian Peterson, 834527, Marianna
Peter Van Schoorhel, 584717, Naples
Kenneth Adrian Simone, 23521, West Palm Beach
Marilyn Burdick, 630250, Lake City
Wayne Oceen Smith, 850570, Dunedin
Thomas James Sterling, 854755, Fort Walton Beach
Richard George Tengeman, 559370, Sanford
Dewey Wayne Weddell, 54772, Fort Walton Beach
Lewis Irving Williams, 524563, Tampa
James Pauls Young, 846511, Hollywood
Alphonse

Mary Frances Lilly, Jr., 3171657, Hull
Peter A. Holboos, 677524, Reo, Tucker
Leo Gregory Hester, 615340, Albany
Michael Christopher Lane, FV3134159, Atlantic
Mimi-Athens, Athens, GA 30625—Athens, see Fla.
Thomas Vance Perrett, FV310322, Dalton
Cran G. Sminkle, 676195, Camilla
Sam L. Ferrell, 322540, Atlanta

Mary L.

George G. McKnight, A03051289, Honolulu

Illinois

1st - Senor-Chairman—311710B—Dutley—see Utah
Ronald Glenn Kelm, PF53895, Kellogg
John Lough-Borfit

Indiana

Thomas Joseph Barrett, FV3120130, Lombard
Joseph Cooney, 259007, Chicago
John William Frederick, Jr., 662047, Tremont
Thomas F. Norris, 77071, Godfrey
Gary Richard Sigler, FV3157864, Table Grove

Michael Thomas Burnt, 5102373, Alaska

Richard Breuneman, FV3158661, Mishawaka
Robert Elliott Buchanan, 5146929, Austin
Ronald Edward Byrne, Jr., 278214, Kokomo
James Helm Koster, FR24551, Indianapolis
Kansas

Robert Baldwin Russell, 53786, Louisville
Dewey Lee Smith, 64990, Valley Station

Louisiana

Lawrence Burbeau, 3054-027, Baton Rouge
Murphy Neal Jones, FR69506, Baton Rouge
Hayden James Lockhart, Jr., 62569, Alexandria
Bruce Gibson Seiber, 47135, West Monroe

Maine

Robert Ervin Bliss, 4V3103220, Bangor
Allen Russell Carpenter, 557951, Sanford
Markham L. Cartley, 703844, Greenville
Ralph Dean Engvalson, FR30713, Sanford

Maryland

James Franklin Bell, 515577, Leavel
Arthur William Burer, 3037046, Rockville
Hugh Allen Stafford, 614922, Cambridge
-forwarded-

Forwarded to: Telley, Jr. 3120281, Baltimore

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Kutzon, Brown, 024878, Newton
Leonard Corbett Eiseman, 522192, Berkeley
Charles Edward Greene, Jr. 328562, Newham
Harlow Robert Langley, 31061654, West Peabody
Herbert Walter North, 535054, Wellfleet
Frederick Raymond Parrington, 530250, North Dartmouth

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Ambrose Edward Sullivan, 325505, Springfield
Robert Daniel Theperson, 522479, Mt. Pulaski

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Robert Archie Johnston, 392453, Sauyer AFB
Millard Bellock Lideon, 50258833, Mt. Clemens
Frank James Mann, 390931, Iron Mountain
Ronald Eugene Cull, 45057261, Mt. Clemens
Joseph Francis Shanahan, 1772180, Grand Rapids
James Horace Warner, 632016, Ypsilanti

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Minnesota

Richard Eugene Solstad, 3931278, Minneapolis
David Evenson, 3958293, Coon Rapids
David Robert Wheel, 677974, Duluth
David Williams Minn, 355454, Minneapolis

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Missouri

James William Bailey, 664790, Carthage
Thomas Edward Collins, IIT, 68082, Jackson
Carlyle Smith Harris, 465533, Tupelo
Romney Allen Anston, 607791, Billings

New Jersey

Joseph Abbott, Jr., FV3057095
George Thomas Baker Jr., 689409, Linden
John Arthur Damesi, 65520
Jeffrey Thomas Ellis, FV3195610, Madison
Willis Ellis Forby, 5043551
Robert Campbell Jones, FR61335, Chatham
Edward Frank Miller, Jr., 706510, Oakland
Joseph Edward Milligan, 5155216, Ammonite Anna-May
Thomas William Sims, FV3039605, Montrose Clara Johnson
Aaron Santo Venancio, FV3173807, Trenton
Ronald John Webb, FV72828

...more...more...
New Mexico

Robert A. Young, 1211A, Norman
Arthur Corbett, APO 09570, Ft. Sill
Lloyd Economa, 52025, Odessa
Wayne Gander, 8255, Roswell

New York

Edward A. Breeds, 7222, Monroe
Arthur Corbett, APO 09570, Bay Shore
Wayne Gander, 52025, Oswego
Wayne Gander, 60119, Rochester
Kevin K. Kreuger, APO 09570, Fort Bragg

New Haven

Barry L. Rucker, 170026, Bridgeport
Wayne Gander, 52025, West Haven

New Jersey

Charles S. Rice, 710266, Setauket
Charles P. Jaksz, 59158, Jamesport

North Carolina

Arthur M. Liddle, Jr., 51816, Lake lure
Barry D. Ricker, 5151623, Bledsoeboro
Wayne Gander, 50400, Bladenboro
Kenneth C. Daniels, 20772, Winneconne
David J. Black, 53400, Mt. Airy

North Carolina - Franklin

Thomas W. Rucker, APO 09570, Franklin

North Carolina - Robersonsville

William Stewart, APO 09570, Robersonsville

North Dakota

Loren Harvey Rorkelson, FV315666, Crosby
Fred H. Endicott, Cr., 5138570, Midwest City
John S. Tracy, FV103535, Tulsa
Gene L. Welker, FV158754, Oklahoma City
Donald W. Gentry, FV109512, Cordell
Robert H. Bowles, 25705, Oklahoma City
Alcide Clifford Walker, Jr., 3145724, Tulsa

Frost

James E. Miller, 3132834, Forest Grove

Kendall Redd Alderman, 658707, Kittanning
Robert Loving Anderson, 662432, Kane
Thomas Neil Buechler, FV1266675, Bethlehem
John Douglas Burns, 613414, Pocono
Gary H. Cady, 677033, Jeannette
John Clark Devol, 515359, Reading
Robert Montgomery Divilbiss, 643239, Leola

Kendall Redd Alderman, 658707, Kittanning

W. Lee Buechler, 630502, Canyon
John L. Busche, 614534, Pittsburgh

R. A. Reynolds, P152534, Erie, Cynwyal
Jack John Alling, FV135269, PA, USA
Robert Falcon Schiller, Jr., TR24101, Carnegie

Conrad W. Stetman, FV1909945, Steelton

...more...
South Carolina

William McDonald Austin, 5435, Sumter
Robert R. Castrone, Jr., 55554, Anderson
William Harley Means, Jr., 30239, Sumter
Merritt Scott Morgan, 3057445, Sumter
Albert Edward Runyon, FR4475, Sumter

South Dakota

Lawrence Victor Frieso, 591579, Huron
Keith Thorness, 5925937, Sioux Falls
Richard Raymond Bickel\n
Tennessee

William Porter Lawrence, 545032, Nashville
Robert B. Peel, AC3117955, Paris
Charles Nels Tanner, 588973, Covington
Raymond Arthur Vothen, 566702, Memphis

Texas

Emma Claudine Baker, 30528932, San Antonio
John Charles Blevins, 52686, San Antonio
Donald Glenn Bliss, FR7255, Temple
Donald Ray Burns, FR7729, Mineral Wells
James Alan Clements, FG502105, Queen City
K. C. Copeland, 5015953, Austin
Thomas Jerry Curtis, 47552, Houston
Glenn H. Dingle, 66722, Corpus Christi
Robert Helen Daughtrey, AC3058591, Del Rio
George Robert Hall, 25105A, Mdso
Julius Shimer Janace, 305959, San Antonio
Robert Duncan Jeffrey, FG311790, Del Rio
Samuel Robert Johnson, FR4525, Plano
Gordon Albert Larson, FR34473, San Antonio
Warren Robert Lilly, 57577, Dallas
Louis Frank Makowski, FR151, Midland
Allan Burro Meyer, 74897, College Station
Arnold Jesse Myers, FR47331, Universal City
James Edwin Ray, 50939, Conroe
Robert Jeter Sandvick, AC755, Dallas

Texas

Jerry Singleton, FR64076, Dallas
Survey Student Stockman, 50436, Manchester

Ira D. Bean, 35014, Arlington
James Robert Berger, 1Y551964, Lexington
Allen Colby Brady, 945298, Virginia Beach
Samuel Zane Cherry, 49554A, Suffolk
Michael Durham Christian, 67384, Virginia Beach
Kenneth Leech Conley, 571690, Virginia Beach
Frederick Austin Crone, Jr., 1A0304, Hampton
Jeremiah A. Danton, Jr., 485697, Virginia Beach
Dele Walter Doss, 591159
Kenneth R. Frenier, FRK7797, Recreation
Paul Edward Galanti, 550047, Richmond

...more...more...
McKay Hill, 60-413, Alexandria
Karen A. McDaniell, 602046, Virginia Beach
James Alfred Malligan, 50-324, Virginia Beach
John Arthur Shuman, 111, 534738, Virginia Beach
Walter Michael Scobey, 680461, Virginia Beach
Richard Dale Vogel, FV49594, Hampton
Walter Eugene Wilber, 539459, Virginia Beach

South Dakota

William R. Brunshaver, 674215, Yankton
Michael Scott Kerr, 63644, Sequim
Mackey Burke Schlierman, 3050242, Spokane
James Richard Shively, FR75809, Spokane
Raymond Walter Visotsky, 3005144, Veredale
Lawrence J. Witter, FV3156939, Olympia

West Virginia

William John Mayhew, 591383, New Manchester

Wisconsin

Daniel James Dougherty, 3037750, Ladysmith
Fredric R. Flor, 3157103, Appleton
Gerald Lee Geraci, 3153157, Suring
Donal Lester Hailiger, 55023, Madison
William John Katzen, Jr., 684859, Wisconsin Rapids

Kenneth Raymond Hughey, 31352

Benin

William Graham, 350295, huge sec NN.

Bahrain

Robert R. Cramer, FV3034313, Formby, Lancashire

Italy

Thomas Henry Kirk, Jr., 20794, Trieste
Title
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM
(COLIFAM)

Character
INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS
REGISTRATION ACT

Reference
EO12812-2
Report of SA [redacted] dated
August 31, 1970, Louisville, captioned as above.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities
are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable
information in the past.
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)
FROM: SAC, HOUSTON (105-2693) (RUC)

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIASON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN VIETNAM (COLIFAM) IS-MISCELLANEOUS REGISTRATION ACT (00: NY)

Re HO airtel, 8/25/70.

Enclosed for the Bureau are five copies of a LHM setting out additional information furnished by Mrs. Houston, Texas. Two copies of this LHM are being enclosed for New York.

ENCLOSURE

1 - Bureau (Enc-5) 62c
2 - New York (100-457899) (Enc-2) (RM) 62c
1 - Houston ST-105

RECEIVED 100-457899 102

AGENCY: ASSI, CAL, STL, SFR, DSO

DATE FORW: 9-2-21 62c
HOW FORW: 425
BY: 62c AUG 29 1970

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPTED AS SHOWN 67c

5-5 SEP 10 1970 67c

Special Agent in Charge

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN VIETNAM
(GOLIFAM)
INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS
REGISTRATION ACT

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ENCLOSURE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Houston, Texas, furnished the following additional information:

She advised she had found the slip of paper that was given to her by the man who claimed to be with a Quaker Organization.

This slip of paper contained the name STEWART MEACHAM, telephone number 215-60-4-1914. It was indicated that MEACHAM was with the American Friends Service Committee, Philadelphia.

Xerox copies of this slip of paper were made and the original returned to Mrs.  [Redacted]

A copy of this paper is attached.

On 8/25/70, Houston, Texas
E012812-2

by SA [Redacted] Date dictated 8/25/70

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.
Stewart Wechsler
B: 104-1917
HC 215

Community of
Laide

American Bridge
Leasee Community
Philadephia

Mechanic's office

82 letters extract
in the community

Olive Green
John H. Wendell, Jr.

METAL GOODS Corporation

P. O. BOX 1-57 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77001
LOCATION: 9200 FICK ROAD PHONE: 727-1110
CONFIDENTIAL

TO DIRECTOR (100-451332) (100-446949)
ATT DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE DIVISION
FROM NEW YORK (100-170212) (100-157865) 2P

END PAGE ONE
ADMINISTRATIVE......

RE NYTEL TO BUREAU AND SAN FRANCISCO, JULY TWELVE, LAST, CAPTIONED AND NYTEL TO BUREAU AND SAN FRANCISCO, JULY NINE, LAST, CAPTIONED, SOURCE MENTIONED IS NEW YORK 62-

EXTREME CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN IN UTILIZATION OF THIS INFORMATION 62-

NYO WILL FOLLOW THIS MATTER CLOSELY THROUGH NEW YORK SEVEN THREE FIVE ONE DASH S. COPY TO DETROIT REGARDING PLA MONDON. COPY TO SAN FRANCISCO REGARDING HEMBLEN.

END

CORR-PAGE ONE FIRST LINE OF TEXT LAST TWO WORDS "SOURCE ADVISED" MKA

FBI WASH DC

CONFIDENTIAL
Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

FROM: SAC, HOUSTON (105-2693) RUC

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LICARION WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM) IS - MISCELLANEOUS REGISTRATION ACT (00:NY)

RE: SA let to Bu, 8-27-70.

Referenced letter enclosed to the Bureau and New York a list of Air Force prisoners of war or Air Force personnel missing in action, and enclosed for Houston pertinent pages from that list reflecting the following names and addresses of next of kin residing in the Houston division's territory:

Houston, Texas

Houston, Texas

Houston, Texas

2-Bureau (RM)
2-New York (100-168469) (RM)
1-Houston

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

SEP 16 1970

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan
E012312-2

A review of Houston indices reflect that Mr. and Mrs. all above, have been interviewed concerning this matter and the Bureau and New York advised of the results thereof.

Houston indices contain no information reflecting any of the other individuals listed above have been contacted by the COLIFAM and/or its members. Accordingly, Houston is not interviewing any of the above-listed individuals and is taking no further action relative to this matter.
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)
FROM: SAC, SEATTLE (100-30385)(P)
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM) IS - MISC REGISTRATION ACT 00: NEW YORK

Re New York airtel to Bureau, 6/9/70, and Los Angeles letter to Bureau, 7/13/70.

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 interviewee to protect the information for fear of retribution on her son who is a POW in Hanoi.

Investigation is continuing at Spokane, Washington, to locate and interview one additional family with whom contact has reportedly been made by captioned group.

67c

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI:

DATE FORM: 9/2/70
HOW FORM: 9/2
BY: _______________________

In information contained herein as unclassified except under shown

Approved: ___________________

Sent ___________ M Per

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1969 6 - 266-000 1170
SEATTLE

At Spokane, Washington

Will promptly report results of interview with Mrs. Spokane, concerning whom information was set out in Relet from Los Angeles.

EO 12812-2
RE: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)

letter, in turn, had been enclosed in a large white plain envelope which was postmarked San Francisco and addressed to Mr. and Mrs. [Redacted].

On the reverse side of this envelope was the return address of AFSC 160 N. 15th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Mrs. [Redacted] was so elated to hear that her son was alive and to receive a letter, that she contacted this agency at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and spoke with someone back there to express her thanks. The party said that a group of people had been to Hanoi and recently returned to the United States; MADELINE DUCKLES of Berkeley, California, had actually brought back her letter, and upon arriving in San Francisco, it was mailed to her.

Mrs. [Redacted] said that she has received a total of five letters and one postcard from her son. The letters are addressed to her husband and herself and to her son's "favorite fiance." She explained the favorite fiance is actually her son's wife, who is presently living with Mrs. [Redacted] in Olympia. Cpt. WRITER apparently does not wish his North Vietnamese captors to know that he is married.

Following the first letter, all subsequent communications have been mailed from New York and contain a cover letter bearing the letterhead of the COLIFAM. They have been either signed by CORA WEISS or some other officer of the COLIFAM. None of these letters contain any threats or promises or requests for money. Mrs. [Redacted] said she has never been contacted personally by any individual representing this committee. She said that she sends her mail to her son, in accordance with the address given out by COLIFAM. She said that her son has never written directly to his wife. Her son's letters indicate that he has received several packages from his mother.

Mrs. [Redacted] said there are two other pilots in the Olympia area, who are missing over Vietnam, but that their parents and relatives have never received any word concerning their existence, nor have they been contacted by COLIFAM.
RE: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)

Mrs. [name redacted] said that she maintains close liaison with these parents because of their mutual problem. Mrs. [name redacted] said that her [name redacted] was shot down at the same time as [name redacted], U.S. Air Force, who was subsequently released and has since contacted her concerning her son.
Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)  
DATE: 9/4/70

FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (100-14050)  
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM) IS - MISC; REGISTRATION ACT 00 NY

Re San Antonio letter to Bureau 8/27/70.

Referenced communication forwarded to the Kansas City Office a list of Air Force prisoners of war or Air Force personnel missing in action in Vietnam whose immediate relatives reside in the Kansas City Division. This list was obtained from the U. S. Air Force Military Personnel Center, Randoloph Air Force Base.

There are approximately 50 names on this list. All of them are being indexed by the Kansas City Office. However, the Kansas City Office is planning to interview only those persons on the list whose relatives are listed as prisoners of war. Results of these interviews and interviews of the persons previously furnished by the New York Office will be forwarded to the Bureau in a form suitable for dissemination.
MEMORANDUM

TO:   DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)     DATE:   9/3/70
FROM: AC, SEATTLE (100-30385) (P)

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

Re San Antonio letter to Bureau, 8/27/70, setting out names of 31 families in the State of Washington who have sons missing in action or who are POWs.

Handling of interviews in depth with these 31 families would require the services of several agents and the consumption of considerable time. In the absence of information to indicate any or all of these 31 families are actually in contact with COLIFAM, no attempt will be made to interview them, UACB.

2 - Bureau (REG)
2 - New York (100-168469) (REG)
2 - Seattle


dc 9 0 2

EX-110

REC 83

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan
SAC, Seattle (100-30385)

Director, FBI (100-457899) - 6

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

Resubmitted, captioned as above, dated 9-3-70.

In view of the Department of Justice request concerning
the activities of COLIFAM, it is imperative that interviews
be conducted with families of those individuals listed as
prisoners of war (POW's).

However, it will not be necessary to contact families
or relatives of those military personnel listed as missing in
action.

1 New York (100-168469)

NOTE:

The Department of Justice has requested information
relative to activities of COLIFAM. Seattle advised that unless
advised to the contrary by the Bureau no interviews will be
conducted in the absence of an actual contact by COLIFAM.
Above instructions necessary to assure that information
requested will be furnished to the Department.
Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)  
DATE: 9/3/70

FROM: SAC, ALBUQUERQUE (100-3655) P

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

00: NEW YORK

Re New York airtel, 6/9/70; Dallas airtel, 8/20/70; and San Antonio letter, 8/27/70.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are five copies and for New York two copies of an LHM regarding captioned matter.

Albuquerque indices are negative regarding captioned matter.

There are no known active members of COLIFAM in the Albuquerque territory and no known press releases have been made regarding this matter.

Confidential informants contacted with negative results and as mentioned in the enclosed LHM are as follows:

- SA contacted 7/14/70, by
- SA contacted 7/7/70, by
- SA contacted 7/28/70, by
- SA contacted 7/6/70, by
- SA contacted 7/8/70, by

By U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan
The Albuquerque Office will interview relatives of Air Force personnel residing in the Albuquerque territory believed to be either prisoners of war or missing in action as set forth in referenced San Antonio letter 8/27/70. Interviews will be conducted in accordance with instructions set forth in re New York airtel, 6/9/70.
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH
FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN
DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM

Confidential informants familiar with the Communist Party, New Left, and related organizations, who have furnished reliable information in the past, were contacted in July, 1970, with negative results for any information regarding the captioned matter.

During July and August, 1970, the following were contacted and advised they had no information regarding the captioned matter and knew of no servicemen or relatives thereof who had been contacted by the captioned group:

Kirtland Air Force Base,
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Sandia Base, Albuquerque, New Mexico

112th MD, Region III,
Albuquerque, New Mexico

U. S. Naval Intelligence
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Naval Recruit Station
Albuquerque, New Mexico

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COMMITTEE OF LIASON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM

Marine Corps Recruit Station
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Mr. [Redacted] OSI
Holloman Air Force Base
Alamogordo, New Mexico

Mr. [Redacted]
Family Services Unit
Holloman Air Force Base
Alamogordo, New Mexico

Mr. [Redacted]
Special Agent, OSI
Cannon Air Force Base
Clovis, New Mexico

White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico
Contact Office of USAFMC where a Colonel (FNU) LUTHER and Officer (FNU) GRATCH have been in charge, for information that said office, which maintains contact with families of Air Force POW's, may have informed POW wives to utilize services of COLIFAM.

11-Bureau (100-457899)(RM)
2-New York (100-168469)(RM)
2-San Antonio (RM)
3-Denver (100-10142)
Also determine if that office may possess information that POW families have been pressured by COLIFAM to furnish statements condemning U. S. policy in Vietnam in return for information or letters from POW's.

DENVER DIVISION

AT COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO:

Will through Ent Air Force Base, attempt to located Mrs. [redacted] whose husband, [redacted] is a POW in North Vietnam.

If located, will interview Mrs. [redacted] in accordance with leads in referenced airtel.

AT DENVER, COLORADO:

Will interview [redacted] at Lowry Air Force Base for information from Mrs. [redacted] that while recently at Maxwell Field, Alabama, worked with wives of POW's. [redacted] reportedly learned of one POW wife who was required to sign propaganda before receipt of a letter from her husband in North Vietnam.

* B*

COVER PAGE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Field Office File #: 100-10142
Bureau File #: 100-457899

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

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS;
REGISTRATION ACT

Synopis:

Denver, Colorado, resident, furnished copies of correspondence by COLIFAM, one of which states the Democratic Republic of Vietnam has decided to use COLIFAM as a channel for communication between Prisoners of War (POW) and their relatives in the United States. Mrs. [REDACTED], wife of Air Force pilot missing in action over North Vietnam since September, 1966, wrote COLIFAM in April, 1970, for information on her husband; COLIFAM acknowledged the letter but has not furnished any report on Mrs. [REDACTED] husband. Mrs. [REDACTED] acting on suggestion of U.S. Air Force Officer at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, furnished letter for her husband to Mr. KENNETH KIRKPATRICK of the American Friends Service Committee who visited Hanoi in June, 1970. Mr. KIRKPATRICK returned the letter stating he was unable to deliver it in North Vietnam. Mrs. [REDACTED] Colorado, whose husband is a POW, shot down over North Vietnam in July, 1966, received three letters from her husband through COLIFAM in April, 1970. She has also sent letters to her husband through COLIFAM but does not know if he received them. She stated COLIFAM has not asked her to subscribe to anti United States propaganda. She stated the office dealing with POW affairs at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, had accepted but not encouraged the possibility of corresponding with POW's through COLIFAM.
On August 4, 1970, Denver, Colorado, advised he had written a letter to the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) in which he questioned their position with respect with United States participation in Vietnam war. He advised that he received the following letter in response to the letter he had written:
July 14, 1970

Dear [Name]

Sorry not to have answered you before this but I've been trying to clear up things here before I take off for the summer, and correspondence with families of prisoners or men missing-in-action took precedence.

You're right, of course, about the history of U.S. involvement in Vietnam but Nixon is now, in fact, responsible since he's the one that will end it if he wants to, which I doubt that he does. I'm sure he wishes like hell he didn't have that particular "problem" on his hands but he's also too worried about face-saving and other high principles to do what is necessary to end it.

As far as taking the Vietnamese's word that they will release the prisoners when the U.S. withdraws, questions of trust aside, just what in the hell do you think they would say with a few hundred (about 335 in the North, who knows how many in the South) recalcitrant, food-eating, attention-seeking American servicemen? Who needs the bother once the U.S. is, in fact, totally out of their country? You probably won't believe me, either, but if they didn't release them at that point I would do whatever I could (as I think many peace movement folks would) to protest that.

For what small comfort it may give you, both Core Weiss and I are against the U.S. selling jets to Israel. I don't think anyone thinks there is an easy solution to that incredible and complex situation, but more jets certainly ain't it. More raids, from whichever side, isn't either. A lot of humaneness, understanding and less paranoia on both sides would be a great leap forward.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

3
On August 11, 1970, Mr. [redacted] made available copies of two documents written by COLIFAM which he, had received in a letter dated July 23, 1970, from CANNON ALLOTT, United States Senator from Colorado. Mr. [redacted] said he had written Senator ALLOTT about his concern for the prisoners in North Vietnam.

In the letters of Senator ALLOTT the two documents are described as follows:

"With specific reference to the question raised in your letter about the Committee of Liaison of Families of Servicemen Detained in Southeast Asia, I am enclosing a copy of a letter which I received from the wife of an American POW who in turn had received it from the Committee. I believe that this letter will give you some indication of the type of individual and organization which is involved with this particular committee.

I am also enclosing, for your information, additional copies of correspondence which I have received from Mrs. [redacted], whose husband, [redacted], was shot down on the afternoon of 1963. This correspondence dramatizes to a considerable extent the manner in which the committee has preyed upon the torment and anxieties of certain wives of American servicemen who have been held captive by the Communists. In addition, I have been in touch with the appropriate Senate and House committees to inquire about the possibility of a Congressional investigation of this committee."

Copies of the documents are as follows:
Dear [Name],

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

This letter, along with 63 others, was recently handed to Louis Schneider by Vietnamese authorities in Hanoi, and he mailed them to us from Hong Kong. This was in line with a system for handling such letters which has been opened up to our committee by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,
For the Committee of Liaison

[Signatures]

Richard Fernandez, Stewart Neacham, Ethel Taylor
Clergy and Laymen Concerned about Vietnam, American Friends Service Committee for Peace

Other members of the committee are: David Dellinger, Cora Weiss, Lennie Davis, Anna Emmett, Ben Seitzman, Maggie Codd, Trudi Young, Steve Hallivell, Barbara Webster.
COMMITTEE OF LIASON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

385 West 42nd Street, New York N.Y., 10023
212-765-1106

January, 1970

INFORMATION SHEET

BACKGROUND

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

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

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

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

FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

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

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

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

In addition, it is possible that the Vietnamese will be able to verify

APR-28 1971
requests for information about servicemen from families who are uncertain if their relatives are being held in North Vietnam. Requests should be submitted to the Committee, but there is no certainty when and if the North Vietnamese will be able to respond. The Committee will of course transmit any information that it receives to the family.

Clarification

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

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

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

Who We Are

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

We are active in a variety of organizations committed to ending the war: American Friends Service Committee, the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, Clergy and Laymen Concerned about Vietnam, Woman Strike for Peace, The Conspiracy, and Women Against the War. The Committee is supported by donations from individuals and organizations, and welcomes any gifts to sustain its work.
Mrs. Lakewood, Colorado, advised she is the wife of a United States Air Force pilot who was reported missing in action over North Vietnam on 1966. She said she has had no communication from her husband since that time nor any report out of North Vietnam that her husband is dead or alive.

Mrs. stated she is active as the of the National League of Wives and Families of American Servicemen Captured in Southeast Asia. The headquarters are located at Number 1 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D.C. In this capacity she receives requests to address various groups and on such an occasion about January or February, 1970, at the United Church of Christ in southeast Denver, she was approached by who works in Denver with the anti-war organization known as the American Friends Service Committee. Mr. spoke as though STEWART MEACHAM, a member of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM), was an old friend, and suggested that Mrs. contact COLIFAM in New York City requesting information concerning her husband or write a letter to her husband, sending it to COLIFAM with the request that it be forwarded to her husband in North Vietnam.

Mrs. stated she felt that it was below the moral standards of her husband to deal with North Vietnam through COLIFAM but decided to write COLIFAM anyway since that organization had sent representatives to Hanoi and claimed to be able to obtain information on Prisoners of War held in North Vietnam. She said she wrote in April, 1970, but did not enclose any letter to her husband and received the following reply from COLIFAM.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is issued to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.
April 11, 1970

Dear Mrs. [Redacted],

Your letter of April 3rd arrived in our office yesterday -- just in time to be included in a letter with requests for information on missing servicemen that we will send with a group of anti-war activists who leave tomorrow for Hanoi.

We do not know how long it will be before we might receive word from or about your husband but we will certainly contact you just as soon as we do. We understand your anguish in not knowing about him and sincerely hope we will be able to be of help.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Barbara Webster

P.S. I am enclosing an Information Sheet which explains the Committee of Liaison.
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON
with Families of Servicemen Detailed in North Vietnam

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

CABLE ADDRESS: COLIAFAM

INFORMATION SHEET

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 use 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 Thi, 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...
created by the North Vietnamese and is an extension of previous efforts. 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. servicemen 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 the 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 to 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.
Mrs. [redacted] continued that on May 14, 1970, she called the COLIFAM Office in New York City, speaking to BARBARA WEBSTER and inquired if the COLIFAM representatives who were to make the trip to Hanoi in April, 1970, had returned with information concerning U. S. prisoners. Mrs. WEBSTER stated no information on the prisoners was obtained by the COLIFAM representatives but that members of the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam were leaving the next day for Hanoi and were to obtain information concerning Mrs. [redacted] husband. Mrs. WEBSTER stated that Reverend (FNU) FERNANDEZ was then in Hanoi with a group working with COLIFAM and reported that North Vietnam would not accept any more inquiries concerning prisoners. Mrs. [redacted] said the list of prisoners from North Vietnam had not been obtained and published by COLIFAM when she contacted Mrs. WEBSTER.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that the Air Force through an office at Randolph Air Force Base had informed families of missing servicemen that they might send letters to the missing servicemen through Mr. KENNETH KIRKPATRICK of the American Friends Service Committee at Seattle, Washington. Mrs. [redacted] stated she prepared a letter to her husband addressed as follows:

Camp of Detention of U. S. Pilots
Captured in the DRV
c/o Hanoi Post Office,
Hanoi, Democratic Republic of Vietnam

She forwarded this letter about May, 1970, to Mr. KIRKPATRICK who subsequently returned it to her with the following letter:
July 27, 1970

Dear Mrs. [Redacted]

I deeply regret that it was not possible for me to deliver the enclosed as you had requested when I went to Hanoi in June 1970. I was told in Hanoi by Mr. Tran Trong Quat of the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity with the American People that that Committee has compiled a list of 335 American servicemen who it says are held in detention camps in North Vietnam. (See attached list.) This Committee does not have responsibility for the administration of camps of detention in North Vietnam, but is the committee which invited me to visit Hanoi. Mr. Quat would accept from me only those letters which were addressed to persons on the list of 335. This is the same list which was turned over to the Committee of Liaison last April.

Mr. Quat informed me that the North Vietnam authorities have no information regarding Americans who have been captured in areas outside North Vietnam. In other words, although the name of a person who is believed to have been shot down over Laos, Cambodia, China or South Vietnam does not appear on the North Vietnam list of 335, this does not mean that that person has not survived. It only means that according to the North Vietnamese he is not a person known to them or held by them and that they, therefore, cannot deliver letters or packages to him.

Regarding those reportedly shot down over North Vietnam the refusal of Mr. Quat to accept letters for delivery because their names are not on the list of 335 implies, of course, a more somber situation, but I learned nothing more specific than that as to any particular individual.

My recent trip to Southeast Asia took me both to Hanoi and to Saigon. Both in North Vietnam and in South Vietnam, as well as here in the United States, one cannot help but see how this war has brought tragedy and sorrow into the lives of all affected by it, Americans and Vietnamese alike.

Again let me express my sincere regret that I was not able to deliver the enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
Kenneth Kirkpatrick
Peace Education Secretary
AFSC
816 N.E. 60th Street
Seattle, Washington 98105

KK:vh
encl.
Mrs. [redacted] advised that she also sends $35 to $40 in medical items for her husband every other month although she feels sure the goods are taken by the North Vietnamese. She does this by taking the package to the Post Office and using the same address as for the letter she sent to Mr. KIRKPATRICK.

Mrs. [redacted] also made available a copy of a list of prisoners held in North Vietnam which had been compiled by COLIFAM and which Mr. KIRKPATRICK had enclosed with his letter of July 27, 1970. She stated that this list reflects two prisoners of war were from Colorado, [redacted] Colorado, and [redacted] Colorado. She stated the wife of [redacted] currently lives in [redacted] but that the wife of [redacted] is currently living in Dallas, Texas. Although the parents still reside in [redacted] THE COLIFAM list of POW's as made available by Mrs. [redacted] is as follows:
The following 335 names have been officially confirmed by Hanoi to be prisoners held in North Vietnam; -- April 30, 1970 -- :

**Alabama**

Michael K. McCulision, 7141C, Montgomery
Herbert Benjamin Ringsdorf, FVR75-176, Elba

**Arizona**

Kile Darr Berg, 3103302, Glendale
Jack Williamson Bonner, FVR25-145, Mesa
Larry Edward Carrigan, 3119504, Scottsdale
Joseph Crecca, Jr., FR53-51, Phoenix
Laird G. Lefter, 25404, Tucson
Thomas Mack Madison, 2240519, Phoenix
Dennis Anthony Moore, 541052, Scottsdale
John Joseph Pitchford, Jr., FVR24-522, Scottsdale
Lewis W. Shattuck, 3033521, Mesa
Jack H. Thomas, FR55-155, Chandler
Charles Robert Yager, 593040, Phoenix
Jack Linwood VanLoon, 65035, Tucson

**Arkansas**

James Lasley Lamar, 1506733, Little Rock

**California**

Wilfred Reese Abbott, 3081732, San Diego
Everett Arzner, Jr., 544124, Santa Clara
Anthony Charles Andrews, FR314651, Chico
Frederick C. Baldock, Jr., 655520, Lemon Grove
Robert F. Bateman, FR31021, Hawthorne
Cloyd Black, 543437, San Diego
Jerry Lee Boyer, FR313542, Visalia
Helen Lee Boulton, FR314670, Long Beach
Philip Neal Butler, 447306, La Jolla
William Wallace Butler, 313330, San Rafael
Carl Dennis Chambers, FVR313301, Yuba City
Arvin Roy Cheaney, 514768, Lemoore
Claude Douglas Clovis, 60597, San Diego
James Quincy Collins, 37990, Atherton
Michael Paul Cronin, 659532, Berkeley
Herman Creamer, Jr., 665472, Kansas
Edward Dale Estes, 654594, Lemoore
John Four, 63523, San Pedro
Herbert Kelly Flesher, 321515, Sacramento
David Edward Ford, FVR322074, Sacramento
Henry Pope Fowler, FR314557, Palo Alto
Charles H. Gilmore, Jr., 54652, Miramar
Collins H. Heins, 539155, San Diego
James Martin Hicken, 551055, Lemoore
Herry Terleth, 565424, Lemoore

**Colorado**

Ronald Mark Leiberman, 608245, Riverside, Colorado

**Florida**

Carl William Lester, 656064, San Diego
Earl Gardner Lewis, Jr., 83095, San Diego
Alan Pierce Lurie, FR65265, Apple Valley
John Michael McGrath, 552251, San Diego
George P. Melvin, 697713, Montrose
John H. Mckay, 614752, Lemoore
Edward Holmes Martin, 544587, Coronado
Raymond James Mortin, 447289, Colton
Edison Wainwright Miller, 654602, Santa Ana
Joseph Scott Mobley, 701857, Manhattan Beach
Ernest K. Moore, Jr., 553556, Lemoore
Richard Dean Mullen, 564928, La Jolla
John H. Novak, Jr., FVR32037, South San Gabriel
Dale Harrison Osborne, 614229, Rancho S. C. O. P.
James Glenn Rice, 614765, Lemoore
Leo T. Pryor, 56463, Palo Alto
Darrell Edwin Pyio, FVR314505, Santa Ana
California (cont'd.)

David George Rehmann, 653502, Lancaster
Wendell Burke Rivers, 555444, Oxnard
David John Rollins, 633589, San Diego
Ray Russell, 563577, San Diego
Howard Elmer Rutledge, 505345, San Diego
Paul Henry Schaff, 516795, San Diego
Robert James Schweitzer, 571894, Lemoore
William L. Shueke, 564291, Jackson
Robert Harper Shumaker, 546565, LeJolla
Charles Everett Southwick, 567716, Cupertino
James David Stockhouse, 647835, Lemoore
Charles Edward Stavast, 92247, Claremont
Theodore Gerhard Stier, 565600, San Diego
Robert Lewis Stirm, FV3035912, Foster City
James Bond Stockdale, Coronado, 476043
Richard Allen Stratton, 502087, Woodford Palo Alto
Gary L. Thornton, 700603, Porterville
Robert Earl Ulman, 523525, Westchester
Brian Dunstan Woods, 553533, Lemoore

Colorado

William David Burroughs, F827184, Aurora
Jerry Alan Singleton, 610275, Greeley

Connecticut

Read Blaine Coffin, 678356, Old Greenwich

Delaware

Robert Bartsch Doremus, 597355, Wilmington

Florida

Ralph J. Browning, F878555, Orlando
Barry Ernest B. B. 820165, Gulfport
Gerald L. Cofles, 625350, Sanford
Kenneth Williams Cordier, 71361, Tampa
Carl Boyette Crumpler, 27702, Orange Park
John Howard Dunn, 059541, Jacksonville
John Stewart Finlay, III, 1803, Satellite Beach
Kenneth Fisher, 57341, Sebring
Robert Byron Fuller, 540342, Fort Myers Beach, Jacksonville
Ralph Ellis Gatier, 585355, Miami
Danny E. Glenn, 688512, Jacksonville
David Fletcher Gray, Jr., 3159230, Tampa
Guy Dennis Grutters, 75550, Sarasota
Lorenzo N. Guarino, 52571, Satellite Beach
Keith Norman Hall, F601501, Fort Walton Beach
Thomas Renwick Hall, Jr., 582719, Pensacola
William Morgan Hardman, 525171, Center Hill
John Heilig, 55707, North Miami Beach
Robert Bruce Hinckley, 314587, Fort Walton Beach
James Otis Hivner, 50815, Tampa
James Leo Hutton, 60749, Lakeland
Charles Regus James, Jr., 58400, Sanford
Richard Paul Keirn, 505516, Tampa
Wilson Denver Key, 559207, Jacksonville
Vernon Peyton Ligon, Jr., 33825, Melbourne Beach
John Sidney McCain, 524787, Orange Park
Glendon W. Perkins, F310193, Orlando
Douglas Brian Peterson, F845257, Marianna
Peter Van Schoet, 564717, Naples
Kenneth Adrian Simonet, 23521, West Palm Beach
Dwight L. Smith, 560780, San Diego, CA
Wayne Ogden Smith, F95072, Dunedin
Thomas James Sterling, F85074, Fort Walton Beach
Richard George Tungeman, 559370, Sanford
Dewey Wayne Waddell, 54777, Fort Walton Beach
Lewis Irving Williams, 594653, Tampa
James Pauls Young, F85511, Hollywood

...more...
Georgie
Ranker Grady, 617270, La Grange
Leon Francis Ellis, Jr., 317922, Hull
Porter A. Halyburton, 577514, Drayton Tucker
Leo Gregory Hyatt, 523640, Albany
Michael Christopher Lane, TV313156, Atlanta
Gilles-Bodick, Atlanta, TV31303, Atlanta
Thomas Vence Merritt, TV310392, Atlanta
Orson G. Swindle, 706153, Camilla
Toby D. Terrell, 243546, Atlanta
Kauai
George G. McKnight, A03051289, Honolulu
Idaho
Larry James Shively, 31372H9, Burley
Donald Glenn Waitman, FR5395, Kellogg
Thomas Joseph Barrett, FR3120130, Lomard
John L. Bonner, 59807, Chico
Joan Stephen Frederick, Jr., 658247, Tremont
Thomas F. Norris, 77071, Godfrey
Gary Richard Sigler, TV315785, Table Grove
Illinois
Richard Brennesson, TV315566, Machesqua
Robert Elliott Buchanan, 3145526, Austin
Ronald Edward Byrne, Jr., 275214, Kankakee
James Helms Kessler, FR24551, Indianapolis
Indiana
Robert John Haughton, 654557, Sheldon
Larry Howard Spencer, 674085, Earlham
Kansas
Charles Graham Boyd, FR72601, Wichita
Ramon Alonzo Morris, FR45544
Edward Lee Hubbard, TV3152287, Overland Park
Goble Dale James, FR3005133, Overland Park
Hoyt Eugene Johnson, FR72372, Overland Park
Ronald Lambert Huston, FR72450, Overland Park
Joseph Charles Plumb, Jr., 575505, Greenlawn-Prairie Village
Leroy William Stutz, 75935, Cummings
Kentucky
Robert Baldwin Purcell, 53756, Louisville
Dewey Lee Smith, 64590, Valley Station
Louisiana
Lawrence Barbee, 3054027, Baton Rouge
Murphy Neal Jones, FR69508, Baton Rouge
Hayden James Lockhart, Jr., 52559, Alexandria
Bruce Gibson Seeber, 47135, West Monroe
Maine
Robert Irwin Biss, TV3103220, Bangor
Allan Russell Carpenter, 557951, Sanford
Markham L. Carter, TV30544, Greenville
Roger Dean Ingvalson, FR30713, Sanford
Maryland
James Franklin Bell, 515877, LeVale
Arthur William Burer, 3057646, Rockville
Hugh Allen Stafford, 514922, Cambridge

...more...more...
Maryland: (cont.)
Bernard Leo Talley, Jr., 3129281, Baltimore

Massachusetts

Paul Gordon Brown, 50475, Newton
Leonard Corbett Eastman, 524192, Dedham
Charles Edward Greene, Jr., 30821054, Needham
E. L. Warren, Robert Lege, 58081854, West Roxbury
Kenneth Walter North, 53694, Wellfleet
Frederick Raymond Purington, 580259, North Dartmouth
Timothy Bernard Sullivan, 583505, Springfield
Edward Edward Temer, 507824, Wo. Falmouth

Michigan

Robert Archie Abbott, 591163, Sawyer A.D.
Willard Selleck Cisner, 30821053, Mt. Clemens
Martin James Noveln, 590831, Iron Mountain
Donald Eugene Odell, 591057291, Mt. Clemens
Joseph Francis Shanahan, 597210, Grand Rapids
James Howie Warner, 562615, Ypsilanti

Minnesota

Richard Eugene Bolstad, 591279, Minneapolis
David Everson, 558593, Coon Rapids
David Robert Wheat, 577374, Duluth
David Williams Winn, 56548, Minneapolis

Mississippi

James William Bailey, 564750, Carthage
Thomas Edward Collins, 590832, Jackson
Carlyle Smith Harris, 56683, Tupelo

Missouri

John Warren Brodach, 310952, Cameron
John Walter Clark, 70474, Columbia
Donald Ray Spoon, 79229, Pleasant Hill
Robert Deane Woods, 532793, Garden City

Montana

Rodney Allen Knutson, 567751, Billings

Nebraska

Richard Raymond Bolster, 534148, Dist. 11
See S.D.

Nevada

Richard Allen Dutton, 592447, North Las Vegas
Richard Eugene Smith, Jr., 578292, Las Vegas
Dwight Everett Sullivan, 585679, Las Vegas
Robert F. Waggoner, 306137, Reno

New Hampshire

Russell Edward Tomperty, 591035, Concord
See N.H.

New Jersey

Joseph Abbott, Jr., 50307609
George Thomas Coker, 562408, Linden
John Arthur Draneski, 56320
Jeffrey Thomas Ellis, 59155510, Madison
Willis Ellis Forby, 3040451
Robert Campbell Jones, 501333, Chatham
Edwin Frank Miller, Jr., 706520, Oakand
Joseph Edward Mulligan, 3155215, Ammandale
Thomas William Simco, 5905065, Nokesville
William Edward Tomlin, 5073907, Trenton
Ronald John Webb, 572523

...more...
New Mexico

James Lindberg Hughes, FR#3211, Santa Fe
Thomas Wrenne Sumpter, Jr., 32014, Holloman AB

New York

Edward A. Brudno, 762857, Harrison
Arthur Cormier, AP#454730, Bay Shore
Kyron L. Donald, FR#3033, Ossining
Wayne Goodermote, 693500, Berlin
Herbert Ackermann, Jr., 385567, 500 W. 21st St., New York City
Ronald Joseph Mohan, 76305, Brightwaters
James Patrick Mahl, FR#7020, Baugher
Walter Grant Newton, FR#7020, Baugher
Heinz Pollack, FR#19004, Long Beach
Charles Donald Rice, 710266, Setuket
Charles P. Zohoski, 691550, Jamestown

North Carolina

Arthur T. Ballard, Jr., 33816, Lake Lure
Barry Burton Bridger, 313166, Bladenboro
Newman Crockett, 582956, Sherrills Ford
Norman Carl Goddard, 38772, Winston-Salem
David Burnett Esther, 304602, Mt. Airy
James Edward Hitehew, FR#8534, Goldsboro
Thomas Mitchell Heilish, FR#8556, Franklin
Harry Donald Hurley, 070295, Newport
William Andrew Robinson, FR#852749, Robersonville
Norman Loucres Wells, FR#357386, Goldsboro

North Dakota

Loren Harvey Torkelson, FR#355656, Crosby

Ohio

William I. Joseph Baugh, 665587, Piqua
Burton Wayne Campbell, FR#7564, Ancherst
Harlan Page Chapman, 971457, Elyria
John Peter Flynn, 15700
Paul Anthony Kishi, 565756, Spencer
Edward John Mechenbier, FR#89907, Dayton
Thomas Nelson Noy, 3175200, Columbus
C Oman Glenn Nix, 770553, Warrensville Heights

Oklahoma

Fred A.W. Franks, Jr., 513370, Midwest City
Gerald D. Krane, FR#315555, Tulsa
Herold Delos Hornblow, FR#151422, Tulsa
Thomas Shaw Pyle, IL, FR#310310, Dalliel
Robinson Risner, 28906, Oklahoma City
Robert Clifford Walker, Jr., 3145724, Tulsa

Oregon

James Eldon Schorn, 3132081, Forest Grove

Pennsylvania

Wendell Reed Alcorn, 659707, Kittanning
Cereth Laverne Anderson, 622282, Kane
Arthur Neil Black, AP#155679, Bethlehem
John Douglas Burns, 613414, Paoli
David Jay Carey, 677933, Jeannette
John Qwen Davie, 315260, Reading
Edward Anthony Davis, 680059, Leola
Joyce Lynne Driscoll, 665876, Canton
David Henry Dunlop, FR#357321, Canton
Glenn Leo Myers, 3151921, Pittsburgh
Jon A. Reynolds, FR#80565, Belle Cynwyd
Mark John Ruhiing, FR#309159, Pittsburgh
Robert Milton Smith, Jr., FR#14101, Comogag
Edward W. Swetman, FR#205995, Stefflom

[Remainder of text not fully visible]
South Dakota

Laurence Victor Friese, 001570, Huron
Leon Keith Thoresness, FV306537, Sioux Falls
Richard Raymond Rodeloll, VP1436, Aberdeen

Tennessee

William Porter Lawrence, 923032, Nashville
Robert P. Peel, ACS117563, Paris
Charles Nels Tenner, 586673, Covington
Raymond Arthur Vohden, 505702, Memphis

Texas

Elmo Cimmar Barker, 30543432, San Antonio
John Charles Blevins, 92665, San Antonio
Ronald Glenn Bliss, FY93537, Temple
Donald Ray Burns, FR93184, Mineral Wells
James Arlen Clements, FV522152, Queen City
H.C. Copeland, 3015653, Austin
Thomas Jerry Curtis, 477852, Houston
Glenn H. Daigle, 657122, Corpus Christi
Robert Nolan Daughtrey, ACS32932, Del Rio
George Robert Hall, 251065, Hope
Julius Skinner James, 3053053, San Antonio
Robert Duncan Jeffrey, FV311559, Dallas
Samuel Robert Johnson, TR65285, Pleco
Gordon Albert Larson, FR35425, Frn. Antonio
Warren Robert Lilly, 57757, Dallas
Louis Frank Nekowski, FR3124, Middletown
Alton Denno Meyer, 78097, College Station
Armand Jesse Myers, FR87837, Universal City
James Edwin Ray, 80903, Corpus
Robert James Sanchez, 87752, El Paso
Thomas Gordon Storey, 73127, Austin
Ross Randle Terry, 822625, Laredo
Terry Jun Uyehara, 3053559,ustin
Henry Henry Wendell, Jr., TP1054, Houston
Glenn Robert Wilson, FV52297, Universal City

Utah

Gary D. Cheshire, 73145, Draper
Jay Criddle Hess, 303630, Bountiful
Jay Roger Jensen, FV306554, Layton
Jose David Luna, 351451, Payson

Vermont

Hervey Studds Stockman, 50435, Manchester

Virginia

James E. Bean, 35024, Arlington
James Robert Berger, FY117912, Lexington
Allen Colby Briley, 543555, Virginia Beach
Fred Vann Cherry, 455345, Suffolk
Michael Durham Christian, 67572, Virginia Beach
Kenneth Leon Coskey, 571080, Virginia Beach
Frederick Austin Crow, CR 2600, Hampton
Jeremiah A. Davenport, Jr., 405673, Virginia Beach
Dale Walter Doss, 551150
Kenneth R. Fleisher, FY77767, Ch. Speake
Paul Edward Galant, 590467, Roanoke
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON - 335 11th - page 7

Virginia (cont.)

Howard Hill, 50413, Alexandria
Eugene C. McDaniel, 50246, Virginia Beach
James Alfred Alligian, 50413, Virginia Beach
Edwin Arthur Shuman, 50413, Virginia Beach
William Michael Tschudy, 50413, Virginia Beach
Richard Dale Vogel, FR4514, Hampton
Walter Eugene Wilber, 53456, Virginia Beach

Washington

Richard M. Brumhaver, 67418, Monroe
Michael Scott Kerr, 33644, Sequim
Wesley Duane Schierman, 305312, Spokane
James Richard Shively, FR7609, Spokane
Raymond Walter Vissotzky, 300514, Veredale
Lawrence D. Writer, FR3155935, Olympia

West Virginia

William John Hayhow, 59136, New Manchester

Wisconsin

Daniel James Doughty, 303760, Ladysmith
Fredric R. Flam, 3157109, Appleton
Gerald Lee Gerndt, 3163357, Suring
Donald Lester Heiliger, 55023, Madison
William John Hetzger, Jr., 554859, Wisconsin Rapids

Kenneth Raymond Hughey, 31352

England

Robert R. Craner, FR3034313, Romsey, Lancashire

Italy

Thomas Henry Kirk, Jr., 20764, Trieste
Mrs. [redacted] continued she has record of numerous relatives of men who are missing in action in Vietnam but she did not know whether these relatives may have been contacted by COLIFAM. She advised, however, that the wife of one man, who had served in Vietnam, namely Mrs. [redacted], Colorado Springs, Colorado, had received a letter about Christmas time, 1969, which had been brought back from North Vietnam by either ETHEL TAYLOR or MADELINE DUCKLES of COLIFAM and this letter had been directed to Mrs. [redacted] to her husband as a POW in North Vietnam and was returned to her with the notation "Undeliverable", "Serviceman Deceased." Mrs. [redacted] stated that on the magazine called "The Air Force Digest" for the month of July, 1970, it listed five such servicemen whose relatives were notified in a similar manner that these servicemen had apparently died in North Vietnam.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that [redacted] who is stationed at Lowry Air Force Base, Denver, and who is currently on leave, had advised that while attending a school at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama, he had been in contact with a number of wives whose husbands are servicemen missing in action. [redacted] had related to Mrs. [redacted] that one such wife had contacted by COLIFAM to the effect they had a letter from her husband and they subsequently required her to subscribe to certain procedures before the letter was delivered.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that her only contact of anyone possibly connected with COLIFAM was her contact with [redacted] and her telephone call to BARBARA WEBSTER in New York to inquire about the possibility of learning whether her husband was a POW in North Vietnam. She stated she had written no letters to her husband through COLIFAM and has received no mail from her husband. She said the only letter she forwarded to her husband was the one she forwarded to KENNETH KIRKPATRICK of the American Friends Service Committee, which he returned to her by his letter of July 27, 1970, as set forth above.
Mrs. [redacted] advised that she was one of approximately 52 wives and 94 children of POW's and MIA (Missing in Action) who went to Paris, France, on December 24, 1969, to request the North Vietnamese Peace Delegation to give them information concerning their missing husbands. She said the North Vietnamese saw three of the wives on Christmas Day and were given a list of names of the missing men, but no response has since been received to their appeal. She said the flight to Paris was sponsored by H. ROSS PEROT, wealthy Texas businessman. She stated two other women from the Denver area who made the flight were Mrs. [redacted] of Colorado, whose husband is a POW, and Mrs. [redacted] of Denver whose husband is MIA.
Mrs. [Redacted], Colorado, advised that her husband who has been missing in North Vietnam as of July, 1966. She stated that she had not heard from her husband until a woman whom she believes is ETHEL TAYLOR of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) called her parents who were then living in Ardmore, Pennsylvania. This woman, who was believed to be making the call from Marion, a suburb of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, told her parents that Mrs. [Redacted] would soon receive a letter from her husband. Mrs. [Redacted] said her parents called her from Pennsylvania to advise her of this telephone call and the following day, March 25, 1970, Mrs. [Redacted] called the woman whom she believes was ETHEL TAYLOR of COLIFAM to further inquire about the report that a letter could be expected from Mrs. [Redacted]'s husband. The woman then told Mrs. [Redacted] that COLIFAM had received a list of the relatives with their addresses of U. S. Servicemen who were then prisoners in North Vietnam and that also a packet of letters was expected and these letters would be readdressed by COLIFAM to the relatives of the servicemen.

Mrs. [Redacted] stated the letter from her husband which she subsequently received about mid April, 1970, was enclosed in a letter from COLIFAM with instructions as to how she could write to her husband. In that connection, some small forms were also enclosed in the letter which were to be used in writing to her husband and which would be sent to the COLIFAM Office for transmittal to North Vietnam. Mrs. [Redacted] stated that her parents who originally received the telephone call from COLIFAM notified them of the fact a letter was expected from [Redacted] and Mrs. [Redacted] who now reside at [Redacted], Cambridge, New York. She stated her mother-in-law, [Redacted], has also.

On 8/10/70 at [Redacted] Colorado File # Denver 100-10142 by SA [Redacted] Date dictated 8/10/70

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is issued to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.
received a letter from through COLIFAM.

Mrs. [redacted] continued that in addition to the letter received about mid April, 1970, she received two others within two or three days of each other about the last week of April, 1970, and she has received no other letters since that time. She stated each letter was received through COLIFAM and encouraged her to use the forms which were enclosed for subsequent correspondence to her husband, pointing out she should send these letters to COLIFAM.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that an office designated by the letters USAFMC at Randolph Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas, which had been in charge of Colonel (first name unknown) LUTHER and his assistant (first name unknown) GRATCH, has continually kept her and presumably all the wives of POW's and possibly Air Force personnel listed as missing in action, informed of developments related to the POW situation and how they might attempt to correspond with the POW. She advised that this office was at Randolph Air Force Base and had in effect informed her that if she desired she could attempt to contact her husband through COLIFAM since no other means of contacting a POW had been previously successful. Mrs. [redacted] stated that the fact is that she would possibly not have received any letter from her husband except through COLIFAM. She stated she actually expected to be harassed into some sort of payment such as endorsing propaganda in compensation for the letters she received through COLIFAM but she has actually received no pressure and the only propaganda of her correspondence from her husband was the use of her name and address to public news media as a POW's wife who had received correspondence from her husband in North Viet Nam. She said she has written to her husband using the forms furnished to her by COLIFAM and while she does not know if they have been delivered none of them have been returned to her. She stated she has never been contacted personally by other representatives of COLIFAM.
She stated that more recently the Air Force has utilized a form similar to that furnished by COLIFAM for the use by POW's wives in attempting to correspond with their husbands. She stated the Air Force, while not encouraging the services of COLIFAM to correspond with relatives in North Vietnam, has not directed her and, therefore, presumably other wives of POW's to avoid contact with COLIFAM. She said that the Air Force has suggested that the wives utilize the normal methods of correspondence, including the Red Cross.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that she realizes that COLIFAM in its ability to deal with the Government of North Vietnam as witness by the list of war prisoners it has obtained and the letters it has been able to deliver to relatives of prisoners is an instrument of the North Vietnam Government or it would not have received the cooperative treatment which has been unavailable to all previous appeals made to the Government of North Vietnam. Mrs. [redacted] stated she would be willing to testify to the nature of her contact and correspondence with COLIFAM.

Mrs. [redacted] furnished copies of the following pieces of correspondence which she has received from COLIFAM.
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON
with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam
365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

CABLE ADDRESS:
COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:
Dave Dellinger
Coro Weiss

Treasurer:
Mrs. Anne Bennett

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

*staff

May 5

Dear Mrs. [Redacted]

We will send your letter on to Hanoi next week with a group of peace movement folks who are going there for a visit.

Sincerely,
Barbara Webster
March 25, 1970

Dear Mrs. [Redacted],

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,

Cora Weiss  Dave Dellinger

Cora Weiss  Dave Dellinger
May 4, 1970

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, 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.
(Copy of air letter from a referred to as Item 1) in the letter from Rev. Richard Fernandez, dated May 4, 1970)

NGƯỜI GỬI (Address)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

SỞ LĨNH (Service number):

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

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

TRÁI GIẢM PHI CÔNG MỸ BỊ BẤT TẠI NUÔC VIỆT - NAM DÂN CHỦ CÔNG 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 (Address)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):
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</tbody>
</table>

**NGÀY VIỆT (Dated):**

---

**GHI CHÚ (N.B.):**

1. Phải viết rõ và chữ 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*).
COMUNICATION WITH CAPTURED AIRMEN

ESTABLISHED BY NEW COMMITTEE:

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 Service-
men Detained in North Vietnam. The Committee will,
according to Mrs. Weisz, 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. Weisz, 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. Weisz, "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.,
should be addressed to prisoner, serial number, Camp
of Detention for U.S. '66 Captured in the DRV, Hanoi, Democratic
Republic of Vietnam, via Moscow, Soviet Union."Packaging, Mrs. Weisz
added, can only exceed six pounds.

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
interest 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 know-
ledge and resistance of American personnel, are subjected to grotesque
torture, as has been frequently documented, most authentically 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, Stuart Kozach, Peace Education
Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee, said that "Ian
Schneider of the A.F.S.C. has recently been given a packet of 68 letters
in Hong Kong to servicemen and these letters will soon arrive there."

Other persons participating in the press conference included:
Devin, a defendant in the conspiracy trial, the Rev. Richard Fernndon, Director of Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam, and Maggie Goddess and Trudi Young, staff members of the Committee.

In December 1969, Mrs. Cora Weiss and two other women, Ethel Taylor of Philadelphia and Madeleine Dwyer of San Francisco, all active with Women Strike for Peace, came back 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 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. Anna Bennett, Prof. Edu Seidman, Steve Saffwell and Barbara Webster. The Committee's office is at 365 West 42nd Street, 2nd floor, New York, N.Y.

--- 30 --- 30 --- 30 ---

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

Antilwar Group Seen As Liaison To U.S. POWs

NEW YORK (AP) — An office to arrange and facilitate exchange of mail from American soldiers held in North Vietnam and their families was 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 Paul Butler.

Mrs. Weiss said its formation has had numerous requests with families of prisoners it hopes to aid. She said 22 letters from 16 servicemen, each written by hand to long-time, ever since 1962, Thursday, will be mailed to the families.

She said the North Vietnamese had agreed to arrangements by which families could send a letter and a parcel of no more than five pounds each, once every two months. Mrs. Weiss, national leader of the Women's Strike for Peace and chairman of the Non-Mobilization to End the War in Vietnam, returned recently from a trip to Hanoi.

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

Mrs. Weiss said North Vietnamese officials have agreed to reply, to the extent possible, to letters from prisoners.

The office will be at 23 E. and St., Mrs. Weiss said.

[Faces of War Fora Group to Forward Letters to PG. 17]?

[If the above has been corrected, it is unknown to the North Vietnamese, Mrs. Weiss said. Also, the request would have to be sent to the prisoners' families.]

At a press conference here Saturday the organizers said the North Vietnamese had agreed to answer letters from families of holding men who would be allowed to send parcels of no more than five pounds each, once every two months.

Mrs. Weiss said this was the first time the North Vietnamese had agreed to answer letters from families of holding men who would be allowed to send parcels of no more than five pounds each, once every two months.

She said the committee hoped for reasonably prompt responses.

Mrs. Weiss outlined the procedures for such inquiries. Letters from the prisoners were to be sent to headquarters to the Committee's office and then forwarded to the families.

From the New York Times, 1/16/70

From San Diego Union, 1/19/70
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE
NORFOLK

OFFICE OF ORIGIN
NEW YORK

DATE
8/31/70

INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
7/20 - 8/25/70

REPORT MADE BY
SA 62c

CHARACTER OF CASE
IS - MISC.; REGISTRATION ACT

REFERENCE:
Norfolk report of SA 7/6/70.
New York airtel to Bureau, 7/14/70.
Los Angeles letter to Bureau, 7/13/70.
Baltimore airtel to Bureau, 7/21/70.

- P -

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Extra copies of this report are being furnished to the Bureau because of the widespread interest in this case.

...and who are familiar with certain New Left and communist activities in the Norfolk Division, advised that they know nothing concerning COLIFAM.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED

CONVICT. AUTO. FUG. FINES SAVINGS RECOVERIES ACQUITS.

CASE HAS BEEN:

PENDING OVER ONE YEAR YES NO
PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS YES NO

1 - Bureau (100-457899) (RM)
1 - Alexandria (Info) (RM)
1 - Baltimore (Info) (RM)
1 - Chicago (Info) (RM)
3 - New York (100-168469) (RM)
1 - WPO (Info) (RM)
2 - Norfolk (100-5833)

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EXCEPT WHERE ShOWN

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

100 457899 - 109 REC-4

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

ARMY, DSI, NLS, RAO-ISO

REC-16

Notations

1/2/70

Sept 23, 1970

1/3/70

FWD

ICD 910D

ICD DESTROYED

COVER PAGE

62c
LEADS

Information copies are designated for Alexandria, Baltimore, Chicago, and WFO in view of their investigative interests in this matter.

NORFOLK DIVISION

AT VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA. (1) Will interview Mrs. Road, wife of United States Navy, prisoner of war (POW).

(2) Will reinterview Mrs. missing in action (MIA), pursuant to Baltimore airtel dated 7/21/70.

(3) Will recontact Mrs. of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, at

AT NORFOLK, VIRGINIA. Will interview Mrs. wife of United States Air Force, prisoner of war.
UNIVERSAL DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: [Redacted]

Date: 8/31/70

Field Office File #: 100-6833 Bureau File #: 100-457899

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

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS; REGISTRATION ACT

Synopses: Various wives of prisoners of war (POW) in North Vietnam advised they have received correspondence from COLIFAM and COLIFAM has forwarded them letters from their husbands. Virginia, advised she met Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ of COLIFAM who discussed its formation, but she could not recall details.

DETAILS:

On August 13, 1970, Special Agent [Redacted] Naval Investigative Service Office, Norfolk, Virginia, advised that his office is in possession of only public source material concerning COLIFAM which has appeared in the local newspapers. He stated that he is aware that various wives of prisoners of war (POW) and men missing in action (MIA) have had dealings with COLIFAM, but these wives have not furnished any information to his office.

The August 13, 1970, issue of the Virginian-Pilot, a daily newspaper published in Norfolk, Virginia, contains an article which indicates that Mrs. LOUISE MULLIGAN, wife of Commander JAMES ALFRED MULLIGAN, Jr., United States Navy, who is a prisoner of war, was made Virginia state coordinator of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia. She had been the League's coordinator at a four-state area, and she related that the move means the
League has coordinators in all 50 states making it a fully national, chartered nonprofit organization. She related that she will work with concerned citizens and state and civic organizations to call attention to the plight of families of prisoners of war and men missing in action.

The article further indicates that Mrs. IRIS R. POWERS of Lutz, Florida, mother of a missing Army warrant officer, is the national coordinator located in Washington, D. C.

Mrs. MULIGAN of Virginia Beach, Virginia, stated that the League would hold a national convention in Washington October 2-5, 1970. The article indicates she stated, "We have requested a joint session of Congress (to be held during the national convention) be held so that wives and mothers can speak to make all aware of the prisoner issue." The League plans to establish a nationwide speakers bureau and initiate a national billboard project to emphasize and improve the public's understanding of the plight of the families whose men are missing in action. The League's primary objectives are to secure humane treatment of prisoners, stimulate continuing world concern about their fate, improve the flow of information about them, and eventually secure their release.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/31/70

Mrs. Virginia has been declared a prisoner of war (POW). She belongs to the National League of Families of American Prisoners in Southeast Asia. She attended a meeting of that group on the night of March 24, 1970, at the residence of Mrs. in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Also at this meeting was Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ, affiliated with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). She believes Reverend FERNANDEZ discussed the formation of COLIFAM and outlined how the committee was set up. She could not furnish specific details in this regard.

She said Mrs. ETHEL TAYLOR from COLIFAM called her on the telephone long-distance from New York on April 3, 1970, and told her that her husband was a confirmed POW of Hanoi, and she said that a letter from her husband would probably soon follow. She never received the letter and has received no letters from her husband. She said she was not harassed or cajoled. She has not had any mail or personal objects from her husband delivered to her or brought back to her.

Approximately five weeks after receiving the phone call from Mrs. TAYLOR about her husband, called Reverend FERNANDEZ in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and asked him why she had not received the letter from her husband and he said there were two packets of mail lost.

It is her recollection Mrs. TAYLOR told her she had received a cablegram from Stockholm where North Vietnamese officials had given the list of POWs to Reverend FERNANDEZ and two other members of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. She cannot say who the other two members were.

She understands Mrs. Hampton, Virginia, and whose husbands are POWs, were approached in a similar manner in that

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On 7/20/70 at Virginia File # Norfolk 100-6833
by SA Date dictated 7/27/70

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received a phone call from the committee and received some letters from her husband through the committee. Correspondence she has received from COLIFAM has been in the nature of fact sheets. She has not written to the committee requesting any information.
Mrs. Virginia, advised she formerly resided at Hampton, until December, 1969. Her husband is U. S. Air Force, who is a prisoner of war (POW), N. W. Vietnam.

In March, 1970, she received a phone call from Mrs. CORA WEISS, who she understands is co-chairman of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM), who informed her that she had received a communication from Hanoi with a list of thirty names Hanoi had released as being POWs. This list was released by the committee to the Associated Press a short time later. Mrs. WEISS also told her that within two weeks she would receive a letter from her husband, and the letter came within approximately one month. She was not harassed or cajoled and no questions were asked.

She said in May, 1968, she sent a letter to her husband to some peace group which she had heard about through some Navy wives which would deliver the letters to prisoners, but her husband never received the letter. She does not recall the name of the group.

Since receiving the first letter, she has received two other letters from her husband through COLIFAM.

She said Mrs. [obscured] and Mrs. [obscured] are the only other POW families she knows of who were approached in a similar manner by COLIFAM.

The nature of the correspondence she has received from COLIFAM has been a form letter advising she would receive a letter from her husband. She said she has not written to the committee.
Mrs. Virginia, furnished the following information:

Her husband, United States Air Force, was declared a Prisoner of War (POW) in November, 1967. In the latter part of December, 1969, she received a letter from her husband; and, enclosed in the same envelope, was a form letter from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM), which stated that Mrs. TAYLOR, a member of that committee, had just returned from North Vietnam and brought back the enclosed letter from her husband (Major VOGEL).

Mrs. [redacted] pointed out that she has an unlisted telephone number so she has had no telephone contact, and that the above instance is the first contact she has had from COLIFAM.

In April, 1970, she received three letters from her husband through this same group. Prior to receiving these three letters, she received a letter from COLIFAM saying they were expecting a letter from her husband in a package of letters from Hanoi and that it would be forwarded on to her. She has not received any letters from her husband since April.

She said she has not written to COLIFAM and the correspondence she received from that committee was in the nature of a form letter, as previously mentioned.

Mrs. [redacted] said that Mrs. [redacted] and Mrs. [redacted] are the only two other POW families she knows of who were approached in a similar manner by COLIFAM.
Virginia, advised she is the wife of a pilot who was shot down over North Vietnam, 1967, and is a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. She stated that her husband is a pilot in the United States Air Force. She stated that she is aware that Mrs. [redacted] Virginia Beach, Virginia, whose husband likewise is a prisoner of war, in March, 1970, gathered a group of wives at her residence in Virginia Beach to meet with Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ, who is affiliated with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM).

Mrs. [redacted] stated she did not attend this meeting and has never met Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ. Likewise she has never been contacted by anyone from COLIFAM.

She stated that in December, 1969, she sent a letter to COLIFAM so that this letter could be taken to Hanoi by ETHEL TAYLOR of the National Service Division, American Friends Service Committee, 160 North 15th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

On March 18, 1970, she sent a letter and package for ultimate delivery to her husband which she addressed to Lieutenant Colonel GORDON HAGGERTY. Colonel HAGGERTY is the Prisoner of War, Liaison Officer at the Pentagon for the U.S. Air Force. It was her understanding that he was going to arrange the delivery of the letter and package to Hanoi by Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ.

On November 30, 1969, Mrs. [redacted] stated she sent a letter to Mrs. WILLIAM TAYLOR, 1305 Ashford Way, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for ultimate delivery to her husband in North Vietnam. She stated Mrs. TAYLOR is affiliated with COLIFAM.

On 7/31/70 at [redacted] Virginia File # Norfolk 100-6833

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 8/6/70

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Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she has never received any mail or correspondence from her husband by way of anyone connected with COLIFAM. She stated that she has received only one letter from her husband since he was shot down over North Vietnam. This letter was received December 24, 1969, through regular channels. The letter was actually dated October 23, 1969.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that Mrs. [REDACTED] and Mrs. [REDACTED] are the only wives in addition to herself who live in the Newport News-Hampton, Virginia, area, known to her, whose husbands are prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

She stated that Mrs. [REDACTED] Hampton, Virginia, is married to a U.S. Air Force, who is missing in action over North Vietnam. [REDACTED] is not known to be a prisoner of war.

She stated that to the best of her knowledge, Mrs. [REDACTED] is the only one of the above individuals who has met with FERNANDEZ. Mrs. [REDACTED] was present at the meeting in March, 1970, at the home of Mrs. [REDACTED] at Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Mrs. [REDACTED] furnished two letters concerning COLIFAM, one dated December 15, 1969, signed by LOUIS W. SCHNIEDER and one dated January 20, 1970, signed by ROGER G. FREDRICKSON, copies of which are attached.
December 15, 1969

Dear Friend,

This is but a brief note to acknowledge receipt of your letter addressed to your family member who is being held as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam.

My current plans call for me to arrive in North Vietnam on or about 26 December at which point I hope to be able to turn your letter along with a large number of other letters from the immediate families of men being held to the appropriate authorities of the Democratic Republic of North Vietnam, along with my request that the letters be delivered to the individual prisoners.

After my return to the United States I will write to you again to let you know whether it was possible to deliver the letters.

Most sincerely yours,

Louis W. Schneider
Associate Executive Secretary
January 20, 1970

Dear Friend,

I am happy to report that during my visit to North Vietnam between December 26, 1969, and January 9, 1970, I was able to deliver to the representatives of the Vietn (Viet Nam Committee for Solidarity with American People) about 500 letters that had been forwarded on to me by you and other family members of prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

Immediately prior to my departure from North Vietnam I was given 69 letters from 69 American prisoners of war, and in keeping with the North Vietnamese request these letters have been given to the

Committee of Liaison with Families of Service men detained in North Vietnam
365 W. 42nd Street
New York, New York

for transmittal to the individual addressees. We at the American Friends Service Committee are pleased to have had a part in opening a channel for communication between the prisoners and their families and hope that this will continue.

You may be interested to know that during my visit to North Vietnam I was able to deliver a second contribution of open heart surgical equipment to the Benh Vien Viet-Duc Hospital in Hanoi in keeping with a long-standing Quaker concern for civilian sufferers on both sides of a war.

Following my departure from North Vietnam I traveled on to Quang Ngai in South Vietnam to visit the American Friends Service Committee (Quaker) rehabilitation project for civilian casualties.

I have asked my colleagues in Philadelphia to mail this letter to you prior to my return to the United States, so that you might know more promptly that your letter has safely arrived in Hanoi and was given to the appropriate North Vietnamese authorities with my specific request that it be delivered to the individual addressee.

Most sincerely yours,

[Signature]

for: Louis W. Schneider
Roger G. Fredrickson

RF/h
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/14/70

Mrs. Virginia, advised she is the wife of United States Air Force, who has been missing in action since 1968, in North Vietnam.

Mrs. stated that she has never received any correspondence from her husband from any source since he was reported missing in action. She stated she has never met Reverend RICHARD FERNÁNDEZ of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). She stated, however, she has tried to contact her husband through COLIFAM and she furnished some items of correspondence described as follows: (copies of these letters are attached).


Letter dated January 20, 1970, to "Dear Friend", signed ROGER G. FREDRICKSON.


On 8/6/70 at Virginia File # Norfolk 100-6833
by SA Date dictated 8/10/70

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Letter dated July 27, 1970, to "Dear Mrs. [Redacted]," signed by KENNETH KIRKPATRICK, which enclosed a list of 335 names reportedly officially confirmed by Hanoi to be prisoners held in North Vietnam, April, 1970.

Letter dated July 28, 1970, to "Mrs. [Redacted]," signed by BARBARA WEBSTER
December 15, 1969

Dear Friend,

This is but a brief note to acknowledge receipt of your letter addressed to your family member who is being held as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam.

My current plans call for me to arrive in North Vietnam on or about 26 December at which point I hope to be able to turn your letter along with a large number of other letters from the immediate families of men being held to the appropriate authorities of the Democratic Republic of North Vietnam, along with my request that the letters be delivered to the individual prisoners.

After my return to the United States I will write to you again to let you know whether it was possible to deliver the letters.

Most sincerely yours,

Louis W. Schneider
Associate Executive Secretary
January 21, 1970

Dear [Redacted]

I am sorry that it has taken me so long to write to you but I've been waiting until I could make definite suggestions to you and now I am pleased to say I can.

I regret very much that I did not bring back a letter for you but now an organization has been set up between the Peace Movement and Hanoi specifically for the purpose of forwarding mail and forwarding inquiries regarding prisoners from the immediate family.

The organization is the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam and is located at 365 W. 42nd Street, New York City, N.Y., 10036.

I am a member of this Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any reason.

Cordially,

[Signature]

Ethel Taylor
Mrs. William Taylor

1505 Ashford Way
Phila., Pa., 19151
MI 2-9078 (Area Code 215)

P.S. You will shortly receive information directly from the Committee of Liaison with details of its operation.
January 20, 1970

Dear Friend,

I am happy to report that during my visit to North Vietnam between December 26, 1969, and January 9, 1970, I was able to deliver to the representatives of the Viet Nam Committee for Solidarity with American People about 500 letters that had been forwarded on to me by you and other family members of prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

Immediately prior to my departure from North Vietnam I was given 69 letters from 69 American prisoners of war, and in keeping with the North Vietnamese request these letters have been given to the

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for transmittal to the individual addressees. We at the American Friends Service Committee are pleased to have had a part in opening a channel for communication between the prisoners and their families and hope that this will continue.

You may be interested to know that during my visit to North Vietnam I was able to deliver a second contribution of open heart surgical equipment to the Benh Vien Viet-Duc Hospital in Hanoi in keeping with a long-standing Quaker concern for civilian sufferers on both sides of a war.

Following my departure from North Vietnam I traveled on to Quang Ngai in South Vietnam to visit the American Friends Service Committee's (Quaker) rehabilitation project for civilian casualties.

I have asked my colleagues in Philadelphia to mail this letter to you prior to my return to the United States, so that you might know more promptly that your letter has safely arrived in Hanoi and was given to the appropriate North Vietnamese authorities with my specific request that it be delivered to the individual addressee.

Most sincerely yours,

for: Louis W. Schneider
Roger G. Fredrickson

RF/h
January 27, 1970

Dear Mrs.

Ethel Taylor, a member of our newly-formed committee, which will facilitate communication between American servicemen held in North Vietnam and their families, has asked us to contact you. We are enclosing an Information Sheet describing the Committee of Liaison.

We have also duplicated the enclosed letter form which you may wish to use in writing your relative. The North Vietnamese have said that prisoners can send and receive one letter per month and one package (not more than six pounds in weight) every other month. Note the address and mail route given in the Information Sheet.

If you would like us to try to find out if your relative is a prisoner in North Vietnam, send his full name, service number and any details you have on when and where he was shot down. We will then transmit the inquiry to the North Vietnamese and are hopeful of receiving a response to every request made.

It is important to understand that there undoubtedly were many pilots whose planes were shot down but whom the North Vietnamese could not rescue, and that there are prisoners held by the Provisional Revolutionary Government in South Vietnam and by the Pathet Lao in Laos about whom we are not able to get information.

We understand your anguish in not knowing about your relative and we sincerely hope we can be of help in getting information about him for you.

Sincerely,

Barbara Webster

P.S. We apologize for sending a mimeographed letter but we wanted to get this word to you as quickly as possible.
INFORMATION SHEET

Background

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

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

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

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

Functions of the Committee

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

The Committee will seek to facilitate communication between families of the U.S. and servicemen now imprisoned in North Vietnam. Basically the Committee will receive letters from servicemen and forward them through the domestic mails, thereby decreasing, we hope, past problems in the receipt of such mail. We will also forward letters to North Vietnam on the request of relatives. Families are of course still free to send their own letters and parcels directly but should note that the instructions previously issued by the State Department are wrong. The correct address is:
requests for information about servicemen from families who are uncertain if their relatives are being held in North Vietnam. Requests should be submitted to the Committee, but there is no certainty when and if the North Vietnamese will be able to respond. The Committee will of course transmit immediately any information that it receives to the family.

Clarification

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

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

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

Who We Are

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

We are active in a variety of organizations committed to ending the war: American Friends Service Committee, the New Mobilization to End the War in Vietnam, Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Abortion Strike for Peace, The Conspiracy, and Women Against War. The Committee is supported by contributions from these and other organizations, and welcomes any gifts to sustain its operations.
Dear Mrs. [Redacted]

I deeply regret that it was not possible for me to deliver the enclosed as you had requested when I went to Hanoi in June 1970. I was told in Hanoi by Mr. Tran Trong Quat of the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity with the American People that that Committee has compiled a list of 335 American servicemen who it says are held in detention camps in North Vietnam. (See attached list.) This Committee does not have responsibility for the administration of camps of detention in North Vietnam, but is the committee which invited me to visit Hanoi. Mr. Quat would accept from me only those letters which were addressed to persons on the list of 335. This is the same list which was turned over to the Committee of Liaison last April.

Mr. Quat informed me that the North Vietnam authorities have no information regarding Americans who have been captured in areas outside North Vietnam. In other words, although the name of a person who is believed to have been shot down over Laos, Cambodia, China or South Vietnam does not appear on the North Vietnam list of 335, this does not mean that that person has not survived. It only means that according to the North Vietnamese he is not a person known to them or held by them and that they, therefore, cannot deliver letters or packages to him.

Regarding those reportedly shot down over North Vietnam the refusal of Mr. Quat to accept letters for delivery because their names are not on the list of 335 implies, of course, a more somber situation, but I learned nothing more specific than that as to any particular individual.

My recent trip to Southeast Asia took me both to Hanoi and to Saigon. Both in North Vietnam and in South Vietnam, as well as here in the United States, one cannot help but see how this war has brought tragedy and sorrow into the lives of all affected by it, Americans and Vietnamese alike.

Again let me express my sincere regret that I was not able to deliver the enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth Kirkpatrick
Peace Education Secretary
AFSC
814 N.E. 40th Street
Seattle, Washington 98105

(List of names not being included herein.)
NGUỒI GỬI (Address)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

SỐ LƯỢNG (Service number):

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

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

TRÀI GIẤM PHI CỘNG MY BỊ BẤT TAI
NUOC 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 (Address)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):
SHI CHỦ (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, khoản kho và quy định này (Letters from families should also conform to this proforma).
July 28, 1970

Dear Mrs. [Redacted]

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 this policy to us. We are, therefore, regretfully returning the enclosed letter to you.

It should be noted that the North Vietnamese reiterated that they are responsible only for men shot down and captured over North Vietnam, and that they have no way of delivering mail to men missing in other countries.

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.

Sincerely,

Barbara Webster

Barbara Webster

P.S. I am sorry for the delay in returning the letter to you but we wanted to wait until Ken Kirkpatrick returned to this country so we could talk with him.
Virginia, furnished the following information:

Her husband is in the U.S. Air Force and while piloting an F-105 aircraft was shot down in North Vietnam in October, 1967 and he has been declared a prisoner of war (POW).

She has received only two letters from her husband since his capture by the North Vietnamese. Both letters were forwarded to her by cover letter from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). The first letter was received about six months ago and the last, four months ago.

She recalled that she first heard from COLIFAM around January, 1970 when they furnished her an information sheet indicating that they might be able to forward mail to and from POWs. She has retained none of the correspondence that she has received from COLIFAM. No representative thereof has contacted her personally and COLIFAM has not pressured her into joining their organization or contributing financially to it.

She recalled that a Reverend FERNANDEZ telephoned her sister, Mrs. [redacted] who lives at the Air Force Base in Victorville, California, several months ago, stating that he knew Mrs. [redacted] and her husband and wanted Mrs. [redacted] did not furnish the address to him.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that she is a member of the National League of Families of American Prisoners in Southeast Asia, but does not participate in any of its activities. She stated that she has not traveled overseas or out of the area in an effort to ascertain further information concerning her husband. She has not testified before any Congressional Committee.
Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she and her husband have four children and that she wants to avoid publicity in this matter. She stated that only her immediate family and a few close personal friends in Portsmouth openly know the status of her husband as a POW.

She wants to avoid the "limelight" and would not be willing to testify to the above.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 17, 1970

Virginia Beach, Virginia

Mr. [Redacted] furnished the following information:

She is the wife of [Redacted], U.S. Navy, who was shot down over North Vietnam on 25 November 1967, and he has been declared missing in action (MIA).

Mrs. [Redacted] furnished two copies of a photograph which was extracted by the Navy from a Japanese propaganda film released during Christmas of 1967 and she stated the photographs are those of a person who she feels is identical with her husband.

She further related that when Captain RUMBLE, U.S. Air Force, a former prisoner of war (POW) in Hanoi was released several months ago, he indicated that he had been in three POW camps and that when he had entered the second camp, her husband's name had been listed as a POW. She also related that the Navy has advised her that they had otherwise learned that her husband had been seen at a POW camp.

In 1967, Mrs. [Redacted] and Mrs. [Redacted] had gone to New York and conferred with DAVID DELLINGER and several others who are affiliated with some peace organization and she sent a letter to her husband along with the women who in turn gave the letter to DELLINGER. She stated, however, that she has never received any mail from her husband.

Over the years, she has heard through various sources that certain people, such as STEWART MEACHAM, were going to Hanoi and she has sent mail with these persons. On one occasion, she actually telephonically talked with MEACHAM and asked him if he could inquire concerning her husband. He has furnished no information concerning him, however.

8/13/70 Virginia Beach, Virginia File # Norfolk 100-6833

On

by SA [Redacted] Date dictated 8/14/70

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In early 1970, she began to receive correspondence from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). She stated that this group apparently had been formed to ascertain information about POWs and MIAs and to arrange to get mail back and forth between the POWs and their wives. She has received considerable correspondence from COLIFAM since the early part of the year.

She furnished the most recent letter from COLIFAM dated August 3, 1970, which is set forth subsequently. In addition, she furnished a letter dated July 27, 1970, from the American Friends Service Committee, a xerox copy of which follows.

In February, 1970, she directed a letter to COLIFAM telling them about her husband's circumstances and pointing out that she had reason to believe that he was a POW. She received a reply from COLIFAM indicating that they would cable his name to Hanoi and that they would subsequently advise her. She has received no information indicating that her husband actually is a POW.

During the last several months, she has been regularly sending letters on a prescribed Navy form to her husband through COLIFAM.

She expressed an opinion that COLIFAM had thought that it would obtain more information concerning the POWs from Hanoi than it actually has. She has no information concerning the actual formation of COLIFAM.

She related that she has never tried to obtain information concerning her husband from the Women Strike for Peace. She has never been contacted by the Women Strike for Peace nor any other person knowingly affiliated with COLIFAM other than STEWART MEACHAM.

In May, 1970, she went to Washington, D. C. to talk with the Swedish Ambassador in an effort to obtain information on her husband. The Ambassador related that he would contact his, the Swedish Government, but she has received no information from the Ambassador since that time.
She related that she has engaged in no foreign travel in an effort to obtain information concerning her husband.

She stated that she is a member of the National League of Families of American Prisoners in Southeast Asia. 

Mrs. [ REDACTED ] stated that she would be willing to testify as to the above, but feels that her information concerning COLIFAM is quite limited.
August 3, 1970

Dear Mrs. [Redacted]

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, but the North Vietnamese accepted only those for the 335 men who are officially confirmed to be prisoners there. 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. We have made a special request about the few men for whom there is some evidence they survive their air raid. Should we receive any information about your husband we will certainly contact you immediately.

Sincerely,

Barbara Webster

P.S. I am sorry for the delay in writing. We wanted to wait until Ken had returned and we could talk with him.
July 27, 1970

Dear [Redacted]

E012812-2

I deeply regret that it was not possible for me to deliver the enclosed letters you had requested when I went to Hanoi in June 1970. I was told in Hanoi by Mr. Tran Trong Quat of the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity with the American People that that Committee has compiled a list of 335 American servicemen who it says are held in detention camps in North Vietnam. (See attached list.) This Committee does not have responsibility for the administration of camps of detention in North Vietnam, but is the committee which invited me to visit Hanoi. Mr. Quat would accept from me only those letters which were addressed to persons on the list of 335. This is the same list which was turned over to the Committee of Liaison last April.

Mr. Quat informed me that the North Vietnam authorities have no information regarding Americans who have been captured in areas outside North Vietnam. In other words, although the name of a person who is believed to have been shot down over Laos, Cambodia, China or South Vietnam does not appear on the North Vietnam list of 335, this does not mean that that person has not survived. It only means that according to the North Vietnamese he is not known to them or held by them and that they, therefore, cannot deliver letters or packages to him.

Regarding those reportedly shot down over North Vietnam the refusal of Mr. Quat to accept letters for delivery because their names are not on the list of 335 implies, of course, a more somber situation, but I learned nothing more specific than that as to any particular individual.

My recent trip to Southeast Asia took me both to Hanoi and to Saigon. I saw both in North Vietnam and in South Vietnam, as well as here in the United States. I cannot help but see how this war has brought tragedy and sorrow into the lives of all affected by it, Americans and Vietnamese alike.

Again let me express my sincere regret that I was not able to deliver the enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth Kirkpatrick
Peace Education Secretary
AFSC
814 N.E. 40th Street
Seattle, Washington 98105

KK:vh
encl.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 17, 1970

Mrs. [redacted], Virginia Beach, Virginia, furnished the following information:

Mrs. [redacted] related that she is the wife of a U.S. Navy, who was shot down over North Vietnam and declared a prisoner of war (POW) in July, 1965.

She stated that approximately 3½ years ago she and some of the other wives of POWs learned that a group representing some peace organization was going to North Vietnam. After contacting Naval Intelligence, Washington, D.C., the Navy suggested to her and Mrs. [redacted], another wife of a POW, that they personally contact the group, which was located in New York City, and take with them letters to their husbands. The personal visit was apparently necessary because the group was leaving within two days and there was not enough time to mail the letters to the group.

She related that she and Mrs. [redacted] went to an office of some unidentified peace newspaper in New York, in an effort to talk to Tom Hayden, Father Berrigan, and David Dellinger. They were referred to an apartment. They went to the apartment where they conferred with Hayden, Berrigan, and Dellinger and an unidentified professor. The apartment was located near Greenwich Village, but she could not recall the address. She and Mrs. [redacted] asked the men if it were possible that they see their husbands. They took with them pictures of their husbands and letters from a number of POW wives. The group was cordial and suggested to the women that they become vocal in expressing anti-war sentiments. They said they would do whatever possible in Hanoi.

After this, Father Berrigan and the professor actually went to Hanoi. After the men returned to the United States, the two

- 30 -

On 8/13/70 at Virginia Beach, Virginia File # Norfolk 100-6833

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 8/14/70

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men contacted and told her that they had given the mail to the North Vietnamese to give to the POWs. BERRIGAN and the professor brought out three POWs and the POWs were returned to the United States. Neither BERRIGAN nor the professor actually contacted Mrs.

Mrs. stated that prior to Christmas of 1969, she had received eight letters from her husband through the Postal Service from Hanoi. Since that time, she has received five additional letters from her husband, which were transmitted by the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). The last was received in mid-June, 1970.

COLIFAM sends each letter with a cover letter saying they are happy to transmit the letter from her husband. In one letter, COLIFAM asked for donations to the group.

She exhibited a letter dated May 4, 1970 from Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ addressed to "The Families of the 335 Presently Confirmed Prisoners Held in North Vietnam." The subject matter was "Information on Correspondence with Prisoners." The letter bore the masthead of COLIFAM and was two pages long.

Mrs. stated that generally she writes to her husband on a monthly basis through the Postal Service, using prescribed form given to the POW wives by the Navy.

Mrs. has had no contact with COLIFAM and has had no personal dealings with the Women Strike for Peace, although on several occasions in 1969, or thereabouts, she had sent letters to her husband through DAGMAR WILSON of the Women Strike for Peace, as Mrs. a wife of a POW, had told her that representatives of that organization were going to Hanoi.

In early 1970, Mrs. had received an invitation from CORA WEISS of the Women Strike for Peace to attend a reception at some Congressional Building in Washington, which Mrs. did not attend.

Mrs. has not traveled outside of the country in an effort to ascertain information concerning her husband and has not testified before any Congressional Committee.

- 31 -
She stated that she has no information as to the origin of COLIFAM and at this time was unable to locate any correspondence from them. She stated it is her personal opinion that Hanoi had asked COLIFAM to be a clearing house for mail between the POWs and their wives and by doing this, this has given COLIFAM favorable publicity as a peace organization. She recalled reading of in a local newspaper that the Attorney, WILLIAM KUNSTLER had been called to Paris by the North Vietnamese and that thereafter a committee was set up to deal with the POW situation.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that she has no desire to testify in regards to the above and stated that any prosecution of COLIFAM, if it were forthcoming, would hinder the sending and receipt of mail between POWs and their wives.

She produced a letter which she had received from the American Friends Service Committee, dated January 20, 1970, and a xero copy follows.
January 20, 1970

Dear Friend,

I am happy to report that during my visit to North Vietnam between December 26, 1969, and January 9, 1970, I was able to deliver to the representatives of the Vietmy (Vietnam Committee for Solidarity with American People) about 500 letters that had been forwarded on to me by you and other family members of prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

Immediately prior to my departure from North Vietnam I was given 59 letters from 64 American prisoners of war, and in keeping with the North Vietnamese request these letters have been given to the Committee of Liaison with Families of Service men detained in North Vietnam
365 W. 42nd Street
New York, New York

for transmittal to the individual addressees. We at the American Friends Service Committee are pleased to have had a part in opening a channel for communication between the prisoners and their families and hope that this will continue.

You may be interested to know that during my visit to North Vietnam I was able to deliver a second contribution of open heart surgical equipment to the Benh Vien Viet-Duc hospital in Hanoi in keeping with the long-standing Quaker concern for civilian sufferers on both sides of a war.

Following my departure from North Vietnam I traveled on to Quang Ngai in South Vietnam to visit the American Friends Service Committee’s rehabilitation project for civilian casualties.

I have asked my colleagues in Philadelphia to mail this letter to you prior to my return to the United States; so that you might know more fully that your letter has safely arrived in Hanoi and was given to the appropriate North Vietnamese authorities with my specific request that it be delivered to the individual addressees.

Most sincerely yours,

[Signature]

for: Louis W. Schneider
Roger G. Fredrickson

RF/h
Mrs. [Redacted], Virginia, furnished the following information:

She is the wife of [Redacted], U.S. Navy, who was shot down in combat over North Vietnam in September, 1968, and was declared a prisoner of war (POW) in October, 1968.

In about January, 1970, she received her first correspondence from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). This was in the form of an "information sheet", which she did not read in detail. In February, 1970, she received a special delivery letter from CORA WEISS of COLIFAM telling her that her husband's name had been released by Hanoi to COLIFAM as a POW and that she would be receiving mail.

In March, 1970, she received her first letter from her husband. This letter was transmitted to her from COLIFAM with a form letter, a copy of which is attached.

She received her second letter from her husband through COLIFAM with a cover sheet from COLIFAM headed "Communication with Captured Airmen Established by New Committee: Letters en route now." A copy of this is attached.

She assumes that Reverend FERNANDEZ of COLIFAM was responsible for bringing out the second letter. She stated this is based on information she received from other POW wives who advised her that FERNANDEZ had gone to Hanoi where he spoke with several POWs and had returned with mail.

On virtually a monthly basis, she mailed letters to her husband through the U.S. Postal Service to Hanoi using a prescribed form of the North Vietnam Government, which the Navy had furnished to her. She does not send mail to her husband through COLIFAM.

On 8/21/70 at Virginia Beach, Virginia File # Norfolk 100-6833

by SA [Redacted] Date dictated 8/21/70

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She related that she has had no conversations with anyone on COLIFAM and she has not been pressured to affiliate with the organization. She stated that she has not travelled overseas in an effort to ascertain information concerning her husband as she felt such travel would serve no useful purpose.

She stated that she along with many other wives of POWs and men missing in action belong to the National League of Families of American Persons Missing in Southeast Asia.

She stated that she would be willing to testify before any hearing concerning the above, although she pointed out she actually has very limited information.
Dear Sir:

We're very happy to forward this letter to you which just arrived from North Vietnam along with 80 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

Barbara Webster Maggie for the Committee of Liaison
Memorandum

TO: DIRECTION, FBI (100-457899)

FROM: SAC, CHARLOTTE (100-10986)

DATE: 9/8/70

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIPAM)

IS - MISC REGISTRATION ACT

Re New York letter to Director dated 6/9/70.

On 9/2/70, Mrs. Goldarbour, N. C., advised SA that Mrs., wife of , a prisoner in Vietnam, is residing in Virginia, and can be located through a sister-in-law Mrs. Virginia. She advised that has purchased a trailer and is living in same in ALEXANDRIA:

VIRGINIA.

Will locate and interview Mrs. as set forth.

in referenced communication.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED.

EX 106

F3J

60 SEP 1 71970

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)
FROM: SAC RICHMOND (100-11215) RUC

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH
FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED
IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)
IS - MISCELLANEOUS; REGISTRATION ACT
(00: NEW YORK)

Re Richmond airtel to the Director, 7/27/70.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 2 copies of an FD-302
reflecting interview of 8/19/70 with Mrs.
wife of U. S. Naval who has been a prisoner of war in North Vietnam
since 6/66.

Also enclosed for the Bureau is one copy each of
Xerox copies of the following:

(A) Information Sheet dated 1/1970, setting forth
background and functions of captioned committee.

(B) Letter dated 5/4/70 on letterhead of captioned
committee from Rev. RICHARD FERNANDEZ concerning information
on how to correspond with prisoners.

(C) Copy of blank "air-letter" form enclosed with
5/4/70 letter from Rev. FERNANDEZ.

1 - Bureau (Encl. 8)(REGISTERED MAIL)
2 - New York (Encl. 14)(100-168469)(REGISTERED MAIL)
1 - Philadelphia (Enclosures - 7)(REGISTERED MAIL)
1 - Richmond

ENCLOSURE
"ENCLOSURE ATTACHED"
(D) Letter dated 6/14/70 on letterhead from captioned committee addressed "Dear friend" and signed "Barbara Webster" which letter enclosed letter to Mrs. [Redacted] from her husband.

(E) Letter described same as "D" above dated 6/25/70 which had enclosed letter from Mrs. [Redacted] husband.

(F) Letter dated 1/20/70, on letterhead of American Friends Service Committee, Inc., 160 North 15th Street, Philadelphia, Pa., 19102, in which letter captioned committee is mentioned.

Enclosed for New York are 8 copies of FD-302 setting forth interview of Mrs. [Redacted] One copy of this FD-302 is enclosed for Philadelphia in view of the fact that American Friends Service Committee Inc., is located in Philadelphia, Pa.

Enclosed for both New York and Philadelphia is one copy each of Xerox copies of documents and letters identified above under enclosures to the Bureau as A - F.

It is noted that prior to interview of Mrs. [Redacted] that she was advised that the purpose of the interview was to determine if the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam had been in contact with her, and that the investigation was to be made in an effort to determine if this Committee was engaging in political activity in the United States at the request of North Vietnam without complying with the requirements of the Foreign Registration Act. She was further advised that this investigation was being conducted by the FBI specifically at the request of Mr. J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General of the United States.

Mrs. [Redacted] advised that she is the wife of U. S. Navy who has been a prisoner of war in North Vietnam since 1/66.
Mrs. stated that while she feels that captive Committee is a communist front organization, she is willing to utilize any and all means of communicating with her husband.

She said that since her husband's capture in June 1966 she has received a total of seven letters from him. She said that all information received by her and copies of all correspondence received by her have been made available to the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) and to the Bureau of Naval Personnel in Washington, D.C.

She said that in view of the fact that her husband is a captive in North Vietnam and has been for four years, that she would not be willing to testify publicly in a trial against captione Committee. She said she based this stand on fear that the North Vietnam Government might take reprisal against her husband in the event she testified.

She stated that she has been and will continue to keep ONI advised of any information coming to her attention pertinent to her husband and the captione Committee.

In view of Mrs. statement concerning her wishes not to testify publicly, no LNK suitable for dissemination is being prepared by Richmond.

Mrs. made Xerox copies of enclosed correspondence pertaining to captione Committee available to SA on 8/19/70, stating that they constituted all correspondence she has received from that organization or pertaining to that organization.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/24/70

Mrs. [Name Redacted] interviewed at her place of employment, the
Richmond, Virginia, where she is employed in the

U. S. Army Virginia. She furnished the following information:

Her husband, a U. S. Navy Pilot is

reported to have been shot down over North Vietnam
1966. She received no confirmation of whether her
husband was dead or alive until she received a letter from
her husband, which came directly to her from Hanoi, North
Vietnam in January 1967. Since her husband has been a
prisoner of war, she has received a total of seven letters
from him; the first being the January 1967 letter and the
second being in April 1969. She received one letter in
June 1969 and two in December 1969. She has received two
letters from her husband in June 1970.

The two letters received in December 1969 were
forwarded to her through the Committee of Liaison with
Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, and
one of the June 1970 letters was forwarded to her through
this same Committee.

Her first contact with this Committee was when
she received a letter from her husband in 1969; however,
the Committee furnished no explanation as to its purpose,
membership, etc. Subsequently in January 1970, she re-
ceived a typewritten two-page letter on the letterhead
of this Committee dated January 1970, captioned "Information
Sheet", which set forth names of the officers of this
organization, background and its functions. She has never
received any personal contact with anyone representing
themselves as spokesmen for this Committee but only in-
formal-type correspondences.

8/19/70 E012412-2

Richmond, Virginia

File #

New York 100-168469

Thumbprint

Date dictated 8/21/70

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your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

ENCLOSURE
Mrs. [Redacted] made available Xerox copies of all correspondence received from this organization.

Since her husband's capture, she has received none of his personal possessions and no other contact has been made with him with the exception of the seven letters received by her to date.

It is her opinion that a person having someone confined as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam would have been contacted by the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam when the prisoner of war addresses a letter to that member of his family. The Committee obtains the address and identity of that individual from the prisoner of war's correspondence and thereafter contacts the member in that city.

She stated that she is aware that certain other individuals with husbands or family members confined as prisoners of war in North Vietnam have been contacted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation concerning this Committee; however, she stated that she was not aware of the identities of any of these individuals who have not already been contacted.

Mrs. [Redacted] advised she is a graduate of Virginia, and has on numerous occasions appeared publicly and on television in an effort to try to secure in some way the return of her husband and other Americans confined in North Vietnam. She stated that her one aim in life is to have her husband returned safely to this country, and she would be willing to do most anything to bring this about; however, she stated on the other hand, she would not be willing to do anything she felt would bring him harm or lessen his chances of return.
GHI CHÚ (N.B.):

1. Phiếu 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 đơn đăng phải theo đúng mẫu, khuôn khổ và quy định nấy (Letters from families should also conform to this form).
NGƯỜI GỬI (Address)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

SỐ LỊCH (Service number):

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

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

TRẢI GIẢM PHI CÔNG MỸ BỊ BẢT TAI
NUÔC 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 (Address)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON
with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam
365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

CABLE ADDRESS:
COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:
Dove Dellinger
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee
Richard J. Barnett
Rennie Davis
Madeleine Dukles
Prof. Richard Falk
Rev. Richard Fernandez
Norman Fruchter
*Maggie Goddes
Steve Hallwell
Prc. Donato Kalish
Stewart Meacham
Prof. Bee Seitzman
Prof. Franz Schurmann
Ethel Taylor
*Barbara Webster
Trudi Young

*staff

June 26, 1970

Dear friend:

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
January 20, 1970

Dear Friend,

I am happy to report that during my visit to North Vietnam between December 26, 1969, and January 9, 1970, I was able to deliver to the representatives of the Vietmy (Viet Nam Committee for Solidarity with American People) about 500 letters that had been forwarded on to me by you and other family members of prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

Immediately prior to my departure from North Vietnam I was given 69 letters from 64 American prisoners of war, and in keeping with the North Vietnamese request these letters have been given to the

Committee of Liaison with Families of Service men detained in North Vietnam
365 W. 42nd Street
New York, New York

for transmittal to the individual addressees. We at the American Friends Service Committee are pleased to have had a part in opening a channel for communication between the prisoners and their families and hope that this will continue.

You may be interested to know that during my visit to North Vietnam I was able to deliver a second contribution of open heart surgical equipment to the Benh Vien Viet-Duc Hospital in Hanoi—in keeping with a longstanding Quaker concern for civilian sufferers on both sides of a war.

Following my departure from North Vietnam I traveled on to Quang Ngai in South Vietnam to visit the American Friends Service Committee (Quaker) rehabilitation project for civilian casualties.

I have asked my colleagues in Philadelphia to mail this letter to you prior to my return to the United States, so that you might know more promptly that your letter has safely arrived in Hanoi and was given to the appropriate North Vietnamese authorities with my specific request that it be delivered to the individual addressees.

Most sincerely yours,

[Signature]

for: Louis W. Schneider
Roger G. Fredrickson
June 14, 1970

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 Joan Paleydoen, Nancy Rubin and Judy Glafer -- 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
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 Dowell 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 LIASON
with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

355 West 22nd Street New York N.Y. 10011 212-765-1490

January, 1970

INFORMATION SHEET

Background

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

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

It is therefore understandable that the Vietnamese should indicate their basic confidence in the American people through the peace movement which has emerged from the same common beliefs.

In the past, the Vietnamese have asked the peace movement to receive U.S. servicemen—primarily pilots whose planes were shot down—when the North Vietnamese government has decided to release them. On three separate occasions—-February 1966, July 1968 and July 1969—the peace movement has gone to Hanoi and returned with released servicemen on one occasion an American peace activist went to Phnom Penh, Cambodia to receive three released NLF captives.

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

Functions of the Committee

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

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

name of serviceman
social number
Camp of Detention of U.S. Pilots Captured in the D.R.V.
Hanoi, Democratic Republic of Vietnam
requests for information about servicemen from families who are uncertain if their relatives are being held in North Vietnam. Requests should be submitted to the Committee, but there is no certainty when and if the North Vietnamese will be able to respond. The Committee will of course transmit immediately any information that it receives to the family.

Clarification

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

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

To all the families who are waiting ultimately upon a U.S. decision to end the war and withdraw all its forces and material.

Who We Are

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

We are active in a variety of organizations committed to ending the war: American Friends Service Committee, the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, Clergy and Laymen Concerned about Vietnam, Women Strike for Peace, The Conspiracy, and Women Against Daddy Warbucks. The Committee is supported by donations from individuals and organizations, and welcomes any gifts to sustain its work.
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH
FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN
DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM
(COLIFAM)

REPORT MADE BY:  620
CHARACTER OF CASE
REGISTRATION ACT-NORTH VIETNAM

REFERENCES:
New York airtel and LHM to Bureau, 6/9/70.
San Antonio letter to Director, 8/27/70.
San Diego report of SA dated 6/9/70.
Los Angeles letter to New York dated 8/20/70.

ADMINISTRATIVE:
Investigation is continuing in the NY Division to
interview relatives of prisoners of war contacted by COLIFAM.

NY is not setting forth additional leads on material
furnished by SA in referenced communication. This material will
be maintained for future possible use.

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

100 457899-112  REC-3
SEP 11 1970

Cover Page
ADMINISTRATIVE (CONT'D)

Pretext telephone call made to COLIFAM on 8/25/70
was by SA 626
Source used to describe CORA WEISS is former

No leads are being set forth by the NY Division at
this time. It is felt that when all interviews are conducted,
appropriate leads can be correlated at that time.

No local dissemination is being made at this time.
By suitable pretext telephone call dated August 25, 1970, it was determined that the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) is no longer operating out of 365 West 42nd Street, New York, New York (NY). It was determined that the new address is 5022 Waldo Avenue, Bronx, NY. This address is the home of CORA WEISS, Co-Chairman of COLIFAM.

In March, 1956, a source advised that WEISS, then CORA RUBIN while attending the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, was present at a public meeting sponsored by the University of Wisconsin Chapter of the Labor Youth League (LYL).

The LYL has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

All information contained herein is unclassified.

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Attached herewith are interviews reflecting contact by COLIFAM with relatives of servicemen missing in Vietnam or known to be prisoners of war.
On July 17, 1970, New York (NY), was contacted and he advised that he is the brother of United States Air Force.

Mr. stated that as of November, 1967, his brother has been missing in action. He further stated that he has handled all his brother's matters for the family and in so handling these affairs involving contact with the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM).

On January 19, 1970, stated that he had a meeting with several members who had relatives as prisoners of war (POW). These individuals included a pow residing in Belgium; The purpose of this meeting was to get acquainted and to coordinate efforts on behalf of the POW relatives.

Subsequent to this meeting, stated that on January 23, 1970, he and walked in unannounced to the headquarters of COLIFAM. stated that they spoke to MAGGIE GEDDES. GEDDES appeared to as being extremely intelligent and well versed in her work. told and that COLIFAM worked out a commitment with the North Vietnam Government to have mail relayed from the families to the POW and visa versa. GEDDES also stated that COLIFAM would be in a position to verify if a serviceman was actually a POW or missing in action.

stated that was interested in this matter in view of the fact that his son was missing in Vietnam.

stated that he and drew up a memorandum of this meeting and furnished it to Colonel MILTON K. KEGLEY, Military Assistant to Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense.

On 7/17/70 at New York File # NY 100-168469

by SA 7/20/70

Date dictated 7/20/70

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concluded that he had in his possession several pieces of mail from COLIFAM, one of which states that COLIFAM is acting on behalf of the North Vietnamese Government, but that he would prefer not giving them for possible evidentiary material. He stated that unless a subpoena was issued, he would prefer not to testify in this matter. He stated that his brother has an extensive background in engineering and is possibly in a very difficult position if he is a POW. He stated any testimony on his part would greatly endanger his brother if he is still alive.
On July 25, 1970, Mrs. New York, New York (NY), was contacted and she advised that her husband United States Air Force Pilot, has been missing in action since July 13, 1969. Mrs. stated that to date she is not a known prisoner of war (POW). Mrs. stated she believes her husband was shot down over Ban Song Khone, Laos and is unaware if he is still alive.

Mrs. stated she has never been consoled or harassed by any members of the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) but has received correspondence from them. She furnished the attached copies of correspondence.

Mrs. concluded that she does not object to the use of this correspondence but would prefer that she remain anonymous in any possible public testimony.
January 20, 1970

Dear Friend,

I am happy to report that during my visit to North Vietnam between December 26, 1969, and January 9, 1970, I was able to deliver to the representatives of the Viet Nam Committee for Solidarity with American People (V.C.S.W.A.P.) about 560 letters that had been forwarded on to me by you and other family members of prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

Immediately prior to my departure from North Vietnam I was given 69 letters from 67 American prisoners of war, and in keeping with the North Vietnamese request these letters have been given to the

Committee of Liaison
with Families of Service
men detained in North
Vietnam
365 W. 57th Street
New York, New York

for transmittal to the individual addresses. We at the American Friends Service Committees are pleased to have had a part in opening a channel for communication between the prisoners and their families and hope that this will continue.

You may be interested to know that during my visit to North Vietnam I was able to deliver a second contribution of open heart surgical equipment to the Binh Vien Vic-Du Hospital in Hanoi in keeping with a long-standing Quaker concern for civilian sufferers on both sides of a war.

Following my departure from North Vietnam I traveled on to Quang Ngai in South Vietnam to visit the American Friends Service Committee (Quaker) rehabilitation project for civilian casualties.

I have asked my colleagues in Philadelphia to mail this letter to you prior to my return to the United States, so that you might know more promptly that your letter has safely arrived in Hanoi and was given to the appropriate North Vietnamese authorities with my specific request that it be delivered to the individual addressee.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

for: Henry W. McMillan
Roger G. Fredrickson
January 21, 1970

Dear [Name],

I am sorry that it has taken me so long to write to you but I've been waiting until I could make definite suggestions to you and now I am pleased to say I can.

I regret very much that I did not bring back a letter for you but now an organization has been set up between the Peace Movement and Hanoi specifically for the purpose of forwarding mail and forwarding inquiries regarding prisoners from the immediate family.

The organization is the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam and is located at 365 W. 42nd Street, New York City, N.Y., 10036.

I am a member of this Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any reason.

Cordially,

Mrs. William Taylor

1505 Ashford Way
Philadelphia, Pa. 19131
XI 2-9078 (Area Code 215)

P.S. You will shortly receive information directly from the Committee of Liaison with details of its operation.
January 27, 1970

Dear Mr. [Name],

Ethel Taylor, a member of our newly-formed committee, which will facilitate communication between American servicemen held in North Vietnam and their families, has asked us to contact you. We are enclosing an Information Sheet describing the Committee of Liaison.

We have also duplicated the enclosed letter form which you may wish to use in writing your relative. The North Vietnamese have said that prisoners can send and receive one letter per month and one package (not more than six pounds in weight) every other month. Note the address and mail route given in the Information Sheet.

If you would like us to try to find out if your relative is a prisoner in North Vietnam, send his full name, service number and any details you have on when and where he was shot down. We will then transmit the inquiry to the North Vietnamese and are hopeful of receiving a response to every request made.

It is important to understand that there undoubtedly were many pilots whose planes were shot down but whom the North Vietnamese could not rescue, and that there are prisoners held by the Provisional Revolutionary Government in South Vietnam and by the Pathet Lao in Laos about whom we are not able to get information.

We understand your anguish in not knowing about your relative and we sincerely hope we can be of help in getting information about him for you.

Sincerely,

Barbara Webster

P.S. We apologize for sending a mimeographed letter but we wanted to get this word to you as quickly as possible.
February 7, 1970

Dear [Name]

We will be mailing Hanoi in a couple days and will include a request for information about your husband. If he is a prisoner there we would hope to receive back a letter from him, which we would of course immediately forward on. In any case we will be in touch with you as soon as we get any word at all.

Since the Committee of Liaison has only recently been set up we do not know how long it might be before we can expect a response but imagine it will be at least a month, probably longer.

I do hope we will be able to be of help.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Martha Webster
December 15, 1969

Dear Friend,

This is but a brief note to acknowledge receipt of your letter addressed to your family member who is being held as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam.

My current plans call for me to arrive in North Vietnam on or about 26 December at which point I hope to be able to turn your letter along with a large number of other letters from the immediate families of men being held to the appropriate authorities of the Democratic Republic of North Vietnam, along with my request that the letters be delivered to the individual prisoners.

After my return to the United States I will write to you again to let you know whether it was possible to deliver the letters.

Most sincerely yours,

Louis W. Schneider
Associate Executive Secretary
CHI CHÚ (N.B.):

1. Phải viết rõ và chi 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 công phải theo đúng mẫu, khuôn khổ và quy định này (letters from families should also conform to this proforma).
NGƯỜI GỬI (Address)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

DỮ LINH (Service number):

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

DỊA CHỈ (Address):

TRẢI GIẢM PHI CỘNG MỸ BỊ BẤT TÀI VIA MOSCOW, UCCIENDOC VIỆT-NAM ĐÀN CHỦ CỘNG HÒA
(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):

DỊA CHỈ (Address):
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1. Information: New York (NY), furnished the following

   She is the mother of an American Air Force pilot who was shot down and reported missing on or about 1967, in the Vietnam theater of war.

   Following the report that he was missing, neither she nor members of the family had any word concerning him or his whereabouts until on or about January 1, 1968, when she received a handwritten letter from him contained in an envelope. Enclosing this envelope was another envelope containing a typed or printed note stating in effect that instant letter had been transported from North Vietnam by an individual returning to the United States and was one of 30 or 40 such letters from captured American servicemen to their families in the United States. The identification of the sender was not divulged. Since that date she has received severeral similar letters from her son all delivered in the same manner. She is unable to identify any of the letters she has received as coming from the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM); but stated that in addition to the above mentioned source of letters she has received letters through the Society of Friends (Quakers).

   She has forwarded all correspondence so received directly to the Casualty Section at Randolph Air Force Base and has returned none of it. Recently she has also corresponded with the Casualty Section at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey.

   She is familiar with COLIFAM from reading about it in the press and is also familiar with the activities of CORA WEISS from the press, but has had no contact in any manner with either COLIFAM, its representatives or CORA WEISS. She stated

   On 7/9/70 at New York File # NY 100-168469
   by SAS 67c 7/13/70
   Date dictated 7/13/70

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that following the appearance of the article in "Newsday" concerning COLIPAM and the several local American prisoners of war, she was contacted by a representative of "Newsday" with the request that she furnish photographs and submit to an interview. She declined photographs and the interview stating in effect that she was not seeking any publicity. She has not been recontacted by the paper or other news media.
Mrs. [redacted] Indiana, advised SA [redacted] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that she is the wife of [redacted] a pilot in the United States Air Force.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that her husband was shot down over North Vietnam approximately five years ago and is presently a prisoner of war. She stated that she believed that he is in fairly good health as she has viewed news photographs of him being paraded in Hanoi and she does receive mail from him occasionally. She advised that recently she has been receiving one letter a month from her husband.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that she is aware of an organization known as the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. She advised that she has received letters from her husband to her that have come through intermediaries which have belonged to various groups that she described as being leftist. She advised that some time around August of 1968 she was receiving these letters with cover letters from the American Friends Service Committee, a member of which was the Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ. She advised that the Reverend FERNANDEZ is also associated with this Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. She does not recall exactly when the letters started coming with cover letters from this committee, however, it has been for some time.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that she has never been contacted by the committee except to receive literature from them which would be included in a letter that also enclosed an envelope and letter from her husband. She recalled that in some of the correspondence from the committee she was told to send the letters to her husband back through that committee, but that she has not done so. She advised that the receipt of these letters from the committee has been the extent of her correspondence and connection with that organization. She noted that she has received between seven and ten letters from her husband through this committee. She also advised that she has not received anything else from her husband other than these letters.
Mrs. [redacted] recalled that the cover letters usually were form letters and contained some statement to the effect that a member of the committee had been to North Vietnam and had brought the letter back. She stated that there has never been any attempt to describe the visit or identify the members of the committee who worked in North Vietnam or who brought the letters back with them.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that she believes that the wife of [redacted] at Indianapolis, Indiana, has had the same type of contact with the committee that she has had.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that she would be willing to cooperate with the United States Government in any way possible and would gladly testify concerning her association with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam.
Mrs. Colorado, advised that she is acquainted with Mrs. California, who was active in the National League of Families of America Prisoners in Southeast Asia.

Mrs. pointed out that she first heard of an organization using the name "Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam", "COLIFAM!", through Mrs. during, she believed, the latter part of 1969. Mrs. explained that Mrs. had contacted her and advised that Mrs. (first name unknown) DUCKLES, representing COLIFAM was going to North Vietnam and confer with Hanoi officials concerning American servicemen who had been captured by the Vietnamese. Mrs. stated that she was advised by letters addressed to the husbands of service wives in America, who were allegedly in custody of the North Vietnamese could be addressed to their husbands, sealed in an envelope and sent to Mrs. DUCKLES for transmittal.

Mrs. advised that Mrs. indicated that Mrs. DUCKLES would be accompanied by a Mrs. (first name unknown) TAYLOR and a Mrs. (first name unknown) WIESS.

Mrs. stated that upon receipt of this information she called Randolph Air Force Base in Texas and inquired whether a Colonel GRATCH if there were any objections to sending a letter in care of COLIFAM by Mrs. DUCKLES and he said there was not, although, COLIFAM were not "one of the best groups."
Mrs. [redacted] advised that upon return to the United States of Mrs. DUCKLES and her group she was contacted by Mr. SEAVERTS (phonetic) of the United States State Department and was informed that according to Mrs. DUCKLES and her group, officials in Hanoi had indicated that five American pilots, including her husband, were known to be dead.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that she has never received any direct communication from the North Vietnamese nor has she received any official word that her husband was dead. Mrs. [redacted] stated that in fact it is her belief that her husband is not dead and is still in custody in North Vietnam. Mrs. [redacted] pointed out she writes her husband monthly, addressing letters to Hanoi, North Vietnam and none of these letters have been returned to date.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that during February or March of 1970, Mrs. DUCKLES spoke to a group of service wives in Colorado Springs, Colorado, as a representative for COLIFAM, showing films of alleged American atrocity on North Vietnam children and urged that funds be obtained to aid in the relief of the North Vietnam children. Mrs. [redacted] pointed out that she herself had not attended this meeting but had been told by other members of the National League of Families of American Prisoners in Southeast Asia who reside in the Colorado Springs area who had attended the meeting of Mrs. DUCKLES presentation. Mrs. [redacted] added that reportedly an Air Force representative in plain clothes had attended this meeting in an intelligence capacity.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that she herself had never received any direct or indirect solicitation from COLIFAM but that a friend, Mrs. [redacted], Colorado, wife of [redacted] an American U.S. Air Force pilot who like her husband, is missing in action, has received solicitation from COLIFAM following an inquiry by her brother in the State of Pennsylvania regarding information concerning
On July 20, 1970, Mrs. [redacted] of Ohio was contacted and advised that she is the wife of a USAF, and is presently for the National League of Families, a POW family organization.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that she has received four letters from California. The first letter was a form letter advising her that Reverend Richard Fernandez had just returned from a visit to Laos and North Vietnam, and that he had brought back a letter from her husband. This letter was signed by Steven E. Hallwilling. A second letter was received from [redacted] with an enclosed letter which stated that Louis Schrader had recently been handed this letter and 50 others from POW's in North Vietnam. In May 4, 1970, a third letter reached Mrs. [redacted]. This letter gave instructions as to how to write to the POW's (paper type, weight, restrictions), and how often writing was allowed. The letter related the details of a meeting which Reverend Fernandez and Professor Douglas Ford had with three POW pilots: Commander Walter Wilcox, Virginia Beach, Commander Robert Schertzler, Lemoore, California, and Lieutenant Colonel Edward Miller, Santa Ana, California. The three men were in good health, had daily exercise, reading materials, and were receiving letters and packages from the United States. They asked that these packages include toilet articles and canned foods.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that she had gone to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in early January and had attended a meeting with Etihall Taylor. Taylor extolled “the great compassion of the North Vietnamese”, and asked for contributions to support the work of the Committee. The meeting took place in a church, but Mrs. [redacted] could not remember its name or location. Taylor gave Mrs. [redacted] an information sheet which explained the background and purpose of COLIFAK.
On July 23, 1970, Mrs. [redacted] was contacted and advised that her son, [redacted], is a pilot in the United States Air Force and presently a POW in North Vietnam. He has been a POW since his plane was shot down in March, 1966.

Mrs. [redacted] has received three letters from her son. The first was enclosed in a letter from CALIFORNIA. Unfortunately, she could not remember where it was put away.

Mrs. [redacted] was advised that her daughter-in-law, [redacted], was on vacation in Massachusetts but was expected back July 28, 1970. She could provide any further information that the FBI might need.
Mr. Ohio was contacted July 23, 1970, and advised that he had received one letter from his son, United States Marine Corps (which was addressed to his daughter-in-law).

He has no idea of whether or not any more correspondence has come through from his son or the committee. He advised that his daughter-in-law has cut herself off from he and his wife. She does not answer any of their correspondence.
Mrs. [redacted] was advised that she was being contacted with respect to her contacts with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). Mrs. [redacted] stated she is the wife of currently a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. She was first contacted by COLIFAM by letter dated January 27, 1970, which was a form letter instructing her how to correspond with her husband. She has received two subsequent similar letters from COLIFAM. In addition, in April 1970, she received a telephone call from the Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ who told her he had talked with her husband and had taken a photograph of him which he would forward to her. FERNANDEZ told her her husband was well and was receiving her letters. He did not specify who his contacts were in Hanoi or how he was able to travel there to interview her husband.

Mrs. [redacted] stated she has received two letters from her husband through COLIFAM and is convinced by them that he has not received any of her letters which she has sent through COLIFAM. She stated she has always cleared all such activities through the Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, California. She indicated she was entirely opposed to COLIFAM and sent letters through them only as a last effort to get a letter through to her husband. She indicated she would be willing to cooperate in any way should her testimony be needed.

Mrs. [redacted] also stated she received two copies of a photograph of three prisoners of war, one of which was her husband and that these pictures were sent to her by the Reverend FERNANDEZ in mid-May 1970.

NY 100-168469
On 6/29/70 at California File # Los Angeles 97-373
by SA Date dictated 6/30/70

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Mrs. [redacted] was advised that she was being contacted with respect to her contacts with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). She stated she is the wife of [redacted] who is currently a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. She was first contacted by COLIFAM by letter dated January 27, 1970, which was a form letter instructing her how to correspond with her husband. She has received two subsequent similar letters from COLIFAM. In addition, in April 1970, she received a telephone call from the Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ who told her he had talked with her husband and had taken a photograph of him which he would forward to her. FERNANDEZ told her that her husband was well and was receiving her letters. He did not specify who his contacts were in Hanoi or how he was able to travel there to interview her husband.

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Mrs. [Name redacted] advised USAF, who is the mother of a prisoner of the North Vietnamese.

In December 1969, an individual, whose name she cannot recall, wrote and told her to contact MADELINE DUCKLES, in Berkeley, California, as Mrs. DUCKLES was going to Hanoi and would carry a letter to her son.

On January 17, 1970, she received a letter from CORA WEISS on the letterhead of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. Two letters from her son accompanied this letter. She stated this was the first contact that she had had with this committee. (Copy of this letter of transmittal is attached as Appendix A).

Subsequent to this time, on February 23, 1970, she received a letter dated January 1970 on the letterhead of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. This was entitled "Information Sheet" and is Appendix B attached.

Also in February 1970, she received a letter dated January 27, 1970, from a MAGGIE GEDDES on the letterhead of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, this is Appendix C attached.

In January 1970, she received a letter from ROGER G. FREDRICKSON dated January 20, 1970, from the American Friends Service Committee. This is Appendix D attached.

Mrs. [Name redacted] stated that she also received a letter from her son on May 10, 1970, but was unable to recall if the letter was transmitted through the Committee of Liaison. She stated that the last contact, that she can recall, with this committee was when she visited their offices in New York City during the spring of 1970. She stated that at this time

NY 100-168469

On 7/2/70 at California File # Los Angeles 97-378

by SA [Name redacted] Date dictated 7/6/70

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she met TRUDI YOUNG and MAGGIE GEDDES. At this time she had a letter that she wished to be delivered to her son and they would not accept it at this time stating that they preferred the letters be transmitted by correspondence.

Mrs. stated that there was no indication in the letters that she received from her son that he had received any of the letters that she had sent to him. Mrs. concluded by stating that she would be willing to testify to the contacts she has had with this committee.
Dear Mr. & Mrs. [redacted]

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

This letter, along with 63 others, was recently handed to Louis Schneider by Vietnamese authorities in Hanoi, and he mailed them to us from Hong Kong. This was in line with a system for handling such letters which has been opened up to our Committee by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,
For the Committee of Liaison

Richard Fernandez
Stewart MacPherson
Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam

[Signatures]

Other members of the Committee are: David Dellinger, Cora Weiss, Rennie Davis, Anne Bennett, Rex Seitzman, Maggie Goddes, Trudi Young, Steve Halliwell, Barbara Webster
INFORMATION SHEET

Background

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

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

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

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

Resolutions of the Committee

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

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

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

Via Moscow, U.S.S.R.

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

Clarification

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

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

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

Who We Are

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

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

Appendix B - 29 -
January 27, 1970

Dear [Redacted]

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Maggie Geddes

P.S. Before mailing the above out your letters of 1/23 arrived and I thought I'd just add a note to say that we assume the Vietnamese gave the Christmas card to your son as our Committee did not. If you have any questions after reading the above and the enclosed do not hesitate to write us again.

Appendix C - 30 -
January 20, 1970

Dear Friend,

I am happy to report that during my visit to North Vietnam between December 26, 1969, and January 9, 1970, I was able to deliver to the representatives of the Vietry (Viet Nam Committee for Solidarity with American People) about 500 letters that had been forwarded on to me by you and other family members of prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

Immediately prior to my departure from North Vietnam I was given 69 letters from 69 American prisoners of war, and in keeping with the North Vietnamese request these letters have been given to the Committee of Liaison with Families of Service men detained in North Vietnam, 355 W. 42nd Street, New York, New York for transmittal to the individual addressees. We at the American Friends Service Committee are pleased to have had a part in opening a channel for communication between the prisoners and their families and hope that this will continue.

You may be interested to know that during my visit to North Vietnam I was able to deliver a second contribution of open heart surgical equipment to the Benh Vien Viet-Dac Hospital in Hanoi in keeping with a long-standing Quaker concern for civilian sufferers on both sides of a war.

Following my departure from North Vietnam I traveled on to Quang Ngai in South Vietnam to visit the American Friends Service Committee (Quaker) rehabilitation project for civilian casualties.

I have asked my colleagues in Philadelphia to mail this letter to you prior to my return to the United States, so that you might know more promptly that your letter has safely arrived in Hanoi and was given to the appropriate North Vietnamese authorities with my specific request that it be delivered to the individual addressee.

Sincerely yours,

Louis W. Schneider

Roger G. Fredrickson
Mrs. [redacted] advised she is the mother of [redacted] in the Air Force and currently a prisoner in North Vietnam. She advised that she had been contacted by one of the other families, in the Los Angeles area, who had kin in North Vietnam, that a Mrs. DUCKLES of Berkeley, California, was traveling to Hanoi in November 1969, and would take a letter to her son. She contacted Mr. DUCKLES and sent a letter to Mrs. DUCKLES for transmittal to her son.

In January 1970, she received a letter from her son which was accompanied by a letter of transmittal from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (see Appendix A).

She received another letter from her son, dated February 14, 1970, which was transmitted to her by a letter from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, dated April 20, 1970 (see Appendix B), both of these letters from her son asked whether his sister had been married. This indicated to her that he had not received her letter in November 1969, inasmuch as she told him at that time that his sister was married.

In May 1970, she received a letter, dated May 4, 1970, from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (see Appendix C). This letter gave her instructions as to packages and correspondence being sent to prisoners.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that she would be willing to testify in any hearings concerning the above committee.
Dear Mr. & Mrs. [Redacted]

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

This letter, along with 23 others, was recently handed to Louis Schneider by Vietnamese authorities in Hanoi, and he mailed them to us from Hong Kong. This is in line with a system for handling such letters which has been opened up to our Committee by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,
For the Committee of Liaison

Michael Fernandez
Ethel Taylor

Ethel Hernandez
American Friends Service Committee

Concerned About Vietnam

Women's Strike for Peace

Other members of the Committee are: David Dellinger, Cora Weiss;

Rennie Davis, Anne Bennett, Bea Stitzlein, Maggie Goddes, Prudi Young,

Steve Halliwell, Barbara Webster

Appendix A

Received March 19, 1970

-33-
Dear Madam,

April 20, 1970

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, Capt. Robert Schweitzer, Capt. Walter Wilber and Lt. Col. Edison Hiller. 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

Appendix B

- 34 -
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.
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.
Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☐ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

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☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

☐ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): ____________________________

☒ For your information: THIS CCC 666 066 06 466633

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages: 100-607299-11266633

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Mrs. [redacted] advised that she received, thereafter, a letter, dated April 25, 1970, from this organization in which was enclosed a letter from her husband dated December 13, 1969.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that she has received no further communication since that date. She stated that in contact with Mrs. WEISS, she was advised that the organization received packets of mail from Hanoi. She asked Mrs. WEISS how her organization was maintained and asked her if she wanted a donation. She was advised by Mrs. WEISS that the organization could use donations, but that none was ever solicited from her.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that she realizes that the organization is undoubtedly communist oriented, especially looking at the list of names on a brochure which she also received from the organization. She stated that from this list of names and from things which she has read and found out about the organization, they are probably communist oriented, but this made no difference to her, and she would use any possible means to receive a letter from her husband and that she was not at all reluctant to contact this organization.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that at the present time she did not care to take any further action, but she would certainly cooperate with the United States Government. She emphasized that she has had no further contact with this organization, that she was never solicited in regards to any funds or donations, was never asked to do anything for this organization, and could furnish no further information.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that should she receive any information in the future, she would make immediate contact with the FBI. Mrs. [redacted] stated that she made available the brochure which she received from the organization in regards to the founding of the organization and persons involved therein.
Title: Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIPAM)

Character: Internal Security-Miscellaneous Registration Act-North Vietnam

Reference is made to report of Special Agent dated and captioned as above at New York, New York.

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)
FROM: UAC, MINNEAPOLIS (100-15134) (P)

DATE: 9/10/70

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

OC: New York

Re San Antonio letter to the Bureau dated 8/27/70.

By referenced communication, Minneapolis was furnished the names of 27 men listed either as missing in action or being held prisoner of war in Vietnam, and whose relatives reside in the territory covered by the Minneapolis Division. There is no indication that any of these families have been in contact with COLIFAM.

This office has already or is in the process of interviewing members of the families of nine of these 27. Several of the nine have already been interviewed and have informed this office they have had no contact at anytime with COLIFAM.

Accordingly, and, UACB, Minneapolis has no intention of contacting members of all the 27 men whose names were furnished by San Antonio.

The above is for information.

RE: Bureau (RM)
New York (100-168469) (RM) (Info)

MINNEAPOLIS

SEP 14 18

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN CLASSIFIED.

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)
FROM: SAC, SAN DIEGO (105-7282) (F*)
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)
IS - MISC.
REGISTRATION ACT - NORTH VIETNAM
CC: New York

Re San Antonio letter to the Bureau dated 8/27/70 with enclosure; reports of SAC dated 6/9/70; 7/30/70; and 8/19/70 at San Diego.

Referenced San Antonio letter set forth names of numerous individuals thought to be relatives of individuals who are missing in action or prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

San Diego has conducted extensive investigation as reported in referenced reports concerning this matter as the result of which a conclusion is possible concerning this Registration Act matter. It is believed that additional interviews would not at this time logically be expected to result in additional information not already reported of an evidentiary nature.

Therefore, in view of the above UAGs, lead material set forth in referenced San Antonio letter will not be utilized for further interviews in the San Diego Division.

Approved: 56 SEP 1970
Special Agent in Charge
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE | OFFICE OF ORIGIN | DATE | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
--- | --- | --- | ---
Tampa | New York | 9/10/70 | 6/30 - 9/1/70

Title of Case:
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)

Character of Case:
IS - MISCELLANEOUS REGISTRATION ACT - NORTH VIETNAM

References:
Tampa report of [redacted] dated 7/20/70.
San Antonio letter to the Bureau dated 8/27/70.

-RUC-

Administrative:
It is noted that in referenced communication from San Antonio there are names of wives in the Tampa area who have husbands that are prisoners of war or that are missing in action in North Vietnam. UACB, those not already contacted will not be interviewed, because those that were contacted did not give the other wives' names, as individuals who have been contacted by COLIFAM.

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Approved by: [redacted]
Special Agent in Charge:

Copies Made:
(2) - Bureau (100-457899) (RM)
2 - New York (100-168469) (RM)
1 - Tampa (97-59)

All information contained herein is classified.

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

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Notations:

[A* COVER PAGE] [redacted]
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FIELD OFFICE File #: 97-59

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

Character:

INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS REGISTRATION ACT - NORTH VIETNAM

Synopsis:

On 6/30/70, Mrs. [Redacted], advised she has received mail from her husband through captioned group, and that all materials received have been given to her. For purposes of Privacy Act, Mrs. [Redacted] advised that her husband was listed as deceased by government of North Vietnam. On 7/1/70, Mrs. [Redacted], advised all information dealing with COLIFAM given to Chief of the Bureau of Naval Personnel, WDC. On 7/10/70, Mrs. [Redacted], advised she has received no correspondence from COLIFAM, but she did call CORA WEISS on one occasion in an attempt to learn more about husband, after reading statement by WEISS that husband was listed as deceased by government of North Vietnam. On 7/22/70, Lt. Commander MELVIN BOLT, Director, Military Personnel and Coordinator, Casualty Assistance Calls Program, U.S. Naval Training Center, Orlando, Fla., advised all information dealing with COLIFAM given to Chief of the Bureau of Naval Personnel, WDC. On 7/29/70, Mrs. [Redacted], advised she has had only limited contact with COLIFAM through form letters.

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.
MRS. [redacted] advised that her husband is in the United States Air Force and he is a prisoner of war in North Vietnam.

She stated that she had no personal contact with the COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM) but she does receive mail from her husband through this group. She advised she averages receiving about one letter per month from her husband through this group and previously she had waited for as long as a year before receiving a letter.

MRS. [redacted] advised that she had just received a letter from BARBARA WEBSTER of COLIFAM on 6/29/70, enclosing a letter from her husband. She said that the letter from COLIFAM was dated 6/26/70, which stated to the effect that 105 other letters from prisoners of war detained in North Vietnam had been brought back to this country by a group of anti-war people who had just returned from a visit to North Vietnam. The letter alleged that this brought the total to 1,110 letters which COLIFAM had forwarded to families since last December.

MRS. [redacted] said that all of her contacts had been by mail with COLIFAM and they were usually by BARBARA WEBSTER.

MRS. [redacted] stated that on one occasion COLIFAM had indicated that she could contribute to them but she only sent them some stamps with which to forward her letters.

MRS. [redacted] advised that COLIFAM had always made it a point to indicate that their sole function was to get mail for families and prisoners of war. She said she recalled no statements on their part which would indicate that they were representing Hanoi, North Vietnam, or any foreign government.

MRS. [redacted] advised that she desired to assist the FBI and the Department of Justice. She advised that she did not want to jeopardize, in any way, her contact with her husband.

On 6/30/70 in Florida

File: 97-59

Date dictated: 7/7/70

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.
MRS. [redacted] advised that she had immediately turned over all materials received and information concerning her mail contacts with COLIFAM to her Casualty Service Officer of the United States Air Force, Casualty Division located at Randolph Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. She advised that on that date she had been in telephonic contact with him and she was advised by him that they were aware of the investigation being conducted concerning COLIFAM and that they were taking steps to turn over all pertinent information to the appropriate authorities in the matter. She stated that she had been advised to cooperate in an interview but requested not to furnish the names of other prisoner's families, furnish any other material, or agree to testify, in the interests of protecting the families and their contacts with the prisoners of war.
Florida advised she is the wife of United States Navy who is officially listed as having been captured in North Vietnam.

MRS. [redacted] advised that she has had no contact with her husband since he has been missing in action.

MRS. [redacted] advised that she has never had any contact with the COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM) but she, on one occasion, had called CORA WEISS in Bronx, New York in an attempt to get some information about her husband following a statement by WEISS which indicated the North Vietnam officials had listed her husband as being deceased.

MRS. [redacted] advised that she had been trying to get letters to her husband without any success and on 11/26/69, she received information through a group of prisoners of war wives about a MRS. WILLIAM TAYLOR, 1505 Ashford Way, Overbrook Hills, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania who was among a group of women pacifists going to Hanoi with the American Friends Service Committee. She prepared a letter to her husband and sent it to MRS. TAYLOR on about November 27, 1969.

MRS. [redacted] stated that on December 23, 1969, she was advised by the United States Navy Bureau of Naval Personnel that they had received some information which had been passed on to the State Department on 12/22/69, from CORA WEISS of the WOMEN'S STRIKE FOR PEACE organization who had just returned from Hanoi. They advised that the reliability of the information was unknown. According to this source, the group had delivered letters from servicemen's families to North Vietnam and within hours after delivering the letters five of them were returned to MRS. WEISS along with the comment that the prisoners to whom they were addressed had either died in their parachutes or died thereafter from injuries received when captured. She was one of those for whom mail was returned.

On 7/1/60 at FLORIDA File 97-59

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 7/8/70

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.
MRS. [Redacted] checked her personal telephone bill and
advised from it that on January 9, 1970, she had called
CORA WEISS in the Bronx, New York, telephone number, 212 549-4478,
and told her that her husband had been reported as being
captured in North Vietnam in March, 1969, but CORA WEISS
answered to the effect that she felt her information was true
as the North Vietnamese people feel very badly about death and
they would not pass on erroneous information about that. WEISS
said that she would not presume anyone to be a prisoner in
North Vietnam unless a photograph or a letter was received
from the prisoner. WEISS promised to recontact Hanoi for some
further information in the matter and call back but MRS. STAMM
advised she had not heard from WEISS since that time.

MRS. [Redacted] advised that prior to the above incident
she had attempted to send letters through the American Friends
Service Committee without any success and following her call
to CORA WEISS she had not ever heard anything from that group
either. She said she had never known how the latter group
had originally gotten her name.

MRS. [Redacted] advised that she is willing to testify
for the United States Government.

[Redacted] advised that MRS. [Redacted] California had also had a letter to her
husband returned, according to CORA WEISS.

MRS. [Redacted] advised that all information known to her
has also been furnished to her Casualty Assistance Officer,
Commander B OTT at the United States Navy Training Center,
Orlando, Florida.
Lieutenant Commander MELVIN BOTT, Director of Military Personnel and Coordinator, Casualty Assistance Calls Program, United States Navy Training Center, Orlando, Florida advised that contacts by the COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM with the families of United States Navy personnel who are prisoners of war in North Vietnam are immediately furnished to the local office which sends the information to the Chief of the Bureau of Naval Personnel in Washington, DC and Captain WEBSTER is the person in authority to release information about these matters.

On 7/1/70 at ORLANDO, FLORIDA File: 97-59
E012812-2

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 7/8/70

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is for the use of your agency, it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7/16/70

Mrs. [redacted] informed that her husband, of the United States Air Force, was reported to have been shot down in Laos on 1969. She said that she has not heard from her husband or any word from any source that would indicate his condition.

Mrs. [redacted] said that the North Vietnamese Government denies any knowledge of pilots who have been shot down in Laos.

She said that she has received no correspondence from the Committee of Liaison With Families of Service Men Detained in North Vietnam.

She indicated that she had received a letter from the United States Air Force dated June 9, 1970, which indicated that one Reverend FERNANDEZ had advised representatives of the Air Force that the only mail that would be received by prisoners in North Vietnam was that directed through the Committee of Liaison With Families of Service Men Detained in North Vietnam.

Mrs. [redacted] said that in early July, 1970, she had sent a letter to her husband through the Committee of Liaison With Families of Service Men Detained in North Vietnam. She pointed out that she continually attempts to correspond with her husband by sending a number of letters through various channels, in the hopes that one of them will reach her husband. She explained by saying she has sent several letters through various sources in the American Red Cross both in the United States and South East Asian Countries. She said that her letter in early July, 1970, sent through the Committee of Liaison With Families of Service Men Detained in North Vietnam was the first one she had sent through that committee, and she has received no response.

Mrs. [redacted] said that she did not know the names of anyone who had received correspondence from the Committee of Liaison With Families of Service Men Detained in North Vietnam.

On 7/10/70 at Tampa 97-59

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is leased to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.
but indicated that if anyone knew the identities of persons having received such correspondence that it would be Mrs. Florida.
Mrs. [illegible], furnished the following voluntary information:

Her husband, [illegible], is a pilot in the United States Air Force, and was declared missing in action in North Vietnam three years ago. She had received absolutely no information about him, and in December, 1969, one of her friends who also has a husband missing in North Vietnam, told her she may be able to contact her husband by writing to ETHEL TAYLOR, 1506 Ashford Way, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19151. Mrs. [illegible] does not recall who gave her TAYLOR's address, as she frequently talks with several other women who have husbands missing.

She sent a letter to ETHEL TAYLOR, and received a reply within a few days. This reply indicated that some kind of liaison group was being organized for the purpose of establishing a line of communication between North Vietnamese prisoners and their families in the U.S. The letter indicated the group would be dependant upon donations and contributions for financial backing. Mrs. [illegible] subsequently received a letter from the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained In North Vietnam (COLIFAM). The first letter she received was an Information Sheet, setting forth the aims and purposes of COLIFAM. She has since received other letters from COLIFAM headquarters at 365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y.

Mrs. [illegible] stated that in her first inquiry of COLIFAM regarding her husband, she was advised that they had received no communications from Mr. [illegible]. Mrs. [illegible] then directed a letter to her husband, through COLIFAM group, which letter was apparently received by her husband, as she received a letter from him about 2½ weeks ago. His letter was only about six (6) lines long, and was very general in content; however, she feels certain it was his handwriting and wording in the letter. His letter was among other letters and propaganda.

On 7/22/70, [illegible] Florida

Files TP 97-59

Date dictated 7/24/70

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which was brought to Canada by the wife of JERRY RUBIN about three (3) weeks ago, which incident caused a great deal of publicity and press comment.

Mrs. has never received any type of Communist propaganda or any direct solicitation of funds from COLIFAM or any other organization as a result of her contact with COLIFAM. She said at first, she was extremely hostile and opposed to having any more contact with COLIFAM; however, since she knows of no other avenue of communication with her husband, she feels she will use of COLIFAM. She said she will absolutely not donate or contribute any money or other valuables to COLIFAM, as she feels COLIFAM is either an arm of, or a tool of the Communists. She repeatedly stated that even knowing this, she feels using this group to communicate with her husband is the only way she has to contact him, and it is better than not having any contact with him.

Mrs. has never met any of the organizers or committeemen of COLIFAM. She has talked to other women who have called COLIFAM headquarters in New York, and they apparently have some type of filing system handy to the switchboard on all persons using COLIFAM, since whenever you call in, they have your file immediately available.

Mrs. said she does not know of anyone else in the Sarasota, Florida area who has been in contact with COLIFAM. She said she has heard that Florida has been in contact with COLIFAM, and she feels Mrs. knows the names of other persons who have corresponded with COLIFAM.
Mrs. [redacted], advised she is the wife of [redacted], a United States Navy, who is a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. She advised she had not received any contact from her husband in quite some time.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that she had only had limited contact with the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam through form letters and she had no personal contact with the group.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that she did not feel she had any information of value concerning this group. She said that she did not in any way, condone this organization, but she did not care to make any further statement or furnish information in order to preclude possibly jeopardizing any future contacts with her husband.

Date: September 4, 1970
Memorandum

TO: SAC, OMAHA (100-7801)(P)

DATE: 9/3/70

FROM: [Redacted]

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

CC: NEW YORK

Re New York airtel dated 6/9/70, Omaha airtel to Philadelphia 7/22/70, and Omaha airtel to Indianapolis 7/27/70.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 11 copies of an LHM concerning captioned organization. Enclosed for New York are three copies of above LHM.

It is noted for the Bureau and New York, that Omaha ascertained that the parents of Mrs. [Redacted] now reside in Warsaw, Indiana.

The wife of Mrs. [Redacted] was believed to be in Philadelphia and leads were set out to interview them.

No local dissemination was made of this LHM: inasmuch as Mrs. [Redacted] requested her name to be maintained confidential within the Department of Justice and she did not wish to testify because of her physical condition. The LHM is marked "confidential" because of Mrs. [Redacted] request.

Numerous efforts have been made to locate and interview Mrs. [Redacted], wife of [Redacted], Iowa. She was residing in Iowa, but has moved and is now believed to be back in

2 - Bureau (Enc. II)(RM)
3 - New York (100-168469) (RM) (Enc. 3)
2 - Omaha

[Redacted]

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC. J

DATE FORM: 9/3/70

HOW FORM: 9/3/70

60 SEP 22 1970

BY: [Redacted]
OMAHA
E012912-2 AT IOWA Interview Mrs. to determine if she has been contacted by COLIFAM.
On July 20, 1970, Lt. Col. Earl J. Clark, Region Commander, 113th Military Intelligence Group, Omaha, Nebraska, advised he has received no information concerning the captioned organization. Clark advised that Special Agent of the 113th Military Intelligence Group is the father of a prisoner of war and may have some information.

On July 20, 1970, Col. Robert B. Riddle, Office of Special Investigations, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, advised he had no information concerning captioned organization.

On July 20, 1970, Miss [redacted], an Omaha daily newspaper, advised she could locate no information concerning the captioned organization and, therefore, was sure the "Omaha World-Herald" had never printed an article concerning COLIFAM.

On July 22, 1970, Omaha Office of Naval Investigative Service Office, advised he had no knowledge of the captioned organization.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Mrs. [redacted], Iowa, was located at her place of employment in [redacted], Iowa, where she was interviewed and furnished the following information:

At the outset of this interview, Mrs. [redacted] was advised of the personal and official identity of the interviewing Agent and informed that she was being contacted at the request of the Assistant Attorney General J. WALTER YEAGLEY of the United States Department of Justice, in an attempt to determine if the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) is engaged in activities in violation of United States laws.

Mrs. [redacted] advised she was willing to cooperate in every way possible with the FBI and the United States Government in this investigation, so long as her identity was kept strictly confidential. She emphasized she did not wish to furnish any public or private testimony in connection with this matter because of her poor physical and emotional condition.

Mrs. [redacted] advised she is the mother of Navy [redacted] who has been held captive in North Vietnam during the past four years. She said she had not received any word on her son in almost three years until a few days before Christmas, 1969, when she heard a news release that was made by a CORA WISS in California stating she had recently returned from North Vietnam and had brought back letters from United States prisoners of war (POW) which would be forwarded to the POW's families in the United States in the very near future.

Mrs. [redacted] said she subsequently received a letter from her son on December 24, 1969, in an envelope bearing an obliterated California postmark and return address of "AFSC 160W 15th St. Phila, Pa." which was written on the back flap of the envelope.

Mrs. [redacted] said she next received a two-page piece of correspondence on letterhead stationery bearing caption of "Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in

On 7/17/70 at [redacted], Iowa

Files OM 100-7680

Date dictated 7/20/70

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North Vietnam, 365 West 42nd Street, New York, New York, telephone number 212-765-1490", dated January, 1970, which was entitled "Information Sheet". Mrs. said this "letter" contained background on the COLIFAM and contained instructions on how to use the COLIFAM to correspond with POWs in North Vietnam, along with a supply of blank forms to be used for sending messages to the POWs, via Moscow, USSR, by the COLIFAM.

Mrs. stated that after consulting with Commander JOHN OLIVER, United States Navy Reserve Center, Des Moines, Iowa, she decided to use the COLIFAM as a means of corresponding with her captured son.

She said in addition to the December letter from her son, which was forwarded to her from California, she received a letter in April and a letter in June from her son via the COLIFAM.

Mrs. stated she has sent approximately six letters to her son via the COLIFAM and a six-pound gift package in February, April and June, and that her son acknowledged in his June letter that he had received the February package.

Mrs. noted that the letter she received from her son in April had been forwarded to her by COLIFAM in an envelope postmarked at New York City, New York, under date of April 20, 1970, which envelope also contained a letter on COLIFAM stationery under date of April 20, 1970, which letter appeared to be a form letter advising that Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ, a member of the Committee of Liaison, returned on that date from a two-week trip to Laos and North Vietnam and had brought back the enclosed letter along with 201 other letters from prisons being held in North Vietnam. She noted that this letter was signed by STEVEN E. HALLIWELL.

Mrs. further noted that under date of May 4, 1970, she received correspondence from COLIFAM which was on COLIFAM letterhead paper and in memorandum form which was from "Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ", to: "The Families of the 335 Presently Confirmed Prisoners Held in North Vietnam", re "Information on Correspondence with Prisoners".
Mrs. [redacted] recalls that this correspondence from Reverend FERNANDEZ indicated he had been on a three-week trip to Laos and North Vietnam and had spoke with officials responsible for communication between captured United States pilots held in detention there and their families in the United States.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that she had received a handwritten note under date of May 15, 1970, on COLIFAM letterhead stationery which appeared to have been written and signed by BARBARA WEBSTER of this committee, which stated that this committee had received her letter for [redacted] on April 27, 1970, and sent it on to North Vietnam with a group that had left that week for a visit there.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that she has received two additional letters signed by BARBARA WEBSTER of COLIFAM, one under date of June 14, 1970, which opened with "Dear Friend:"

and mentioned that this committee was glad to send the enclosed letter from North Vietnam, along with 142 others that was brought to this country by JEAN PALOMON, NANCY RUBIN, and JUDY CLAY, (all) "anti-war activists" who spent two weeks in North Vietnam. She said this letter also made mention of the fact that these letters had been delayed because all the material these individuals brought back with them had been confiscated by the Canadian customs authorities upon their arrival in Montreal, Canada.

Mrs. [redacted] said the June 14, 1970, letter further indicated that another group was going to North Vietnam at the end of that month.

Mrs. [redacted] noted that sometime in June, 1970, she had sent three letters to her son [redacted] to COLIFAM in New York City, along with a note asking if the letters would count as individual letters or as one as one of the letters was from herself, one was from girlfriend [redacted] and the third from his brother. She stated that under date of July 1, 1970, she received a brief typewritten note on COLIFAM letterhead stationery and signed by BARBARA WEBSTER
OM 100-7680

which noted that normally they would probably have returned
two of the letters addressed to because it was important
for families to follow the North Vietnamese request that only
one letter be sent per month. She said WEBSTER noted, however,
that the group that had planned to go to North Vietnam about
the end of June had been postponed until August or September
and therefore the letters would count as for the June, July,
and August letters for

Mrs. noted that she has kept all correspondence
received from the above-mentioned committee and has copied all
of her son's letters and sent copies to the Pentagon in
Washington, D.C. She further noted that she would make a
xerox copy of all correspondence received from COLIFAM and would
make these copies available to the interviewing Agent on or
about July 20, 1970.

Mrs. noted that her son addresses his
letters to herself and his girlfriend, of Boone,
Iowa, and her eldest son, of Des Moines, Iowa.
She noted, however, that neither nor have received
any correspondence from COLIFAM.

Mrs. emphasized she has had no personal
contact either in person or by telephone from any individual
connected with COLIFAM and further noted that she abhors any
publicity relating to her son being held a prisoner in North
Vietnam, and observed she feels this is strictly a personal
matter and believes it is wrong for families of POWs to use
their loved ones as a publicity gimmick. She further noted
that local Des Moines news media, particularly the Des Moines
"Register - Tribune", a daily metropolitan newspaper, have
approached her on numerous occasions in an attempt to inter-
view her regarding her son's status as a prisoner of war in
North Vietnam. She has refused to make any press release
concerning her son's situation.

She further noted she was suspicious of COLIFAM
from the very beginning as she felt it might be some "gimmick"
on the part of the Communist Party but stated that after
much soul searching she decided to use its services as she
so desperately wanted to correspond with her son.
Mrs. [redacted] said she has not had any contact with any other families of servicemen who are being held prisoner in North Vietnam as she felt that to do so might result in publicity as she recalls reading several press releases in the Des Moines, Iowa, area regarding at least eight or nine other families from the State of Iowa who have sons that are being held in North Vietnam. She stated she does not know the identities of these families.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date: July 21, 1970

Mrs. [REDACTED] of [REDACTED], Iowa, made available the attached Xerox copies of correspondence she has received from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, 365 West 42nd Street, New York, New York.

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that she will maintain the original copies of this correspondence in a safe and secure place and is willing to furnish the original to the United States Government in the event it is needed so long as it does not necessitate her appearing in a court of law or which would result in publicity with respect to herself or her son, [REDACTED] who is being held a prisoner of war in North Vietnam.

On 7/20/70 at [REDACTED], Iowa

File #: OM 100-7680

by [REDACTED]

Date dictated 7/20/70

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NGUỒI GỬI (Address)

Mã Tên (Name in full):

Mã Lính (Service number):

Ngày và Địa Điểm (Date & place of birth):

Địa Chỉ (Address):

TRẠI GIÁM PHỤ CÔNG MỸ BỊ BẤT TÀI NƯỚC VIỆT-NAM ĐÁN CHỦ CÔNG 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 (Address)

Mã Tên (Name in full):

Địa Chỉ (Address):
COMMITTEE OF LIASON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street New York N.Y. 10036 212-765-1490

January, 1970

INFORMATION SHEET

Background

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

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

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

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

Functions of the Committee

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

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

name of serviceman
serial number
Camp of Detention of U.S. Pilots Captured in the D.R.V.

Hanoi, Democratic Republic of Vietnam

Via Moscow, U.S.S.R.

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

Clarification

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

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

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

Who We Are

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

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

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, Capt. Robert Schweitzer, Capt. 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 F. Haliwell

Letter arrived apr 24
and we will not use apr 26
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 them in packets. The Committee cannot forward packages for families.

While I was in Hanoi, Prof. Douglas Dard 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 materials. 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 500 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 LIASON,  
with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam  
365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee:  
Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeleine Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernández  
Norman Fruchter  
*Margie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Maccham  
Prof. Bob Seixman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
*Barbara Webster  
Trudl Young

*staff

May 15
Dear Madam,

Just wanted to let you know that we received your letter of April 27 and sent it on to North Vietnam with a group that left this week to a week from now.

Sincerely,

Barbara Webster
June 14, 1970

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
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON
with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam
365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036
(212) 765-1490

July 1, 1970

Dear Mrs. [redacted],

Normally we probably would have returned two of the letters addressed to your son, because we think it is important for families to follow the North Vietnamese request that only one letter be sent per month. However, the group that was going to go to North Vietnam about now is being postponed until August or September. So we will send all three of your letters and figure they will be counted as the June, July, and August letters. If that's not OK with you, please write us.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Barbara Webster

Barbara Webster
who resides at Iowa, furnished the following information:

said his son, enlisted in the U. S. Navy in 1963, subsequently graduated as a fighter pilot, and was assigned to the Viet Nam Theater of operations. On May 21, 1967, his son was shot down over Hanoi, North Vietnam and taken prisoner. He was informed of this by the U. S. Navy on May 21, 1967.

Continuing, said he and his wife, received a letter from their son in November 1967, sent to them by CAROL McELDOWNEY, 11116 Greenview, Cleveland, Ohio, who had shortly before returned from a trip to Hanoi, North Vietnam, as a representative of some peace group or another.

In December 1967, they received another letter from their son, mailed directly from North Vietnam, bearing a North Vietnam stamp.

In April 1968, they received a letter from their son, written in February 1968, by way of an anonymous party, postmark unrecalled.

In July or August 1968, they got another letter written in July of that year, which letter was brought back by one DR. JOSEPH ELDER, a representative of the American Friends Service Committee, Inc., 160 North 15th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In October 1968, another letter was received, written in September of that year, which letter was forwarded to them by M. F. DO NASCIMENTO BRITO, Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, a newspaper reporter who had apparently been visiting in the Hanoi area. Neither his wife had any prior contact with this individual.
The next letter from their son came via direct mail, written by him January 31, 1969, and received in June 1969, from North Vietnam via East Germany.

The next letter, written March 25, 1970, was received in April 1970, from CORA WEISS, representing the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM), as was the last letter from their son to date, received in May 1970.

said that after being informed of their son's capture, they were instructed by the U. S. Navy how to correspond with their son, forms to use and other such instructions. He said he and his wife invariably followed these instructions, and they also advised the Navy of the receipt of each letter from their son with as much background information as possible as to how it came. They sent the Navy copies of all correspondence and his wife ever received and maintained a close liaison with liaison authorities in the Navy Department in connection with each contact.

made available copies of five pieces of correspondence: two letters from COLIFAM, two letters from the U. S. Navy and one letter from the American Friends Service Committee, Inc.  

said he and his wife have been averaging about one letter per month to their son, each mailed on the form letter furnished under the instructions of the U. S. Navy. He said they did send one letter to their son in March 1970 through COLIFAM organization, which letter was mailed to CORA WEISS, COLIFAM, 365 West 42nd Street, New York, New York. They knew this letter was received by their son inasmuch as he referred to a specific school reunion in a subsequent letter in answer to a remark made in the letter handled by COLIFAM.

said he and his wife would not hesitate to make available to the proper authorities in connection with this investigation, any or all of the correspondence involved since their son has been a prisoner.

said they are declining to testify at this time in this matter, particularly in view of Mr. position as a Military Intelligence Agent, but might consider doing so following their son's release and return to the United States.
then furnished Xerox copies of the following attached:

1. Department of Navy letter dated January 7, 1970;
2. Department of Navy letter dated January 21, 1970;
5. Letter dated May 11, 1970, signed by CORA WEISS, representing COLIFAM.

It is added that other than the above, neither he nor his wife has had any contact with representatives of COLIFAM.
Dear Navy Wives and Parents:

Considerable publicity has been associated with the visit of Mrs. Cora Weiss and three of her companions from the Women's Strike for Peace group to North Vietnam. I would like to take this opportunity to bring you up to date on the facts as we presently know them.

Mrs. Weiss and her group took to North Vietnam approximately 150 letters from next of kin which were intended for delivery to our captured/missing personnel. After delivering this mail to North Vietnamese authorities, Mrs. Weiss states she was informed that the individuals to whom five pieces of mail were addressed had died in their parachutes or as a result of injuries. There were two Navy personnel reportedly listed in this group of five and the appropriate next of kin have been notified. This information is unverified and its reliability is not known. Therefore, we anticipate no status change in these two cases on the basis of the presently available information.

When Mrs. Weiss and her companions returned to the United States, they reportedly brought back with them 138 letters written to the next of kin of approximately 132 prisoners. Of these 132 reported letter writers, 55 are Navy personnel. All 55 are presently carried in a prisoner of war status. Although no letters were received through Mrs. Weiss from Navy personnel who are presently carried in a missing in action status, it is encouraging to note that approximately twenty Navy personnel were allowed to correspond for the first time. With this rather large increase in correspondence I request your patience and understanding for what will probably be a somewhat longer time span for processing those letters which you have so kindly forwarded to us. We consider this a vital program and appreciate your continued cooperation.

Mrs. Weiss indicated in a press conference which she held on 23 December that the North Vietnamese mailing policy will be less restrictive in the future, providing for one letter per month and one package every other month. Although this figure is still well below that required by the Geneva Conventions, it does constitute an improvement over the previous policy.

In view of the above, we presently anticipate a package mailing program to North Vietnam in February. Detailed instructions will be promulgated at a later date but you can anticipate that they will be very similar to those utilized at Christmas time. For your information I am
enclosing a copy of the significant portions of a series of instructions for mailing packages which were included with many of the letters received from North Vietnam last month. You will note that they are generally in consonance with those suggestions which I furnished in my letter of 13 October 1969. Please note, however, that cigarettes are specifically forbidden in the North Vietnamese instructions.

Mail should continue to be sent to the addresses previously provided. There has been some publicity that the phrase "Via Moscow" must be included under the mailing address, but our postal authorities indicate that this is unnecessary. Address the letters as you have previously and the postal department will take care of routing procedures.

For your information, eight Navy personnel broadcast Christmas messages over Radio Hanoi. The appropriate next of kin have been provided a copy. Tape recordings of the broadcast will be forwarded to the next of kin as soon as they are available.

North Vietnamese officials in Paris recently indicated again that the full list of names of American prisoners would eventually be communicated to their families, but not through official government channels. In line with this policy they said that the list of 132 names brought back from Hanoi by Mrs. Weiss and another list of names released earlier in the United States by another American peace group (presumably referring to Mr. David Dellinger), were "official".

As I indicated in my letter of 31 October, we do not endorse these procedures, but will do nothing to impede the flow of information as this would only deny you important news concerning your loved ones. Since it appears that the North Vietnamese will continue to utilize these indirect methods, I again request your assistance in keeping us advised of any information you receive which may not have been made available to us. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Charles K. Duncan
Vice Admiral, USN
Chief of Naval Personnel
**EXTRACT FROM NORTH VIETNAMESE PACKAGE INSTRUCTIONS**

In order to help packages arrive fast and in perfect condition - no breakage or spoiling due to transportation or weather, you should follow these procedures:

1. Everyone is allowed to receive only one package not exceeding 3 Kg. (approximately 6 lbs. 6 ozs.).

2. Following items are allowed: Dried food stuff, tonics in pill, tablets or capsules, tobacco together with pipes (no cigarettes). Personal articles: Soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, handkerchiefs, wash towels, underwear, scarf, pullovers, gloves and socks.

3. Food and medicine stuffs must be packed in hermetic and solid containers. Tonics must be packed in original containers from manufacturers. Attention: above procedures should be strictly followed otherwise package will not reach.
Dear Navy Wives and Parents:

In the absence of Vice Admiral Duncan, I am taking this opportunity to pass on information which I feel will be of interest to you. On Thursday, 15 January 1970, Mrs. Cora Weiss and other anti-war leaders, including David Dellinger and Bernard Davis, held a press conference in Chicago. At this meeting they announced that a number of letters from American prisoners in North Vietnam were being forwarded to them and that the letters would be mailed to the next of kin as soon as they were received. Subsequent information indicates that the letters were placed in the United States postal system on Saturday, 17 January 1970.

The list of letter writers provided at the press conference included the names of twenty-two Naval officers, all of whom are presently carried in a prisoner of war status. Five of the twenty-two Navy officers are new writers, and the primary next of kin of these people have been advised. The names of all the letter writers were transmitted to the various military commands by Naval message to allow CACO's to notify next of kin.

A lengthier list of names also provided at the press conference was purported to be a partial listing of American personnel presently held by the North Vietnamese. It was stressed that the list was not complete or comprehensive. Rather, with a few exceptions, it appeared to be a compilation of earlier lists provided by Mrs. Weiss and David Dellinger. All the Navy personnel appearing on this list are presently carried in a POW status. For the information of next of kin, the Navy names appearing on this list are enclosed.

The formation of a new group called the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam was also announced. Mrs. Weiss and David Dellinger were reported to be co-chairman of the committee. The former indicated that Hanoi had agreed to send mail from American prisoners of war to the committee and that the committee would then forward the letters to the persons to whom addressed. She also said that the North Vietnamese had agreed to "reply to the extent possible" to inquiries from families seeking to determine whether their relatives are prisoners. The address given for the committee office is 365 West 42nd Street, New York, N. Y., 10017. It is suggested that mail to captured and missing personnel continue to be addressed as indicated in the MIA/POW Family Information brochure since those directions remain applicable.
Vice Admiral Duncan's letters of 31 October 1969 and 7 January 1970 have made clear our position concerning committees and organizations such as the one described above. The action of the North Vietnamese in dealing through such groups, rather than at an official government level, is an obvious propaganda ploy designed to promote the credibility of those who oppose the United States position in Vietnam. Such actions perpetrated at your expense on such an obviously humanitarian issue, speaks poorly of those involved, both North Vietnamese and Americans. However, as previously indicated, we will take no action which might impede the flow of information concerning your loved ones. We merely request your assistance in keeping us advised of any developments or information which may not have been made available to us.

The broadcast by Radio Moscow of statements attributed to United States prisoners of war in North Vietnam on 19 January provided no new information. The messages were re-broadcasts of earlier holiday greetings which were first monitored over Radio Hanoi in December 1969 and subsequently over Radio Havana.

On 1 December 1969, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 9485, a bill designed to remove the $10,000 limit on deposits to the Uniformed Service Savings Deposit Program for captured or missing personnel. The bill is now awaiting Senate action. H.R. 9487, a bill to exclude from gross income for tax purposes the entire amount of compensation of members of the Armed Forces who are captured or missing during the Vietnam conflict, is still awaiting action in the House of Representatives.

We will continue to keep you informed of any developments concerning our captured and missing personnel. Please advise us of any assistance we may be able to provide.

Sincerely,

D. H. Quin
Acting Chief of Naval Personnel
Navy names provided at the 15 January 1970 press conference purported to be a partial list of American personnel held by North Vietnam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alvarez, Everett</td>
<td>Mullen, Richard</td>
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<td>Williams, Lewis</td>
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<td>Mobley, Joseph</td>
<td>Woods, Robert</td>
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Enclosure 1
January 20, 1970

Dear Friend,

I am happy to report that during my visit to North Vietnam between December 26, 1969, and January 9, 1970, I was able to deliver to the representatives of the Viet My (Viet Nam Committee for Solidarity with American People) about 500 letters that had been forwarded on to me by you and other family members of prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

Immediately prior to my departure from North Vietnam I was given 69 letters from 64 American prisoners of war, and in keeping with the North Vietnamese request these letters have been given to the

Committee of Liaison
with Families of Service
men detained in North
Vietnam
365 W. 42nd Street
New York, New York

for transmittal to the individual addressees. We at the American Friends Service Committee are pleased to have had a part in opening a channel for communication between the prisoners and their families and hope that this will continue.

You may be interested to know that during my visit to North Vietnam I was able to deliver a second contribution of open heart surgical equipment to the Benh Vien Viet-Duc Hospital in Hanoi in keeping with a long-standing Quaker concern for civilian sufferers on both sides of a war.

Following my departure from North Vietnam I traveled on to Quang Ngai in South Vietnam to visit the American Friends Service Committee (Quaker) rehabilitation project for civilian casualties.

I have asked my colleagues in Philadelphia to mail this letter to you prior to my return to the United States, so that you might know more promptly that your letter has safely arrived in Hanoi and was given to the appropriate North Vietnamese authorities with my specific request that it be delivered to the individual addressee.

Most sincerely yours,

[Signature]

for: Louis W. Schneider
Roger G. Fredrickson
May 4, 1970

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 500 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.
Dear friend:

A delegation of anti-war activists has just returned from a 10-day trip to Hanoi. Charlotte Bunch-Weik, Jerry Schwinn, Frank Joyce and Elizabeth Martinez brought 47 letters from prisoners with them and we are very happy to forward yours today.

They also brought out additional suggestions for items which could be included in packages which we thought might be useful to you. Vitamins, minerals and protein are high on the list. Tooth brushes, tooth paste, soap, body powder, foot powder, hard candies, coffee, sweeteners, tobacco, gum, instant breakfast, powdered sweet drinks, instant chocolate drink, tinned ham, peanut butter, cheese spreads, playing cards, travel chess-checkers sets, pipes, pipe cleaners. These are merely suggestions and packages, of course, are not limited to these items.

The arrival of this mail brings the number of letters from prisoners sent out since December to 861.

Sincerely,

Cora Weiss
COMMITTEE OF LIASON
with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam
365 West 42nd Street New York N.Y. 10036
212-765-1490
Cable address: COLLAPAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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. Core Weiss, a co-chairman of the new group and a housewife from Riverside, Ill., "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 addressess. Also," she continued, "we will forward letters 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 six 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. 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 torture, 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 prison.

Another member of the Committee, Stewart MacPherson, 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 to servicemen and those letters will soon arrive from Hong Kong in New York, and will immediately be sent to the addresses." Mr. MacPherson 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 152 airman held by the North Vietnamese, or reported to be dead or interned." Mr. MacPherson emphasized that the list (available upon request) of 152 names was neither final nor comprehensive. He said that "While these names are known to us, undoubtedly others known to their families."

LETTERS EN ROUTE NOW

8 APR 73
PRESS RELEASE – page 2

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

In December 1969, Mrs. Core Weiss and two other women, Ethel Taylor of Philadelphia and Madeleine Duckles of San Francisco, all active with Women Strike for Peace, came back from Hanoi with 136 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. Sol Seidman, Steve Holliswell 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.

Artivist Group
Seen As Liaison
To U.S. POWs

NEW YORK (AP) — An office to assist and facilitate the exchange of mail between American prisoners in Vietnam and their families was opened here today, a group exposed to the war was announced yesterday.

The office carries the name of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, and is run by Mrs. Core Weiss and David Delinger.

Mrs. Weiss and the organization has had no serious contact with families of prisoners in Europe to date. She said 36 letters from servicemen, including six from Hanoi, were flown to Philadelphia yesterday, under the new organization.

She said the North Vietnamese had approved the amendments by which families could send one letter a month and one package of more than two pounds each month, addressed to servicemen.

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

Delinger is one of the seven documents being tried in Chicago on charges growing out of the meetings during the National Congress for Peace.

Mrs. Weiss and North Vietnam officials have agreed to "do the utmost possible" to be from families.

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From The New York Times, 1/16/70
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)
FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (100-12042) (P)
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICE MEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM) IS - MISCELLANEOUS REGISTRATION ACT

(00: NEW YORK)

RE: NY airtel to Bureau dated 6/9/70.
New York airtel to Bureau dated 7/14/70.

Enclosed herewith for each the Bureau and New York are two copies each of FD-302s reflecting results of interviews with Mrs. and Mrs. in the Springfield Division.

On 8/31/70 Mrs., Illinois, whose son, has been missing in action since his plane disappeared over North Vietnam on 7/6/67, advised that she is a member of the following organization, made up of individuals who have relatives, either prisoner of war or missing in action in the war in Southeast Asia:

National League of American Prisoners and Missing in Action in Southeast Asia
No. 1 Constitution Avenue, Northeast, Washington, D.C., 2002
Telephone No. 202-544-8008

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1969 O - 990-000 (11)
An LHM, suitable for dissemination, is being submitted by Springfield concerning the interview with \[\text{redacted}\] requested that in contact with the above listed names, that her identity be concealed as a person who furnished their names.

LEADS

CHICAGO DIVISION

At \[\text{redacted}\] ILLINOIS:

Will interview Mrs. \[\text{redacted}\]
as set forth in referenced New York airlet to Bureau, 6/9/70.
DIVISION
AT MINNESOTA:
Will interview Mrs. [redacted], as set forth in re New York airtel.

DIVISION
AT NEW JERSEY:
Will interview Mrs. [redacted], as set forth in referenced New York airtel.

DIVISION
AT ARIZONA:
Will interview Mrs. [redacted], Road, as set forth in referenced airtel.

WFO DIVISION
AT WASHINGTON, D.C.:
Will contact National League of American Prisoners and Missing in Action in Southeast Asia, #1 Constitution Avenue, Northeast, Washington, D.C. (if not already done) concerning names and addresses of individuals who have relatives, either prisoners of war or missing in action in the war in Southeast Asia.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

September 1, 1970

Mrs. [Redacted], Illinois, was interviewed at her home and furnished the
following information.

Her son, [Redacted], United
States Navy, has been missing in action since his plane disappeared
over North Vietnam on December 11, 1967, P.N. South Vietnam.
The advised that this is the only contact she has had with COLIFAM. She stated that she has not received any letters or mail from COLIFAM and that she has not been harassed or conjoined by COLIFAM.

She advised that her daughter-in-law had been contacted by WILLIAM KUNTSLER, who was the attorney for the "Chicago Seven" after Mrs.  She thought this was because her daughter-in-law had sometime in the past contacted KUNTSLER or had been contacted by KUNTSLER. Mrs. felt KUNTSLER may be connected with COLIFAM.
Illinois was interviewed at his place of employment, Illinois, and advised that his son, a United States Navy, has been missing in action since his plane crashed in North Vietnam on December 1967.

He stated at that time he had contacted a Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ, who is a member of COLIFAM. He advised that his wife is presently in Illinois.

He requested that his wife not be interviewed, but be interviewed after her return to Illinois.

He advised that his daughter-in-law, Mrs. [name redacted], who resides at [redacted], has had some contact with WILLIAM KUNSLER concerning his son missing in action. He stated, however, that she has been interviewed by the FBI.

He advised that neither he nor his wife have been harrassed by COLIFAM and that they have received no mail or personal objects.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN

8/24/70 at [redacted], Illinois

Files SI 100-12042

SA [redacted], Date dictated 8/31/70

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.

ENCLOSURE

[Redacted]
Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

FROM: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (100-7938) (P)

DATE: 9/16/70

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

OO: NEW YORK

Re New York airtel and LHM, 6/9/70, and Oklahoma City airtels and LHMs dated 7/1 and 8/13/70.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eleven copies, two copies to Dallas, two copies to New York, of LHM concerning captioned matter.

LEAD:

DALLAS DIVISION

AT DALLAS, TEXAS. If not already done, will locate and interview Mrs. [redacted], currently residing at an unknown address in Dallas, pursuant to instructions set out in referenced New York airtel.

(2) - Bureau (Enc. - 11) (RM)
2 - Dallas (Enc. - 2) (RM)
2 - New York (100-168469) (Enc. - 2) (RM)
2 - Oklahoma City


ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

[Redacted Information]

[Redacted Information]
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH
FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED
IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

8/27/70

[Redacted] furnished the following information:

Her husband, [Redacted] United States Air Force, was captured by the North Vietnamese on January 1967. Thereafter, she wrote letters to him through the Red Cross, but received no answer and could obtain no information as to whether he was alive or dead. In about September, 1967, RUSSELL JOHNSON, a representative of the American Friends Service Committee visited Tulsa. He had visited Hanoi in January, 1967, and planned another visit in about December, 1969. Mrs. [Redacted] gave him a letter addressed to her husband and asked him to deliver it in Hanoi. [Redacted] Thereafter, JOHNSON advised her that he had been unable to get to Hanoi and had delivered her letter to the North Vietnamese Ambassador to Cambodia.

She contacted JOHNSON again by letter in November, 1969, and in reply, received a letter from LOUIS W. SCHNEIDER, Associate Executive Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee. He stated that he planned to visit North Vietnam in December, 1969, and would be glad to take a letter to her husband. She wrote a letter and sent it to him. He later notified her by letter that he had delivered it to Hanoi.

In about November, 1969, she either read in the paper or saw on television information concerning the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLM). She thereupon wrote a letter to the organization requesting only that an attempt be made to determine if her husband was alive or dead. She received an immediate letter in reply, which was signed by BARBARA WEBSTER. This letter advised that the organization had sent a cable to Hanoi requesting information concerning [Redacted] and other U.S. servicemen.

About two weeks later, Mrs. [Redacted] received a telephone call from the New York headquarters of the organization. She believed the caller was BARBARA WEBSTER. The caller advised that information had been received from Hanoi that was definitely a prisoner of the North Vietnamese.
Mrs. [redacted] subsequently received a copy of the cable from Hanoi, which listed the names of U.S. prisoners, including the name of her husband. She sent this document to Randolph Air Force Base.

During the first part of April, 1970, Mrs. [redacted] received a letter from the organization which was signed by STEVE HALLDEWELL and BARBARA WEBSTER. Enclosed was a letter from [redacted], which was dated in December, 1969. This was the first letter she had received from her husband since his capture. Also enclosed was a letter from which the North Vietnamese suggested be used in writing to U.S. prisoners. This form, which was addressed to the Camp of Detention for U.S. pilots captured in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, via Moscow, USSR, also contained the name of the Colifam Organization.

Mrs. [redacted] said she had received similar letter forms from the U.S. Air Force; however, these did not contain the name Colifam or the phrase "via Moscow USSR" in the address.

Mrs. [redacted] immediately wrote a letter to her husband and sent it to the organization to be forwarded to him. She received an immediate reply from the organization acknowledging receipt of her letter.

About the first week in June, 1970, Mrs. [redacted] received a letter from the organization enclosing a second letter from her husband, which was dated in April, 1970. The letter from the organization contained an apology for the delay in delivery, stating that the people who brought the letter out of North Vietnam had been arrested in Canada and their belongings confiscated.

Mrs. [redacted] said all of her dealings with Colifam have been cordial. She was not aware of any statements from the organization as to its sources of information, except as mentioned above that letters from prisoners were carried by individuals entering the United States from Canada.

She said she was aware that Mrs. [redacted], and Mrs. [redacted], residing in Tulsa, have had dealings with Colifam. The only other individual she could think of who has been in contact with Colifam was Mrs. [redacted], currently residing in Dallas, Texas. Mrs. [redacted] husband is a prisoner of the North Vietnamese.
Mrs. [redacted] stated that a friend who makes frequent business trips to New York City. Some time ago, at her request, he made a visit to Colifam headquarters to observe the operations.

Mrs. [redacted] said she would be willing to cooperate should her testimony be needed at a later date.

She stated that she has destroyed some of the correspondence she has received from Colifam; however, she made available copies of two letters, which are attached:
May 4, 1970

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 them 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 500 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.
May 7

Dear Mrs. [redacted]

The letter to your husband which we received on April 16th was taken to North Vietnam by a movement person who left here on the 24th. With thanks for your kind note.

Sincerely,
Barbara Webster.
Oklahoma, furnished the following information:

He is a personal friend of and and is very familiar with Mrs. problems in communicating with her husband, who is a prisoner of the North Vietnamese.

In about April, 1970, he made a business trip to New York City. This was subsequent to contact with the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) in that city. It was also subsequent to the receipt of the first letter from through COLIFAM. Mrs. asked him to visit the offices of COLIFAM to try to find out what kind of an organization it was and he agreed to do so.

After completion of his business in New York City, he went to COLIFAM Headquarters on his way to the airport. He found the headquarters located on the second floor of a dingy building. He had to ring a bell on the ground floor and a woman who identified herself as BARBARA WEBSTER came down and opened the door. He explained who he was and his purpose for coming, and she invited him to the office on the second floor. The office consisted of about 2,000 square feet of space and there were four or five desks. There were two other individuals in the office. One of these was a white male about thirty years of age with a mustache or beard. He was seated at a desk and was talking to a young white woman, who was the wife of a serviceman.

asked WEBSTER for her views regarding the time the U.S. prisoners would be released. He noted that Hanoi had stated they would be released at "the end of the war." He inquired as to what Hanoi meant by the end of the war. WEBSTER replied this meant the time when the United States is totally out of Vietnam.

He told WEBSTER that he had seen some rather depressing photographs of U.S. prisoners held by the North
Vietnamese and yet recent photos in Look magazine showed the U.S. prisoners in good health. He asked WEBSTER if some prisoners were treated different than others or if all prisoners were treated in the same manner. WEBSTER replied that all of the prisoners receive the same humane treatment. She stated Hanoi had imported wheat especially to make bread for the U.S. prisoners. The Vietnamese do not eat bread. The U.S. prisoners now receive a loaf of bread each day.

[Redacted] noted that the correspondence forms furnished to the wives of prisoners were addressed directly to Hanoi while the same forms furnished by COLIFAM were addressed to Hanoi "Via Moscow." He asked which was the proper address. WEBSTER replied that it was best to use the Moscow address.

He noted that recently a peace group had returned to California from North Vietnam, and reportedly had brought over a hundred letters from U.S. prisoners. He asked if there was a letter for [redacted] from her husband. WEBSTER referred to a card file and said her records disclosed no letter had been received for Mrs. [redacted] in addition to the one already sent her.

He asked if it would be best for Mrs. [redacted] to have her letters to her husband forwarded through COLIFAM. She replied that this would not result in any particular advantage but the organization would be glad to forward such letters.

[Redacted] said his conference with WEBSTER was very low key. She did not appear to be pushing or selling anything. There was no discussion as to how letters from the U.S. prisoners were received by COLIFAM.

He asked how the organization obtained the money to operate, and WEBSTER replied it was obtained through contributions. She also said their operating costs did not amount to much. He asked if they solicited contributions from the wives of U.S. prisoners. She replied that such contributions were not solicited, but they would be accepted.

[Redacted] then asked her views on the opportunity for the release of U.S. prisoners. She replied that the North Vietnamese do not take the matter seriously. They cannot believe the United States can attach so much importance to such a small number of men. She further stated that North Vietnam is a poor, oppressed country with very little military equipment available. They feel that the U.S. prisoners are one of the few things they have to use as bargaining power.
then asked if it would be better for Mrs. [redacted] to use the six-line letter form supplied by the North Vietnamese, pointing out that wives of some of the prisoners are writing rather lengthy letters on regular stationery. She replied that use of the form does increase the chances of the letter being delivered, and it would not hurt to use the form.

WEBSTER furnished [redacted] some of the letter forms for delivery to Mrs. [redacted]
Memorandum

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

FROM
SAC, MIAMI (100-15995) (P)

SUBJECT:
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN
NORTH VIET NAM
(COLIFAM)
IS - MISC; REGISTRATION ACT
(OC: NEW YORK)

DATE: 9/17/70

Re Miami airtel to Bureau 7/13/70.

In efforts to interview Mrs. [redacted], Serial Number [redacted], Miami checked her listed residence on numerous occasions at [redacted], Miami, but no one was at home.

On August 31, 1970, Mrs. [redacted], Miami advised she had been away on vacation for several weeks. She said that she is the mother of Mrs. [redacted], Washington.

SEATTLE

WASHINGTON

Will interview Mrs. [redacted], wife of a POW, in accordance with instructions set out in New York airtel to Bureau, June 9, 1970.

Miami is continuing efforts to interview families of servicemen who may have been contacted by COLIFAM.

ST-129  RFC-52  100-457899-119
2 - Seattle (RM)
2 - New York (100-168469 (RM)) 1 - Miami

FILL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT AS SHOWN
SEC: 37475

SEP 21 1970

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

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

FROM SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (100-15134) (P)

DATE: 9/16/70

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

OO: NEW YORK

Re Springfield airtel 9/8/70.

Recipient offices are being advised that Mrs. Minn., (Page 2 of re communication) had already been interviewed in the past and results appropriately recorded and submitted.

E012812-2

2 - Bureau (RM)
1 - New York (INH) (RM)
1 - Springfield (.00-1042) (RM)
1 - Minneapolis

REC-51 100-457899-120

ST-111 SEP 18 1970

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN LUMINOUS

Buy U.S. Savings Bond Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

AMERICAN POWs/MIAs IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
(SUMMARY)

PART 17 OF 26

FILE NUMBER: 100-457899
Subject: Pow/MIA
File Number: 100-457899
Vol 7
Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-0457899)
FROM: WAC, WFO (100-50739) (RUC)

DATE: 9/12/70

SUBJECT: COLIFAN 15TH-ISCLENHOUS REGISTRATION ACT

Re: Dallas air Date: 8/20/70,

On 9/17/70, families of prisoners and missing in action in South East Asia received no further information about the activities of COFNAV, then has already been reported but that if any information comes to her attention she will immediately contact WAC.

For the information of the Alexandria division, United We Stand, WAC, advised that he was in Vientiane, Laos at this time and had breakfast with WAC.

On 8/19/70, Mr. WEISS had just arrived from Hong, and two other women were also in Vientiane, Laos at this time and had breakfast with WAC.

Mr. Va, and her home telephone is employed at this time. This information was supplied by Mr. Va.

Families of prisoners and missing in action in South East Asia advised that Group Code does not maintain a master list of POKs and MAs except the one that has been widely published in local newspapers.

All information contained in this memorandum is classified.
WPO 100-50739

ALEXANDRIA

AT [Redacted] VIRGINIA

Will interview Mrs. [Redacted] for any information she may have concerning her contact with CORA WEISS.
Memorandum

TO:
DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

FROM:
SAC, ALEXANDRIA (100-373) -P-

DATE: 9/18/70

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

(00:New York)

Re WFO airtel to the Bureau, 7/3/70, and Alexandria airtel to the Bureau, 7/6/70.

The following offices of the headquarters for the casualty sections of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force were contacted by SA ___ for the purpose of ascertaining those next of kin of POW's and MIA's who have had personal contact with members of the captioned organization.

U. S. Marine Corps Headquarters, Casualty Section
Navy Annex, Room 4316
Arlington, Virginia

advised that should interviews be desired with the next of kin, it would be advisable to first contact the specific military office which is located opposite the names of the next of kin:

REC-39 100-457899-122

2 - Bureau
2 - New York (100-168469)(RM)
2 - Alexandria

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan
Next of kin of missing or captured Marines who have been communicated with by the Committee of Liaison:

Inspector-Instructor
Marine Corps Reserve Training Center
495 Summer Street
Boston, Mass. 02121

Inspector-Instructor
Naval and Marine Corps Reserve
Training Center
19th and Mission Streets
San Jose, Calif. 95112

Captain Faulkner
Personal Affairs Officer
MCAS, El Toro
Santa Ana, Calif. 92709

Commanding Officer
Marine Barracks
U. S. Naval Air Station
Jacksonville, Fla 32212

Inspector-Instructor
Naval and Marine Corps Reserve
Training Center
Foot of West Washington Street
East Peoria, Ill. 62633

Officer in Charge
Marine Corps Recruiting Station
30th and Fort Streets
Omaha, Neb. 68111

Commanding General
Marine Corps Air Station
Cherry Point, N. C. 28533
(Casualty Assistance Officer)

Commanding Officer
MCAS, New River
Jacksonville, N. C. 28540
(Casualty Assistance Officer)
Continued:

Mrs. [Redacted] [Redacted]

Mr. & Mrs. [Redacted] [Redacted]

POW [Redacted] [Redacted]

Commanding Officer
Marine Corps Supply Center
Albany, Georgia 31704
(Casualty Assistance Officer)

Inspector-Instructor
Naval and Marine Corps Reserve
Training Center
7600 East Jefferson Avenue
Detroit, Mich. 48214
Lt. Col. [redacted] through Mr. [redacted], U. S. Army Military Personnel, Missing & Captured Persons Unit, Casualty Division, located in Room GB-175, Forrestal Building, Washington, D. C., advised on 9/9/70, that there are no known next of kin of the 58 known Army POW’s who might have been in contact with any members of COLIFAM. They explained that this was because all known Army POW’s are being held in South Vietnam and are not, therefore, prisoners of the North Vietnamese but are captives of the Viet Cong which COLIFAM has not represented. The results of contact with Commander ROBERT S. BOROUGH, U. S. Navy, Hoffman Building in Alexandria, Virginia, concerning Navy next of kin, were set forth in Alexandria airtel to Bureau dated 7/6/70.

Reference is made to Anchorage letter to Bureau, 7/20/70, and San Antonio letter to Bureau, 8/27/70, pertaining to the list of names of Air Force next of kin. Captain WALTER J. ELLIS, U. S. Navy, aide to Brigadier General DANIEL "CHAPPIE" JAMES, JR., U. S. Air Force Public Affairs Office, located in Room ZE800, in the Pentagon Building, Arlington, Virginia, advised that this office does not maintain a list of names of next of kin who have had personal contact with members of COLIFAM. He referred investigating Agent to the 1127th Field Activities Group at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Sergeant [redacted] advised that his office would prepare a list of the next of kin of Air Force personnel who have had contact with COLIFAM after he could confer with Randolph Air Force Base in Texas. Sergeant [redacted] advised that of the 335 Air Force personnel who are POW’s and MIA’s, there has never been a list compiled of their next of kin who have had personal contact with members of COLIFAM.

In view of the specific Bureau instructions in this matter, Alexandria does not contemplate interviewing those next of kin as set out in San Antonio letter to Bureau 8/27/70. When the list of Air Force next of kin
who have had contact with COLIFAM is obtained, it will be forwarded to the Bureau and O0 for their consideration is setting forth additional leads which are germane to this matter.

LEADS

ALEXANDRIA

AT [REDACTED], VIRGINIA

Will locate and interview Mrs. [REDACTED], wife of [REDACTED] (MIA), whose home phone is [REDACTED] and whose office phone is [REDACTED] but who has been unavailable to date.

AT FORT BELVOIR, VIRGINIA

Will recontact USAF 1127th Field Activities Group through Sgt. [REDACTED] to obtain amended list of USAF next of kin who have had contact with COLIFAM members.

Will attempt to locate 4/20/70, letter from CORA WEISS to Mrs. [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Minneapolis, Minn., which enclosed two letter forms to be utilized when corresponding with her captive husband, USAF [REDACTED]. (Original letters were forwarded by [REDACTED] to USAF Intelligence, Washington, D. C.) (Lead contained in Minneapolis airtel to Bureau and WFO, 7/8/70.)
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE: COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF ORIGIN: NEW YORK
DATE: SEP 22 1970
INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD: 7/10/70 - 9/3/70

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

REFERENCES:
- New York airtel to Bureau, 6/9/70.
- Columbia airtel to Bureau, 7/18/70.
- San Antonio letter to Bureau, 8/27/70.

ADMINISTRATIVE:
Regarding the list of names set forth in San Antonio letter to Bureau, dated 8/27/70, the Columbia Division has interviewed only those relatives of actual prisoners of war. The relatives of those individuals listed as missing in action are not being interviewed, USAFR.
Leads were set forth in Columbia airtel to Bureau, dated 7/18/70, for the Charlotte Division to interview Mrs. [redacted], wife of [redacted], and Mrs. [redacted], wife of [redacted].

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED

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CASE HAS BEEN:
PENDING OVER ONE YEAR [ ]
PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS [ ]

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW:

-123 REC

12 SEP 24 1970

DISSIMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT

Agency: OSA, ACS, SEC, SEC, 661, OMC
Request Recd.:
Date Fwd.:
How Fwd.:
By:

COVER PAGE
LEADS

SAVANNAH DIVISION

AT GEORGIA

Will interview Mrs. [Redacted], wife of [Redacted], telephone [Redacted], in accordance with instructions in referenced New York letter dated 6/9/70.
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All 62c

Copy to:

Report of: SA Office: COLUMBIA
Date: SEP 22 1970
Field Office File #: 100-909
Bureau File #: 100-457899

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

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS;
REGISTRATION ACT

Synopsis: The following wives of POW's in North Vietnam were
interviewed:

Mrs. Sumter, S. C.
Wife of 62c

Mrs. Sumter, S. C. 62c
Wife of

Mrs. Sumter, S. C. 62c
Wife of

Also interviewed was Mrs. S. C., mother of

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U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1969 O - 351-078
correspondence from COLIFAM and, through the efforts of COLIFAM, have received one or more letters from their POW relatives. Photo copies of COLIFAM correspondence received from these individuals obtained and included in the report.

- RUC -

DETAILS:
Mrs. [redacted] furnished the following information:

She is the wife of [redacted], a U.S. Air Force, who was captured in North Vietnam about 14 years ago.

She has been in contact with the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). In December, 1969, her brother-in-law, [redacted], was living in San Francisco, California. He observed [redacted] on television at that time. WEISS, a member of COLIFAM, had just returned from North Vietnam and she displayed on television some cartoons which she stated had been drawn by [redacted], a prisoner in North Vietnam. WEISS immediately contacted WEISS and received an appointment to see her at her motel in San Francisco. WEISS made a photocopy of the four cartoon drawings, and she turned over the originals to Mr. [redacted]. Mr. [redacted] who, in turn, sent them to Mrs. [redacted] Mrs. [redacted] decided to release the cartoons, storing and taking them. She desired to keep them in her possession. Mr. [redacted] is the brother of [redacted] and he currently resides in New York City where he is with [redacted].

WEISS told [redacted] that the North Vietnamese had given her the cartoons with the request that she give them to Mrs. [redacted]

Sometime during the latter part of December, 1969, after Christmas, Mrs. [redacted] telephonically contacted WEISS at her home in Syracuse, New York, and inquired whether she had seen [redacted] on the occasion of her visit to North Vietnam. Mrs. [redacted] replied that she had not seen [redacted] or any of the prisoners, but only North Vietnamese officials. WEISS then made several remarks about the war in South Vietnam which Mrs. [redacted] took to be pure propaganda. Mrs. [redacted] warned WEISS that she should not attempt in any way to publish the cartoons which had been drawn by her husband, or otherwise Mrs. [redacted] would sue her.
Beginning in January, 1970, Mrs. [redacted] started to receive "propaganda" from COLIFAM through the mails. The first item she received was a letter dated January 20, 1970, from ROGER Q. FREEDICSON of the American Friends Service Committee, Inc., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

She then received an information sheet concerning COLIFAM, dated January, 1970.

She also received a letter from MAGGIE GOODWIN of COLIFAM dated January 27, 1970; and a letter from BARBARA [redacted] of COLIFAM dated June 14, 1970.

[redacted] made available the above items which she had received in the mail, and Xerox copies are attached to this interview form. She stated she had received a few more pieces of "propaganda" from COLIFAM through the mails; however, she has since thrown them away.

In February, 1970, Mrs. [redacted] visited Mrs. [redacted], S. C. Mrs. [redacted] is also the wife of a Prisoner of War (POW) being held by North Vietnam. They had read in the newspaper that STEWART MEACHAM of COLIFAM had recently brought back some letters from POWs. Mrs. [redacted] telephonically contacted MEACHAM in New York, and Mrs. [redacted] also spoke with him on this occasion. MEACHAM said that both Mrs. [redacted] and Mrs. [redacted] had letters coming from their husbands.

CORA WEISS telephonically contacted Mrs. [redacted] in April, 1970, and requested that Mrs. [redacted] not see her as she had not published the cartoons drawn by [redacted]. WEISS also said she knew some pictures which had been painted by [redacted] were in the United States, and she wanted to know how Mrs. [redacted] obtained them. Although Mrs. [redacted] actually had the paintings, she denied to WEISS that she had them. Mrs. [redacted] actually has five photographic slides of the paintings which she received from Life Magazine. It was her understanding that the slides were made by one ROGER [redacted] in France; however, she had no knowledge how PK came in contact with the paintings. WEISS then told Mrs. [redacted] she had been to the Life Magazine office in New York, and the magazine had photo slides of the paintings, and Mrs. [redacted] could obtain the slides from Life.
WEISS then asked Mrs. [redacted] if her son was going to be drafted. Mrs. [redacted] did not answer this question at first, and she asked WEISS if her, WEISS', son was going to be drafted. WEISS replied in the negative, stating that her son was only two years of age. Mrs. [redacted] then told WEISS that her son will serve his country in some capacity some day. WEISS replied that her son would do likewise. WEISS told Mrs. [redacted] the closest the North Vietnamese came to committing atrocities against the POWs was to slap them. WEISS said the North Vietnamese told her this, and she believed them.

Mrs. [redacted] read in the newspaper that Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ of COLIFAM had returned to the United States in May, 1970, following a trip to North Vietnam. Sometime around the end of May, 1970, Mrs. [redacted] telephonically contacted FERNANDEZ at COLIFAM headquarters in New York, and she asked him whether or not he had seen any of the POWs during his trip to North Vietnam. FERNANDEZ replied that he had not seen any POWs on the trip. He further told Mrs. [redacted] that he planned to return to North Vietnam, and if she had any letters for her husband, she could send them to him and he would take them to North Vietnam. FERNANDEZ also said that if Mrs. [redacted] did not want to send the letters through him, she could send them direct, through Moscow. He said that mail goes to Moscow via airliner, from Moscow to China by train, and from China to Hanoi by train. FERNANDEZ advised Mrs. [redacted] that he did not have any information concerning the POWs. He told Mrs. [redacted] that if ever he or COLIFAM could be of any assistance to her, she should contact them.

Mrs. [redacted] has received a total of eight letters from her husband. Of these, seven letters and a Christmas card, came to her by way of COLIFAM. The first letter she received from her husband came to her direct, and it was mailed October 27, 1969.

Mrs. [redacted] has sent only one letter to her husband through COLIFAM, and this was about one month ago. She has mailed all other letters direct to her husband in Hanoi.

Mrs. [redacted] described MEACHAM and FERNANDEZ as very cordial, and WEISS as "clever". At no time did these individuals threaten, harass or cajole her in any way.
She knows of no activity on the part of COLIFAM in South Carolina. She knows of no servicemen formerly residing in South Carolina who were contacted by means of COLIFAM while they were prisoners of war.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that the following wives of POWs in North Vietnam have also been contacted by COLIFAM:

(1) Mrs. [redacted], S. C.
(2) Mrs. [redacted], S. C.
(3) Mrs. [redacted]

Mrs. [redacted] advised she would be willing to cooperate should her testimony be needed at a later date.

Photographic copies of the correspondence received by Mrs. [redacted] from the American Friends Service Committee, Inc., and COLIFAM, are attached hereto.
January 20, 1970

Dear Friend,

I am happy to report that during my visit to North Vietnam between December 26, 1969, and January 9, 1970, I was able to deliver to the representatives of the Viet Nam Committee for Solidarity with American People about 500 letters that had been forwarded on to me by you and other family members of prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

Immediately prior to my departure from North Vietnam I was given 69 letters from 6th American prisoners of war, and in keeping with the North Vietnamese request these letters have been given to the Committee of Liaison with Families of Service men detained in North Vietnam 365 W. 42nd Street New York, New York for transmittal to the individual addresses. We at the American Friends Service Committee are pleased to have had a part in opening a channel for communication between the prisoners and their families and hope that this will continue.

You may be interested to know that during my visit to North Vietnam I was able to deliver a second contribution of open heart surgical equipment to the Bach Vien, Viet-Duc Hospital in Hanoi in keeping with a long standing American concern for civilian suffering on both sides of a war.

For reasons I cannot discuss in detail, I have asked my colleagues in Philadelphia to mail this letter to you prior to my return to the United States, so that you might know more promptly that your letter has safely arrived in Hanoi and was given to the appropriate North Vietnamese authorities with my specific request that it be delivered to the individual addresses.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

[Name]

[Position]
Committee of Liaison
with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

305 West 42nd Street
New York N.Y. 10036
222-765-1496

January, 1970

INFORMATION SHEET

Background

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

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

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

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

Functions of the Committee

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

The Committee will seek to facilitate communication between families in the U.S. and servicemen now imprisoned in North Vietnam. Basically, the Committee will receive letters from servicemen and forward them through the U.S. Department of State, in the hope that problems will be solved at the receipt of such mail. We will also forward letters from North Vietnam to the request of families. Families can, of course, still send personal letters and parcels directly but should note that the instructions on mailing previously issued by the State Department are correct.

Name of member

Chairman of Detention of HLP Volunteers
Captured in the N.L.F.
Hanoi, Democratic Republic of Vietnam

U.S. Peace

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

Clarification

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

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

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

Who We Are

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

We are active in a variety of organizations committed to ending the war: American Friends Service Committee, the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, Clergy and Laymen Concerned about Vietnam, Women Strike for Peace, The Conspiracy, and Women Against Dadday War Dunks. The Committee is supported by donations from individuals and organizations, and welcomes any gifts to sustain its work.
January 27, 1970

Dear Mrs. [redacted],

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Maggie Geddes
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
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Mrs. [redacted] furnished the following information:

She is the wife of a U.S. Air Force, who was captured in North Vietnam on or about 1965. She heard nothing from her husband until February 24, 1970, when she received a letter and Christmas card from him. The mail was not sent to her through the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM), but came directly to her through the international mails.

Sometime in December, 1969, Mrs. [redacted] received a telephone call from Mrs. Sunter, South Carolina. Mrs. [redacted] is also the wife of a prisoner of war (POW) being held in North Vietnam. She informed Mrs. [redacted] that three women from the "Women Strike For Peace" were going to Hanoi, and they would carry with them a letter for [redacted] should Mrs. [redacted] want to decide to send one.

Later in December, 1969, Mrs. [redacted] telephonically contacted ETHEL TAYLOR of "Women Strike For Peace" in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. TAYLOR is also a member of COLIFAM. Mrs. [redacted] asked TAYLOR to give her husband a message, and said tell him "hello" and "we are alright". Mrs. [redacted] also told TAYLOR she would like to send some salve to her husband. TAYLOR asked what kind of salve, and Mrs. [redacted] gave her this information. TAYLOR said she was one of the three women of "Women Strike For Peace" who were going to Hanoi, and she would go to a drug store and purchase the salve and take same to her husband.

Mrs. [redacted] read in a newspaper that the three women returned from Hanoi in January, 1970. Another one of the women who made the trip was CORA WEISS, also a member of COLIFAM. Mrs. [redacted] telephonically contacted ETHEL TAYLOR in Philadelphia and inquired whether she had seen [redacted] and if she had delivered the salve. TAYLOR replied in the negative, pointing out that she had become ill in Paris, France and was unable to continue on the trip to Hanoi. She said she sent the salve and Mrs. [redacted] message through the other women, however.

Columbia 100-909
New York 100-168469


File:

by [redacted] Date dictated [redacted] 7/17/70
she did not know if same were delivered to TAYLOR further told Mrs. [redacted] that they were going to form a committee to serve as a channel through which POWs and their families could write to each other. TAYLOR said she would get in touch with Mrs. [redacted] again at a later date.

Later, in January, 1970, Mrs. [redacted] received a letter from TAYLOR dated January 21, 1970, a photographic copy of which is attached hereto.

Mrs. [redacted] received another telephone call from Mrs. SANDY BAGLEY in December, 1969 and was informed by Mrs. BAGLEY that LOUIS W. SCHNEIDER and ROGER G. FREDRICKESEN of the American Friends Service Committee, Inc., Philadelphia, Pa., were going to make a trip to Hanoi and were going to take some letters to the POWs. Mrs. [redacted] thereupon wrote a letter to her husband, sealed it, and placed it in an envelop addressed to the American Friends Service Committee in Philadelphia. At the same time, Mrs. [redacted] wrote a letter to the American Friends Service Committee pointing out that they should be helping the American POWs in North Vietnam rather than helping the North Vietnamese. In this letter, Mrs. [redacted] was generally critical of the activities of the American Friends Service Committee, Inc.

In January, 1970, Mrs. [redacted] received a letter from ROGER G. FREDRICKESEN of the American Friends Service Committee, dated January 20, 1970, a photographic copy of which is attached hereto.

During the first part of April, 1970, Mrs. [redacted] was on vacation at Daytona Beach, Fla., when she received a telephone call from an Air Force official at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. This official wanted to know whether or not Mrs. [redacted] had any objection to having her address furnished to CORA WEISS of COLIFAM. Mrs. [redacted] said she would have no objection to this.

When she returned home on April 11, 1970, there was a letter in her mailbox from CORA WEISS and DAVE DELLINGER of COLIFAM. Enclosed with this letter was an information sheet regarding COLIFAM. This letter, dated April 7, 1970, advised Mrs. [redacted] that COLIFAM had received official confirmation
that her husband was one of the POWs being held by the North Vietnamese. It was also pointed out to Mrs. [redacted], that a letter from her husband was en route to her. Photographic copies of the letter from WEISS and DELLINGER and the information sheet on COLIFAM are attached hereto.

Mrs. [redacted] never received the letter from her husband which was referred to in the letter from WEISS and DELLINGER.

In May, 1970, Mrs. [redacted] telephonically contacted the office of STEWART MEACHAM of American Friends Service Committee in Philadelphia. MEACHAM is also a member of COLIFAM. Mrs. [redacted] talked with MEACHAM’s secretary in MEACHAM’s absence. Mrs. [redacted] informed the secretary that she had not received her letter mentioned in the correspondence from WEISS and DELLINGER. The secretary replied that the packet of letters had not yet arrived, and sometimes the letters are slow in coming in.

In May, 1970, correspondence came to Mrs. [redacted] from COLIFAM which also had the name of Mrs. [redacted] on the envelope. Mrs. [redacted] telephonically contacted Mrs. [redacted] and learned that she is the mother of a U. S. Navy, also a POW in North Vietnam. Mrs. [redacted] has since moved to [redacted] telephone.

On June 16, 1970, Mrs. [redacted] received a second letter from her husband, and this came to her by way of COLIFAM. In the same envelope, was a letter, dated June 14, 1970, from BARBARA WEBSTER of COLIFAM, a photographic copy of which is attached hereto.

During the first part of June, 1970, Mrs. [redacted] received a telephone call from [redacted] in which she was advised that KENNETH KIRKPATRICK of Seattle, Washington, and two professors were going to Hanoi, and in which she was advised she had learned this information from STEWART MEACHAM. She said KIRKPATRICK is also connected with American Friends Service Committee. Mrs. [redacted] sent a letter for her
husband to Mr. KIRKPATRICK, however, she had no knowledge whether it was actually delivered. She has had no further contact with COLIFAM.

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that ETHEL TAYLOR was cordial in their telephone contacts, and at no time did she threaten, harass or cajole her in any way.

She knows of no activity on the part of COLIFAM in South Carolina. She knows of no servicemen formerly residing in South Carolina who were contacted by means of COLIFAM while they were prisoners of war.

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that the following wives of POWs in North Vietnam have also been contacted by COLIFAM:

(1) Mrs. [REDACTED] S. C.
(2) Mrs. [REDACTED] 
(3) Mrs. [REDACTED] 

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised she would be willing to cooperate should her testimony be needed at a later date.

Attached hereto are photographic copies of the correspondence received by Mrs. [REDACTED] from COLIFAM and the American Friends Service Committee.
January 21, 1970

Dear [Name]

I am sorry that it has taken me so long to write to you but I've been waiting until I could make definite suggestions to you and now I am pleased to say I can.

I regret very much that I did not bring back a letter for you but now an organization has been set up between the Peace Movement and Hanoi specifically for the purpose of forwarding mail and forwarding inquiries regarding prisoners from the immediate family.

The organization is the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam and is located at 365 W. 42nd Street, New York City, N.Y., 10036.

I am a member of this Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any reason.

Cordially,

Ethel Taylor
Mrs. William Taylor

1505 Ashford Way
Phila., Pa., 19151
MI 2-9078 (Area Code 215)

P.S. You will shortly receive information directly from the Committee of Liaison with details of its operation.
January 20, 1970

Dear Friend,

I am happy to report that during my visit to North Vietnam between December 26, 1969, and January 9, 1970, I was able to deliver to the representatives of the Vietmy (Viet Nam Committee for Solidarity with American People) about 500 letters that had been forwarded on to me by you and other family members of prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

Immediately prior to my departure from North Vietnam I was given 69 letters from 69 American prisoners of war, and in keeping with the North Vietnamese request these letters have been given to the Committee of Liaison with Families of Service men detained in North Vietnam, 365 W. 42nd Street, New York, New York

for transmittal to the individual addressees. We at the American Friends Service Committee are pleased to have had a part in opening a channel for communication between the prisoners and their families and hope that this will continue.

You may be interested to know that during my visit to North Vietnam I was able to deliver a second contribution of open heart surgical equipment to the Benh Vien Viet-Dac Hospital in Hanoi in keeping with a long-standing Quaker concern for civilian sufferers on both sides of a war.

Following my departure from North Vietnam I traveled on to Quang Ngai in South Vietnam to visit the American Friends Service Committee (Quaker) rehabilitation project for civilian casualties.

I have asked my colleagues in Philadelphia to mail this letter to you prior to my return to the United States, so that you might know more promptly that your letter has safely arrived in Hanoi and was given to the appropriate North Vietnamese authorities with my specific request that it be delivered to the individual addressee.

Most sincerely yours,

[Signature]

for: Louis W. Schneider
Roger G. Fredrickson
April 7, 1970

Dear Mr. [Redacted]

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

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,

[Signature]

Cora Weiss  Dave Dellinger

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

Chairmen:
Dave Dellinger
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee (in formation):
Rennie Davis
Rev. Richard Fernandez
Maggie Geddies
Steve Halliwell
Stewart Macdonald
Prof. Elia Seitzman
Elie Teyler
Barbara Webster
Trudi Young

Staff

INFORMATION SHEET

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 mail. 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 seeks to request information concerning the status of servicemen who have been in North Vietnam, the POW's and captured there.

The Committee has met with delegations from the North Vietnam government and President Ho Chi Minh personally. The Committee has written to each family and received a letter in return. The Committee has met with the families and has distributed information concerning the status of their relatives.

The Committee of Liaison has been established in response to an initiative by the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris, and has, through the families of servicemen held in North Vietnam, been beamed to their relatives.

Background

The Committee of Liaison has been established in response to an initiative...
torted by the North Vietnamese and is an extension of previous efforts. 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. servicemen 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 the 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 to 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.
June 14, 1970

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 Palomond, 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
furnished the following information:

She is the wife of [redacted] United States Air Force, who is a prisoner of war (POW) in North Vietnam. Her husband was reported as missing in action in July, 1966; however, his status was officially changed by the Air Force in June, 1969, as a released POW, reported that he was 95% sure he had been at a POW camp in North Vietnam.

On December 3, 1969, Mrs. [redacted] received a memo from Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, advising her that the American Friends Service Committee, Inc. (AFSC) could possibly get letters through to POWs in North Vietnam. Mrs. [redacted] then wrote a letter to her husband and sent it to the AFSC in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She received a letter, dated December 15, 1969, from LOUIS W. SCHNEIDER of AFSC, acknowledging receipt of her letter. A photographic copy of the letter from SCHNEIDER is attached hereto.

In January, 1970, Mrs. [redacted] received a letter from ROGER G. FREDRICKSON of AFSC, dated January 20, 1970, a photographic copy of which is attached hereto. This letter makes reference to the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM).

Mrs. [redacted] received her first letter from her husband on March 24, 1970. This letter was postmarked at Hanoi, and apparently came directly to her through the mails. This was her first real proof that her husband was alive.

During the latter part of March or first part of April, 1970, Mrs. [redacted] received a telephone call from someone in the Casualty Division of the Air Force at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, possibly Colonel GRATCHE. The caller informed Mrs. [redacted] that CORA WEISS of COLIFAM had requested her address. Mrs. [redacted] told the person calling that she had no objection to having her address furnished to WEISS.

On 8/4/70 at S. C. File COLUMBIA 100-909 NEW YORK 100-168469

by SA Date dictated 8/7/70

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.
Shortly after the call from Randolph AFB, Mrs. [redacted] received a telephone call from some unknown reporter with "The State" newspaper, Columbia, South Carolina. The reporter advised Mrs. [redacted] that CORA WEISS had released a list of names of POWs in North Vietnam and the name of [redacted] was on the list.

Mrs. [redacted] next received a letter dated April 7, 1970, from CORA WEISS and DAVE DELINGER of COLIFAM. Enclosed with this letter was an information sheet concerning COLIFAM. Photographic copies of the letter and information sheet are attached hereto.

She next received a letter dated May 4, 1970, from Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ of COLIFAM, a photographic copy of which is attached hereto.

Mrs. [redacted] last heard from COLIFAM when she received a letter dated June 14, 1970, signed by BARBARA WEBSTER, which enclosed a letter from [redacted]. A photographic copy of the letter from WEBSTER is attached hereto. This was the last letter Mrs. MEANS has received from her husband. After reading the letter from her husband, she was of the belief he had not received any of her letters.

In June, 1970, Mrs. [redacted] received a notice from Randolph AFB advising that a Mr. KIRKPATRICK or KILPATRICK was going to North Vietnam and he would be taking with him letters for the POWs. Mrs. [redacted] wrote a letter to her husband and sent it to the above individual at Seattle, Washington.

Mrs. [redacted] has not received any telephone calls or personal contacts with persons connected with COLIFAM. She knows of no activity on the part of COLIFAM in South Carolina. She knows of no servicemen formerly residing in South Carolina who were contacted by means of COLIFAM while they were prisoners of war.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that the following wives of POWs in North Vietnam have also been contacted by COLIFAM:

(1) [redacted] South Carolina. (Now staying with relatives in
(2) Mrs. [Redacted], South Carolina.

(3) Mrs. [Redacted], South Carolina.

Mrs. [Redacted] advised she would be willing to cooperate should her testimony be needed at a later date.

Attached hereto are photographic copies of the correspondence received by [Redacted] from COLIFAM and the AFSC.
December 15, 1969

Dear Friend,

This is but a brief note to acknowledge receipt of your letter addressed to your family member who is being held as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam.

My current plans call for me to arrive in North Vietnam on or about 26 December at which point I hope to be able to turn your letter along with a large number of other letters from the immediate families of men being held to the appropriate authorities of the Democratic Republic of North Vietnam, along with my request that the letters be delivered to the individual prisoners.

After my return to the United States I will write to you again to let you know whether it was possible to deliver the letters.

Most sincerely yours,

Louis W. Schneider
Associate Executive Secretary
January 20, 1970

Dear Friend,

I am happy to report that during my visit to North Vietnam between December 26, 1969, and January 9, 1970, I was able to deliver to the representatives of the Vietmy (Viet Nam Committee for Solidarity with American People) about 500 letters that had been forwarded on to me by you and other family members of prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

Immediately prior to my departure from North Vietnam I was given 69 letters from 64 American prisoners of war, and in keeping with the North Vietnamese request these letters have been given to the

Committee of Liaison
with Families of Service
men detained in North
Vietnam
365 W. 42nd Street
New York, New York

for transmittal to the individual addressees. We at the American Friends Service Committee are pleased to have had a part in opening a channel for communication between the prisoners and their families and hope that this will continue.

You may be interested to know that during my visit to North Vietnam I was able to deliver a second contribution of open heart surgical equipment to the Benh Vien Viet-Duc Hospital in Hanoi in keeping with a longstanding Quaker concern for civilian sufferers on both sides of a war.

Following my departure from North Vietnam I traveled on to Quang Ngai in South Vietnam to visit the American Friends Service Committee (Quaker) rehabilitation project for civilian casualties.

I have asked my colleagues in Philadelphia to mail this letter to you prior to my return to the United States, so that you might know more promptly that your letter has safely arrived in Hanoi and was given to the appropriate North Vietnamese authorities with my specific request that it be delivered to the individual addressee.

Most sincerely yours,

[Signature]

for: Louis W. Schneider
Roger G. Fredrickson
April 7, 1970

Dear [Name],

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

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,

[Signature]

Cora Weiss  Dave Dellinger

P.S. Kindly excuse the mimeographed letter, but there are many families to reach at the same time.
Committee of Liaison
with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam
365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

Cable Address: COLIAFAM

Contact:
Dave Dellinger
Coro Weiss

Treasurer:
Mrs. Anne Bennet

Committee (in formation):
Tennie Davis
Rev. Richard Fernandez
Maggie Geddes
Steve Halliwell
Stewart Meacham
Mrs. Dea Soltzman
Ethel Taylor
Cornelia Webster
Judith Young

Information Sheet

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 be 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...
created by the North Vietnamese and is an extension of previous efforts. 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. servicemen 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 the 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 to 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.
May 4, 1970

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 Dow 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 300 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.
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
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

August 20, 1970

Mrs. [redacted] advised she is the wife of [redacted], a career officer in the U.S. Air Force (USAF), who was shot down over North Vietnam on [redacted] 1967 and was first officially classified as a Prisoner of War (POW) on [redacted] 1969.

Mrs. [redacted] said she is acquainted with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAN) but has not corresponded with this Committee and has had no personal contact with its members. She pointed out that she does not approve of this Committee or its activities because, in her opinion, COLIFAN is working against the best interest of the United States. She said she felt that all members of COLIFAN should be hung because of their un-American activities. However, she noted that she has received three letters from her husband through this Committee and, for this reason, she will not publicly denounce the Committee or its activities as she fears that for her to do so would lessen her chances of getting additional letters from her POW husband. She said it seems that COLIFAN is the only organization through which she can get news of letters from her husband and she does not want to do anything that would jeopardize her chances of hearing from her husband.

Mrs. [redacted] noted that she heard nothing from or regarding her husband from the date he was shot down [redacted] 1967 until April 13, 1970. However, on April 4, 1970, an official of the USAF advised her that COLIFAN had a list of POWs and her husband's name was on the list. She was informed that the Committee wanted to contact her and the USAF requested permission to release her address to the Committee. She said she gave her approval for the furnishing of her home address to the Committee after the consent of the USAF was received for such action.

She stated on April 7, 1970, [redacted], a News Reporter for WPEC-TV, Greenville, South Carolina, telephoned her and advised her that CORA WEISS, Co-Chairman of COLIFAN, had made a press release in New York, New York, to the Associated Press wire service indicating that...
from our S. C., whose wife Mrs. resides in S. C., had written to his wife and the letter had been forwarded on to her. He noted that the names of several other POWs and their wives were also released, including the following:

Mrs. [redacted] S. C.
Mrs. [redacted] S. C.
Mrs. [redacted] N. C.

Mrs. [redacted] said she noted that all of the names released were of individuals with addresses in the same general area of the United States. She said she wondered at the time why all the individuals involved were from the same area. She noted that none of these people had heard from their husbands prior to this time and the press release was publicized throughout the United States.

Mrs. [redacted] said she heard nothing further until April 10, 1970, when she received a letter from COLIAFAN. The letter, dated April 7, 1970, and signed by both CORA VIEIRA and RAFE D'ELHIGUE, Co-Chairmen of COLIAFAN, was typed on the Committee's letterhead stationery, reflecting the organization's address as 365 West 42nd Street, New York, N. Y. It stated that the Committee had recently received official confirmation of 14 more servicemen being held in North Vietnam.

The writers told Mrs. [redacted] that, by then, she should have heard that [redacted] is on this list and noted that the North Vietnamese had confirmed through the Committee of a total of 335 men being held.

The letter further noted that this notification also meant that a letter was en route from her husband. However, the letter explained that, because mail from Hanoi is very slow, they could not be sure when the letter would arrive. She was assured that the Committee would forward the letter as soon as it arrived at the COLIAFAN office.

The letter further advised as follows:

"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."

The writers apologized for the mimeographed letter but indicated it was necessary because "there are many families to reach at the same time."

Mrs. [Name] said the following "INFORMANT SHEET" which sets out information regarding the background and functions of COLIAPAM was sent to her as an enclosure to the April 7, 1970 letter:
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON
with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam
365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

CABLE ADDRESS: COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:
Dave Dallinger
Cara Weiss

Treasurer:
Mrs. Anne Bennett

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

*staff

INFORMATION SHEET

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 use 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
created by the North Vietnamese and is an extension of previous efforts. 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. servicemen 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 the 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 N.W. Mobilization Committee to 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.
Mrs. [Redacted] pointed out that the organization claimed in the aforementioned "INFORMATION SHEET" that it "is not in any sense representing the government of North Vietnam," but she noted that members of COLIAFAM were connected with several anti-war and anti-Vietnam organizations.

Mrs. [Redacted] stated that, on April 12, 1970, she received a call from the Postmaster at the Simpsonville Post Office who advised her that a Registered Letter had arrived for her. She said she went to the Post Office and picked up a 5" x 7" brown envelope which was postmarked New York, N. Y., on April 9, 1970. The envelope was addressed to her, using the address given by her POW husband instead of the address she had furnished to the Committee earlier. She said the envelope reflected the return address of COLIAFAM in New York, N. Y., on the front but had the address "P. O. Box 363, Annandale, Va." handwritten on the back.

Mrs. [Redacted] said the envelope contained a letter and a card written to her by her husband. She indicated that the letters contained news of a personal nature and made no mention of COLIAFAM. They had been written by her husband on December 13, 1969.

Also enclosed in the envelope was a letter from COLIAFAM, dated April 8, 1970, and signed by STEVEN HALLIWELL, COLIAFAM member, and BARBARA WEBSTER, COLIAFAM staff member. It noted that the letter had been received from North Vietnam that day and that over 400 letters were on route from servicemen being held in North Vietnam. It pointed out that Mrs. [Redacted] letter was one of 80 received in the first packet to arrive out of a total of five packets the Committee was expecting.

The Committee also enclosed some letter forms which the North Vietnamese had suggested relatives use when writing to servicemen in North Vietnam. However, Mrs. [Redacted] said she did not use these forms because they required that letters written on the forms be sent to the POW "VIA MOSCOW, USSR (Camp of Detention for U. S. Pilots Captured in the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC of VIETNAM)."
The letter was closed with an expression of "hopes for an early decision by the United States to withdraw from Vietnam."

Mrs. [Name] later received a letter from Reverend Richard Fernandez, COLIAFAM member, which was dated May 4, 1970, and indicated he returned on April 20, 1970, from a three-week trip to Laos and North Vietnam. He indicated he had spoken with North Vietnamese officials responsible for communication between pilots held in detention there and their families and set out instructions to be followed by relatives writing to the American POWs. He also indicated he had visited with three captured U.S. pilots and found them in good health.

Fernandez stated in this letter that the Vietnam Committee of Solidarity with the American People is COLIAFAM's contact in North Vietnam and noted that, since December, over 800 letters had been sent from Hanoi through COLIAFAM.

Mrs. [Name] said she received a second letter from her husband through COLIAFAM on May 15, 1970. The letter had been written by her husband on January 17, 1970, and contained statements of a personal nature. She noted that her husband seemed to be depressed when this letter was written and his handwriting was shaky. She said it appeared he had written the letter hurriedly.

A letter from Barbara Webster, COLIAFAM staff member, dated May 13, 1970, was enclosed with the letter and noted that the Committee had received two packages (156 letters) of letters from prisoners held in North Vietnam. Webster pointed out that, although the packages were mailed a month apart, they arrived on the same day.

Mrs. [Name] said she received a third letter through COLIAFAM on June 29, 1970, six weeks after the letter was written on May 19, 1970. She said her husband was in a very good spirit when he wrote this letter and she strongly suspected he had received a package or letter from her just before writing.

This letter was accompanied with a cover letter from Barbara Webster of COLIAFAM which was dated June 26, 1970.
WEBSTER noted that the letter, along with 185 others, was brought back to the United States by a group of anti-war people who had just returned from a visit to North Vietnam. She noted that this brought to 1,110 the total of letters which the Committee had forwarded on to families since December, 1969.

Mrs. [redacted] said she has had no contact with any member of COLIAFAN and has not corresponded with the organization. She noted that her only association with COLIAFAN is the receipt of letters from her husband which are forwarded to her by this Committee. She said she has not and will not contact any anti-war group, including COLIAFAN, and will not talk with any of these people if they contact her. She noted that Mrs. [redacted], the only wife of a POW who [redacted] has personally contacted COLIAFAN. She said [redacted] has talked on the telephone with STEVE HALILWELL and has corresponded back and forth with the Committee. She said she believes she has received correspondence from Chicago, Illinois and New York, N. Y.

Mrs. [redacted] said she definitely would not contact or correspond with COLIAFAN and noted that her husband has given no indication he was ever contacted by the Committee. However, she said she believes some of the relatives of POWs from the South Carolina area have written letters to their husbands and sent them to the Committee for forwarding. No member of COLIAFAN has contacted any of these relatives at their South Carolina residences and, except for [redacted] she knows of no personal contact between members of COLIAFAN and families of POWs detained in North Vietnam.

Mrs. [redacted] said she has never been harassed, coaxed, or otherwise bothered by anyone connected with COLIAFAN. However, she considered the statement that only letters sent through the Committee would reach their husbands as a veiled threat and a form of pressure.

She said she has received only her husband's letters through COLIAFAN and has neither requested nor received anything else.
She noted that the Committee apparently took her name and address from her husband's letters inasmuch as this is the address used in press releases and correspondence concerning her husband. She said she believed this is true regarding other wives of POWs contacted by the Committee.

She named the following wives of POWs who have been contacted by COLIAPAN:

Mrs. [Redacted], S. C.
Mrs. [Redacted], S. C.
Mrs. [Redacted], S. C.

She noted also that the family of [Redacted], (U. S. Navy) of Anderson, S. C., had also been contacted by COLIAPAN.

In conclusion, Mrs. [Redacted] stated she would be willing to cooperate should her testimony be needed later as she has no use for COLIAPAN and similar organizations. She noted, however, that she would testify only if the USAF granted approval for such testimony due to the sensitive area in which her husband was engaged while flying for the USAF before his capture. She again stated her dislike for the necessity of dealing with people such as those making up the membership of COLIAPAN and expressed her belief that their activities are harmful to the interest of the United States. However, she said she will continue to accept letters passed through them inasmuch as this seems to be the only way she can get word from her husband.

She stated that, if she has further contact with any member of COLIAPAN, she will immediately notify the FBI and the USAF.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

MRS. [redacted] stated she received one letter from her son, sent by normal mail, which was written on October 12, 1968, and arrived at the residence on December 22, 1969, in Anderson, South Carolina. MRS. [redacted] stated she had received a second letter from her son, received in U.S. through the efforts of Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam which letter was dated April 7, 1970. MRS. [redacted] stated that she periodically receives telephone calls from an officer of the U.S. Navy at the Greenville, S.C. Office of the U.S. Naval Reserves, notifying her that certain people or groups are leaving for Hanoi and that if she has any mail to be sent and delivered to her son, a prisoner of war, it should be forwarded to that person or group leaving for Hanoi.

MRS. [redacted] stated that her first contact with a group taking mail to and returning mail from her son was through the American Friends Service Committee, Inc., 160 W. 15th St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She has received letters from this organization dated July 23, 1969, September 13, 1969, October 31, 1969, these three letters having been sent to her by JOSEPH W. ELMER, a member of this committee. She advised she also received letters from this group dated December 6, 1969, December 24, 1969, which letter was sent in the name of Louis Schneider. The last letter she received from the American Friends Service Committee, Inc. was dated February 9, 1970, and was signed by one ROGER C. FREDERICKSON. MRS. [redacted] made available a copy of this letter which is a form letter telling her that Louis W. Schneider had made a trip to North Vietnam between the dates of December 24, 1969, and January 9, 1970.

On 8/10/70 at S. C. Columbia 100-909
by S.A. [redacted] Date dictated 8/11/70

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to you or it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.
at which time he returned to the United States with 69 letters from 64 American Prisoners of War which letters were given to the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, 365 West 42nd Street, New York, N. Y., 10036, for transmittal to the individual persons to which they were addressed in the United States. She advised this was her first contact with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam.

Mrs. [name] also made available a copy of the lecture by Dr. Joseph Elder on November 12, 1969, at Hamline University, St. Paul, Minnesota, where Dr. Elder, who is a professor of Sociology and Indian Studies at the University of Wisconsin, spoke concerning his trips to Hanoi, and the contacts he had made with North Vietnamese officials concerning Americans held as Prisoners of War by North Vietnam.
NOTES OF DR. JOSEPH ELDER'S MEETING ON NOVEMBER 12, 1969 AT HAMLINE UNIVERSITY

On the evening of November 12, 1969, Dr. Joseph Elder spoke to some of the families of men missing in action and prisoner of war in Southeast Asia at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota. Dr. Elder is a professor of Sociology and Indian Studies at the University of Wisconsin. He is a Quaker and a pacifist and under the auspices of the American Friends Service Committee he was invited to travel to Hanoi twice, first to discuss civilian needs with the North Vietnamese, the second time to deliver a humanitarian gift of heart surgical equipment requested by the North Vietnamese. The South Vietnamese have received such medical gifts in the past, as well as a great deal of help with artificial limbs at the Quaker prosthetics training center in Quang Ngai, South Vietnam.

In September, just before his last trip to Hanoi in October, two wives of pilots missing in action and prisoner of war, traveled to Madison, Wisconsin to meet Dr. Elder and make a formal (personal) request for help in getting a list of prisoners from the North Vietnamese and give to him letters for their husbands for attempted delivery.

After his return from Hanoi, the two wives, Mrs. Richard Walsh and Mrs. David Winn, spoke with Dr. Elder and invited him to speak informally to a group of the National League of Families of American Prisoners in Southeast Asia. He very generously and kindly accepted the invitation to tell us about his trips to North Vietnam. The following notes were taken during his talk.

The first trip into Hanoi took place June 10-17, 1969. Upon his arrival, the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity with American People (Vietnam Committee) asked Dr. Elder what would be some of the things he would like to do while in Hanoi. He then suggested a priority agenda. The first three items on the agenda dealt with discussion of civilian needs in North Vietnam and other AFSC concerns. The fourth point dealt with U.S. prisoners of war in North Vietnam. (It should be noted from a historical point of interest that the Quakers have shown concern for prisoners for 300 years.)

A M. Houang Bac was the major political officer that Dr. Elder spoke with on June 10th. Dr. Elder asked M. Bac if he might visit a POW camp, talk with any POW’s, or take any POW mail back to the U.S. He also asked if he could obtain a list of prisoners in order to notify their relatives. On June 17th, M. Bac replied that he or his branch of government did not have access to military authorities and that “many prisoners are a long way from Hanoi.” M. Bac further stated that it would take six or seven weeks to prepare a list of prisoners and perhaps when Dr. Elder returned to Hanoi a list could then be made available. Dr. Elder said that he had not initially suggested that they offer to have the list ready on his return trip, but that M. Bac himself suggested this, thereby indicating a positive response.

Following the visit to North Vietnam, and receiving a request list of
open-heart surgical equipment, Dr. Elder flew to South Vietnam to visit the Quaker project in Quang Ngai. In Saigon, Dr. Elder had an interview with Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker.

He returned to Washington in July and he and four other spokesmen for AFSC met with Henry Kissinger to discuss the war as well as to relay events of his trip. As a follow-up to his conversation with M. Bac, Dr. Elder wrote a letter to Hanoi about his next visit to Hanoi in which he stated that he would like item three on his priority list to deal with the prisoners of war. He also mentioned in this letter that the Quakers in South Vietnam had visited and provided comfort to a group of North Vietnamese fishermen who were POW’s in South Vietnam. He stressed humane treatment for all sides.

Dr. Elder reached Hanoi on his second visit, October 10th, and remained there until the 17th. While in Hanoi to deliver the heart surgical equipment, Dr. Elder made four requests to see some prisoners or failing this, to receive mail from them, or to receive a list of the men. The first request was on October 10th with a “lower echelon” committee of North Vietnamese. The next morning there was a meeting with a higher series of officials, and Dr. Elder presented the same request relating to the prisoners. Dr. Elder stated that if the North Vietnamese did not want to deal with the American Friends Service Committee or the Quakers, with a history of 300 years of pacifism, could be the organization to deal with the lists of prisoners. Dr. Elder said that in about 1965 the North Vietnamese had asked the Swiss or the International Committee of the Red Cross to denounce the U.S. as the aggressors. But the Swiss refused saying that their function was to help, not, condemn. Since then, the North Vietnamese have not discussed prisoners with the ICRC. Dr. Elder said further that the Quakers meet the need to act as a go between in the prisoner situation because of their history of pacifism and also because the American Friends Service Committee has been on record against the war in Southeast Asia for a long time.

On Sunday, October 12th, Dr. Elder turned over the POW mail he had brought from the States. He had already sorted the 250 letters and three packages alphabetically. He handed them to M. Toan. He then went on a tour of Thanh Hoa Province, about 5 hours south of Hanoi in connection with stories he is writing for magazines. When he returned to Hanoi, he saw M. Toan once again and inquired about the packet of letters. M. Toan said they had been given to prison camp authorities.

On Thursday, October 16th, the POW issue was raised a third time. This time the North Vietnamese gave a lecture on their prisoner policy. Among prisoners they distinguish between “aggressors” and “victims of aggression.” The pilots are defined as “aggressors” because they are volunteers and officers (not draftees), and they were engaged in attacks on North Vietnamese civilians when they were shot down (attacks contrary to principles enunciated at the Nuremberg trials). The North Vietnamese define themselves as “revolutionary humanitarians; they claim to police themselves and give the POW’s adequate medical care and

[Signature]
dict. They see no reason to have an intermediary. Pilots get twice as much rice, fish and vegetables, as the typical North Vietnamese. They have newspapers in camp and some reading matter. Then Dr. Elder said his "wrist was slapped" when they said "your government is using the families of the missing men and POW's for propaganda purposes." Then Dr. Elder made this point, that "the release of a prisoner list would end the propaganda." Dr. Elder told them that their policy of refusing to release names hurt the "victims of aggression," i.e., the families of the men at home. The men themselves knew that they were alive, but the families at home did not know, and were suffering unnecessarily.

At a meeting with the Foreign Minister, Nguyen duy Trinh, "I would like to ask a question of you, but I do not want an answer now." Dr. Elder then made the same points he had made the day before with the Vietnam Committee. He concluded by asking, "Will you change your policy regarding releasing the names of U.S. prisoners?" With that Dr. Elder changed the subject.

Five days later, Dr. Elder was back in Washington talking with Frank Sieverts in the State Department. Mr. Sieverts said that over 4 - 5 years, the U.S. ex-POW, who have come back from Hanoi have had different experiences ranging from quite adequate to quite inadequate. Some reported torture. Then Dr. Elder said that he had spoken with a North Vietnamese doctor, who had given physical checkups to two pilots captured in Nam Ha Province. Dr. Elder said that, to the extent he accomplished anything on the POW issue, it was to place pressure on the North Vietnamese to release a list of the men to some anti-war group. Just a short time after Dr. Elder had returned, William Kunstler, the new mobe lawyer, left for Paris, so perhaps the North Vietnamese were going to release a list to Kunstler. Dr. Elder felt that mail from prisoners families is getting into Hanoi, but very little is getting out.

The remainder of the meeting consisted of questions and answers.

Q. Again, why cannot our government offer ransom for the prisoners?

A. When a Stockholm Conference on Reconstruction sends representatives in December to Hanoi, perhaps some of the member neutral nations can press for a list of POW's then. The American Friends Service Committee delegate to this conference is Mr. Lou Schneider, American Friends Service Committee Inc., 160 N. 15th St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102. Mr. Tom Swain of St. Paul suggests that we contact him and make this request. (Asking for a set of letters of opinion from other member nations to Hanoi for refusing to give a list of men they are holding.) Dr. Elder points out that the North Vietnamese administration is bureaucratic and pursues details, so they must keep an accurate listing and accounting of the men they are holding. Dr. Elder felt that one of the most important men he spoke with while there, was Nguyen Duy Trinh, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, of the Dem. Republic of Vietnam.

Q. How do they react to the moratorium activities in this country?

A. They are "pleased and interested" but they are not "overwhelmed with
gratitude." They feel they can "go it alone", as far as the war is concerned.

Dr. Elder said that they did send a message to participants in the moratorium

thanking them for their support.

Q. Do the North Vietnamese talk about their troops in Laos?

A. They talk about Laos in their new broadcasts frequently. They call

their military forces, the "Peoples Liberation Army." So among themselves,

they do admit to being in Laos and South Vietnam. Marge Nelson, a Quaker

doctor, was captured in Hue in the 1968 Tet offensive and held prisoner by

the North Vietnamese. After about 40 days they released her. Marge Nelson

had given Joe Elder some photographs of herself to be given in gratitude to

the wife of one North Vietnamese and the sister of another North Vietnamese

who had been particularly kind to her, while she was their prisoner. It

was a slightly embarrassing moment when Dr. Elder gave the North Vietnamese the

photos, since they reflected on the fact that the North Vietnamese are indeed

in South Vietnam.

Q. Do you know anything about the North Vietnamese POW's held in the South?

(Dr. Elder)

A. In 1965, when the International Committee of the Red Cross had offered

to begin dealing with prisoners of war, and the South Vietnamese had not

responded, the Americans threatened to take over handling the POW camps

if the South Vietnamese did not correct the situation. Today the Swiss

representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross inspect these

southern camps. After their inspections, they report any shortcomings to

the South Vietnamese government itself and request the shortcomings be

remedied. It is estimated by the ICRC that the Saigon government holds about

31,000 POW's, of whom only about 18,000 have had their names submitted to

the ICRC by the Saigon government, leaving 13,000 held but not unaccounted for.

This 31,000 includes both NLF and North Vietnamese POW's.

When Dr. Elder was in Quang Ngai, South Vietnam, he visited a civilian political

prison and found conditions there very deplorable, crowded with people (1,400

in a prison designed for 400) locked up in great numbers at night with no

toilet facilities. So, the Quakers, like the Fellowship of Reconciliation,

"are on record" as having noted these unsatisfactory prison conditions.

This report is based on notes taken by

EO 12912-2

67C
January 21, 1970

Dear [Name]

I am sorry that it has taken me so long to write to you but I've been waiting until I could make definite suggestions to you and now I am pleased to say I can.

I regret very much that I did not bring back a letter for you but now an organization has been set up between the Peace Movement and Hanoi specifically for the purpose of forwarding mail and forwarding inquiries regarding prisoners from the immediate family.

The organization is the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam and is located at 365 W. 42nd Street, New York City, N.Y., 10036.

I am a member of this Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any reason.

Cordially,

[Signature]

Mrs. William Taylor

1505 Ashford Way
Phila., Pa. 19151
MI 2-9078 (Area Code 215)

P.S. You will shortly receive information directly from the Committee of Liaison with details of its operation.
MRS. John stated that her first contact with
the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen
Detained in North Vietnam was by letter dated January 28,
1970, from this group, addressed to her home in Anderson.
This letter was signed by BARBARA WEBSTER. MRS. John
made available a copy of this letter.
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON
with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam
365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

CABLE ADDRESS: COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:
Dave Dellinger
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:
Mrs. Anne Bennett

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

*staff

KII. 612 PER EO 12812-2

January 28, 1970

Dear [Name]

Ethel Taylor has asked us to contact you and we are enclosing our Information Sheet which describes the Committee of Liaison.

Also enclosed is an air letter form which you may wish to use. The North Vietnamese have said that prisoners may send and receive one letter a month, and a package (not over six pounds in weight) every other month. Note the correct mail address and route in the Information Sheet.

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

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Barbara Webster
MRS. [REDACTED] stated that her next contact with this Committee of Liaison was dated April 20, 1970, which was a form letter addressed to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. This letter is signed by [REDACTED], a copy of which was furnished by [REDACTED]. This letter enclosed a letter from her son to her.
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON  
with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam  
365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036  

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM  

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss  

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett  

Committee:  
Richard J. Barnet  
Ronnie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Prof. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
Maggie Goddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young  

Dear [Redacted]  

April 20, 1970  

Mr. 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  
20 other families 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  

Rev. Fernandez, a United Church of Christ minister
MRS. [redacted] stated that the above letter from her son through the Committee of Liaison was the only letter that she has received through the Committee's activities.

MRS. [redacted] stated that the next letter she received was from the Clergy and Laymen Concerned about Vietnam, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, N. Y., which letter was dated June 4, 1970, and was signed by RICHARD R. FERNANDEZ, Director of this group. MRS. [redacted] made available a copy of this letter.
June 4, 1970

Dear [Name],

Thanks so much for your letter of May 9. I've simply been over my head with work, and I'm just now getting into some of my back correspondence.

I was pleased to be able to go to North Vietnam and carry a letter to your son. With you, I hope that a speedy end to the war can be found so that your son and the sons of Vietnamese can be returned to their homes.

If there is ever any way in which I can be of assistance to you, please don't hesitate to call upon me.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Richard R. Fernandez
Director

RRF/vmw
NATIONAL COMMITTEE

*Mrs. Mia Adali
*Dr. John C. Bennett
*Rev. Daniel Beegan, S.J.
*Rev. Philip Beagan, S.S.J.
*Rev. Eugene Canobb Bland
*Rev. Harold Boyal
*Rev. Malcolm Boyd
*Rabbi Ralfour Buxhier
*Dr. Robert McClies Brown
*Dr. Daniel Callahan
*Rev. Donald R. Cammell, S.J.
*Dr. William B. Calie
*Rev. William Sloane Coffin, Jr.
*Dr. Henry Sterling Commer
*Sister Mary Conala, L.M.
*Rt. Rev. Daniel Conrigan
*Mrs. Wayne C. Cowan
*Dr. Harvey C. Cox
*Rt. Rev. William Crittenden
*Rt. Rev. C. Edward Crowther
*Rev. Edwin T. Dahlberg
*Mist Eileen Egan
*Mother M. Ignatia Egan, R.S.H.M.
*Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath
*Mrs. Gerhard Elson

*Mr. James Elen
*Rev. Harold E. Frazz, Jr.
*Mrs. Russell Fuller
*Bishop Charles F. Gable
*Dr. Dana McClellan Gland
*Rev. Henschel Halbert
*Rabbi Abraham J. Heschel
*Rev. David B. Hunter
*Mrs. Dorothy A. Hutchinson
*Mr. Barry Johnson
*Mrs. Coretta Scott King
*Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyweld
*Mrs. Howard Levine
*Mrs. David Levitt
*Bishop John Wesley Lord
*Rev. William MacElvany
*Dr. Martin E. Marty
*Bishop James K. Mathews
*Mrs. Eugene J. McCarthy
*Dr. Seymour Meiman
*Dr. Hans J. Morgenthau
*Rev. J. Brooke Mosley

*Rev. Richard John Neihard
*Rev. Reinhold Metzger
*Mrs. Michael Novak
*Rev. Robert Pierce
*Mr. Robert C. Ranum
*Rabbi Max Routhenberg
*Dr. W. Harold Row
*Mr. Philip Schaefer
*Dr. Howard Schomer
*Dr. Charles E. Simmons
*Dr. Richard Shalit
*Rev. Rodney Shaw
*Rev. John B. Sheerin, C.S.P.
*Rev. Joseph Sittler
*Mist Themis Stevens
*Dr. Tom T. Slone
*Bishop R. Marvin Stuart
*Dr. John M. Sweney, Jr.
*Sister Ann Patrick Ware, S.L.
*Mrs. Theodore O. Waddell
*Rabbi Jacob Weinsteint
*Dr. Charles C. West
*Mrs. Herman Wilf, Jr.
*Dr. Walter Wink
*Dr. Colin W. Williams

*Denotes Steering Committee members.
MRS. stated she had received an information sheet from the Committee of Liaison dated January, 1970, which sheet gave background information, functions of the committee, clarification and "who we are".

MRS. advised that no member of the Committee of Liaison has personally contacted her and the only contact she has had has been by letter or letters which are earlier set forth in this interview. She advised in no way has the Committee harassed her in any manner. She advised that as a result of her contact with this Committee, she has received one letter from her son. MRS. stated she and her husband had attended a meeting in Washington in May, 1970, which meeting was dedicated to the discussion of Prisoners now held by North Vietnamese authorities and how relatives could contact these prisoners of war. She stated over the past year and a half, she has become acquainted with several other families who also have sons or husbands now prisoners of war. She advised that her son's pilot was named, who has never been heard from since the time that her son's jet crashed. She advised she has had some contact with MRS. whose father is an Admiral in the Navy, stationed in Washington. MRS. stated that she would be glad to provide the above information in the form of testimony if it were needed.
Lieutenant JOHN A. DRAUGHON, Personal Affairs Officer, Charleston Air Force Base, Charleston, South Carolina, on July 22, 1970 furnished the names of the following persons:

Mrs. [Redacted], South Carolina, wife of [Redacted] who is missing in action in Vietnam and may be a prisoner of the North Vietnamese.

Mrs. [Redacted], Georgia, telephone number [Redacted], wife of [Redacted], United States Air Force.

Father of [Redacted], South Carolina, telephone number [Redacted], United States Air Force, prisoner in North Vietnam.

He furnished the names of no additional persons.

[Redacted], South Carolina, was contacted on July 27, 1970 and she advised that she has had no contact with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) and she knows no one that has been in contact with COLIFAM.

She declined to furnish the identity of other families in the Charleston, South Carolina, area.
The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent...


On August 11, 1970, Sgt. [redacted] Personnel Affairs, Myrtle Beach AFB, advised that according to his files which include only Air Force personnel, he has the following record of two individuals who are, in Air Force terms, "missing in action".

FIRST INDIVIDUAL
Captain HENRY LEWIS ALLEN, white male, date of birth - September 31, 1943, at Conway, South Carolina, Service Number 266-60-3546, assignment - Detachment 1 56th Special Operations Wing as of March 28, 1970, record reflected only family is mother.

SECOND INDIVIDUAL
The second individual is a Captain MELVIN E. LADENWIG, white male, date of birth - August 8, 1944 in Denver, Colorado, Service Number 522-54-8724, assigned to 497th TAC Fighter Squadron. He stated the only family was LADENWIG's wife and one infant son.

He stated both individuals were pilots and that he had talked personally with [redacted] on numerous occasions; however, they have never mentioned to him that they had been contacted by any group affiliated with prisoners of war.

Sgt. [redacted] explained that Captain ALLEN was on a training mission with another pilot. Apparently during a maneuver the plane crashed and Captain ALLEN was presumed to be dead.

He stated that in regard to Captain LADENWIG that while making an attempted landing, observation of the aircraft...
following the first pass, observers saw an explosion and subsequent fireball, but no parachute. He stated that Captain LAUSEN was presumed to be dead.

He stated both individuals had been flying out of Thailand and there has been no evidence to his knowledge of correspondence from them since they were declared missing in action.
Detachment Commander, Office of Special Investigations (OSI), Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, advised on September 3, 1970 he could furnish no additional information concerning instant matter.
Memorandum

TO

FROM

SUBJECT

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-1-57889)

UC, DLL'S (100-12008)(I)

COLIFAX:

IS - MISCELLANEOUS REGISTRATION ACT

DATE: 6/22/70


Enclosed for the Bureau are 11 copies of an LHE concerning captioned matter. Three copies are enclosed for New York.

The Bureau's attention is directed to the fact that all of the wives or relatives of prisoners of war (POW) who have been interviewed by the Dallas Office thus far concerning their contact with COLIFAX have expressed an attitude of cooperation with the FBI; however, each has requested that none of the information which they furnish concerning COLIFAX be disseminated outside the FBI until such time as their respective husband or relative is released and safely back in the United States. It is believed that other POW families, when identified, will express the same attitude. Dallas, therefore, proposes not to pursue the investigation to identify and interview additional POW families regarding their contact with COLIFAX.

Dallas indices are negative concerning COLIFAX.

Investigation is being conducted by the Dallas Office at Fort Worth, Texas, to locate and interview Mrs. and Mrs.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

ENCLOSURE

Bureau (Enc. 11)(RM)

New York (100-1684-69)(Enc. 3)(RM)

Dallas
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM

Confidential informants familiar with activities of groups in the Dallas, Texas area, who are opposed to the war in Vietnam, were contacted during the course of this investigation and could furnish no information regarding captioned organization.

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.
Mr. United We Stand, Exchange Park, at 9:00 a.m. on September 16, 1969, he accompanied Mrs. and Mrs. allwives of prisoners of war (POW) being held in North Vietnam, to Paris, France, where they contacted a representative of the North Vietnamese government who identified himself as Mr. TAM. He advised this person told him that if he really wanted to do something to help the POWs in North Vietnam, that he should return to the United States and contact RENNIE DAVIS or CORA WEISS. Further, that he should join the peace movement to end the war in Vietnam and the POWs would not be a problem.

Mr. stated that in November, 1969, the day before Thanksgiving, he filmed an interview with a Mr. GIAI, a representative of the North Vietnamese in Stockholm, Sweden, and this person also advised him to return to the United States and contact RENNIE DAVIS or CORA WEISS if he wanted to assist the POW families.

Mr. stated that he returned to Stockholm, Sweden, on August 7, 1970, and again contacted a representative of the North Vietnamese. He stated this person refused to identify himself and told him to return to the United States and contact RENNIE DAVIS if he wanted to help the POWs. He advised him to have a telephone conversation with a Swedish secretary who is employed at the North Vietnam Embassy in Stockholm and this person told him that he had been previously told how to help the POWs; that is, he should return to the United States and contact RENNIE DAVIS.

Mr. advised that he has worked with Mrs. of the National League of Families of Prisoners and Missing in Action in Southeast Asia, 1 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D.C., and that through this office the identities and addresses of all POWs whose families have been contacted by COLIFAM could be obtained.

On 8/19/70 at Dallas, Texas File # Dallas 100-12000
by SA 2 Date dictated 8/24/70

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.
Mr. [Redacted], United We Stand, Exchange Park, advised he was in Vientiane, Laos, in December, 1969, and rode from the airport to the hotel with CORA WEISS. He stated she had just returned from Hanoi on an ICC plane. She talked about her trip to Hanoi, her stay in a villa there and how well she was treated. [Redacted] stated that WEISS told him that Hanoi was permitting POWs to communicate with their families and that the letters were going out; however, these letters were being confiscated by the CIA or State Department. MEURER stated, in his opinion, WEISS actually believed this statement to be true. [Redacted] stated that he asked WEISS if she had brought out any letters from POWs and her reply was no. However, at a press conference in New York City at Christmas, 1969, she said she had brought mail out from the POWs. [Redacted] advised that Mrs. [Redacted], wife of [Redacted], known POW, Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Mrs. [Redacted], wife of [Redacted], were in Vientiane, Laos, and that breakfast with CORA WEISS and MADELIENE DUCKLES seeking information concerning their husbands; however, no information was believed to have been obtained. MEURER stated Mrs. [Redacted] can be contacted through her sister, Mrs. [Redacted], Washington, D. C., phone [Redacted]. He stated that Colonel ROBERT WORK was the head of POW Affairs in Washington.

On 8/19/70 at Dallas, Texas File # D. 11as 100-12009 by SA [Redacted] Date dictated 8/24/70

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.
On August 27, 1970, Mr. [redacted] advised that Douglas B. Hegdahl, a Navy seaman, was released by Hanoi to Rennie Davis on August 5, 1969, and was brought back to the United States by Davis. He advised Hegdahl was in Dallas for a conference with he and August 24-26, 1970. He stated that in interview with Hegdahl, Hegdahl explained that he had never seen or heard of Rennie Davis prior to his release to him and that after he returned to the United States, he had had no subsequent contact with Davis or COLIFAM. Meurer advised that Hegdahl thought he was chosen for release by the North Vietnamese because he was with the Navy, not a pilot, and was a very young boy, age 21, and just happened to be at a place where Davis could see him. Meurer explained that Hegdahl was cooperative, but would not do anything against COLIFAM or Davis for fear of jeopardizing lives of other POWs being held.

On August 28, 1970, Mrs. [redacted] Texas, advised her husband, [redacted], has been missing in action since October, 1965, and that she has never heard from him since he was reported missing in action. She stated she has had no communications or contacts with COLIFAM.

On August 28, 1970, Mr. [redacted] advised that his son, [redacted], was a POW in North Vietnam and that his daughter-in-law had received a letter through COLIFAM; however, he did not wish to discuss the matter and neither did he want to furnish his daughter-in-law's address for fear that contact with her might jeopardize the life of his son.

On September 1, 1970, [redacted], Texas, advised that his sister's son was a POW in North Vietnam. He stated his sister, this boy's mother, had received three letters through COLIFAM. The first letter was dated December 24, 1969, and was received in March, 1970. The second letter was received two weeks later. He stated that his sister then sent COLIFAM a $25 contribution and subsequently received a letter of several pages which appeared to have come through without being censored as it contained language which any boy would write his mother. [redacted] stated that he would not
RE: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM

identify either his sister or his nephew for fear of placing his nephew's life in jeopardy. He advised he would be glad to furnish the name of his nephew following his release and return to the United States provided this information is needed at that time.

On September 14, 1970, Mrs. [redacted], Texas, advised that her husband, [redacted], U.S. Air Force, was reported missing in action 1967. She stated that she has been notified by the U.S. Air Force that they now believe he is a POW since they have located the crash-site of his airplane and no evidence was found to indicate he was deceased. She stated she has not received any correspondence through COLIFAM and neither has she been contacted by this organization.
Mrs. [redacted], of Texas, advised that her husband, [redacted], was reported missing in action in 1966 in North Vietnam by the U.S. Air Force. She stated that in April, 1967, the Air Force notified her that her husband was then believed to be a prisoner of war. She stated in April, 1968, her husband's status was changed to prisoner of war.

In March, 1970, Mrs. [redacted] stated that she received a call from STEWART [redacted] stating that a packet of letters had been received from Hanoi which included a letter from her husband. [redacted] stated that since receiving the first letter, she has received six other letters all through the Committee of Liaison.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that her letters had all been sent to Randolph Air Force Base where her husband's handwriting had been verified.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that she is on the [redacted] She stated she has made two trips to Washington in connection with her work as a member of the [redacted] and has been quoted in various news articles concerning her opinion of the Committee of Liaison. Mrs. [redacted] advised that there are 184 prisoners of war being held in North Vietnam whose families reside in Texas.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that she would not be willing to testify at any type of hearing against members of the Committee of Liaison for fear of placing her husband's life in jeopardy. Mrs. [redacted] made available copies of letters which she received through the Committee of Liaison.
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON
365 West 42nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10036

Mrs. Texas

6/24
60/1812-Z
March 25, 1970

Dear [Name]

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,

Cora Weiss  Dave Dellinger
April 20, 1970

Dear Mrs. [Redacted]

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,

[Signature]

Steven E. Halliwell
Dear Mao,

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
June 14, 1970

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 Palomond, Nancy Rubin and Judy Clafer — 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

62c 00/28/12-2
Dear friend:

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
May 4, 1970

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 letter on in packets. The Committee cannot forward packages for families.

While I was in Hanoi, Prof. Douglas Dow 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.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All 624 AR 50 112/16-7

Date 9/4/70

Mrs. [redacted] advised that her husband, [redacted] Air Force, was reported missing in action by the Air Force January 19, 1967. She advised that his status was changed to a prisoner of war in October, 1969. She stated that this change was based on information furnished by a prisoner of war who had been released.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that in March, 1970, she received a letter from the Committee of Liaison stating in substance that a package of letters had been received from Hanoi which included a letter from her husband. Mrs.[redacted] stated that subsequently she received a telephone call from BARBARA WEBSTER, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, advising that she had just had word that a letter from her husband, a prisoner of war in North Vietnam, had been received and was being forwarded to her. She stated she received this letter March 11, 1970, and it was the first and only letter that she had received from her husband since he was reported missing in action. She advised the letter was dated December 3, 1969, and was postmarked December 25, 1969.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that since receiving this first letter, she has received two other letters from her husband through the Committee of Liaison.

Mrs. [redacted] stated she does not approve of the U.S. Government permitting the Committee of Liaison to deal with the Hanoi government; however, she did not want any of the information which she furnished the FBI to be disseminated outside of the FBI for fear of retaliation against her husband. She advised she would not be willing to testify against members of the Committee of Liaison.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that the letters which she received from her husband and from the Committee of Liaison have been forwarded to Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

On 8/28/70 at Texas

File # Dallas 100-12009

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 8/31/70

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.
Mrs. [redacted] advised that her husband, [redacted], United States Air Force Serial Number [redacted], was shot down southeast of Hanoi, 1965. She stated that he was flying an unarmed trainer helicopter, CH 3 C (Jolly Green Giant). She advised that he was reported missing in action until [redacted], 1967, at which time his status was changed by the United States Air Force to POW. She advised that in early 1970, she received a telegram from OLAF PALME, Prime Minister of Sweden, advising that the North Vietnamese had confirmed that her husband was alive and was a POW. She stated following this she received a letter from BARBARA WEBSTER of the Committee of Liaison stating that a package of letters had been received from Hanoi that included a letter from her husband. She stated this letter was forwarded to her and was received April 24, 1970. She stated this was the first communication she had received from her husband since he was reported missing in action.

She stated that subsequent to this, she has received no letters from her husband and now feels that her public criticism of the Committee of Liaison had stopped all letters from her husband. She stated that the other wives and families of POW's were receiving monthly letters. Mrs. [redacted] advised that she has written the Committee of Liaison several letters asking for an explanation as to why she is not receiving any communications from her husband and on July 30, 1970, received a letter from BARBARA WEBSTER giving a rather innocuous explanation for this.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that she made a trip to Paris, France, September, 1969, with [redacted], and [redacted], and she contacted a representative of the North Vietnamese named KHAM OAHN at the "Compound" at Choisy La Roc who appeared to be interested in helping them make contact with their husbands. She stated that OAHN also gave them

On 8/26/70 at [redacted] Texas

File # Dallas 100-12009

New York 100-168469

by SA 9/1/70

Date dictated 9/1/70

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.
the name of "RENAUD DAVIS, Committee of Liaison, 365 West
42nd Street, New York, New York" and told them that they
should contact DAVIS. She stated that they were also told
that they should return to the United States and "remain
quiet or gather the masses to protest American intervention
in South Vietnam."

Mrs. [Redacted] stated that she and the above
mentioned wives returned to Paris in November, 1969, and
XNAN OAHN was no longer assigned to the North Vietnamese
Compound. She stated that they contacted a man, MY VAN BO,
at the North Vietnamese Embassy in Paris. She stated that he
refused to identify himself and claimed that their husbands
should be prosecuted as "air pirates and war criminals and did
not deserve human treatment". She stated this man told them
to tell their children that their fathers did not deserve
human treatment under the Geneva rules. She stated that this
man accused them of being United States Agents and that they
were sent to Paris by the United States Government in an effort
to make the North Vietnamese look bad. She advised that they
then went to Stockholm, Sweden, where they had a conference
with OLAF PALME but he was unable to furnish any help or
information concerning their husbands. In Stockholm, she stated
they contacted a LEXY GIAI, a North Vietnamese representative
who gave them the "same line", also telling them to return to
the United States and join in the protest of the American
intervention in the war in South Vietnam.

Mrs. [Redacted] stated that she was willing to furnish
this information to the FBI but would not appear as a witness
until such time as her husband was released and was in the
United States. Mrs. [Redacted] furnished correspondence that
she had received from the Committee of Liaison.
Dear Mrs. [redacted]

July 27, 1970

We will give your letter to your husband to some Americans who will be meeting with some North Vietnamese in August. I am afraid we do not know one way or the other whether a letter gets delivered or not. We assume that if letters follow the North Vietnamese's suggestions (using the letter form, writing once a month and only about family and health, etc.), that the letters are received by the prisoners.

We have not received any word at all from the North Vietnamese regarding why some prisoners write more than others. I assume there are several reasons, such as purely administrative problems such as a shortage of translators (which may be more of a problem at one detention camp than at another), the inevitable problems in any prison situation where for example, letter writing is a privilege which may be taken away for disciplinary reasons or the prisoner himself may be in such a "junk"
that he just does not write often or at all; this is the problem particularly inherent in a prisoner of war situation where the prisoners may try to pass information out so these letters are just not sent. I want to stress that we do not know if any of these are true in this situation in general or in your husband’s case in particular. I just suggest them as possibilities.

You should know, if you don’t already, that there are several wives or parents who have received either no letter at all or just one or two, so yours is not an isolated case.

Do let us know when you need more of the letter forms.

Sincerely,
Barbara Webster
Dear Madam, 62c ED 12812-2

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

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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 them on in packets. The Committee cannot forward packages for families.

While I was in Hanoi, Prof. Douglas Dow 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 300 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.
Mrs. [redacted] in an interview advised that her husband, [redacted], Serial Number [redacted], was reported missing in action (MIA) in Vietnam, November 2, 1965. She stated that she was notified by the Air Force in January, 1967, that his status had been changed to a prisoner of war (POW). She stated that she heard nothing from her husband during this time. She advised in April, 1970, she received a telephone call from a person who identified herself as ETHEL TAYLOR. TAYLOR stated that a packet of letters had been received from Hanoi and among these letters was a letter from her husband.

made a five-day trip to Paris, France, September 14, 1969. She stated this trip was arranged by Congressman OLIN TEAGUE. She advised that in Paris they called upon the North Vietnamese delegation and the representative whose name she was not able to recall but was referred to as "TOM" assured all of them that he would do all he could to arrange for the men being held as prisoners of war in North Vietnam to correspond with their families in the United States. She advised that they were given the name of RENNI DAVIS and his address in New York and were told that they should contact him on their return to the United States. She advised that in a separate conversation they were told that the POW's in North Vietnam were being permitted to write their families but the United States Government was confiscating these letters. She stated she was also told that a film had been made by the North Vietnamese showing the POW's, their activities, and living quarters, but this film had also been confiscated and was not ever shown.

[redacted] stated that she had heard that the wife of the member of whose husband was a POW sent the Committee of Liaison a check for $25 after she received a letter from her husband through the committee. She stated that subsequent to this, this wife received a six page uncensored letter from her husband.

[redacted] stated that after hearing this information,
she sent the committee her check for $10 and stated that she was interested in going to Hanoi as a relative of a POW and expressed some interest in the North Vietnamese. She stated that she did this solely for the purpose of trying to establish contact with her husband and very definitely that she was not in sympathy with the way the Committee of Liaison was working with the North Vietnamese in Hanoi.

Mrs. stated that she would work with "the devil" if this would help in her communication with her husband.

Mrs. stated that she did not want any of the information furnished by her disseminated outside the FBI and that she would not testify against the Committee of Liaison for fear of retaliation by the North Vietnamese.

Mrs. furnished copies of pertinent letters she had received from the Committee of Liaison which are as follows:
COMMITTEE OF LIASON
with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam
365 West 42nd Street New York N.Y. 10036 212-765-1400

January, 1970

INFORMATION SHEET

Background

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

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

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

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

Functions of the Committee

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

The Committee will seek to facilitate communication between families and servicemen now imprisoned in North Vietnam. Basically, the Committee will receive letters from servicemen and forward them through the domestic mails, thereby decreasing, we hope, past problems in the receipt of such mail. We will also forward letters to North Vietnam at the request of relatives. In addition, it is possible that the Committee will be able to verify

name of serviceman
serial number
Camp of Detention of U.S. Pilots Captured in the D.A.V.
Hanoi, Democratic Republic of Vietnam
via Moscow, U.S.S.R.
requests for information about servicemen from families who are
uncertain if their relatives are being held in North Vietnam. Re-
quests should be submitted to the Committee, but there is no certainty
when and if the North Vietnamese will be able to respond. The Committee
will of course transmit immediately any information that it receives
to the family.

Clarification

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

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

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

Who We Are

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

We are active in a variety of organizations committed to ending the
war: American Friends Service Committee, the New Mobilization Committee
to End the War in Vietnam, Clergy and Laymen Concerned about Vietnam,
Women Strike for Peace, The Conspiracy, and Women Against Daddy War-
Ducks. The Committee is supported by donations from individuals and
organizations, and welcomes any gifts to sustain its work.
January 21, 1970

Dear [Name erased],

I am sorry that it has taken me so long to write to you but I've been waiting until I could make definite suggestions to you and now I am pleased to say I can.

I regret very much that I did not bring back a letter for you but now an organization has been set up between the Peace Movement and Hanoi specifically for the purpose of forwarding mail and forwarding inquiries regarding prisoners from the immediate family.

The organization is the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam and is located at 365 W. 42nd Street, New York City, N.Y., 10036.

I am a member of this Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any reason.

Cordially,

[Name erased]

Mrs. William Taylor

1505 Ashford Way
Phila., Pa., 19151
MI 2-9078 (Area Code 215)

P.S. You will shortly receive information directly from the Committee of Liaison with details of its operation.
January 27, 1970

Dear [Redacted]

Ethel Taylor, a member of our newly-formed committee, which will facilitate communication between American servicemen held in North Vietnam and their families, has asked us to contact you. We are enclosing an Information Sheet describing the Committee of Liaison.

We have also duplicated the enclosed letter form which you may wish to use in writing your relative. The North Vietnamese have said that prisoners can send and receive one letter per month and one package (not more than six pounds in weight) every other month. Note the address and mail route given in the Information Sheet.

If you would like us to try to find out if your relative is a prisoner in North Vietnam, send his full name, service number and any details you have on when and where he was shot down. We will then transmit the inquiry to the North Vietnamese and are hopeful of receiving a response to every request made.

It is important to understand that there undoubtedly were many pilots whose planes were shot down but whom the North Vietnamese could not rescue, and that there are prisoners held by the Provisional Revolutionary Government in South Vietnam and by the Pathet Lao in Laos about whom we are not able to get information.

We understand your anguish in not knowing about your relative and we sincerely hope we can be of help in getting information about him for you.

Sincerely,

Barbara Webster

Barbara Webster

P.S. We apologize for sending a mimeographed letter but we wanted to get this word to you as quickly as possible.
COMMITTEE OF Loyal Sons
with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam
365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

CABLE ADDRESS: COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:
Dave Dellinger
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee
Richard J. Barrett
Rennie Davis
Madaline Duckles
Prof. Richard Falk
Rev. Richard Fernandez
Norman Fruchter
*Maggie Goddes
Steve Hollis
Prof. Donald Kalish
Stewart Meacham
Prof. Leo Seitzman
Prof. Franz Schurmann
Ethel Taylor
*Barbara Webster
Trudi Young

*staff

Dear Mrs. [redacted]

Just wanted to let you know that the letter you sent us on May 8 for your husband was taken to North Vietnam with a group of anti-war people who left here on the 11th.

Sincerely,
Barbara Webster

May 25, 1970
August 13, 1970

Dear Mrs. [Redacted]

Thank you for your letter of August 1st and for your thoughtfulness in sending a contribution to our work. The letter to your husband will be taken to North Vietnam by a group which leaves here this Monday.

Yes, we have been approached by other wives regarding the possibility of going to Hanoi. Invitations to go there come from the North Vietnamese, and they have been to people who represent various anti-war groups, as well as to some newsmen -- people who will return to this country and then talk and write about their visit, hopefully hastening the day the U.S. completely withdraws from Vietnam. In the event (highly unlikely, I would think) that they decide they would like to invite a relative of a prisoner we will keep your request in mind.

Sincerely,

Barbara Webster
NGUỒI GỬI (Addressee)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

GIÃ LINH (Service number):

Nơi và Ngày sinh (Date & place of birth):

Địa chỉ (Address):

TRAI GIAM PHI CÔNG MỸ BỊ BATTRAI
NUOC VIỆT-NAM ĐAN CHỤC CỘNG HÒA
(Camp of detention for U.S. pilots captured
in the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC of VIETNAM)

GỬI (Addressee)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

Địa chỉ (Address):
CHI 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 càng phải theo đúng mẫu, khuôn khổ và quy định này (Letters from families should also conform to this proforms).
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE
MILWAUKEE

OFFICE OF ORIGIN
NEW YORK

DATE
9/18/70

INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
7/20 - 9/14/70

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

TYPE OF CASE
IS - MISCELLANEOUS;
REGISTRATION ACT

Character of Case

Reference
New York airtel to Bureau dated 6/9/70.
San Antonio letter to Bureau dated 8/27/70.

Administrative
Referenced San Antonio letter, 8/27/70, set forth a list of Air Force personnel listed as prisoners of war or missing in action, as obtained 8/26/70, from Lieutenant Colonel ARCHIE GRATCH, U. S. Air Force Chief, Missing Persons Bureau, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. Those persons contained on this list not already known to the Milwaukee Office are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED</th>
<th>ACQUITALS</th>
<th>CASE HAS BEEN:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CONVIC</td>
<td>AUT</td>
<td>FUG</td>
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<tr>
<th>APPROVED</th>
<th>SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COPIES MADE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 6 - Bureau (100-457899) (RM) |
| 2 - New York (100-168469) (RM) |
| 6 - Milwaukee (100-17068) |

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency: ARMY

Request No: 650ICH870

Date 1st: 10 Sep 24, 1970

How: File

Re: 650ICH870

Notations: ALL INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL, REFILED UNCLASSIFIED, EXCEPT FOR NAME SHOWN EOB.

10 SEP 24 1970
Major DONALD W. DOWNING, Missing in Action (MIA)
Parents Mr. and Mrs. [Redacted], Wis.

Major STANLEY H. HORNE, MIA
Wife Mrs. [Redacted], Wis.

Lieutenant Colonel GORDON A. LARSON, Prisoner of War (P
Mother [Redacted], Wis.

Captain LANCE P. SIJAN, MIA
Parents Mr. and Mrs. [Redacted], Wis.

Captain ROBERT D. TRIER, MIA
Parents Mr. and Mrs. [Redacted], Wis.

Colonel ROBERT F. WILKE, MIA
Mother Mrs. [Redacted], Wis.

Captain PATRICK F. WYNNE, MIA
Wife Mrs. [Redacted], Wis.

Leads

MILWAUKEE:

Will interview following relatives of servicemen
missing in action or prisoners of war in North Vietnam:

AT [Redacted], WIS.
Family of [Redacted]

(set forth in memo, 7/20/70)
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All Info REDACTED

Copy to: 

Report of: SA Office: Milwaukee
Date: September 18, 1970
Field Office File #: 100-17068 Bureau File #: 100-457899

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

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS; REGISTRATION ACT

Synopsis: On 6/4/70, MARY WINN, a representative of Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM), talked to three families of servicemen imprisoned in North Vietnam at American Red Cross headquarters, Milwaukee, Wis. The "Milwaukee Journal" for 6/26/70 set forth the names of five Wisconsin servicemen furnished by COLIFAM as being prisoners in North Vietnam. [REDACTED], received two letters from her husband, imprisoned in North Vietnam, through COLIFAM in May 1970. On 4/20/70, a letter was delivered in person to Mrs. [REDACTED] by Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ and on 12/24/69 two letters were delivered in person by CORA WEISS, both of whom had just returned from North Vietnam. Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED] Wis., who were in contact with COLIFAM through a form letter, received three letters from their son, a prisoner in North Vietnam. [REDACTED] Wis., after contact with COLIFAM through form letters, has received three letters and a postcard from her husband, a prisoner in North Vietnam.

Details: [REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

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.
Mr. _____, Wisconsin, was apprised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the purpose of the interview. Mr. _____ was advised that the Agent was conducting this interview as a result of the specific request of J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General. Mr. _____ stated he understood this and would consent to an interview.

Mr. _____ states he has had no contact with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM).

He did state, however, that on June 4, 1970, a Mrs. MARY WINN from Minneapolis, Minnesota, and who has been requested by the Department of Defense to tour the country and talk to wives and relatives of military personnel missing in Vietnam or known to be prisoners of war, discussed mutual problems regarding missing servicemen and action taken so far to have them repatriated. At the meeting, Mr. _____ advised there were three relatives of servicemen missing in Vietnam. A Mr. and Mrs. _____ whose son, _____ is a prisoner of war in North Vietnam, and a Mr. _____ whose son is missing in Vietnam. Mrs. WINN is associated with the National League of Families of Prisoners in Southeast Asia, and Mr. _____ believes this office is quartered in the Minneapolis–St. Paul, Minnesota, area.
of Services to Military Families, American Red Cross, 2600 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, Wis., was apprised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and of the purpose of the interview.

Mr. [redacted] was informed that this interview was requested by J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General, and that this investigation is undertaken to develop the fact that the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) is acting within the United States at the request of the Government of North Vietnam and is involved in political activity under the Foreign Agents Registration Act or as a publicity agent, as described by the Act. [redacted] stated that on June 4, 1970, a [redacted] came to the Milwaukee chapter of the American Red Cross, 2600 West Wisconsin Avenue, and gave a talk concerning servicemen who are detained in North Vietnam. She spoke to approximately three individuals who had relations detained in North Vietnam. [redacted] stated she had a means of contacting the relatives of the persons in attendance by a specially prepared form letter, which was to be filled out and sent to the Camp of Detention for United States Pilots captured in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. This was to be sent to Moscow, U.S.S.R. This form was given, Miss [redacted] said, by COLIFAM.

At the end of the speech, Mr. [redacted] asked Mrs. [redacted] for a form letter that would be used in contacting servicemen in North Vietnam. [redacted] said she had one and gave same to [redacted]. [redacted] stated that to the best of his knowledge, none of the families in attendance at the talk had taken advantage of the letter and sent it to North Vietnam via Moscow.

Further advised he would maintain contact with the office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and would
forward any information he had relating to COLIFAM immediately upon receipt.

further advised he will testify that Mrs. made a speech in which reference was made to the letters in North Vietnam, which was being administered by COLIFAM.

furnished a form letter which he indicated had been obtained from Mrs. a copy of which follows:

60-281-620
NGƯỜI GỬI (Address)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

SỐ LỊNH (Service number):

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

Dia Chí (Address):

TRÄI GIẢM PHI CÔNG Mỹ BỊ BẤT TẠI
NUÔC 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 (Address)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

Dia Chí (Address):

625 ED 12812-2

1/26/76
ON CHÚ (N.B.):

1. Phải viết rõ và chữ được viết trong những dòng khác nhau (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).
The following information was obtained from a review of "The Milwaukee Journal" and "Milwaukee Sentinel" records, which are kept in "The Milwaukee Journal" Library, Fourth and State Streets, Milwaukee:

A clipping from Friday, June 26, 1970, "The Milwaukee Journal," had the following information datelined New York, New York:

A list compiled by the Committee of Liaison has the following five names from Wisconsin who are reportedly prisoners of war in North Vietnam:

DANIEL JAMES DAUGHTY, Ladysmith, Wisconsin;
FREDERIC E. FLOM, Appleton, Wisconsin;
GERALD LEE GERNDT, Suring, Wisconsin;
DONALD LESTER HELICHER, United States Air Force Major, Madison, Wisconsin;
WILLIAM JOHN METZGER, JR., Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin

A clipping dated Saturday, June 22, 1970, from the "Milwaukee Sentinel" furnished the following information:

Three men who visited Hanoi and visited members of the Committee of Liaison are as follows:

KENNETH KIRKPATRICK, a member of the American Friends Service Committee, Seattle, Washington;
MARK S. PATSHNEK, Professor of Biology, Harvard University;
ROBERT W. PFELLENER, Professor of Zoology, University of Montana.

In "The Milwaukee Journal," dated December 23, 1969, the mother of GERALD LEE GERNDT, Suring, Wisconsin, stated she has been contacted by the Committee of Liaison.

An article appearing on Friday, January 16, 1970, in "The Milwaukee Journal," furnished the Committee for Liaison Headquarters address as Committee of Liaison, 365 West 42nd Street, New York, New York 10036. Mrs. CARL WEISS
was listed as co-chairman, residence Riverdale, New York. Mrs. WEISS was quoted as saying letters should be addressed with prisoner's name, serial number, and words:

Camp of Detention for U.S. Pilots Captured
Democratic Republic of Vietnam
Moscow, Soviet Union
All letters to 5012812-2

Mrs. [Redacted] advised that she is the wife of [Redacted] United States Navy, serial number [Redacted] who has been a captive of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam) for three years and two months. She advised as follows:

She first became aware of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen detained in North Vietnam, (COLIFAM) through the news media. In March of 1970 she came in direct contact with COLIFAM when she received a letter from the Committee signed by CORA WEISS and DAVID DELLINGER, co-chairman of the Committee. The letter indicated that she would be receiving in the near future two letters from her husband in the very near future. On April 17, 1970 after not receiving the letters from her husband she called the New York office of COLIFAM and talked to a secretary, unidentified. The secretary indicated that a packet of 84 letters were forth coming from Hanoi, North Vietnam, but were not in the New York office as yet. On May 3, 1970 she received two letters from her husband via the Committee. One of the letters was addressed to Mr. and Mrs. [Redacted] and a Christmas card was addressed to herself. She also received on April 20, 1970, a letter from her husband which was delivered by the Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ, who had recently returned from North Vietnam.

She received two of the letters from her husband and both were delivered on December 24, 1969 by CORA WEISS, who at that time was not a member of COLIFAM, but had recently returned from North Vietnam.

She has discussed the Committee called COLIFAM with other wives of missing servicemen, but she is not aware of any others that have received letters via COLIFAM.

She would be willing to cooperate with the United States Department of Justice in event her testimony became necessary at a later date.

On 7/20/70 at [Redacted] File # MI 100-17068

by [Redacted] Date dictated 7/22/70

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.
Mrs. [redacted] was contacted at her residence by SA [redacted], where she was informed that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was conducting an inquiry into the activities of an organization calling itself the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam and known as COLIFAM.

Mrs. [redacted] was informed that this inquiry was being conducted at the request of J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General, United States Department of Justice.

Mrs. [redacted] advised SA [redacted] that she had had only one contact with the above organization and that this was in the form of a letter which she had received in reply to a letter sent to COLIFAM by herself.

Mrs. [redacted] continued that she had read about the organization in the local newspaper and had addressed the letter to their New York office, requesting any information they might have concerning the status and whereabouts of her son, [redacted], who was missing in action in Vietnam. She advised that this letter was addressed to them, she believed, in January of 1970.

She received by return mail a letter which she made available to SA [redacted] and which reflects the following:

On 8/5/70 at Wisconsin File M-100-17068
by SA [redacted] Date dictated 8/5/70

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.
February 6, 1970

Dear Mr. and Mrs. [Name],

Cora Weiss has asked us to answer your letter of January 20th regarding your son. I am enclosing an Information Sheet which explains what the Committee of Liaison is.

As you will see, one of the things we are doing is trying to get information on servicemen who may be prisoners in North Vietnam. Servicemen who are captured in South Vietnam are held there by the Provisional Revolutionary Government and the North Vietnamese have no information about them.

If your son was shot down over North Vietnam and you would like us to ask the North Vietnamese for information about him please send his name, service number and any details you have on when and where he was shot down. If you know of any other families in a similar situation you might want to refer them to us as well.

We understand the anxiety you must feel in not knowing about your son and hope our government will soon come to its senses and withdraw from Vietnam so that all families -- Vietnamese and American -- can be reunited. In the meantime we hope to be of help in getting information about prisoners held in North Vietnam.

Sincerely,

Barbara Webster
In addition, the letter was accompanied by a two page information sheet from COLIFAM.

Mrs. [redacted] informed that when she observed the names of the individuals who were on the Committee and determined that several of them were identical to individuals involved in the Chicago conspiracy trials, she ceased any contact and directed no further correspondence to COLIFAM. Since that time, she has determined from the United States Government that her son is a prisoner of war of the Vietcong but has not had any contact with him.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that she knows of no one individual by name who has had any contact with COLIFAM but does know that there are numerous families throughout the country who have contacted this group. She stated she has obtained this knowledge as she attended a nationwide meeting held May 1, 1970, at Washington, D. C., with the families of servicemen missing and prisoners of war in Vietnam. During this meeting she met numerous persons who have had contact with COLIFAM, but she could not recall their identities.

Mrs. [redacted] advised she would immediately contact the FBI should she receive any future correspondence from this group.
Mrs. [redacted] was apprised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the purpose of the interview.

Mrs. [redacted] was further advised that this interview was part of an investigation requested by J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General, and that this investigation is undertaken to develop the fact that the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) is acting within the United States at the request of the Government of North Vietnam and is involved in political activity under the Foreign Agents Registration Act or as a public agent as described by that Act.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that she has had no contact with COLIFAM or CORA WEISS or any other member of the Committee of Liaison. She further advised that she does not wish to be associated with COLIFAM.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that on June 4, 1970, she attended a meeting at the American Red Cross, 2400 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where a MARY WINN gave a talk on American prisoners of war in North Vietnam. At that meeting WINN made mention of COLIFAM and displayed a form letter that the North Vietnamese wished to be used by the families of servicemen to contact these servicemen in North Vietnam. Mrs. [redacted] stated that WINN did not state that she was a member of COLIFAM, but did stress the use of this form letter in contacting known prisoners in North Vietnam.

Mrs. [redacted] stated she had been contacted by KENNETH KIRKPATRICK, Peace Education Secretary for the American Friends Service Committee, Inc., 814 North East 40th Street, Seattle, Washington. KIRKPATRICK gave to Mrs. [redacted] the COLIFAM list of 335 names of known prisoners of war held in Hanoi. Mrs. [redacted] made this list available to the investigating Agent as well as the form letter to be used in contacting prisoners in North Vietnam as given her by Mrs. WINN.

On 8/7/70 at Wisconsin File# MX-100-17088
by SA [redacted] Date dictated 8/14/70

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Mrs. [redacted] advised that she had had contact with KIRKPATRICK by letter in which she asked him that on his next trip to North Vietnam would he please attempt to deliver a letter to her son in the event he was a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. KIRKPATRICK advised Mrs. [redacted] by letter that the North Vietnamese authorities informed him that her son, [redacted], United States Air Force, was not being held by them and they had no information relating to him.

Mrs. [redacted] stated she would testify to all of the above. She further advised that if she received any information regarding COLIFAM she would immediately notify the Milwaukee Office of the FBI.
Mr. and Mrs. Wisconsin were apprised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the purpose of the interview.

Mr. and Mrs. Wisconsin were further advised that the interview was part of an investigation requested by J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General, regarding an attempt to develop the fact that the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) is acting within the United States at the request of the Government of North Vietnam and is involved in political activity under the Foreign Agents Registration Act or as a publicity agent as described by that Act.

Mr. Wisconsin stated that his son is United States Air Force and that he was shot down over North Vietnam approximately 3½ years ago. Mr. Wisconsin stated that his son is married to Mrs. Wisconsin and they have three children: Mrs. Wisconsin and the children are residing in Wisconsin. Mrs. Wisconsin stated that the younger Mrs. Wisconsin does not wish to be contacted by anyone regarding her husband. All information regarding the younger Mrs. Wisconsin should be directed to Colonel LUTER, United States Air Force, San Antonio, Texas.

Mr. Wisconsin was told by Colonel LUTER that he is handling all matters for prisoners of war and contacts concerning the prisoners of war should be directed to him.

The Wisconsin stated that they have been contacted by COLIFAM. Contact was in the form of a letter signed by CORA WEISS, dated April 7, 1970. Mrs. Wisconsin stated the original is in the possession of Wisconsin but she had made a copy of this letter which she made available to the investigating Agent.

Mrs. Wisconsin stated that three letters from her son have been received at Wisconsin, and subsequently have been forwarded to the younger Mrs. Wisconsin. Mrs. Wisconsin stated that one letter arrived by itself; however, two other letters arrived after they had been sent.
to New York. A cover letter with the following note was attached:

"May 13, 1970

"Dear Friend,

"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 today. We are very happy to send herewith a letter addressed to you.

"Sincerely

"Barbara Webster"

Again, Mr. and Mrs. stressed the point that the originals of all correspondence are now in the hands of the younger

Mr. and Mrs. stated that they would be willing to testify to all that has transpired and would, if they received any further contact from COLIFAM, contact the FBI.

A copy of the letter from CORA WEISS, dated April 7, 1970, follows:
April 7, 1970

Dear Mrs. [Surname]

Our Committee has recently received official confirmation of 81 more servicemen being held in North Vietnam. By now you should have heard that [Name] is on this list. The North Vietnamese have confirmed this through the Committee of Rennie Davis 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 arrive here. 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,

Cora Weiss        Dave Dellinger

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

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 Captures in the D.V.R.
- 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 created by the North Vietnamese and is an extension of previous efforts. 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. servicemen 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 the 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 to 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.
Wis., was contacted at her residence, and was apprised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the purpose of the interview.

She was further advised that the interview was part of an investigation requested by J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General, regarding an attempt to develop the fact that the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) is acting within the United States at the request of the Government of North Vietnam and is involved in political activity under the Foreign Agents Registration Act or as a publicity agent as described by that Act.

Advised she is the wife of who was shot down over North Vietnam three and a half years ago.

Stated she has had four or five contacts with COLIFAM and pointed out she heard for the first time from this organization when they sent her a form letter on January 27, 1970, advising her that she will receive letters from her husband in the future through this committee and she could correspond with him also through this committee. On March 9, 1970, she received a form letter from this committee advising her that a letter from her husband was on the way. This letter was co-signed CORA WEISS and DAVE DELLINGER. However, inasmuch as this form letter had an error and gave her husband's name as rather than she immediately directed a letter to this organization asking them to confirm whether or not this was her husband, and a letter was received from the committee on March 18, 1970, confirming that it was indeed an error and she would be receiving a letter from her husband. She also received a letter approximately two weeks later from the

On 8/25/70 at Wis. File # MI 100-17068

by SA Date dictated 8/25/70

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committee, with no date on the letter, and signed BARBARA WEBSTER.

made available a copy of the letter directed to the committee, dated May 11, 1970, wherein questioned as to why the letters she was writing to her husband had to have on the address via Moscow, U.S.S.R. A letter from the committee answering her inquiry on May 22, 1970, was received indicating that this is the way the North Vietnamese wanted the letters to be directed.

advised that since March 9, 1970, she has received three letters and a postcard from her husband, the last letter being received May 19, 1970. She has written him numerous times but is under the impression that her husband has received at least one of the letters, inasmuch as he knew their new born child's first name and she pointed out that the child was not born until he was shot down. She also pointed out that she has called this committee one or two times to make direct inquiries about various methods of writing to her husband, but other than that has directed all correspondence via letters and has kept copies of these letters.

realizes that the committee is formed of individuals who are not patriotic Americans and do not have the American interests at heart, but feels that they have her over a barrel, so to speak, in that she desires to correspond with her husband, and going through this committee seems to be the only manner in which she is able to correspond with him. She further stated she has never met any of the individuals on the committee directly, but has had all contacts with them via mail. All letters to the committee are mailed to 365 West 42nd Street, New York City, N. Y.
The following investigation was conducted by the Special Agent of the 79th Military Police Detachment, CPI, Sub-Station, 3545 North Teutonia, Milwaukee. At this time, it was explained to the above-mentioned personnel that the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam was active in the Wisconsin area, and it was requested that they furnish any information relating to the activities of this group to be forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation immediately. Both stated after a review of their files that no such organization has been reported to them; however, they will maintain an awareness and furnish any positive information to the Bureau.
American Legion, 512 East State Street, Milwaukee, was apprised of the identity of the interviewing agent and of the purpose of the interview.

was advised that this investigation is being conducted at the precise request of J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General, and that the purpose of this investigation was to develop the fact that the Committee of Liaison for Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam is acting within the United States at the request of the Government of North Vietnam and is involved in political activities under the Foreign Agents Registration Act or as a publicity agent as described by the act.

stated that to the best of his knowledge, he has had no contact with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam or any offshoot type of group. However, he will contact all of his Post in the State of Wisconsin for any information they may have relating to this Committee and immediately forward results to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

7/27/70 Milwaukee, Wisconsin

7/31/70

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## REFERENCE:
- Report of SA at San Antonio, 8/17/70,
- San Antonio letter to the Bureau, 8/27/70.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED**

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<th>CONVICTED</th>
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<th>FINE</th>
<th>SAVINGS</th>
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**CASE HAS BEEN:**
- PENDING OVER ONE YEAR [ ] YES [ ] NO
- PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS [ ] YES [ ] NO

**APPROVED**
- Bureau (100-457899) (RF)
- New York (100-168469) (RF)
- San Antonio (100-11851)

**REMARKS**

- AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, will continue to interview dependents of prisoners of war in the San Antonio area.
- EXTREME DISCRETION SHOULD BE USED DURING THE COURSE OF INTERVIEWS. ANY INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS.

**NOTATIONS**

- All information contained herein is unclassified except where shown.
- Dissemination Record of Attached Report

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**COVER PAGE**
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.
INTERVIEWS SHOULD BE SET FORTH ON FD-302.
Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM)

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS REGISTRATION ACT

Synopsis: Mrs. [Redacted], wife of [Redacted], advised her husband was shot down over Vietnam in 1966. In April, 1970, during press conference of COLIFAM it was announced that her husband was a prisoner of war and that mail had been received from her husband. Shortly after the press conference she received a letter from her husband. A second letter was received from her husband via COLIFAM along with instructions how she should prepare future letters to her husband. A third letter was received from her husband via COLIFAM in latter part of April, 1970, and the last letter she has received from her husband was received in June, 1970, via COLIFAM. She has had no other contact with COLIFAM. Mrs. [Redacted], wife of [Redacted], advised her husband has been missing in action in Vietnam since 1967. She advised that COLIFAM meant nothing to her, however, she has received three phone calls from unknown individuals requesting photograph of her husband and background information regarding him.

Details: AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Mrs. [Redacted], the wife of [Redacted], Air Force Serial No. [Redacted], Social Security No. [Redacted], advised that her husband is a pilot in the United States Air Force.

In 1966 she received word that her husband had been shot down over Vietnam. In September, 1969, her husband was designated by the military as a prisoner of war.

In early April, 1970, during a press conference called by a group she believed to be the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, it was announced that her husband was a prisoner of war and that mail had been received from her husband. At the time of the press conference she had not received any mail from her husband.

Shortly thereafter, the exact date not now recalled, she was notified by the post office that she had some certified mail. Upon checking with the post office, she was given an envelope which contained a letter from her husband.

A xerox copy of this envelope and a xerox copy of the envelope containing her husband's letter, which was also enclosed, follows:

On 9/3/70 at Texas File# SA 100-11851

by SA 67c

Date dictated 9/4/70.

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.
On that same day she also received another letter from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, xerox copies of the envelope and contents which follow:
April 7, 1970

Dear Mr. [Redacted]

Our Committee has recently received official confirmation of 81 more servicemen being held in North Vietnam. By now you should have heard that this list 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 will be on 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 arrive, but we will forward it as soon as it arrives here.

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,

[Signature]

Cora Weiss Dave Dellinger

P.S. Kindly excuse the mimeographed letter, but there are many families to reach at the same time.
Mrs. [redacted] stated that shortly thereafter, again the exact date not now recalled, she received another letter from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam which enclosed another letter from her husband. She also believed that in this same letter she received some instructions how to prepare future letters to her husband and also what forms to use. Xerox copies of this letter, instructions, and one of the forms follow:
April 8, 1970

Dear friend:

We are very glad to send you the enclosed letter which we received from North Vietnam today.

Over 400 letters are en route from servicemen being held in North Vietnam. The enclosed letter, along with 79 others, was in the first packet to arrive here out of a total of five packets which we have been expecting.

We are also enclosing a letter form which the North Vietnamese have suggested relatives use when writing to servicemen in North Vietnam. You can mail it or regular letters directly to Hanoi or to our office for forwarding. If you send letters to us, please enclose but do not affix stamps as we forward them on in packets.

For those of you who may not have already received one, we are enclosing an Information Sheet which explains what the Committee of Liaison is.

With hopes for an early decision by the United States to withdraw from Vietnam,

Sincerely,

Steve Halliwell Barbara Webster
COMMITTEE OF LIASON
with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam
365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS: COLI.AFAM

Co-chairmen:
Dave Dellingor
Caro Weiss

Treasurer:
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee (in formation):
Rennie Davis
Rev. Richard Fernandez
*Maggie Geddes
*Steve Halliwell
Stewart Meacham
Prof. Ben Schmitz
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 their 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 use 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-Thu, 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
created by the North Vietnamese and is an extension of previous efforts. 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. servicemen 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 the 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 to 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.
NGƯỜI GỬI (Addresser)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

SỞ LÎNH (Service number):

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

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

TRẠI GIẢM PHI CÔNG MỸ BỊ BẤT TÀI
NUOC 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):

13
GHÌ 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 tinh 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 proforms).
During the latter part of April, 1970, another letter was received from the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam which enclosed a letter from her husband. A xerox copy of the Committee's letter follows:
April 20, 1970

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
The last letter that she received from her husband, she received about June 26, 1970, which was enclosed with another letter from the Committee. A xerox copy of this Committee's letter follows:
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
Mrs. [redacted] stated that the only contact that she has had with the Committee is by letters mentioned above. No one representing themselves as being from the Committee has contacted her in person or by telephone. No personal objects have been delivered to her either by mail or by anyone else from her husband.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that she would have to think about whether she would testify regarding this matter if she were asked to do so at a future date. She stated that she does not know anything about this Committee other than what was contained in the letters. She pointed out that her only contact with her husband since 1966 has been through these letters forwarded to her by the Committee and she did not want to do anything that might jeopardize her husband's safety.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

[Redacted information]

was interviewed at her residence located in Texas, by [redacted] who identified himself to her as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice. [redacted] advised that her husband, [redacted], has been missing in action in Vietnam since 1967, when his aircraft was shot down. [redacted] continued that she has been contacted on three occasions by unknown individuals who telephoned her requesting a photograph of her husband and background information stating they would possibly be able to learn something of his present whereabouts and condition.

She stated she does not know how these individuals obtained her telephone number since it is unlisted.

She continued that the first call was in about November, 1969, from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and she believes it was from some Quaker organization.

The second call was from somewhere in Virginia in February, 1970. This caller requested that she immediately airmail a photograph and description of her husband.

The third call was from San Francisco, California, in April or May, 1970.

She stated she did not retain names of the organizations or representatives calling as she was not interested and told them all she would not comply with their requests.

[Redacted] stated the Organization Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam meant nothing to her.

On 9/10/70 at [redacted] Texas

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.
She added that the only ones she would cooperate with would be representatives of the U. S. Government.
TO: Director, FBI (100-457899)

FROM: SAC, Indianapolis (100-20786) (P)

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

DATE: 9-24-70

All information contained herein is unclassified except where shown.

Re San Antonio letter to the Bureau dated 8-27-70.

Enclosed for New York are nine copies each of two FD 302 reflecting the results of an interview with Mrs. [redacted] and Mrs. [redacted] and a letter from the captioned committee to Mrs. [redacted] dated 5-25-70. One of each of the above is enclosed for the Bureau.

The following individuals whose sons are listed by the U.S. Air Force as missing in action (MIA) were contacted by SAC, Indianapolis, to determine if they would have any information relating to the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam:

9-17-70, Mr. [redacted]
9-21-70, Mr. [redacted]

2 - Bureau (Enc. 3)
2 - New York (Enc. 19) (RM)
2 - Indianapolis

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan
Mrs. [redacted] was interviewed concerning the Committee of the Liaison of Families of Servicemen Detained in North Viet Nam, and furnished the following information:

[redacted] stated the only contact with this organization has been through the mails. She believed this organization discovered that her son, [redacted], was a Prisoner of War after receiving a letter from him that was delivered by a Mrs. [redacted], 361 Uclayptis Street, Beverly, California, who returned from North Viet Nam in December, 1969. She stated that since first contacted in January, 1970, about three or four letters were forwarded to COLFIAM, 365 West 42nd Street, New York, New York, for delivery to her son, North Viet Nam. She stated at present no mail or personal objects have been delivered by COLFIAM.


(all information contained herein is unclassified except what is shown otherwise)
All 62-RE-50 1291-1

May 25, 1970

Dear Mr. [Name]

We are enclosing a letter to one of our people who are

[Address]

We noted that the new address is different than the

one we have for you. We are changing our files to make it the

Warsaw Indiana address. If this is incorrect please let us know.

Sincerely,

Barbara Webster

[Barcode]

[Date] 7/23/93

[Barcode]

[Barcode]
January 27, 1970

Dear Mr. [Redacted]

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Maggie Geddes

[Signature]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN PRIVATE
February 6, 1970

Dear Mr. [Name]

Thank you very much for your recent contribution to our work. Our cable and postage expenses are pretty high and it is very thoughtful of you to send a check to defray our costs.

We will forward your letter to [Name] on early next week, and hope to be forwarding letters from him to you in the future.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Barbara Webster
Dear Mr. and Mrs. [Redacted]

Thank you for your kind note of April 5.

On April 18th a group of anti-war demonstrators left for a visit to North Vietnam and one sent your letter to your son on behalf.

Sincerely,
Barbara Webster

[Additional information on the bottom right corner]
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.
Dear Mr. [Redacted],

We will send your letter to your son with a group of anti-war people who are going to Vietnam in June for a visit.

I trust you have received the recent letter from [Redacted] which was mailed from our office on May 13th.

When [Redacted] was in North Vietnam last December, at which time she had discussions about joining this Committee, the North Vietnamese told her prisoners would be allowed to send 4 letters a month. However, as you obviously have observed, this has not happened as far. The flow of letters has increased incredibly — as well as the number of prisoners as [Redacted] writing since December. We have forwarded onto families the letters of [Redacted] 355 men confirmed to be prisoners. Frankly, we did not know there has been a change of mind on whether it may be, for example, an administrative
mation such as shortage of translators.
So it would appear that at least you will be hearing from your son, even if not on a regular monthly basis.

Sincerely,
Barbara Webster

P.S. Please excuse the handwritten letter but our typewriter is not working.
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON
with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam
365 West 42nd Street New York, N.Y. 10036
212-765-1490

INFORMATION SHEET

Background

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

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

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

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

Functions of the Committee

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

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

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

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

Clarification

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

Secondly, the Committee will function entirely apart from the U.S. govern-
ment. The U.S. government has frequently made it more difficult for the
Vietnamese to be open to the concerns of American families by using the
families' genuine desires as a propaganda ploy. The government has
further attempted to provoke an angry response from the Vietnamese
by publicizing unsubstantiated and inflammatory testimony from files al-
ready released. Apparently, the government has decided to generalize
existing communications and the possibility of future violence for the
sake of propaganda, aimed at prolonging the war. The North Vietnam-
ese are also very sure that the U.S. government's claims of human-
itarian concerns are contradicted by the well-documented policy of tor-
ture and brutality practiced on prisoners taken in the South by U.S.
and Saigon troops.

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

Who We Are

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

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

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

SỐ LỊNH (Service number):

NGÀY NGÀY SINH (Date & place of birth):

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

TRẠI GIÁM PHI CÔNG MỸ BỊ BẤT TÀI
NUỚC VIỆT-NAM ĐANG CHỦ CÔNG 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 (Address)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

7/23/93 57.548 57.03 692

cont-2
NGÀY VIỆT (Dated)

GHI CHÚ (N.B.):

1. Phải viết rõ và chữ 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 quý định này (Letters from families should also conform to this proforms).
June 14, 1970

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
Dear Mrs. [Name]

The June trip to North Vietnam was postponed and didn't go until a couple of weeks ago. They took with them the letter which you mailed to us on July 23. (Your May and June letters were taken to Paris in early July and mailed from there.)

So there have not been any letters from prisoners since the last trip returned in June. We hope that the group that is there now will bring some back.

Sincerely,

Barbara Webster

P.S. There are currently no specific plans for another trip, but in general we expect there will be some going throughout the fall and probably winter. Your most recent letter will go with the first trip which leaves later this month or in October I would imagine.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date: September 17, 1970

Mrs. [redacted], Indiana, furnished the following information:

She is the mother of [redacted], who is currently a Prisoner of War in North Vietnam. He was reported as Missing in Action in 1967, and they subsequently received information that he was being held as a Prisoner of War in North Vietnam.

On January 17, 1970, she received a telephone call from a Ethel Taylor from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and identified herself as head of the Women's Strike for Peace Program. She was unable to recall specifically the telephone conversation, but in general terms Taylor stated she had just come back from Hanoi and saw the damage our planes have done over there. Taylor commented that this was a cruel and immoral war and their organization was set up to end this war. Taylor related that there was also a similar office set up in Hanoi, as well as in New York. Taylor made no statements against the prisoners and she, Mrs. [redacted], got the impression that Taylor was on the defensive, waiting for her to commit herself. At the end of this conversation Mrs. [redacted] told Taylor that she hoped the war would be over soon.

This was the only telephone conversation she has had with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, and has never been personally contacted by anyone from the committee.

She subsequently has received correspondence from the Committee of Liaison and made available copies of this correspondence which is being made a part of this interview.

On 9/2/70 [redacted], Indiana
Files: IP 100-19786

by SA [redacted], lly
Date dictated 9/14/70

*This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency: its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.*
The Committee has made available to her a special type form which they use to correspond with their son. This form allows them six lines and they are allowed to write once a month. These letters are sent to the Committee in New York and the Committee makes arrangements for them to be delivered to the Prisoners of War. They have received letters from their son through this Committee, however, none of the letters received from their son have ever indicated he has received their letters. They are not allowed to mail packages.

Neither she, nor her husband, agree with the philosophies of this Committee and only cooperate with this Committee because they have been getting letters from their son. They have no positive proof that their son is receiving their letters. The last letter they received from their son through the Committee was in June, 1970, which was dated in April, 1970.

They have never been harassed by the Committee, although she did send the Committee to pay for any expenses in the communications with their son.

She was unable to recall any statements by the Committee regarding the source of information, or contacts and she knew of no other Prisoner of War families approached by the Committee.

Mrs. stated she would be willing to cooperate should her testimony be needed at a later date.
Memorandum

TO: 7B
FROM: 7B

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIASON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM) 18-MISC; REGISTRATION ACT

CC: NEW YORK

RE: New York airtel to Director, copies to all offices, 6/9/70.
San Antonio letter to Director, copies to all offices, 8/27/70.

CLERK, U.S. Post Office, Union City, N.J., advised on 9/23/70 that he has a change of address for MRS. 7B (wife) PW to “Care of 7B” Ga.

ATLANTA

7B will conduct interview per instructions in relets.

BUREAU (RM)
1. Atlanta (RM)
2. Newark

All information contained herein is unclassified except where shown classified

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

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)  

SAC, SAN JUAN (97-773) (RUC)

RE: COMMITTEE OF RATION BASED LIMITS IN SERVICES DESTINED FOR NORTH VIETNAM (COLONIAL)
REGISTRATION ACT (00:00)

DATE: 9/24/70


San Juan indices are negative re captioned matter.

Local military and law enforcement agencies, and confidential sources, have been alerted with negative results.

On 6/30/70, the American Legion, was contacted with negative results.

The lead in re San Antonio letter has been taken into consideration and due to the fact that is Missing In Action and not publicly listed as a POW, this lead is not being covered.

This case is being placed in an RUC status, subject to reopening should any positive information be received.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN.
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

DATE: 9/24/70

DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NORFOLK (100-6833) (P)

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

Re San Antonio letter to Bureau and all offices dated 8/27/70 and report of SA dated 8/31/70 at Norfolk.

The San Antonio Division sent forth the names of next of kin of certain Air Force personnel who are either Prisoners of War (POW) or Missing in Action (MIA).

The Norfolk Division has interviewed a number of wives of POWs residing in this area and in addition has interviewed wives of certain MIAs in selective instances.

UACB, the Norfolk Division at this time does not contemplate interviewing parents or wives of other MIAs unless some reason exists making such interviews desirable, such as information indicating relatives may have had some contact with COLIFAM.

Investigation in the Norfolk Division is continuing.

EX 110

1 - SEP 28 1970

- 457899 - 13C

2 - Bureau (RM)
2 - New York (100-168469) (RM)
1 - Norfolk

- 62C

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
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62C

54 OCT 7 1970
Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☐ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

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☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☑ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☐ For your information:

☑ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages: 100-4-2874-13
To:    SACs Milwaukee (Enclosure)  
       Jackson (Enclosure)  

From: Director, FBI  

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

Enclosed for each recipient is one copy of a 
self-explanatory letter from J. Walter Yeagley, Assistant 
Attorney General. 

Jackson refer to the last paragraph on page 2 
and secure a copy of the letter mentioned therein. Submit 
this as an attachment to an LHM. 

Milwaukee interview 
in line with instructions set forth in the enclosed 
letter. In view of his connection with the University of 
Wisconsin, this interview should be conducted off the campus 
and should be told that he is being contacted at the 
request of the Internal Security Division of the Department 
of Justice. Submit results of this interview in form suitable 
for dissemination.
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)  
FROM: SAC, MOBILE (100-2219) (RUC)  
DATE: OCTOBER 2, 1970

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

Re San Antonio letter to Bureau, 8/27/70; Mobile airtel to Bureau, 7/23/70.

Referenced San Antonio letter sets forth the names of families of Air Force personnel missing in action in the Mobile Division. Two of these families have previously been interviewed and the results furnished by LHM to the Bureau and the office of origin.

[Redacted] who was previously interviewed and the results set forth in Mobile airtel 7/23/70, advised on 9/21/70, that she had no information not previously reported of COLIFAM activity in Montgomery, or that any other servicemen's families or dependents have been contacted by COLIFAM. [Redacted] advised she does not know of any servicemen's families or dependents who have been harassed or cajoled by COLIFAM or anyone connected with COLIFAM.

As previously set forth, American Legion (Alabama), Montgomery, Alabama, had no information indicating families or dependents of POWs or MIAs in Alabama were contacted by COLIFAM.

Accordingly, families of those individuals will not be contacted unless advised to the contrary by the Bureau or the office of origin.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

SAC, BALTIMORE (100-27337) - P -

DATE: 9/28/70

RE: Baltimore airtel to Bureau, 7/21/70, and San Antonio letter to Baltimore, 8/27/70, and Norfolk report of SA 8/31/70

On 7/24/70, were interviewed by SA concerning any contacts they had with any representatives of COLIFAM. Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED] have received a telephone call from CORA WEISS in April, 1970, from New York City stating she had returned from Hanoi and informed them that a letter was being sent to them from their son who is a POW in North Vietnam. The [REDACTED] were aware of the prisoner status of their son through Air Force authorities. The [REDACTED] did receive the letter from their son in mid April, 1970. They did continue to write letters twice a month and did send one package to their son every two months. Only their first package mailed in December, 1966 was returned. The [REDACTED] have received only two pieces of correspondence from COLIFAM, one dated April 7, 1970 sent by CORA WEISS and DAVE BELLINGER, the other dated May 4, 1970 from Reverend FERNANDEZ.
both from New York. The [redacted] have never contacted this organization.

MRS. [redacted] sister of the POW claimed she was contacted by a Mrs. CYRIL REYNOLDS in January, 1970, to attend a gathering held at the Saint Anslom Episcopal Church in Bala-Cynwyd, Pennsylvania, where a woman, who was identified as ETHEL TAYLOR, who is affiliated with the Women's Strike for Peace, was to speak. ETHEL TAYLOR was presented as one of the women who had returned from Hanoi around Christmas, 1969, with letters from POWs. At this meeting Mrs. [redacted] stated that ETHEL TAYLOR presented what she, Mrs., considered an extremely distorted biased opinion of the United States involvement in North Vietnam and claimed that she, ETHEL TAYLOR, was bringing a message from the "compassionate" women in North Vietnam to those in the United States in an effort to set up an avenue of exchange of information, devoid of any government connections. She explained that the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam was organized for this avenue of exchange.

MRS. [redacted] indicated that various questions were asked by those attending and only the Pastor of the Church "stood up" to several of the comments made by Mrs. TAYLOR. With regard to a question directed as to who paid for the trip, no answer was given. ETHEL TAYLOR did remark that her telephone bill was very high and that her "angry husband" paid the bill. Mrs. [redacted] concluded by saying that she did not feel that Mrs. REYNOLDS supported Mrs. TAYLOR and her committee.

On 9/10/70, SA [redacted] contacted MRS. [redacted], mother of [redacted], who resides at [redacted], Maryland. MRS. [redacted] who resides at [redacted], Virginia, was in contact with Mrs. [redacted], Virginia, who is associated with National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia. Mrs. [redacted] has kept in close touch with this organization as well as with the Naval Intelligence concerning her husband. Mrs. [redacted] advised that she has received
no correspondence nor has any contact been made with COLIFAM.

The referenced San Antonio letter dated 8/27/70 set out the following names of Air Force Prisoner of War (POW) or Air Force personnel Missing in action (MIA) who resides in the Baltimore Division:

(Lt. Col. GEORGE E. TYLER, MIA)

(Captain JOHN T. WEST, MIA)

(Captain THOMAS M. KILCULLEN, MIA)

(Captain JOHN S. ALBRIGHT, II, MIA)
(Major CHARLES SCHARP, MIA)

(Major JOHN C. KERR, MIA)

(Major HERB DOBY, MIA)

(Captain BRUCE DUCAT, POW)

(Captain HENRY P. FOWLER, JR., POW)

(Col. DAVID H. ASIRE, MIA)

-4-
(Major TERRIN D. HICKS, MIA)

(Captain GEORGE B. MENDES, MIA)

(Major ERNEST A. OLDS, MIA)

(Lt. Col CARLYLE S. HARRIS, POW)

(Lt. Col WILLIAM D. BURROUGHS, POW)

(Master Sergeant LAWRENCE CLARK, MIA)
(Major JOHN M. MARTIN, MIA)

(Captain WILLIAM L. NELSONS, MIA)

LEADS:

NORFOLK DIVISION

AT [EDITED]

VIRGINIA

Will conduct interview with Mrs. [EDITED], wife of [EDITED], Virginia regarding any contact with COLIFAM.

PHILADELPHIA DIVISION

AT [EDITED]

PENNSYLVANIA

Will attempt to locate and interview Mrs. [EDITED] for any additional information she might possess concerning her contact with ETHEL TAYLOR of the Woman's Strike for Peace who spoke before a group at Saint Anslam Episcopal Church, [EDITED], Pennsylvania, concerning COLIFAM.

BALTIMORE DIVISION

AT [EDITED]

MARYLAND

Will interview MRS. [EDITED] concerning any contacts by COLIFAM.

AT [EDITED]

MARYLAND

Will interview MR. and MRS. [EDITED] concerning any contacts by COLIFAM.
Leads, cont.

AT [Redacted]
Will interview [Redacted] concerning any contacts by COLIFAM.

AT [Redacted]
Will interview [Redacted] concerning any contacts by COLIFAM.

AT [Redacted]
Will interview MRS. [Redacted] concerning any contacts by COLIFAM.

AT [Redacted]
Will interview Mrs. [Redacted] concerning any contacts by COLIFAM.

AT [Redacted]
Will interview MRS. [Redacted] and Mr. and MRS. concerning any contacts by COLIFAM.

AT [Redacted]
Will interview [Redacted] concerning any contacts by COLIFAM.

AT [Redacted]
Will interview Mrs. [Redacted] concerning any contacts by COLIFAM.
AT
Will interview concerning any contacts by COLIFAM.
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Will interview concerning any contacts by COLIFAM.
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Will interview concerning any contacts by COLIFAM.
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Will interview concerning any contacts by COLIFAM.
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Will interview concerning any contacts by COLIFAM.

For the information and assistance in covering the above leads, will attempt to identify other POW families who may have been approached by COLIFAM. Extreme discretion should be used during the course of interviews. Advise individuals interviewed that the interview is at the direction J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General. Also determine if the individual interviewed would be willing to cooperate should their testimony be needed at a later date. Interviews should be set forth on FD-302

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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☒ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

☐ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

☐ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

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☐ For your information:

__________________________________________________________________________

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

100-457197-134

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FBI/DOJ
Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

FROM: MAC, MINNEAPOLIS (100-15134) (P)

DATE: 10/8/70

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM IS - MISCELLANEOUS

TO: NEW YORK

ReNYairtel to all offices 6/9/70.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are 11 copies of a letterhead memorandum (LHM), dated and captioned as above.

Three copies of this LHM are being designated for the New York Office and two copies are being designated for the Omaha Office.

LEADS

OMAHA DIVISION

AT: NEBRASKA

Will interview telephone to ascertain whether or not COLIFORM has been in contact with her. Will interview her in compliance with instructions contained in realirtel. It should be noted that she stated that she has an unpublished telephone number and he requested her telephone and address to be maintained in confidence.

2) Bureau (RM) (Encs. - 1)
2 - New York (100-168469) (RM) (Encs. - 3)
2 - Omaha (RM) (Encs. - 2)
2 - Minneapolis

AGENCY: ARMY, ONI, OSI, SEC. SER., STATE, CIA

DATE FORM: 10/8/70, CRT: 10/8/70, RRS: 10/8/70

(Classified Information Contained Herein is Unclassified Except as Shown "W. Oliver")
MNNEAPOLIS DIVISION

AT MINNESOTA

Will follow prosecutive action by the Department in this case.
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM: (COLIFAM)

On August 27, 1970, Mrs. [redacted] was interviewed regarding the above-captioned organization, the results of which are as follows:

[Redacted information]

[Redacted classification notes]
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Mrs. [redacted], North Dakota, was advised she was being interviewed concerning the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) at the direction of J. Walter Yagley, Assistant Attorney General.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that her husband, a pilot in the United States Air Force, while piloting a light plane, was shot down over South Vietnam. She has not received literature from COLIFAM, nor has anyone from this organization contacted her.

She made a trip to Washington, D. C., May 1, 1970, and, in casual talk with families of servicemen there, it was indicated this organization would only have information on servicemen who were shot down over North Vietnam. She has not heard anything about her husband and because he was flying a light plane and could not bail out, his chances of surviving were not good.

All 67c rep 80 12812-2

On 8/27/70 at [redacted], North Dakota  Files MP 100-15134

SA [redacted] 8/31/70

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.
On September 17, 1970, [redacted] North Dakota, advised as follows:
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All b/c REC 12/12/70

Date October 1, 1970

North Dakota, advised his son, a U. S. Air Force, is missing in action in Vietnam for four years.

has not been contacted by the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM).

He has heard of this organization but will not have anything to do with it. His son's wife resides in Nebraska, and he is not sure whether she has been contacted by COLIFAM.

wife. Her address is his son's telephone

On 9/17/70 at North Dakota File# MP 100-15134

by 9/24/70

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.
On September 18, 1970, Mrs. [redacted] advised as follows:
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All 62c REP 62 12842-2

Date October 2, 1970

Mrs. [Redacted], North Dakota, advised her son, [Redacted], U. S. Air Force, is missing in action in Vietnam.

She received a letter dated May 11, 1970, from this organization but threw it away.

She noted that she would have nothing to do with any organization if RENNIE DAVIS is connected with it. She has not been otherwise contacted by this organization.
RE: RENNIE DAVIS

On February 18, 1970, Rennie Davis was found guilty in the U. S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois, for violating the Federal Anti-Riot Law Statute for traveling in interstate commerce from outside the State of Illinois with intent to incite riots in Chicago during the Democratic National Convention, August, 1968.

On February 20, 1970, he was sentenced to five years imprisonment and fined $5,000 on February 28, 1970.

The U. S. Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit, Chicago, ordered him released on $25,000 bond pending appeal of his conviction.

On August 28, 1970, Fargo, North Dakota, advised as follows:
was advised he was being interviewed concerning the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLLAFAM) at the request of J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General of the United States. Mr.\[underline\] advised as follows:

His son, [redacted], has been listed as missing in action for more than two years. He was serving in Vietnam as a pilot for the U.S. Air Force.

Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] have made numerous attempts to find out whether their son is living or dead, but they have never been contacted by COLLAFAM. They would be willing to cooperate with any organization, official or unofficial, if they might get some information pertaining to their son.

Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] do not know of any other family in Fargo, North Dakota, a member of which is missing in action or a prisoner of war. They do not know of a [redacted] in the Fargo area. If there were such a person whose relative was missing in action or was a prisoner of war, they would have learned of him by now.
Mrs. [Redacted] was recontacted on September 9, 1970, and advised she was unable to locate the original of a letter form which she had previously received from COLIFAM, which was to be utilized by her in corresponding with her husband, [Redacted], Prisoner of War, Vietnam.

Mrs. [Redacted] was recontacted on September 10, 1970, at which time she furnished the original of an undated letter directed to her from COLIFAM, which sets out the functions of COLIFAM. The original of this letter is being preserved and attached hereto is a copy of this letter.

Mrs. [Redacted] added that she has not heard from her husband since she was last contacted by a representative of the FBI in July, 1970.
INFORMATION SHEET

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 relat

Background

The Committee of Liaison has been established in response to an initiative
created by the North Vietnamese and is an extension of previous efforts. 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. servicemen 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 the 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 to 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.
A review of Fargo, North Dakota, city and telephone directories failed to reveal the name of who supposedly resides at.

On August 28, 1970, Fargo, stated he has lived at this address for the past five-year period and that no one by the name of has lived in the neighborhood during that time. He pointed out that there is no such address as Fargo.

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.
Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)
FROM: CHICAGO (100-48914) (P)
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICE MEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM) IS-MISC REGISTRATION ACT

DATE: 10/8/70

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREBIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHAT IS SHOWN BELOW.

New York

Re: Springfield airtel to the Bureau dated 9/8/70.

Enclosed herewith for each the Bureau and the New York Division are two copies of an FD-302 reflecting results of an interview with Mrs. [redacted]. A copy of the FD-302 is also being furnished to Springfield for their information.

ADMINISTRATIVE

During the interview with Mrs. [redacted] on September 30, 1970, as reported in the enclosures herein, she stated she would be most willing to testify as to the information she furnished, as reported herein. Mrs. [redacted] furnished the following information to which she emphatically stated she would not testify and its nature was to be held in strictest confidence:

During November of 1969, she first learned of the COLIFAM group through the news media. She stated the name of WILLIAM KUNSTLER, defense attorney at the Chicago Conspiracy Trial, was mentioned. She stated on an unrecalled date she called KUNSTLER's office in Chicago and left a message for him to call her. She stated she was interested in the possibility of obtaining information relative to her son, however, when KUNSTLER called back, she was not convinced of the COLIFAM integrity and did not pay much attention to the brief call made by KUNSTLER. She stated she does not recall the contents of the telephone conversation.

2 - Bureau (Encs.2) (RM)
2 - New York (100-168469) (Encs.2) (RM)
1 - Springfield (100-12042) (Enc1.1)(Info)(RM)
3 - Chicago (100-158469) (Enc1.1)(RM)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREBIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHAT IS SHOWN BELOW.
Mrs. [redacted], telephone [redacted], was interviewed at her place of employment, at which time she furnished the following information:

She has a sister, [redacted], who is currently missing in action in Vietnam. As a result of her inability to obtain any information concerning her sister, an organization known as the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COMIFAM) was formed for the families in the State of Illinois who have relatives missing in Vietnam.

Mrs. [redacted] advised the first she heard of an organization known as Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COMIFAM) was in about November of 1969, when she heard of this group in the news media. She stated she came into contact with this organization during a trip she made and set forth the following circumstances:

In [redacted] 1970, she and several other women left the United States on a trip around the world in connection with their missing relatives. Among the various stops on this trip was Vien Tane, Laos. In Vien Tane, four women went to the North Vietnam Embassy in an attempt to obtain information concerning prisoners of war being held in North Vietnam. Upon their arrival, they were informed by the officials at this Embassy that the North Vietnamese were aware the group was coming and stated none of this group's relatives were in North Vietnam. One of the women exhibited a photograph to the officials and stated she was certain one of the men in the picture was her husband. The officials finally agreed to attempt to gain further information regarding this woman's husband. As a result of this agreement, the group stayed in Vien Tane and approximately two weeks later recontacted the Embassy. At this time, they were given no information. Mrs. [redacted] stated as the group was leaving the Embassy building, she was the last one out. She stated as she was approaching the door to leave, one of the officials gave her a slip of
Committee of Vietnam for Communication with American Prisoners and Repatriation from Southeast Asia, which group was formed in July of 1970. The group this time was contacted by an official of the North Vietnamese Embassy, which time the group was contacted at its residence in Paris by an official of the North Vietnamese Embassy.
SECRET

FBI

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

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT AS SHOWN OTHERWISE

8/11/70, Kansas City letterhead memoranda of 7/22/70, and

1 WFO (157-3257)(Info)(RM)
2 Kansas City
   (2 - 157-963)
   (1 - 100-14050)(COLFAM)
3 New York (Info)(RM)
   (1 - 100-71134)
   (1 - 100-170246)(COLFAM)
3 Philadelphia (Info)(RM)
   (1 - 100-168469)(COLFAM)
   (1 - 100-14050)(COLFAM)

Approved: Special Agent in Charge

Date: 9/28/70

Original Filed: 8/28/70

Classification: 1
Declassify on: DACR 168 OCT 9 1970

Date of Declassification: 9/24/78

PET

SECRET
Bureau routing slips of 9/3 and 8/70, to Kansas City, respectively attached.

UACH 10/170, the Kansas City Division proposes to submit an LHM classified set of.

Dissemination of proposed LHM will be made to local Military Intelligence agencies, U. S. Secret Service, and the U. S. Attorney at Kansas City, Missouri. Such dissemination is not being interpreted as involving "the third agency rule."
TO:      DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899) (ATT: DSD)
FROM:   SAC, NEW YORK (100-168469) (P)

SUBJECT:     COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM) IS-MISC REGISTRATION ACT (00:NY)

Enclosed for the Bureau are 11 copies of an LHM captioned, "COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM". Enclosed for WFO are two copies of LHM.

For the information of the Bureau, NY, in interpreting these records, has not intentionally interpreted them in the LHM, in view of the circumstances.

2-Bureau (Encs. 11)
2-Washington Field (Encs. 2) (RM)
1-New York

Approved: 12 OCT 0 1970

Special Agent in Charge 1639-2 2/3

FBI

Date: 10/8/70
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552

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Section 552a

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Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

For your information: PRINCE CAN HACROUS 12-12-2

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

100-457999-137 PHD

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FBI/DOJ
According to COLIFAM still maintains office space at 365 West 42nd St., NYC, however, BARBARA WEBSTER, Secretary, has been on extended vacation since midsummer. Source feels COLIFAM will continue its operation in the Fall at the above address.

In view of the highly sensitive nature of this source, the LHM is being classified, "SECRET" to further protect the source.

No local dissemination is being made of this LHM since NY feels that dissemination of the LHM should be at the discretion of the Bureau.

ReNY to the Bureau dated 9/23/70 pertaining to 374 POW letters and a Press Conference at International Arrivals Building, JFK International Airport, Jamaica, NY, on 9/16/70, seems to bear heavily on the COLIFAM Registration Act case. Material contained herein appears to be evidentiary in nature. NY will make efforts to determine who was the intermediary on disposing these letters and will determine if there is a direct connection with COLIFAM.
Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM)

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.

ENCLOSURE 100-457899-137
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

For your information: [Redacted]

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages: 100-4-7629-137

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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X

FBI/DOJ
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)
FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-168469) (P)
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)

US-MILC REGISTRATION ACT (00:NY)

ReNYtel to the Bu dated 10/7/70 and captioned, "ALLEGED PLOT TO ASSASSINATE VICE PRESIDENT AGNEW, EAST SIDE CRAZIES, NEW YORK CITY, 10/7/70, PRESIDENTIAL ASSASSINATION STATUTE."

1127th US Air Force Field Activities Group, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, was interviewed at the HYO by SAS and on 10/7/70 with respect to information furnished by a source of his concerning a possible plot to assassinate Vice President SPIRO AGNEW.

During the course of the above interview, he stated that he is presently primarily assigned in developing information concerning the identities of Prisoners of War in North Vietnam for the Air Force and that in this endeavor he is attempting to develop a source into the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam in NYC.

The above is being submitted for the information of the Bureau.

EX-103 in OCT 8 1970

Special Agent in Charge
TO DIRECTOR 100-457899
ATT DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE DIVISION
FROM NEW YORK 100-168469

A COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM, IS-MISC; REGISTRATION ACT.

ON OCTOBER TWO, LAST, RELIABLE, FURNISHED

END PAGE ONE

59 OCT 16 1970
NYO WILL PREPARE LHM SETTING FORTH THESE ENTIRE RECORDS.

NYO WILL NOT SET FORTH LEADS TO CONTACT AND INTERVIEW RELATIVES CONTAINED IN THESE RECORDS.

BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO OBTAIN DEPARTMENTAL OPINION WITH REFERENCE TO THE DESIRABILITY OF INTERVIEWING ALL RELATIVES OF POW END

EJF FBI WASH D C
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☐ For your information:

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

100 - 457399 - 140
Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

DATE: 9/30/70

SAC, NEW ORLEANS (97-99) (P)

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF ALLIANCE WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM); IS - MISCELLANEOUS; RA (00: NY)

Re New Orleans letter and LHM, 7/29/70.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eleven copies and for New York are three copies of an LHM re captioned matter.

LEADS:

NEW ORLEANS

AT LOUISIANA: Will interview Mrs. [redacted], wife of [redacted], who is a POW, who resides at [redacted]. Determine during the interview:

a) Identity of individual who contacted her.

b) Report circumstances of contact, e.g. was she harassed, conjoled, etc.

c) If she had mail or personal objects delivered for her or brought back to her.

d) What COLIFAM statements were regarding source of information, contacts, etc.

e) Identity of other POW families approached in a similar manner.

f) Lastly, determine nature of correspondence between her and COLIFAM.

8) BUREAU (ENC-11) (RM)

2-NEW YORK (ENC-3) (100-168469) (RM)

2-NEW ORLEANS

INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
AT LOUISIANA: Will interview Mr. and determine if he has an immediate relative prisoner of the North Vietnamese and if so interview in accordance with above instructions.

AT LOUISIANA: Will contact Mrs. to determine if she has immediate relative prisoner of North Vietnamese and handle as above.

AT LOUISIANA: Will contact Mrs. to determine if she has a close relative prisoner of North Vietnamese and handle as above.
This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the Intelligence Advisory Board of the FBI and is therefore not considered official FBI information and is therefore not to be considered official FBI information.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
IN THIS DOCUMENT IS DECLASSIFIED
FOR PERSONAL USE ONLY

Name of Special 6010912

Reference is made to letterhead memorandum dated July 29, 1970 at New Orleans, Louisiana, captioned as above.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

The information set forth hereinafter was furnished by

Mrs. [Redacted], maiden name is [Redacted]. She was

born on [Redacted] at [Redacted]. She is the wife of [Redacted], who is in the U.S. Air Force. [Redacted] was shot down over North Viet Nam on [Redacted], 1965, and is a prisoner of war. At the
time he was shot down, his serial number was [Redacted]. The prefix to service numbers has been changed and his serial number is now [Redacted]. His Social Security number is [Redacted].

Mrs. [Redacted] explained that she would cooperate in any way possible and stated that she would conditionally testify for the Government should it become necessary. She explained that it would depend on what the U.S. Air Force advises her to do and whether or not her testimony would be harmful to her husband.

With reference to the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Viet Nam (COLIFAM), Mrs. [Redacted] furnished the following information:

COLIFAM made all of the contacts and these contacts were through the U.S. Mails.

All contacts were through the U.S. Mails and consisted of written communications from COLIFAM. Generally, these written communications were of a propaganda nature and pointed out that COLIFAM was receiving prisoner of war mail from the North Vietnamese and then in turn, COLIFAM would forward these letters from the prisoners directly to the prisoners' families in the United States.

On 7/23/70 at [Redacted] Louisiana by SA [Redacted] File # NO 97-99

Date dictated 7/29/70

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.
Practically all the mail Mrs. [redacted] has received from her husband has come through COLIFAM. Mrs. [redacted] has not sent any letters to her husband through COLIFAM. She sends them directly to her husband in care of Camp of Detention for U. S. Pilots Captured in the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. She noted that COLIFAM suggested that such letters be sent via Moscow, USSR; Mrs. [redacted] has not done this. Mrs. [redacted] is not sure but she believes a friend of hers, Mrs. [redacted], might have sent letters to her husband, through COLIFAM.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that if the family of a prisoner of war gets any letters from the prisoner of war, there is a 90% chance that these letters would come through COLIFAM.

Mrs. [redacted] is the area coordinator for the National League of Families of American Prisoners in Southeast Asia. She furnished the names of the following individuals who might also have received literature from COLIFAM. Mrs. [redacted] noted that if a military man is missing in action, than in all probability, COLIFAM has not contacted this person's family. She explained that as far as she knew, contacts were only made by COLIFAM when it was known that the person was a prisoner of the North Vietnamese.

Mrs. [redacted] furnished the following names of individuals who might possibly have received correspondence from COLIFAM:

Mrs. [redacted], Louisiana

Mrs. [redacted], Louisiana

Mrs. [redacted], Louisiana

Dear Mrs.

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

for the Committee of Liaison
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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMUNICATION WITH CAPTURED AIRMEN

ESTABLISHED BY NEW COMMITTEE:

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 addressees. 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 Rennie
PRESS RELEASE - page 2

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 Madeleine Quinlan of San Francisco, all active with Women Strike for Peace, came back 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. Bea Seitzman, Steve Halliwell 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, 67 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 servicemen imprisoned 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. Coral Weiss and David Dellinger.

Mrs. Weiss said the organization has had numerous contacts with families of prisoners it hopes to aid. She said 69 letters from 64 servicemen, brought by hand from 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 disorders during the 1963 Democratic National Convention.

Mrs. Weiss said North Vietnamese officials had agreed to "make it as possible" to aid families from families.

The office will be at 305 W. 42nd St., Mrs. Weiss said.

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

CHICAGO, Jan. 15—Opponents of the Vietnam war announced today the formation of a committee to facilitate communication between servicemen held in North Vietnam and their relatives in the United States.

A news conference here, the founders said the Hanoi Government had agreed to work through the new committee, which is called Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam.

Mrs. Coral Weiss of Riverdale, the Bronx, a housewife who is co-chairman of the committee, said Hanoi had agreed to send mail from American prisoners of war to the committee.

The office will have offices at 305 W. 42nd Street in New York City. She said the committee would then forward the letters to the prisoners' families.

If the airman 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 to write his family through the committee.

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

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

From The New York Times, 1/16/70

From San Diego Union, 1/19/70
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

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

212-765-1490

January, 1970

INFORMATION SHEET

Background

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

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

It is therefore understandable that the Vietnamese should indicate their basic confidence in the American people through the peace movement which they believe embodies American ideals, rather than the government. And in the past, the Vietnamese have asked the peace movement to receive U.S. servicemen—primarily pilots whose planes were shot down—when the North Vietnamese government has decided to release them. On three separate occasions—February 1968, July 1968 and July 1969—the peace movement has gone to Hanoi and returned with released servicemen; on one occasion an American peace activist went to Phnom Penh, Cambodia to receive three released NLF captives.
In addition, Americans visiting Hanoi have frequently carried letters there at the request of families, and have brought back letters from servicemen. There have also been occasions when American peace activists have met prisoners and talked with them.

Functions of the Committee

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

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

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

via Moscow, U.S.S.R.

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

Clarification

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

Secondly, the Committee will function entirely apart from the U.S. government. The U.S. government has frequently made it more difficult for the Vietnamese to be open to the concerns of American families by using the families' genuine desires as a propaganda ploy. The government has further attempted to provoke an angry response from the Vietnamese by publicizing unsubstantiated and inflammatory testimony from fliers already released: apparently, the government has decided to jeopardize existing communications and the possibility of future releases for the sake of propaganda aimed at prolonging the war. The North Vietnamese are also very aware that the U.S. government's claims of humanitarian concerns are contradicted by the well-documented policy of torture and brutality practiced on prisoners taken in the South by U.S. and Saigon troops.
In addition to all these factors, there is the simple fact that the resolution of the fate of all the servicemen now held in North Vietnam waits ultimately upon a U.S. decision to end the war and withdraw all its forces and material.

Who We Are

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

We are active in a variety of organizations committed to ending the war: American Friends Service Committee, the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, Clergy and Laymen Concerned about Vietnam, Women Strike for Peace, The Conspiracy, and Women Against Daddy Warbucks. The Committee is supported by donations from individuals and organizations, and welcomes any gifts to sustain its work.
January 27, 1970

CO 12912-2

Dear [Name]

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Maggie Geddes
March 25, 1970

Dear [Name]

We have just received word from Hanoi that

a letter from

has been mailed to you from North Vietnam. His
name was included in a list of 80 servicemen
just received; this list represents advance
notice of 82 letters mailed together in a
package due to arrive soon. As soon as it comes,
we will forward it to you. Forgive this mimeo-
graphed communication, but we wanted you to know
as quickly as possible.

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

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

Sincerely yours,

Cora Weiss  Dave Dellinger

Cora Weiss Dave Dellinger
April 20, 1970

Dear [Redacted]

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

Treasurer:
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee:
Richard J. Barnett
Rennie Davis
Madeline Buckman
Prof. Richard Folk
Rev. Richard Fernandez
Norman Fruchter

*Maggie Geddes
Steve Halliwell
Prof. Donald Kedish
Stewart Meacham
Prof. Ben Seltzman
Prof. Franz Schurmann
Ethel Taylor

*Barbara Webster
Trudi Young

*staff
May 4, 1970

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
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.
NGUỒI GỬI (Address)

MỌ TÊN (Name in full):

SỐ LỊNH (Service number):

NGÀY VÀ NGÀY SĨNH (Date & place of birth):

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

TRẢI GIAM PHI CỘNG MỸ BỊ BẮT TẠI
NUOC 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 (Address)

MỌ TÊN (Name in full):

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

19
CHI CHÚ (N.B.):

1. Phải viết rõ và chữ 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 format).
Dear Mr. & Mrs. [Redacted]

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

This letter, along with 63 others, was recently handed to Louis Schneider by Vietnamese authorities in Hanoi, and he mailed them to us from Hong Kong. This was in line with a system for handling such letters which has been opened up to our Committee by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,
For the Committee of Liaison

Richard Fernandez  Steward Meacham  Ethel Taylor
Clergy and Laymen  American Friends  Women's Strike
Concerned About Vietnam  Service Committee  for Peace

Other members of the Committee are: David Dellinger, Cora Weiss, Rennie Davis, Anne Bennett, Bea Seitzman, Maggie Geddes, Trudi Young.
The information set forth hereinafter was furnished by Mrs. [REDACTED], after she was advised of the nature of the inquiry by [REDACTED].

Mrs. [REDACTED] was born [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]. She is the wife of United States Air Force Air Force Service Number [REDACTED], who was shot down over North Vietnam on [REDACTED] 1965 and is a prisoner of war.

Mrs. [REDACTED] is familiar with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLLAFAM).

All contact with COLLAFAM were first initiated by COLLAFAM through the United States mail, no contacts were ever made in person or by telephone.

Mrs. [REDACTED] said that all letters from her husband come through COLLAFAM.

She writes her husband once a month by addressing the letter to him in care of Camp of Detention for United States pilots captained in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. She does not send these letters via Moscow as suggested by COLLAFAM.

One time Mrs. [REDACTED] sent a letter to her husband via COLLAFAM for delivery to her husband because in one of the letters she received from COLLAFAM there was a statement that if she would do this they would send this letter forward to her husband. Therefore, she did this in the hopes of her husband having a better chance of receiving her letter, she did not know if her husband did in fact receive this letter that she wrote to him.

Mrs. [REDACTED] said she just did not know if she would be willing to cooperate should her testimony be needed at a later date. Mrs. [REDACTED] resides at [REDACTED], Louisiana.

On 8/24/70 at [REDACTED] Louisiana, File # [REDACTED], No 97-99, by SA [REDACTED], Date dictated 8/26/70.

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.
Attached hereto is a duplicated copy of the latest letter Mrs. [redacted] received from COLIAFAM:

670
ED 12812-2
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 Felomond, Nancy Robin and Judy Sleeper — 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

June 14, 1970
Mrs. [Redacted], wife of [Redacted] from Louisiana, furnished the following information:

Mrs. [Redacted] has received five letters from her husband through COLIFAM in New York; two on one occasion, and one at a time on three other occasions. In each instance, Mrs. [Redacted] received a cover letter from COLIFAM suggesting that she might be able to get information regarding her husband through COLIFAM and that she might be able to send him letters or packages through COLIFAM. In every instance, Mrs. [Redacted] sent these letters to Air Force Intelligence at Post Office Box 363, Annandale, Virginia. These four letters from COLIFAM were the only contacts Mrs. [Redacted] has had with the organization or any representative of the organization.

All information as to nature of correspondence from COLIFAM to Mrs. [Redacted] can be obtained from the form letters she received from COLIFAM, as referred to above, and which would be available from Air Force Intelligence, Post Office Box 363, Annandale, Virginia.

Mrs. [Redacted] has not considered making any contact with COLIFAM, as she understands that COLIFAM and its activities do not meet with the approval of the United States Government, and she does not feel that any good either to her husband or otherwise could be expected to result from her making any contacts with COLIFAM.

Mrs. [Redacted] stated that she is sure that the Government would not ask her to take any action which might jeopardize her husband while he is being held as a prisoner of war, and with that in mind, she would be glad to cooperate in any reasonable way in furnishing any testimony that she might be able to furnish regarding COLIFAM.
Mrs. [redacted] stated that the general tone of the letters she received from COLIFAM, and which are referred to above, was that if she would cooperate with COLIFAM, then that organization might be able to assist her in getting letters and packages to her husband. She stated that she always considered the letters from COLIFAM a subtle form of blackmail, but she never acknowledged to COLIFAM that she had received their letters or that she might be interested in any kind of relationship with them. Mrs. [redacted] stated that the full text of the letters that she received from COLIFAM could be obtained from Air Force Intelligence, Post Office Box 363, Annandale, Virginia. She stated that she addressed her correspondence to that address using [redacted] which she assumed were employees of Air Force Intelligence, or [redacted] used by Air Force Intelligence.
Memorandum

TO: Mr. C. D. Brennan

FROM: [Redacted]

DATE: 10/8/70

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

PURPOSE:

To recommend a letter be sent to all offices stressing the need for discretion in contacting relatives of prisoner-of-war families taking into consideration the mental anguish and emotional state of these individuals.

BACKGROUND:

At the request of the Department of Justice, we have been conducting a Registration Act investigation of COLIFAM to determine whether or not its officers have incurred an obligation to register as foreign agents as required by the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 as amended. COLIFAM was formed in January, 1970, through the efforts of individuals connected with the new Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam. These individuals have had contacts with North Vietnamese representatives in Hanoi or Paris. On the face of it, they are attempting to utilize the anguish of prisoners of war and their families in an insidious attempt to gain publicity for their antivietnamic sentiments. They periodically send delegations of antivietnamese activists to Hanoi to exchange letters between POWs and their families.

It is necessary during these investigations to interview POW relatives to determine the extent and nature of contacts initiated by COLIFAM representatives.

On October 7, 1970, Lt. Col. Archie W. Gratch, Chief, Missing Persons Branch, Headquarters, U.S. Air Force, Randolph Field, Texas, telephonically contacted supervisor concerning our interviews. Col. Gratch advised that the armed forces are very protective of POW relatives as these individuals 100-457899

Enclosure

[Redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTINUED - OVER

Herein is unclassified

[Redacted]
Memorandum to Mr. C.D. Brennan  
Re: Committee of Liaison with Families  
Of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam  
(COLIFAM)  

have in the past been singled out for harassment in the form of obscene or degrading letters and telephone calls. He stated the services are interested in protecting both families and the status of their POWs in North Vietnam and have assumed a "baby-sitting" role with the relatives. Many of these are in a highly emotional and disturbed state and require extremely delicate handling. Colonel Gratch said he has experienced difficulty in handling some of these individuals because of this, and has had to be most discreet and painstaking in dealing with these people. He is aware of our investigation, agrees wholeheartedly with its intent and feels we can profit from his experience. He is of the opinion that our Agents can more effectively handle interviews with POW relatives if they are aware of the above. He emphasized that he has no complaint about our investigation. Colonel Gratch was told we understand his position and was thanked for his interest in bringing this matter to our attention.  

OBSERVATION:  

In view of the situation mentioned by Col. Gratch, it is deemed advisable to prepare a letter to all offices calling the above to their attention with instructions to be most discreet in contacts with POW relatives. Such a letter is attached for approval.  

ACTION:  

It is recommended the attached letter be forwarded to all field offices.
**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

**All Info Per 60 12812-2**

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**TITLE OF CASE**

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

**REFERENCE:** Sacramento letter to New York dated 9/23/70 (IO).

**LEADS**

SAN DIEGO

Will, upon completion of prosecution, return items of evidence being retained in the San Diego files to the contributors.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED**

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**APPROVED**

SAN DIEGO

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

1 - Bureau (100-457899) (RM)
2 - New York (100-168469) (RM)
1 - San Diego (105-7282)

**Dissemination Record of Attached Report**

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**Notations**

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1970-0-176-159
Report of: SA Office: SAN DIEGO
Date: October 13, 1970
Field Office File #: SD 105-7282
Bureau File #: 100-457899
Title: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)
Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS;
REGISTRATION ACT - NORTH VIETNAM
Synopsis:

Mrs. [Redacted], California, advised that she has received four letters from her husband, currently a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. Three of these letters were transmitted by cover letter from COLIFAM. In addition, Mrs. [Redacted] related details of telephone conversation with COLIFAM Committee Member MADELINE DUCKLES during December, 1969.

DETAILS: AT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
PRINTED WHERE SHOWN
155
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

October 13, 1970

Mrs. [redacted], whose husband is a sailor in the U.S. Navy and currently a prisoner of war in North Vietnam, was interviewed at her residence, [redacted], California.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that, during December, 1969, she read a newspaper article in which it was stated that the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) had brought a letter from her husband to the United States from Hanoi.

On December 24, 1969, not having received the letter, Mrs. [redacted] telephonically contacted COLIFAM committee member [redacted] at her residence in Berkeley, California, to inquire where the letter was.

[redacted] advised her that she had mailed the letter to Mrs. [redacted] former address, [redacted], California, and that it should be forwarded to her in the near future. That same afternoon, Mrs. [redacted] received the letter from her husband together with a cover letter from COLIFAM which has been turned over to the U.S. Navy Department, Washington, D.C. That letter was signed by CORA WEISS.

Several days later, Mrs. [redacted] received a letter from her husband postmarked directly from Hanoi, North Vietnam, with no cover letter of any kind included with it.

A third letter was received by Mrs. [redacted] with a cover letter from COLIFAM dated April 20, 1970, signed by STEVEN E. HALLIWELL.

A fourth letter from [redacted] was received by Mrs. [redacted] with a cover letter from COLIFAM dated September 14, 1970, signed by CORA WEISS.

Mrs. [redacted] has had no further contact with any representative of COLIFAM other than that set out above.

10/12/70

F 80

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is leased to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.
April 20, 1970

Dear [Redacted]

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 slip-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. Hallimell

Steven E. Hallimell
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
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICES MEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)
INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS; REGISTRATION ACT

An armed forces representative recently contacted the Bureau relative to the responsibilities of the services toward families of prisoners of war and our investigation of COLIFAM and advised as follows:

Each branch of the service maintains an elaborate system designed to protect and insulate POW relatives from harassment by irresponsible elements. This system also serves to prevent the families from making statements or taking other action which might result in harsh treatment of POWs by their captors. Through indoctrination the services have persuaded relatives to be most discreet in talking about POWs and be suspect of any questions from unknown individuals. Many of the relatives are in a highly emotional state and their mental anguish tends to magnify out of proportion any contact regarding their loved ones.

In order to preclude any possible embarrassment, the above situation must be immediately brought to the attention of all Agents handling interviews in this matter. Henceforth, each person interviewed must be made to thoroughly understand the identity of the interviewing Agent as well as the fact this investigation is being conducted at the specific request of the Department of Justice. Further, each interview must be carefully planned and must adhere strictly to the Registration Act aspects of this matter. There should be no extraneous questions pertaining to the circumstances surrounding the POW's capture or any similar subject matter. Discretion must be the byword in handling interviews in this area.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

AMERICAN POWs/MIAs IN SOUTHEAST ASIA (SUMMARY)

PART 18 OF 26

FILE NUMBER : 100-457899
Subject: POW/ MIA
File Number: 100-457899 VolS
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE: NEWARK
OFFICE OF ORIGIN: NEW YORK
DATE: 10/16/70
INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD: 9/3/70 - 10/8/70

TITLE OF CASE: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM

REPORT MADE BY: SA
CHARACTER OF CASE: IS - MISCELLANEOUS; RA - NORTH VIETNAM

REFERENCES
New York airtel and LHM, 6/9/70.
San Antonio letter to the Bureau, 8/27/70.
Newark report of SA.
Springfield airtel dated 9/6/70.

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

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED

CONVICTION DATE: 8/31/70

ACQUITTALS

CASE HAS BEEN:

PENDING OVER ONE YEAR: NO
PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS: NO

APPROVED:

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

0 SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT

Agency: ARMY, OSI

Request Recd. Date: 11/14/70
How Fwded: 8/18
By: 55NOT5 170

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

Newark is continuing with this course of action, UACB.

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

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

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

LEADS

SAN ANTONIO

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

COVER PAGE
NEW YORK

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

NEWARK

AT NEW JERSEY: Will interview Mrs. [Redacted], N.J.

2. Will locate and interview Mr. and Mrs. [Redacted], N.J., parents of [Redacted].

AT NEW JERSEY: Will locate and interview Mr. and Mrs. [Redacted], N.J., parents of [Redacted].

AT NEW JERSEY: Will locate and interview Mr. and Mrs. [Redacted], N.J., parents of [Redacted].

AT NEW JERSEY: Will locate and interview Mrs. [Redacted], N.J., mother of [Redacted].

- C* -

COVER PAGE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Office: Newark, New Jersey

Date: October 16, 1970

Field Office File #: 97-353

Bureau File #: 100-457899

Title: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY-MISCELLANEOUS; REGISTRATION ACT-NORTH VIETNAM

Synopsis:

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

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

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

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

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

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

On 8/31/70 at New Jersey

by SA

Date dictated 9/2/70

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

Attached is a copy of the letter form received by Mrs. [redacted].
NGƯỜI GỬI (Address)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full): .................................................................

GIỚI THIỆU (Service number): ..................................................

NGÀY VÀ NHÀI SINH (Date & place of birth): .................................

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address): .................................................................

TRẢI GIẢM PHI CỘNG MY BỊ BẤT TẠI NUOC 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 (Address)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full): .................................................................

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address): .................................................................
NGÀY VIỆT (Dated)

CHI CHÚ (N.B.):

1. Phải viết rõ và chữ 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 cùng phải theo đúng mẫu, bao bì và quy định này (Letters from families should also conform to this proforma).
Mr. and Mrs. New Jersey, advised that their son has been a prisoner of war for over four years and that only recently has he been heard from by his wife. The have never been contacted by Colifam. Some years ago Mrs. heard about DAVID BELLINGER from a woman who ran a gift shop in Cornwall, N.Y. She believes she may have sent one letter to the Colifam group, but when she told her daughter-in-law about it, she was told to send her mail only through regular government channels.

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

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

On 9/25/70 at New Jersey File x Newark 97-353

by SA Date dictated 9/30/70

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to you agency. It and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.
Mrs. [redacted], New Jersey, advised that [redacted] is her son and resides with her at this address; however, she stated that she is familiar with the correspondence received from the prisoner of war, her grandson, and recalls that he was first reported missing in action in January, 1968, and it was almost a year before they received a telephone call from the Air Force to advise them that he was alive and a prisoner of war.

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

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

She stated that her mother, [redacted], New Jersey, has also corresponded with [redacted] through COLIFAM.
Mrs. [Redacted] of New Jersey, was interviewed and furnished the following information:

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

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

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

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

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

On: 9/30/70 at New Jersey
SAS

Fil. Newark 92-353

Date dictated: 10/5/70

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.
CORA WEISS, contacted a television station in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, WCAU, and stated that they had letters from several servicemen who were prisoners of war. They publicly stated that included among these letters was one from [REDACTED] to Mrs. [REDACTED].

In this interview on WCAU, these individuals publicly suggested that WCAU interview Mrs. [REDACTED], concerning services performed for her by COLIFAM in transmitting letters from her husband.

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

This interview was taped and subsequently appeared on public television.

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

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

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she has communicated with Headquarters of the United States Air Force, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, concerning material which she has received from COLIFAM. She also made available a letter dated December 3, 1969, from the Department of the Air Force Headquarters, 438th Air Base Group, McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey, subject "Address For Possible Delivery of Mail to POW Personal", from next of kin.

This letter indicated that the organization called International Service Division, American Friend Service Committee, 160 North 15th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, had offered to accept letters from the immediate family of men missing in action or
Dear Mrs. [Redacted]

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

This letter, along with 62 others, was recently handed to Louis Schneider by Vietnamese authorities in Hanoi, and he mailed them to us from Hong Kong. This was in line with a system for handling such letters which has been opened up to our Committee by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,
For the Committee of Liaison

[Signatures]

Richard Fernandez
Stewart Meacham
Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam
American Friends Service Committee

Ethel Taylor
Women's Strike for Peace

Other members of the Committee are: David Dellinger, Cora Weiss, Ronni Davis, Jane Bennett, Ben Seitzman, Maggie Goddus, Trudi Young, Steve Halliwell, Barbara Webster
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street New York N.Y. 10036
212-755-1490

January, 1970

INFORMATION SHEET

Background

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

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

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

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

Functions of the Committee

A Committee of Liaison has now been established as an extension of these past efforts at the request of the North Vietnamese. As on past occasions, the peace movement is responding to a request by the Vietnamese to meet a specific, immediate need and is not in any sense representing the government of North Vietnam.
The Committee will seek to facilitate communication between families in the U.S. and servicemen now imprisoned in North Vietnam. Basically, the Committee will receive letters from servicemen and forward them through the domestic mails, thereby decreasing the possibility of problems in the receipt of such mail. We will also forward letters to North Vietnam at the request of relatives. Families are of course still free to send letters and parcels directly but should note that the instructions on mailing previously issued by the State Department are wrong. The correct address is:

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

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

Clarification

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

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

In addition to all these factors, there is the simple fact that the resolution of the fate of all the servicemen now held in North Vietnam will ultimately depend upon a U.S. decision to end the war and withdraw all its forces and material.
We firmly believe that the safe return of these men and the half million others that the U.S. maintains in South Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, and aboard naval vessels—who can also be viewed as prisoners, prisoners of their own government since many have been sent to fight in a war against the dictates of their own conscience—can only come with a decision on the part of the U.S. government to withdraw from Vietnam. Because of this conviction, we who are serving on this Committee will continue our efforts to create popular pressure strong enough to force the government to withdraw.

We are active in a variety of organizations committed to ending the war: American Friends Service Committee, the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, Clergy and Laymen Concerned about Vietnam, Women Strike for Peace, The Conspiracy, and Women Against Daddy Warbucks. The Committee is supported by donations from individuals and organizations, and welcomes any gifts to sustain its work.
January 27, 1970

Dear [Name],

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Maggie Geddies
COmmittee of Liason
With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam
365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

Cable Address: COLAPAM

CO-Chairmen:
Dave Delligere
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee (in formation):
Rosie Davis
Rev. Richard Fernandez
Maggie Goddes
Lucas Halliwell
Stuart Reesman
Prof. Bob Selman
Felix Teylers
Bernard Weiler
Trudy Young

*Staff

INFORMATION SHEET

FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

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

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

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

Clarification

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

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

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

Background

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

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

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

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

The Committee

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

As individuals Committee members are active in a variety of organizations and groups committed to ending the war: American Friends Service Committee, the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, the Conspiracy, Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam, Women Strike for Peace, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Neighbors, Lawyers Committee on Vietnam, and Women Against Daddy Warbucks. The Committee of Liaison is entirely dependent on donations from individuals and organizations, and welcomes any gifts to sustain its work.
February 20, 1970

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

Dear Senator Case:

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

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

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

Since we feel it is important for the families to understand who we are and why the North Vietnamese have asked us to act as a liaison, we do send them...
a covering letter and the Information Sheet. They are of course free to disregard our accompanying material. Specifically as regards Mrs. Abbott we will try not to add to her anguish; should we have any letters for her in the future we will forward them on without a covering note.

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

Sincerely yours,
Cora Weiss
Cora Weiss
Dear Mr. [redacted],

March 25, 1970

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,

Cora Weiss  Dave Dellinger

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Note: The handwritten annotation on the page reads:

- Letter arrived April 22nd 1970
- Letter arrived in this envelope no props please
- [signature] Cora Weiss  Dave Dellinger
Dear Mr. [Name]

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
NGƯỜI GỬI (Address)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

ĐỊA CHÍ (Address):

TRÁI GIAM PHI CÔNG MỘT BI BẤT TẠI
NUOC VIỆT-NAM DÀN CHỦ CỘNG HÒA

(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 (Address)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

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

(Last Saturday 143 letters were brought by a traveller returning from Hanoi. That brought to 1243 the number of letters from prisoners that have been delivered by hand to the U.S. without interference.)
No explanation has been offered by anyone for the seizure of the mail, and no guarantees have been made that this will not happen again. On Thursday afternoon the State Department assured me that the mail was available to be claimed and expressed concern that it be forwarded immediately to relieve anxiety of waiting families. Mr. Sheer 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. Scher 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 Ronnie Davis and myself to reclaim the mail, he was unnecessarily harassed, 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, M. Scher 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
TO:  DIRECTOR, FBI (157-12394)  
FROM:  SAC, KANSAS CITY (157-963)  

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

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

LHM is classified confidential to protect sources of continuing value

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

1 WFO (Enc. 1) (RM) (1-100-3257)
2 Kansas City (2-157-963) (1-100-14050) (COLIFAM)
3 New York (Enc. 3) (RM) (345-39456) (1-100-457899) (COLIFAM)
4 Philadelphia (Enc. 3) (RM) (1-100-168469) (COLIFAM) (PROPOSED TRAVEL)
Sedition has been added to captioned character of this airtel pending evaluation by the Bureau and Department of contents of LHM as to possible violation of (peace time) Sedition law, Title 18, USC, Section 2387. Section 3233 of Title 18 indicates probable Venue at Kansas City, Missouri, should prosecution be indicated against LAWSON.

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

SOURCES:

- Instant file (PROTECT IDENTITY PER REQUEST).
- Instant file (Bureau routing slip of 9/8/70, and Bureau airtel of 10/2/70, re Items 1 and 2; REQUESTED PROTECTION OF IDENTITY).
- (PROTECT IDENTITY PER REQUEST).
- (PROTECT IDENTITY PER REQUEST).

CONFIDENTIAL
FBI

Date: 10/13/70

Transmit the following in

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

FROM: SAC, CHARLOTTE (100-10986) (P)

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

(00: NEW YORK)

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

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

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

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

Investigation continuing.

REC-62

6 - Oct 30 1970 Sent

Special Agent in Charge
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN
NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)

Interviews of relatives of servicemen missing in
action or being held prisoner by North Vietnam are set out
herein.
In February of 1968, Mrs. L. read in an article published in the North Carolina newspaper that a STEWARD MEACHAM of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, personally helped escort three released United States pilot prisoners of war from North Vietnam to the United States. She telephoned MEACHAM in Philadelphia asking him if her husband was a prisoner of war and his whereabouts. Mrs. L. was told MEACHAM did not know. She heard nothing more from MEACHAM until she again telephoned him in Philadelphia in February of 1970, advising she had definite reason to believe her husband a prisoner of war. At 11:15 P.M. on March 14, 1970, MEACHAM, who is a member of the American Friends Service Committee, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, telephoned Mrs. L. and advised he had received a list of thirty-four names released by the North Vietnamese through the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, 365 West 42nd Street, New York, New York, and one of the names listed was her husband's. He also advised her husband was permitted to write her a letter. MEACHAM telephoned Mrs. L. on Friday morning, April 24, 1970, stating he had the letter and was sending it special delivery to her residence in South Carolina. The letter, dated January 22, 1970, and postmarked Hanoi, was received by Mrs. L. at her residence on April 27, 1970. The envelope which forwarded the letter was airmailed from Charlotte, N.C. on August 18, 1970.
was from the Committee of Liaison. The envelope contained one six line letter, a Christmas card, and a form letter from the Committee of Liaison with the following individuals listed on the letter as members:

CO-CHAIRMAN DAVE DELLINGER and CORA WEISS

Treasurer MRS. ANDRE BENNETT

Committee RICHARD J. BARNETT, MERRIE DAVIS, MADELINE DUCKLES, PROFESSOR RICHARD FALK, REV. RICHARD FERNANDEZ, NORMAN FRUCHTER, MAGGIE GEEDES, STEVE HALLIMELL, PROFESSOR DONALD KALISH, STEWART MEACHAM, PROFESSOR BEA SEITZMAN, PROFESSOR FRANZ SCHURMANN, ETHEL TAYLOR, BARBARA WEBSTER, and TRUDI YOUNG

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

The letter received by Mrs. [signature] on April 27, 1970, was forwarded to RANDOLPH Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas, the Personnel Center for missing in action and prisoner of war veterans, for analyzing. The results of this analysis were depressing to Mrs. [signature] and she telephonically contacted MEACHAM on August 14, 1970, advising him of same and asked him to determine if her husband was ill, as she believed so. She also requested to send him appropriate supplies if necessary. MEACHAM returned the telephone call the same day saying he furnished the information given him by her to a psychiatrist at one of the largest universities in the United States, name not given, and was advised by this individual the conclusions are that of one man only. Nothing further transpired regarding this conversation.
Mrs. [redacted] further stated she received two additional six line letters from her husband on June 15, 1970, one dated April 7, 1970, and the other May 2, 1970, postmarked Hanoi. These letters were mailed to her in Committee of Liaison envelopes with the enclosed form letter as described above, after being hand carried by members of an unknown American Women's group which toured North Vietnam.

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

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

Mrs. [redacted] could not furnish the name or source in North Vietnam contacted by MEACHAM, as he never identified same. She could not furnish additional names of wives or prisoners of war.

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

September 28, 1970

Mrs. [redacted] stated that her son was in Vietnam on duty on [redacted] 1966, and according to the Air Force he was on a mission in an airplane with a crew of seven, which was supposed to have returned to its base about 3 a.m., [redacted] 1966, but failed to do so. She stated that about 5 p.m., [redacted] 1966, she was notified that her son was reported missing in action. She stated that neither she nor her husband has had any contact with anyone concerning their son other than official Air Force personnel. She stated that the Air Force had them on several occasions write letters to her son, however, she has not received any word whether or not he is alive. She stated that she has not been contacted by anyone other than the Air Force.

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

9/18/70 N.C. File No. CZ 100-10986
by [redacted] Date dictated 9/21/70

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; if and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.
Mrs. [Redacted], of North Carolina, was advised of the nature and identity of the interviewing agent. She furnished the following information:

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

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

Mrs. [Redacted] stated that in the event she receives a similar type questionnaire in the future or in the event she receives any information concerning the "Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam," she would immediately contact the FBI.
North Carolina, advised her son, a United States Air Force base in North Carolina, has been missing in action since 1968. Her son was assigned to the United States Air Force base in 1968, and never returned to the base. She stated that she and her husband were advised of their son's status by personal contact with a United States Air Force Lieutenant Colonel from Charlotte, North Carolina, on May 22, 1968. Since that time, they have received no additional information concerning their son's whereabouts or physical condition.

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

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

Mrs. advised that she has never been contacted

On 9/22/70 at [Redacted] N. C. Files: CE 100-10986

by [Redacted] Date dictated 9/22/70
by the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. She stated, however, if this incident did occur she would immediately notify her personal liaison contact at Shaw Air Force Base, Sumter, South Carolina, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Asheville, North Carolina.
Mr. [redacted], North Carolina, was interviewed in the presence of his wife. He advised that his son, a member of the United States Air Force and currently missing in action presumably in Viet Nam, was advised that his son was a member of a Phantom jet-propelled aircraft and while on a mission from the Da Nang Air Force Base, South Viet Nam, did not return. He stated he has not heard anything from his son since [redacted] 1969, when he was officially listed as missing in action. He was notified by a representative of the United States Air Force of his son's status on [redacted] 1969.

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

On 9/23/70 at W. C. File CE 100-10986 by SA [redacted] Date dictated 9/24/70

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.
Mr. [redacted] in care of [redacted], North Carolina, advised that he had no contact whatsoever with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLVAN). Mr. [redacted] advised that he had been notified by the Military authorities that his son was missing in action, but no other contact officially or unofficially from any outside groups regarding his son. Mr. [redacted] advised that several friends and relatives have asked him intimate questions regarding his son; however, these were personal inquiries. Mr. [redacted] advised that he had no information of other families of servicemen being approached by the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam; however, he has seen articles in the local newspaper regarding this organization. Mr. [redacted] advised that if any contact is made, he would contact the nearest Federal Bureau of Investigation Office.
Carolina was interviewed at her place of employment, Mrs. L. stated that she was the wife of Mr. L., who is a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. She advised that she had received some correspondence from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. She stated that the only contact she had had with the Committee was in the form of the letters from said organization. Stated she would attempt to locate the family. Further, that if there is no further contact with said organization she would contact the FBI Office in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Mrs. L. was informed of the status of the inquiry.
Mrs. [redacted], North Carolina, made available copies of the following letters which she received from the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM), same being received on October 9, 1970. See attached.
June 14, 1970

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
April 3, 1970

Dear Mrs. [Name],

We just received word from North Vietnam that [Name] is confirmed as being held there. We tried to phone you, thinking that possibly this may constitute first word about him for you -- or at least, first official confirmation from the North Vietnamese -- but were unable to find a number for you. Hence, this letter from us.

We expect that this also means that a letter from him will be coming to your family in the near future. As the enclosed informational press release explains, letters are being sent from Hanoi to us in packages, and we forward them on to the individual families to whom they're addressed whenever they arrive.

We are very pleased to be able to help in this way. If you have any questions, by all means be in touch with us.

Sincerely,

Maggie Geddes
for the Comm. of Liaison
(212) 765 - 1490

encl.
Dear [Illegible]

Ethel Taylor, a member of our newly-formed Committee, which will facilitate communication between American servicemen held in North Vietnam and their families, has asked us to contact you. We are enclosing an Information Sheet describing the Committee of Liaison.

We have also duplicated the enclosed letter form which you may wish to use in writing your relative. The North Vietnamese have said that prisoners can send and receive one letter per month and one package (not more than six pounds in weight) every other month. Note the address and mail route given in the Information Sheet.

If you would like us to try to find out if your relative is a prisoner in North Vietnam, send his full name, service number and any details you have on when and where he was shot down. We will then transmit the inquiry to the North Vietnamese and are hopeful of receiving a response to every request made.

It is important to understand that there undoubtedly were many pilots whose planes were shot down but whom the North Vietnamese could not rescue, and that there are prisoners held by the Provisional Revolutionary Government in South Vietnam and by the Pathet Lao in Laos about whom we are not able to get information.

We understand your anguish in not knowing about your relative and we sincerely hope we can be of help in getting information about him for you.

Sincerely,

Barbara Webster

P.S. We apologize for sending a mimeographed letter but we wanted to get this word to you as quickly as possible.
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 Dow 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 300 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.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMUNICATION WITH CAPTURED AIRMEN

ESTABLISHED BY NEW COMMITTEE:

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 Service- men Detained in North Vietnam. The Committee will, according to Mrs. Core 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.
PRESS RELEASE - page

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

In December 1969, Mrs. Coral Weiss and two other women, Ethel Taylor of Philadelphia and Madeleine Dunkles of San Francisco, all active with Women Strike for Peace, came back from Hanoi with 133 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 Bennet, Prof. Ben Seitzman, Steve Hallwell and Barbara Webster. The Committee's office is at 365 West 42nd Street, 2nd floor, New York, N.Y.

--- 30 --- 30 --- 30 ---

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

Antifiver Group
Seen As Liaison
To U.S. POWs

NEW YORK (AP) - An office to arrange and facilitate exchange of mail between American servicemen imprisoned in North Vietnam and their families will open here today, a group opposition 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. Coral Weiss and David Delinger.

Mrs. Weiss said the organization has had numerous contacts with families of prisoners it hopes to aid. She said 60 letters from 41 servicemen, brought by hand to Hong Kong, 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.

From The New York Times, 1/16/70

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

By Paul R. Poon in The New York Times

CHICAGO, Jan. 15 - Opponents of the Vietnam war announced today the formation of a committee to facilitate communication between servicemen held in North Vietnam and their relatives in the United States.

At a news conference here, the founders said the Hanoi Government had agreed to work through the new committee, which is called Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam.

Mrs. Coral Weiss of Riverdale, the Bronx, a housewife who is co-chair of the committee, 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 answer inquiries from families of missing 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.

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

If the claim 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 usual to write his family through the committee.

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 to the prisoners are to be in bundles to the committee's offices and then forwarded from there to the families.
Memorandum

TO:  DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)
FROM: SAC, PITTSBURGH (100-16736) (RUC)

DATE: 10/22/70

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM) REGISTRATION ACT (CO: NEW YORK)

Re New York airtel to Bureau dated 6/9/70, with LHM; Pittsburgh letter to Bureau dated 8/26/70; San Antonio letter to Bureau dated 8/27/70.

Referenced Pittsburgh letter revealed contact with confidential informants and sources, a review of Pittsburgh Indices, a review of Pittsburgh newspapers, as well as papers in the RAs and contact with the various military intelligence agencies in the Pittsburgh Division, all with negative results concerning the above-captioned organization and its activities.

Referenced San Antonio letter furnished home addresses for various Air Force POWs and MIA personnel.

Since no positive information has been developed concerning the activities of the above-captioned organization in the Pittsburgh Division, no contact is being had with the families listed in San Antonio referenced letter at this time UACB and CO.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTAINED HERETO IS UNCLASSIFIED.

BUY U.S. SAVINGS BONDS REGULARLY ON THE PAYROLL SAVINGS PLAN.
MEMORANDUM

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)  
DATE: 10/20/70

FROM: SAC, SALT LAKE CITY (100-11000) (RUC)

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

Re New York City airtel to the Bureau, dated 6/9/70; Salt Lake City airtel to the Bureau, dated 7/21/70; and San Antonio letter to the Bureau, dated 8/27/70.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are 11 copies and for the New York City Division 2 copies of an LHM entitled, "COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)."

On 7/21/70, WILLIAM R. WEST, Casualty Assistance Officer, U. S. Air Force, Hill Air Force Base, Utah, advised that there are 10 Airmen from the Utah area in a missing-in-action status and 4 Airmen who have been verified as being prisoners of war (POWs) by the North Vietnamese. WEST advised that close contact was being maintained with the downed Airmens' survivors and was reluctant to furnish the identities of the survivors until making a telephone to Randall Air Force Base, Texas. Upon completion of his telephone call to Randall Air Force Base, WEST furnished the identities of the survivors as well as their residences and telephone numbers. He requested that the Agent first telephonically contact the survivor prior to going to their residence.

WEST further advised that a Lt. Colonel ARCHIE W. GRATCH, Chief of Missing Persons Branch, Casualty Division, Randall Air Force Base, Texas, was in possession of the records of all downed Airmen including those known to

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

870-157897-147

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
be held captive by the North Vietnamese and information concerning contact with the survivors by COLIFAM. WEST advised that the survivors have been instructed to contact him immediately upon receipt of any type of communication or visit by COLIFAM or members of COLIFAM.

WEST requested that the identities and residences of the survivors be kept strictly "confidential," and any communication or dissemination of their identities be so designated; therefore, the enclosed LHM is being classified "confidential."

It is noted there is a time delay between contacts with the wives of the downed Airmen because of the inability to contact them at their residences.

On 9/3/70, Mrs. [redacted], Utah, whose husband is a verified POW, was contacted but stated she did not wish to discuss COLIFAM or her husband's imprisonment in North Vietnam. No further effort was made to continue any type of interview with Mrs. under the present circumstances.

On 7/21/70, Casualty Branch, Military Personnel, Dugway Proving Ground, Tooele, Utah, advised that 2 Army personnel are missing in action in Vietnam; and there are no known POWs from the Utah area.

On 7/21/70 Office of Special Investigations, Salt Lake City, Utah, advised that there are 3 Marines and 2 Navy personnel missing in action from the Utah area but that no official verification concerning these individuals has been received as to their demise or being in a POW status.

WILLIAM WEST, supra, advised that he would immediately furnish any information to the FBI concerning additional or future contacts with the survivors of the downed Airmen by COLIFAM. Any information of this type received will be immediately furnished to the Bureau in a form suitable for dissemination.
On July 21, 1970, Mrs. ___________________________ of Salt Lake City, Utah, advised that she has received three letters from her husband, who is a pilot with the United States Air Force and was shot down in February, 1967, and has been a prisoner of the North Vietnam Government.

Mrs. ___________________________ received the first letter from her husband on December 23, 1969, through the United States mails. On the same day, a newspaperman from the Associated Press appeared at her residence and told her that three women, names not recalled, had returned from Vietnam; and upon arriving in San Francisco, California, they announced they had brought letters from United States prisoners of war (POWs) and would forward the letters to the survivors. Her name was released to the press by the three women. She received the letter from her husband enclosed in an outer envelope bearing the postmark of San Francisco, California. There was no name on the envelope.

The second letter from her husband arrived at her residence in a similar fashion. There was no return name, just a return address from Pennsylvania.

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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 used outside your agency.
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH
FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED
IN FORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)

The third letter she received came through an
organization called "Committee of Liaison with Families of
Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam" (COLIFAM). The
group is headquartered in New York City, New York; and
one of the group traveled to North Vietnam, received her
husband's letter, and forwarded the letter to her. She
received this letter in April, 1970.

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised she has not been contacted
by any representative of COLIFAM. The third letter she
received contain stationery of the organization and, in
effect, stated they were happy to forward the letter to
her; and she recalls it was signed by a man named DILLIN-
GER and a woman named CORA WEISS. She has not received
any other communications from her husband or the organiza-
tion. To her knowledge, there are no representatives of
the organization in the State of Utah. She is sure the
organization released the names of other POWs to the news
media. She could furnish no further information.

On September 4, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] of Utah, advised that in April, 1970,
Lieutenant Colonel ARCHIE GRATCH, Randall Air Force Base,
Texas, telephonically contacted her and told her that he
had heard from COLIFAM and that the organization published
a new list of POWs and her husband's name was one of those.
Lt. Colonel GRATCH gave her the name and telephone number
of CORA WEISS, a member of the organization. She tele-
phonically contacted WEISS and asked if it was true that
her husband's name appeared on the POW list. WEISS replied
that if it came through COLIFAM, the list was true and
accurate. WEISS told her to expect a letter from her hus-
band in approximately three weeks. The letter from her
husband was received by Mrs. HESS the day after she talked
to WEISS.
 COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH
FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED
IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)

received just one personal letter from
her husband; and other than the telephone call mentioned
above, she has not had any other contact with COLIFAM. No
representative of COLIFAM has contacted her.

furnished copies of the material she
received from COLIFAM. The first letter was to announce
her husband being alive, his POW status, and that the
organization was forwarding a letter from him. The other
communication appeared at her residence in a separate
envelope.

Copies of the above communications received
from COLIFAM appear in the Appendix hereto attached.

On October 15, 1970, Mrs. Utah, advised that

she has

received three or four personal letters from him through
a group called "Committee of Liaison with Families of
Servicemen detained in North Vietnam" (COLIFAM) headquartered
in New York City.

The first contact she had with the group was
through the United States mails when she received a form—
type letter saying that they had received a letter from her husband and would be forwarding it to her. She also received instructions in the form letter as to the proper procedure to send letters to her husband. The last written communication from COLIFAM which she received was in July, 1970, said communication being a letter from her husband.

advised she has not been contacted personally by any individuals associated with COLIFAM. The only thing she can recall concerning the organization in New York City is that the signatures of a man named DILLINGER and a woman named CORA WEISS appear on the form letters. She could furnish no further information concerning the organization.
Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

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□ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

□ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

□ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

□ For your information:

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

100-4132597-147 acc0050876
April 7, 1970

Dear Mrs. [Redacted],

Our Committee has recently received official confirmation of 81 more servicemen being held in North Vietnam. By now you should have heard that [Redacted] 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 arrive here, but we will forward it as soon as it arrives here.

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 reunited again.

Sincerely,

Cora Weiss  Dave Dellinger

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

APPENDIX

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

May 4, 1970

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 and 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 letter or in packets. The Committee cannot forward packages for families.

While I was in Hanoi, Prof. Douglas Dowel of Cornell University and I met with three pilots: Cdr. Robert Schweitzer of La Juno, 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
...and asked that packages include toilet articles and canned goods. In particular they mentioned soap, shaving cream (no razors or blades), toothpaste, powdered milk and cream, instant coffee and existing 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.

APPENDIX
INFORMATION SHEET

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 families through the domestic mails. It also forwards letters to North Vietnam at the request of families. Families, of course, still free to send letters directly but should not send 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. 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 Muy, head of the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris, has said, gradually the 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...
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 (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. servicemen 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 the immediate and complete withdrawal of all U.S. armed forces and weapons.

As individuals Committee members are active in a variety of organization and groups committed to ending the war: the New Mobilization Committee to 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.

APPENDIX

CONFIDENTIAL
Memorandum

TO:   DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC. JACKSON (100-1595) (P)

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICE MEN
          RETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM
          (COLIFAN)
          IS - MISCELLANEOUS

OA:   NY

DATE: 10-19-70

To: Bureau airtel to Milwaukee and Jackson, dated 10-1-70.

Referenced airtel requested Jackson to recontact Mrs. [redacted] and obtain copy of a letter received by her from Dr. [redacted].

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are 11 copies of an LHM and for New York, two copies of an LHM.

For the information of the Bureau and New York, Mrs. [redacted] advised that the Miss [redacted] referred to her previously is associated with American Friends Service Committee, Inc., Philadelphia, Pa.

[Redacted]

Copy to: RA-230 by routing slip [redacted]

EX-11

59 NOV 23 FDD

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS TRANSMISSION IS UNCLASSIFIED.

59 NOV 23 1401
The following is an FD-302 reflecting interview of Mrs. [redacted], Mississippi, whose husband, [redacted], United States Air Force, serial number [redacted], has been a prisoner of war in North Vietnam since [redacted], 1965, having been shot down over North Vietnam.
Mrs. Mrs. Mississippi, after being advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent as [redacted] of the FBI, was further advised that the investigation was being conducted concerning the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM).

Concerning a letter that she received from a Dr. JOSEPH ELDER, a Quaker from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who had been going in and out of North Vietnam and who was advised by COLIFAM to stay out of North Vietnam, that the North Vietnamese had appointed COLIFAM to handle all letters in and out of North Vietnam, Mrs. [redacted] advised that she could not locate the letter and feels she may have forwarded the letter to the United States Air Force in Washington, D.C.

Mrs. [redacted] described the letter as a form letter and stated the letter was probably sent to her in an envelope enclosing a letter from her husband, [redacted] United States Air Force, serial number [redacted] who has been a prisoner of war in North Vietnam since [redacted] 1965.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that she received the above mentioned letter approximately Christmas of 1969, and feels that other relatives of prisoners of war probably received the same letter from Dr. ELDER.

Mrs. [redacted] further advised that Dr. ELDER had visited North Vietnam on several occasions, the main purpose of his trip being to take medical supplies into North Vietnam.

Mrs. [redacted] further stated that the Dr. JOSEPH ELDER, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is connected with the American Prison Service Committee, Inc., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Date 10-19-70

Date dictated 10-15-70

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.
JN 100-1995

Mrs. [redacted] stated that the contents of the above described letter in effect advised that all letters to prisoners of war in North Vietnam will be handled through COLIFAM, at the request of the North Vietnamese Government.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that in September, 1970, she received two letters from her husband, which letters were forwarded to her in [redacted], Mississippi, by letter from COLIFAM, New York, New York.
Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)  

DATE: 10/14/70

FROM: SAC, EL PASO (100-6215) (P)

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

IN - MISCELLANEOUS REGISTRATION ACT

CO: NY

Re: NY airtel to the Bureau, 6/9/70; EA letter to the Bureau, 8/27/70.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 11 copies, Albuquerque, Jacksonville, and Newark one copy each, and two copies for New York of an LHM entitled as above. One copy each of a memorandum to SAC EP dated 7/21/70, is enclosed for the Jacksonville and Newark Offices.

Copies of the enclosed LHM have been furnished to the 112th MI Group and Director of Security, both Ft. Bliss, Texas; OSI, Biggs Field, Texas; and NISO, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Mrs. [redacted], who furnished the information set out in the enclosed LHM, was very cooperative, but was concerned about any action which might be taken which would jeopardize the lives of any prisoners of war or servicemen missing in action in Vietnam. She said that, as things stand at the present, neither she nor her husband would be willing to testify regarding their knowledge of COLIFAM activities.

Redacted: CLOSURE 100-457899

[Redacted]
Mrs. [Redacted] also requested that her daughter-in-law, Mrs. [Redacted] be contacted regarding this matter.

Mrs. [Redacted] said that if any information came to her attention to indicate that any other members of the Southwest Chapter of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia were contacted by COLIFAM, she would immediately notify the FBI. She said that, in the absence of any information in her possession to indicate that any such contacts had been made in the past, she felt that it was inadvisable to contact the other members of her group at this time, especially in view of the fact that the servicemen involved are missing in action, rather than prisoners of war in Vietnam.

Noted that Mrs. [Redacted] furnished some information regarding the activities of one [Redacted] in 7/70. An investigation was conducted by the EP Office regarding this matter, and Mr. [Redacted] was ultimately interviewed. He was identified as [Redacted] and was interested in contacting families of prisoners of war in behalf of [Redacted] who indicated that he was working in the best interests of the United States, and wanted to encourage families to write to Mr. ROSS-PEROT.

Copies of referenced memorandum are being furnished to the Jacksonville and Newark Offices which cover the places of residence and employment of [Redacted]. The memorandum in question sets out in detail the results of the interview with Mr. [Redacted] regarding [Redacted]. Unless the Jacksonville and Newark Offices have information to the contrary, there appears to be no reason for conducting any additional investigation regarding [Redacted]. The memorandum is being furnished the Jacksonville and Newark Offices for information purposes.
On 6/17/70, Mr. [redacted] of the Office of Director of Security, and on 6/22/70, Mr. [redacted] of the 112th MI Group, both at Ft. Bliss, Texas, were contacted, at which time they advised that they had no pertinent information regarding this matter. They said they would contact the FBI if any pertinent information came to their attention.

Appropriate sources and informants were alerted regarding this matter. They had no pertinent information to furnish. Their identities are being maintained in the EP Office file.

LEADS

ALBUQUERQUE, JACKSONVILLE, AND NEWARK (INFO:)

A copy has been furnished to the AQ Office in view of the fact that Mrs. [redacted] mentioned in the enclosed LNM, resides in New Mexico.

Copies have been furnished the JK and NX Offices, which cover the residence and employment addresses of [redacted] mentioned above.

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

EL PASO

AT: TULSA, TEXAS:

Interview Mrs. [redacted], wife of a prisoner of war, namely [redacted], in accordance with instructions contained in MY letter to the Bureau, 6/8/70.
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

302 U. S. Court House
El Paso, Texas 79901
October 14, 1970

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

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.

ENCLOSURE

[Handwritten annotation: 60126]
Mrs. [redacted] advised as follows: Her son has been a prisoner of war in Vietnam for a period of 34 months. She and her husband, who was formerly in the United States Army, have received no correspondence from their son during the entire period of time that he has been a prisoner of war in Vietnam.

In April, 1970, their daughter-in-law, Mrs. [redacted] received the first letter from her husband, since the latter became a prisoner of war in Vietnam. Mrs. [redacted] has received a total of four letters from her husband since April, 1970.

Mrs. [redacted] has not been contacted in any way by the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM), except for the four letters which she has received from her husband. [redacted] These four letters had been addressed to her by her husband, but had been placed in an outer envelope and forwarded to her by COLIFAM. Several of these letters contained short letters from COLIFAM, along with the enclosed letters from her husband.

Mrs. [redacted] has not addressed any communications to COLIFAM, and has not sent any letters to COLIFAM to be forwarded to her husband in Vietnam. She has made use of the regular postal service in addressing letters to her prisoner of war husband in Vietnam.

The only direct contact that Mrs. [redacted] has had with COLIFAM has been the receipt of the above.
mentioned letters forwarded to her by COLIFAN. No individual representing COLIFAN has made any direct contact with Mrs. [redacted].

Mrs. [redacted] and her husband received a letter in May, 1970, from COLIFAN. This letter came through the mail, and was received by them at their address, namely [redacted]. Mrs. [redacted] made available the letter, a copy of which is attached hereto.

This is the only correspondence received by Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] from COLIFAN. She and her husband discussed the matter and decided not to make use of the air letter form which was enclosed with the letter from COLIFAN. She and her husband felt that their son would prefer that they not make use of the services of COLIFAN and, for that reason, they decided to continue their correspondence with their son by using the regular mail service. No one from COLIFAN has made direct contact with Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] at their residence in [redacted].

Even though Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] have received no correspondence from their prisoner of war son, they have continued to send letters to him. Their son commented in a letter to his wife, Mrs. [redacted], that he had received a Christmas card addressed to him by his parents. This is the only information which Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] have received to indicate that any of their letters sent to their prisoner of war son have been received by him.

Neither Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] nor their daughter-in-law, Mrs. [redacted], have any plans to make contact with COLIFAN at any time in the future.

Mrs. [redacted] is [redacted] which has the address of the only members of this group, in addition to the family, are the following:
MEMBER OF SUBJECT ORGANIZATION

keeps in close contact with the above
listed individuals. None of these individuals had
received any correspondence from or had been contacted
by COLIFAM. [Redacted] have husbands
who are missing in action in Vietnam. [Redacted] have a son who is missing in action in Vietnam.
[Redacted] is the only one who has a son who is
a prisoner of war in Vietnam.
May 4, 1970

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 in packets. The Committee cannot forward packages for families.

While I was in Hanoi, Prof. Douglas Dow 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 500 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.
NGƯỜI GỬI (Address)

Họ Tên (Name in full):

Mã Lien (Service number):

Ngày và Мет Sĩ (Date & place of birth):

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

TRẢI GIAN PHI CỘNG MP BỊ RẤT TẠI
QUỐC VIỆT-NAM DÂN CHỦ CỘNG HỘA

VIA MOSCOW, USSR (Comp 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 (Address)

Họ Tên (Name in full):

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):
### Note (N.B.):

1. Phải viết rõ và chỉ được viết trên những dòng đã chỉ (Write neatly and only on the lines).
2. Trong những dòng viết chỉ kinh nghiệm và tình hình gia đình (Write only about health and family).
3. Ghi chung gia đình cũng phải thể hiện mối quan hệ, khái niệm và quy định này (Letters from families should also conform to this format).
Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)  
FROM: SAC, BUFFALO (100-20689) (P)  
DATE: 10/29/70  

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLTFAN)  
IS - MISCELLANEOUS REGISTRATION ACT  
(00: NEW YORK)

Re San Antonio letter to the Bureau, 8/27/70.

Enclosed for the Bureau are five (5) copies of an LHM dated and captioned as above in form suitable for dissemination. Also enclosed for New York are two (2) copies of this LHM, due to the fact that New York is Office of Origin in this matter.

The agent conducting the interview of Mr. and Mrs. on 10/23/70 was SA

BUFFALO

AT NEW YORK

Will continue interviewing relatives of individuals named on list.

Bureau (Encs. 5) (BN)  
New York (Encs. 2) (BN)  

11 NOV 2 1970  

All information contained herein is unclassified except where shown.

On October 23, 1970, Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] were interviewed by a representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and furnished the following information:
Mr. and Mrs. [redacted], New York, advised that their son, [redacted], has been reported missing in action by United States military officials in Vietnam.

After being apprised of the fact that the United States Department of Justice had requested that the Federal Bureau of Investigation make inquiry of certain relatives of military service personnel known to be prisoners of war in North Vietnam or who had been reported missing in action, the [redacted] stated that they had not been contacted by anyone from the [redacted] Committee or any agency or any relative except United States military officials.
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM
(COLIFAM)

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.
Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)
FROM: COLIVAN
SUBJECT: NSC, DALLAS (100-12009) (BUC)

DATE: 10/28/70

CC: NEW YORK

Re: Dallas letter to Bureau dated 9/22/70.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eleven copies of an LEM concerning captioned subject. Three copies are enclosed for New York.

The attached interviews conclude the investigation in the Dallas Division. Therefore, this case is being considered.

BUC.

[Handwritten notes and redacted text]
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON
WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN
DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM

The information set forth in the letterhead memorandum supplements that information contained in Dallas memorandum dated September 22, 1970.

Mrs. [redacted] and Mrs. [redacted], Texas, were interviewed in such as their [redacted] had been furnished by Mr. [redacted], Dallas, Texas, as persons believed to have had close contact with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. Copies of the results of these interviews are as follows:

[Redacted]
Mrs. [redacted], advised that her husband, a U.S. Air Force, was reported missing in action on December 16, 1968 by the United States Air Force as he was shot down over Laos. She advised that her husband is still "missing in action," she does not know whether he is alive or if he is a prisoner of war as she has had no communications from him.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that inasmuch as the Committee of Liaison had not contacted her, she wrote to the Committee of Liaison in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, during the winter of 1969, inquiring whether the Committee could find out anything concerning her husband. The Committee of Liaison answered promptly by letter, the letter now being unavailable, that the Committee would be unable to help her as her husband went down over Laos.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that during September, 1969, she, along with Mrs. [redacted] and Mrs. [redacted], accompanied Mr. [redacted] to Paris, France, where contact was made with a representative of the North Vietnam Government, same not recalled. This individual advised the group that if they really wanted to do something to help the prisoners of war in North Vietnam, they should return to the United States and contact either CORA WEISS or ROSS-PENOT of United We Stand, to Paris, France, and on to Saigon, South Vietnam, however, they were given no help or information concerning their husbands.

In 1970, a group of wives, including herself, accompanied the ROSS-PENOT of United We Stand, to Paris, France, and on to Saigon, South Vietnam, however, she learned of no information concerning her husband. She advised that she had not and does not intend to contact either CORA WEISS or CORA WEISS.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that in response to a telephoned letter dated January 20, 1970, received from America...
Friends Service Committee, Inc., 160 North 13th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, she sent a letter to this committee during the spring of 1970, which letter was
sent to the serial number of her husband, as well as the mail. She also enclosed a short letter addressed to her husband, however, the letter was returned to her with a notation to the effect that the letter could not be delivered.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that she had not received any telephone call nor had she been personally contacted by the Committee of Liaison. She advised that although she would strongly cooperate with the United States Government, she advised that she would not be willing to testify at any type of hearing against members of the Committee of Liaison for taking part in the husband's treaty in 1968.

She advised that although she would accept a letter from her husband from anyone or from any group, she disapproves of the Committee of Liaison being allowed to deal with the Hanoi Government.

Mrs. [redacted] made available a copy of a letter she received from the American Friends Service Committee, Inc.
January 20, 1970

Dear Friend,

I am happy to report that during my visit to North Vietnam between December 26, 1969, and January 9, 1970, I was able to deliver to the representatives of the Viet Nam Committee for Solidarity with American People) about 500 letters that had been forwarded on to me by you and other family members of prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

Immediately prior to my departure from North Vietnam I was given 69 letters from 64 American prisoners of war, and in keeping with the North Vietnamese request these letters have been given to the

Committee of Liaison
with Families of Service men detained in North Vietnam
365 W. 42nd Street
New York, New York

for transmittal to the individual addressees. We at the American Friends Service Committee are pleased to have had a part in opening a channel for communication between the prisoners and their families and hope that this will continue.

You may be interested to know that during my visit to North Vietnam I was able to deliver a second contribution of open heart surgical equipment to the Bach Mai Viet-Duc Hospital in Hanoi in keeping with a longstanding Quaker concern for civilian sufferers on both sides of a war.

Following my departure from North Vietnam I traveled on to Quang Ngai in South Vietnam to visit the American Friends Service Committee (Quaker) rehabilitation project for civilian casualties.

I have asked my colleagues in Philadelphia to mail this letter to you prior to my return to the United States, so that you might know more promptly that your letter has safely arrived in Hanoi and was given to the appropriate North Vietnamese authorities with my specific request that it be delivered to the individual addresses.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

For: Louis W. Schneider
Roger G. Fredrickson
Mrs., Texas, advised that her husband, a United States Air Force, was reported missing in action on October 15, 1968, by the United States Air Force, as he was shot down over North Vietnam. She reported that her husband is still missing in action, she does not know whether he is dead or alive, or if he is a prisoner of war, as she has had no communication from him.

Mrs. advised that inasmuch as the Committee of Liaison had not contacted her, she wrote only one letter to the Committee, during January, 1970, furnishing her husband's name, rank, and serial number, and requesting that the Committee seek out any information it could concerning her husband. She advised that she received a monographed letter, since misplaced, from the Committee, which letter contained no information concerning her husband.

Mrs. advised that during September, 1969, she, along with Mrs. and Mrs. accompanied Mr. who contact was made with a representative of the North Vietnam Government, name not recalled. This individual advised the group that if they really wanted to do something to help the prisoners of war in North Vietnam, they should return to the United States and contact either HENNIE DAVIS or CORA WEISS. Also, they should get the movement to end the Vietnam war. She advised that she did not make the return trip to Paris, France, with the group during November, 1969, but a group of wives, including herself, accompanied Mr. ROSS PEROT of United We Stand, to Paris, France and on to Saigon, South Vietnam, during March 1970. However, she learned no information concerning her husband. She advised that she had not and does not intend to contact either HENNIE DAVIS or CORA WEISS.

Mrs. advised that she had not received any telephone call or had been personally contacted by the Committee of Liaison.

She advised that although she is extremely anxious to hear from her husband or to learn whether or not he is still

FA1762  11/07/70  8:30a

Date dictated

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alive, she desires to go about it other than through or with the aid of the Committee of Liaison. She advised that she strongly disapproves of the Committee of Liaison being allowed to deal with the Hanoi Government. She advised that she would not be willing to testify at any type of hearing against members of the Committee of Liaison for fear of placing her husband's life in jeopardy.
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-170616)

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF US DELEGATION TO NORTH KOREA AND NORTH VIETNAM JULY-AUGUST, 1970, LED BY ELDREDGE CLEAVER IS-MISCELLANEOUS

Enclosed for the Bureau are 11 copies of a self-explanatory LHM; enclosed also for the Bureau are the contents of a list consisting of 126 pages each setting forth pertinent data obtained by Customs officials from 374 POW letters found in possession of ROBERT SCHEER upon entry.

Copies of instant airtel with LHM attached are being designated for individual case files at office of origin where delegation members are believed to be maintaining current permanent residences. One copy furnished to Chicago Division because of passport address of ANN PROINES.

ENCL.
NY 100-170615

Copies Continued:
San Francisco (cont'd)
Los Angeles (Enc. 3) (RM)
Washington (Enc. 1) (INFO) (RM)

LBM is being disseminated locally as follows:
4-108th MIG, NYC
1-WISO, NYC
1-OSI, NYC
1-INS, NYC
1-Secret Service, NYC

LBM is classified, "Confidential" inasmuch as the
unauthorized disclosure of information furnished by source,
would tend to reveal his identity and thereby have
an adverse effect upon the national defense interests of this
country.

The arrival of delegation at JFKIA, NYC, and press
conference were covered by the following SAS:

IA made the tape recording of the press
conference. This is being maintained in the 1A Section of
the NY film.
The literature set forth in LHM was obtained without authorization by NYO agents during the Customs inspection. This literature will be forwarded by separate cover letter to the Bureau for review for intelligence purposes and for possible dissemination to other interested government agencies. It is noted that the name of appears on the front inside cover of the book, "Kim Il Sung, Biography (I)", indicating the possibility that all of this literature belonged to

The two reels of tape recordings were reviewed at the NYO on 9/18/70 by SA and Customs Agent . Duplicates of these tapes were not made inasmuch as they were found to contain only oriental music. Since these tapes were obtained by the Customs together with the 10 reels of film, it is speculated that the tapes are intended to be used as background music during the showing of the film.

The NYO will continue to furnish any information developed in captioned matter.
Travel of United States Delegation to North Korea and North Vietnam July-August, 1970, Led by Eldridge Cleaver

On September 16, 1970, Special Agents (SAS) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) observed the arrival of passengers aboard Air France Flight 707 from Paris, France at 4:20 p.m. at John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFKIA), Jamaica, New York City (NYC), New York (NY). Among the passengers on Flight 707 were members of the United States (US) Peoples Anti-Imperialist Delegation. The members of the delegation and their baggage were inspected by United States Customs (USC) Agents at the International Arrivals Building of JFKIA.

Mr. [Name Redacted], Director of Customs, JFKIA, furnished the following information concerning the members of the US Peoples Anti-Imperialist Delegation which consisted of ten individuals:

1) Regina Blumenfeld

2) Randy Rappaport
   Care of Moss
Travel of United States Delegation to North Korea and North Vietnam July-August, 1970, Led by Eldridge Cleaver

1) Alexander Hing

2) Janet Austin

3) Hideko Pat Sumi

4) Ann Proines

5) Janet Kranzberg

6) Elaine Brown

7) Robert Scheer
Travel of United States Delegation to North Korea and North Vietnam July-August, 1970, Led by Eldridge Cleaver

10) Andrew Truskier

advised that an inspection of the baggage belonging to Robert Scheer revealed that he was in possession of a package containing 374 letters from American Prisoners of War (POW) to addressees in the US. The envelopes reflected the name of the POW and a serial number of an apparent military nature.

Upon the examination of the baggage of Scheer, he refused to open the package containing the 374 letters and thus Customs Agents then seized this package for examination purposes. Scheer protested this seizure as did other members of the delegation. As of 6:00 p.m., September 16, 1970, Customs Agents were attempting to locate members of this delegation in order to return these letters after having obtained pertinent data reflected on the envelopes.

On September 16, 1970, USC Inspector advised that he had conducted an inspection of the baggage of Andrew J. Truskier, a member of the delegation, and Truskier orally advised him that he and the delegation had been in the following countries:

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
North Korea
North Vietnam
Communist China
Algeria
France

Mr. advised that other members of the delegation advised that they had only traveled to Algeria and France. He advised that the only visa stamps on the passports of the delegation members were at France and Algeria.

Prior to the arrival of the members of the delegation aboard Air France Flight 707, a shipment of material belonging to the delegation arrived at JFKIA aboard another aircraft and was inspected by Customs officials.
Travel of United States Delegation to North Korea and North Vietnam July-August, 1970, Led by Eldridge Cleaver

Mr. GEORGE K. BROWN, Director of Customs, John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFKIA), New York, New York (NY) exhibited a shipment of material detailed to the Peoples Anti-Imperialist Delegation which arrived at the airport prior to the arrival of Flight 707 Air France, September 16, 1970 at 4:20 p.m., bearing the ten members of the delegation.

The initial inspection revealed that the material consisted of six packages of pamphlets and books which appeared in most part to be written in North Korea.

The following pamphlet titles were observed:


"Kim Il Sung, The Present Situation and The Tasks of our Party, Pyongyang, Korea, 1968"

"Let us Become Revolutionary Fighters Infinitely Loyal to the Party and the Leader and Reliable Builders of Socialism and Communism by Revolutionizing and Working Classifying Ourselves, Pyongyang, Korea, 1969"

"Major Battle Sites of Anti-Japanese Armed Struggle in the Homeland" (photographs)

"V.I. Lenin on Defense of the Socialist Motherland"

"U.S. Imperialism—The Sworn Enemy of the Korean People, Pyongyang, Korea, 1969"
CONFIDENTIAL

Travel of United States Delegation
to North Korea and North Vietnam
July-August, 1970, Led by
Eldridge Cleaver

NY 100-170616
2

"Kim Il Sung, On Further Developing the
Daean Work System, Pyongyang, Korea, 1968"

596 page book entitled, "Kim Il Sung, Biography I, Malik Bong, Mireisha, Tokyo, Japan, 1969,
From Birth to Triumphant Return to Homeland"

Included in the above shipment were two large green
Canisters. One canister contained six cans of Korean films
labeled, "Korean Films". The second canister contained two
tapes labeled, "Deutsche Demokratische Republic". Films and
tapes were retained by United States Customs for review and
are in the custody of Mr. United States Customs, Restricted Merchandise, 201 Varick Street, NY, NY.
A press conference was scheduled to be held following the arrival of the U.S. People's Anti-Imperialist Delegation (USPAID) at John F. Kennedy International Airport at Jamaica, New York on September 16, 1970.

The press conference was attended by Special Agent (SA) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), who recorded the proceedings of the conference. Also recorded was a pre-conference statement made by ALEX HING, commencing approximately at 6:01 PM concerning the alleged detention of some 379 letters from prisoners-of-war by United States Customs officials.

At approximately 6:04 PM, ALEX HING spoke with one Mrs. KILEMI CORNER and some newsmen separate and apart from the stage set-up for the scheduled conference.

A copy of the transcript of the tape recording taken in the Press Conference Room of the International Arrivals building at John F. Kennedy International Airport on September 16, 1970, as well as a copy of the statement made by ALEX HING and his subsequent discussion with Mrs. CORNER in the same Press Conference Room is attached.
Questions and remarks of Mrs. Cormier and Mrs. McManus enclosed in parentheses on following were not recorded, but were copied by an Special Agent (SA) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).
Travel of US Delegation to North Korea and North Vietnam
July, August, 1970 Led by Eldridge Cleaver

Press Conference at International Arrivals Building, JFK International Airport, Jamaica, New York on September 16, 1970

The following is the text of a statement of Alex Hing preceding the Press Conference (time approximately 6:01 PM).

Alex Hing:

I understand that there's two wives of prisoners of war being held in Hanoi. I just want to make one statement: that the pigs have just stolen the letters that were entrusted to us, 379 letters that were entrusted to us by the people of Hanoi to the relatives and friends of the prisoners of war. It clearly shows that the United States Government does not care what's happening. Also, there was a tape that Elaine Brown had, it was a message to the American people from Eldridge Cleaver and the pigs have ripped that off also. That's all I want to say.

Unidentified newsman:

Who did this the Customs? Please identity yourself.

Alex Hing:

my name is Alex Hing of the San Francisco Red Guards.

Unidentified newsman:

When you say swine, who did this, Customs or somebody....
Travel of US States Delegation to North Korea and North Vietnam
July-August, 1970, Led by Eldridge Cleaver
Alex Hing:

Unidentified newsmen:

"Did they say why, give you any reason?"

(Following his announcement of the alleged seizure of the P.O.W. letters, Alex Hing was approached by newsmen away from the dais and Mrs. Eileen (Arthur) Cormier, who advised she was associated with the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia (NLPAPMSA), 1 Constitution Avenue, Washington D.C. 20002. A Special Agent of the FBI observed the following:

"Mrs. Cormier asked Hing what his intentions were concerning the delivery of those letters, particularly if he would have turned them over to (NLPAPMSA) for delivery. Under her continued queries, Hing advised he had no intention of relinquishing control of them, that the US Peoples Anti-Imperialist Delegation (USPAID) had an organization set-up for their delivery, that the Black Panther Party (BPP) wished to personally handle each delivery."

The following is the text of the Press Conference which commenced at approximately 6:30 PM:

(Robert Scheer)

To begin this press conference, let me introduce our delegation. This is the US Peoples Anti-Imperialist Delegation. It was convened under the leadership of the Black Panther Party and it was directed by its International Section and the chief of the delegation is Eldridge Cleaver who could not be here today because the US Government has banded him..."
CONFIDENTIAL

Travel of United States Delegation
to North Korea and North Vietnam
July-August, 1970, Led by Eldridge Cleaver

(Robert Scheer)—continued:

into exile. The delegation consists of: Pat Sumi of the
Movement for a Democratic Military; Randy Rappaport for
Womens Liberation; Jan Austin, an editor of Ramparts Magazine;
"Judith" (unintelligible), student organizer from Berkeley;
Ann Froines of the Panther Defense Committee in New Haven; Janet
Kranzberg of Newsreel, the film group; Andy Truskier – one of
our members is still in Customs. We didn't know that or we
would not have come out here and they are still hassling him –;
and Alex King of the Chinatown Red Guard. To begin with, we
and Elaine Brown, who will officiate at this press conference,
sorry. To begin with, as part of the humanitarian policy of
the North Vietnamese government, they have allowed letters to
leave that country from prisoners of war to their families in
this country. That is the only route for information from
mail to get families. In accordance with that humanitarian
policy, we were carrying out 374 letters. We thought we were
doing this in the highest sense of citizenship, that it was
the correct thing to do, so we did not hide the letters. We
did not sneak them through and when the Customs official asked
me if I was carrying them I said yes. They then tried to take
them from me; I said that he could not do that. I opened up
the package showed him that they were letters, that there was
nothing else. He then said that they would have to read the
letters and they would have to write down the names of all
of the pilots. I was instructed by counsel that that would
not only be violating my rights but it would be violating the
rights of those pilots. The letters are personal letters,
they were not intended for the US Government to read and the
information as to the pilots' names could be used against them
by the US Government which has shown no concern for their
well being whatsoever.

Our position is that: the US Government is a criminal
government that got those pilots in a position where they
performed the highest war crimes; the bombing of Vietnam presents
the highest war crimes that any society has ever committed;
and we are not allowed to allow the US Government to play any
kind of role whatsoever in connection with those letters and
we do not trust the US Government in anyway whatsoever.
Travel of United States Delegation to North Korea and North Vietnam
July-August, 1970, Led by Eldridge Cleaver

Unidentified newsmen:

How did the government.......

Robert Scheer:

The US Government now has those letters....let me finish my statement....then we will have questions after.... The US Government now has those letters under bond inside. We will go into Federal Court and demand that those letters be released and then we will deliver them personally. I can assure you that there will be no future delivery of letters if the US Government insists on seizing them and its the US Government therefore which bears full responsibility for breaking this link between pilots, the only link between pilots and their families. And the US Government has hypocritically used the pilot issue to obscure the issues involved in Vietnam, they sent these astroants and others are phony missions which have not accomplished anything and here is a real link between the pilots and their families and it has been broken now and this is an historic step that the US Government has taken and they have to be held accountable. We will discuss your question of the pilots and the letters after we have made our prepared statements. In addition to comrade Andrew Truskier still being held in Customs, comrade Elaine Brown was seized from our group, was taken off, we have no information about her they will not let us see her, and it was only through strenuous effort on the part of the lawyers and Huey P. Newton of the Black Panther Party supreme commander that we were able to secure her release. She is here but Andrew Truskier is still inside.

I would like to read a prepared statement and then comrade Brown will make her statement and then we will take questions.

The US Peoples Anti-Imperialist Delegation arrived in New York today after a two month trip to North Korea, North Vietnam and China. As a result of this solidarity tour the American Movement has effectively established warm relations with the revolutionary movements of Asia. Convened by the Black Panther Party's International Section, the delegation, which represents a cross section of American Left, was headed
Travel of United States Delegation to North Korea and North Vietnam July-August, 1970, Led by Eldridge Cleaver (Robert Scheer)-continued

By Comrade Eldridge Cleaver, Minister of the Black Panther Party and myself - Deputy Chief of Information Robert Scheer. This delegation’s tour of the capitals of Asia initiated a new policy of peoples’ diplomacy. This policy was proven successful because we were officially received in Pyongyang, the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea. We were first delegation of Americans received in that country since the US war with Russia against that country. We were in Hanoi, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and of Peking the People’s Republic of China and we were the first delegation received in that country since the start of the cultural revolution four years ago.

We met with many officials including Premier Tham Van Dong, General Giap of the DRVN, Prince Norodom Sihanouk who we met in Peking head of the National United Front of (unintelligible) ... and others. The leaders of these countries recognizing the distinction between the government of the American empire and the American people themselves have asked us to bring to the American people the warm greetings and solidarity of the forty million Korean people, the forty million Vietnamese people, the three million Laotian people, the eight mission Cambodian people and the seven hundred million Chinese people. And the trip ... those were official greetings sent by those governments - by the revolutionary governments - in those societies to the American Movement ... our trip undercut the efforts of the US Government to isolate the American people from over one quarter of the world’s peoples. We were there to answer the lies of Spiro Agnew who travelled to the pitiful outpost of the US empire in South Korea, South Vietnam and Taiwan while we visited the seventy per cent of the Asian people who have literally been liberated. Agnew was forced to literally sneak into Seoul to meet with US puppet Cho Chi (phonetic) into Saigon to meet with the Fu Chi puppet clique, into Taiwan to see with the infamous Chang Ka Shek while our delegation moved freely among the people and met openly with the peoples governments and were received as comrades-in-arms.

Through radio broadcast, press conferences and our free travel among the people we expressed our unequivocal opposition to US imperialism which is meeting its end in Asia. We demonstrated at Panmunjon in front of US troops stationed in the demilitarized zone in Korea demanding the immediate end to the illegal occupation of South Korea. In visiting all of these
countries and witnessing the US imposed divisions among all peoples, by seeing the devastation the US troops and their allies have layed upon innocent people in their home lands, by seeing that the US impire is reviving the Japanese militarism as a shock force for its agressive designs in Asia - the Nixon doctrine - we have recognized that the agressive war now being perpetrated against the Vietnamese people is not an isolated war, but part of the major US policy of world domination, imperialism aimed at all of Asia. Therefore, the only alternative we have as human beings is to halt this move for world domination by uniting the broad masses of American people who are already opposed to the war in Vietnam into a strong force that consciously and actively opposes the overall US policy of imperialism in Asia.

We call for and are actively engaged in building a US Peoples Anti-Imperialist Front. We will begin our work... that's called the US Peoples Anti-Imperialist Front...we will begin our work by establishing anti-imperialist information centers on the east and west coast for communication among those inside the United States fighting US imperialism and between the American people and the anti-imperialist movements of the world.

Now our first task, well, I described that was to deliver these letters, we were not allowed to do that. In the future, we will provide a channel through which the American Anti-Imperialist Movement can communicate with GIs of Vietnam through letters, radio broadcasting and other means of communication. We will also hold mass rallies and meetings to demonstrate solidarity with those fighting against US imperialism. For example, we call for and plan to organize a rally on January 23, the date on which the US spy ship Pueblo was caught red-handed in sovereign territories waters of the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, that is January 23 date of the demonstration. And we will have it nationwide in many cities after consultation with different sectors of the movement. And we will demand here and now and pledge ourselves to work to obtain complete amnesty for the Minister of Information of the Black Panther Party, Eldridge Cleaver, who has been unjustly forced into exile by the US Government. Now Comrade Elaine Brown, Deputy Minister of Information of the Black Panther Party, will make a statement.
Travel of United States Delegation to North Korea and North Vietnam July-August, 1970, Led by Eldridge Cleaver

Elaine Brown:

We have just left comrade Eldridge Cleaver in Algiers and in Algiers we attended the opening of the International Section of the Black Panther Party. This office formerly occupied by the provisional revolutionary government of South Vietnam will also serve as the first US Peoples Embassy. The opening on September 15th was an historical occasion as it was attended by representatives and ambassadors from the Chinese Embassy, the Korean Embassy, the Embassies of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, and the provisional revolutionary government of South Vietnam, representatives from the Algerian government, from the liberation organizations of Africa as well as by the US Peoples Anti-Imperialist Delegation. It was clear here too that the Black Panther Party had been recognized as the vanguard force to the revolutionary struggle of the people of the United States, but this has been demonstrated throughout our trip in Asia. We were told by Premier Than Van Dong of North Vietnam, of Prince Sihanuck exiled leader of Cambodia and leaders of China, Korea and Laos that they denounce fascist repression against the Black Panther Party and in particular the vicious US plot to murder the Chairman of the Black Panther Party Bobby Seale and the demand of his immediate release from prison. And the Black Party has demonstrated its active support of the struggles of the Asian peoples against imperialism not only in the past but also in that we have offered our troops to assist the Vietnamese people in their current struggle for liberation and we have specifically Eldridge Cleaver and myself broadcast over the voice of Vietnam radio to the American troops in the South to aid on the struggle of the Vietnamese people. And we have declared to the Korean and Chinese people our militant support now and in the future. We have a message we'd like to play from comrade Eldridge Cleaver and then we'll close the statement and be open to questions.

(Tape of Eldridge Cleaver):

We are working with the concept of Peoples Diplomacy to offset the diplomacy of the State Department and (unintelligible) specifically William Rogers and policies and we are (unintelligible)...I think they know we're going to do that and are uptight about it...they're going to be more uptight before its over because we have a lot of things in the program. The concept of peoples' diplomacy relates to alienation between the people and the government, the fact that the government has been usurped by a clique of the ruling class and they have turned it into an instrument of fascism and imperialism
and aggression and war. And the American people have the duty to rise up against this and to create other machinery that would truly express their interest, work in their interest, to help all to combat their enemies. This is what we will be doing through the International Section of the Black Panther Party.

Robert Scheer:

And just add that we did manage to bring in a tape from comrade Cleaver to his mother and Customs people did not seem to observe that. We did not know that we would have the honor of having the presence of comrade Huey Newton, supreme commander of the Black Panther Party here today, and we had intended and we will close this press conference with a quotation from our leader and comrade Huey P. Newton. Here is the quotation:

"There is not one fascist or reactionary government in the world today that could stand without the support of United States imperialism. Therefore, our problem is international. The United States is an empire which has raped the world to build its wealth here. Therefore, the United States is not a nation. It is a government of international capitalism and inasmuch as they have exploited the world to accumulate wealth, this country belongs to the world. We cannot be nationalists when our country is not a nation but an empire. We contend that it is time to open the gates of this country and share the technological knowledge and wealth of the peoples of the world,...Huey P. Newton, Minister of Defense, Black Panther Party".

And that states the basic position of the United Front Against Imperialism and Racism.

Unidentified newsman:

Can you answer our questions now?
Right, now the Custom officials wanted to read the letters. If those pilots said to their wives that they opposed the war or if they committed war crimes or if they have seen the destruction of their bombing and now realize that they are war criminals, then the US government has ample precedence for bringing charges of treason, cooperation for aid and comfort of the enemy and what have you against those pilots. When pilots have been released in the past and I happened to notice because my former wife escorted three pilots back from Hanoi two years ago, those pilots have while they're on the plane out of Hanoi or even in Paris expressed very strong sentiments against the war, when they got to this airport they were ripped off by state department officials in customs, taken off to military bases and given briefings in which they were told that they would be tried in US courts if they continued to make those statements. So we were therefore protecting the legal right of those pilots to private communication with their families which is the form in which those letters were written.

Unidentified newsmen:

Mr. Scheer, a US Customs official just a few moments ago told another reporter and myself that your allegations are untrue. Those letters were not seized....

Robert Scheer:

That they were not seized? They're more arrogant than I thought...I have a receipt right here, it is receipt number 57813. So they lie to you in a grosser fashion as they lie to the people. Any other questions? They're so arrogant, can you imagine that? A pig lying like that.

Unidentified newsmen:

Mr. Scheer are....

Robert Scheer:

You'd think that reporters were stupid you know?
Travel of United States Delegation to North Korea and North Vietnam
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Do you think that it is possible that they would cut off all future letters as a result of this thing?

Robert Scheer:

The position of the Vietnamese government was communicated to us very clearly. They feel that the acts, in the strongest terms, that the acts committed by the pilots and by the U.S. Government over Vietnam are war crimes, that the U.S. Government has perpetuated the greatest war crimes in history over North and South Vietnam. However, they went to great pains to say that they believe in the humanitarian treatment of prisoners and they were interested in encouraging exchange of information in letters from those prisoners. They were very strong in insisting that they would not do it in any way that would aid the U.S. Government in obscuring the nature of the war, its policy there or the acts committed by the bombers. So they stated very clearly that acts such as Borman's trip, I forget this Texan's name who took the plane to Laos and so forth, they see those as blatant propaganda moves on the part of the U.S. Government to conceal the nature of the war, to focus attention on the issue of the pilots and their treatment and their release and ignore the war crimes that have been committed in Vietnam, ignore the fact that over a million people have died in that country, ignore the civilian casualties and so forth. They will not cooperate in any scheme that obscures the nature of the war. However, they have cooperated I think excellently with those people in the United States who oppose the war and are interested in pursuing that humanitarian policy. And it was that in mind that we carried these letters here. We were treated as criminals, you know, if we would have had the worst kind of drug you know, a really harmful one, they would have treated us in a more kindly fashion. And it was very clear that they were threatened by American people, American people having a link with revolutionary people and taking care of business which was what we were doing, and they don't give a damn about the pilots, and they don't give a damn about those letters, you see. What they are really interested in is breaking off any contact between the American people and the Vietnamese people and those pilots for that matter.
Mr. Scheer, just a question about this receipt. (repeated)...It doesn't say anything here about letters, it says "hold for screening one package" and Customs officials told another reporter and myself that this could possibly be a package of film. Where you carrying all 379 letters in one package?

Robert Scheer:

I opened up the brown package in front of four Customs officials, I showed them - see they're letters, they're written on forms that the Vietnamese given to the pilots - each letter comes in the same envelope, it's clearly nothing else but a letter, it's very thin. You see this is the first time that I opened the package as I felt that I had no right to do that. But in the interest of getting these letters through, realizing that they could claim they were film or something else in that package I opened up the package, showed them the letters, you see, and that's when they grabbed the letters and I grabbed them back and they insisted on taking down the names of each of the pilots and their families and opening the letters and reading them. And so at that point I held the letters and at that point they put me in this room, and I must admit that there was one half-way decent fellow who came to bail me out, but there were two pigs in that room, closed the door started to search me and the whole business, but finally, realizing that there was press out here and that it would look bad they (unintelligible)....so we wrapped it up again and they put that bond on. But they know they're lying, they know they saw the letters, you know, and they just have a whole cynical attitude to the question.

Unknown newsmen:

How did they let the Eldridge Cleaver tape through?

Robert Scheer:

Because they are only interested in letters, they asked me about the letters when I went through and I did not hide the fact that I had and they were after the letters. They took it seriously and they were interested in breaking this contact, he asked me are you carrying any letters, and I said yes.
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(Mrs. Eileen Cormier):

I do have one question... I wished you'd answered for me. I liked to know did the North Vietnamese supply the paper for these pilots to write on, or if the (unintelligible)... how can they say anything about their war crimes when their aggression toward North Vietnam is to the full extent itself (unintelligible)....

Robert Scheer:

Well, as you know because you are familiar with this problem when pilots have wanted to make statements about the war, the government has facilitated making those statements and they are not interested in putting any obstacles to their making statements about the war. What they don't want are obviously sending back letters that would be used by the US Government to conceal the barbarous and criminal nature of its actions over Vietnam. And I am not going to spend any more time on this question of the letters because the US Government is now responsible and I want to talk about the napalm that those pilots have performed. We can show you pictures of the napalm victims, we went through Vietnam and saw the buildings that were destroyed, every single medium or large size city in Vietnam in North Vietnam with the exception of Hanoi was completely leveled to the ground by the US sky rats air pilots and I think that we have gone far enough with this concern for the humanitarian treatment and will end it there. Anyone else, any other questions?

(Mrs. Cormier, aside to newsmen - "You can't argue with them, since they (reference to DEPAID) have not seen P.O.W. camps").

Unidentified newsmann:

Alright, one question. This trip to Communist China, North Vietnam does this change your mind towards the American policy?
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to North Korea and North Vietnam
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Robert Scheer:

It doesn't change anything for me, because the whole group was dead opposed to US imperialism in the world. But we did come to understand is that Asian Communism does represent in a sense a wave of the future that the quality of life available for the average person, for the mass of people in China, Korea and in North Vietnam is higher than that as available in even the most modern capitalist countries, that the people are enthusiastic and united behind the government, that there is a degree of freedom in those societies unknown anywhere in the world and I think that if we could have only known by reading articles say about the cultural revolution but we are in China which no American reporter has been in, and you see that students there run the university and that workers and peasants come into the universities and run them, and that the alienation of the bourgeoisie intellectual from the mass of people has been eradicated. And you see a society in which there are no class a class of society towards that is communism that it is very nice to be able to visit a place and see work. And we know that the culture revolution in China and in Vietnam and Korea has been enormous success and we know for the first time contrary to the speculation of revisionists and pessimist in other parts of the socialists world which caved in, that in those countries the people have found a way to move to the future and we think that the reasons US is interested in obliterating Asian Communism, it knows it works and they know it could be attractive to the American people and they want to stop it because it's too attractive and they want to stop any contact with them.

Unidentified newsmen:

Would you have any objections to turning these letters over to these two women....

Robert Scheer:

I was going to turn the letters over to the families concerned, we were going to give them personally to make sure that they were not screwed around with, and we were going to do that very rapidly. And if you will check out for example the pilots that have been brought back in the past, you will find that the anti-war movement has been very considerate, has not put any obstacles in their getting back
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(Robert Scheer - continued)

with their families and has in every way tried to facilitate that and contrary to the pigs we are not interested in screwing people over, you know, and we are interested in politics and we are interested in revolution and not in making these pilots the brunt of the real war criminals which are the people in Washington.

Unidentified newsmen:

How can this trip benefit the Panthers in jail. They're in jail in just about every state in the country. Is this trip going to benefit them by getting them out of jail?

Elaine Brown:

Well, the only way that the members of the Black Panther Party which are now being held as political prisoners of war in the United States are going to be freed is of course through the efforts of the people, the mass of people in the United States so that we have the solidarity and the support of over one quarter of the world's population and that kind of support is certainly going to aid in doing that. Any other questions?

Robert Scheer:

We don't want to take any more questions about the letters, we think that we have exhausted that.

Elaine Brown:

Is there anything else that anybody wants to ask about because this is the US Peoples Anti-Imperialism Delegation which has been to the capitals of the free world, you see, and so are there any questions particularly about what we have done or like this I guess we will have to answer then.

CONFIDENTIAL

Unidentified Newsman:

While you were in Hanoi, Pgongyang (phonetic) and Peking did you get an opportunity to talk to other public officials and what (garbled)

Elaine Brown:

We saw in those areas as comrade Scheer has explained is that we saw people being human beings, we saw people cooperatively living together, we saw workers for example who are not only paid fair wages but who receive free medical care, free child care, and free housing and clothing, who have as they say not one word but who have not anything to worry about in the world. And we saw people cooperating in China with each other as he explained in Chu Y (phonetic) university in Peking. We saw students and workers and teachers all collectively working together for one project for all of the people, for all those people have not the economic worries of the average US citizen so they can go on to be more creative and more human in their lives. These are the kind of things that we saw in these areas.

(Unidentified woman):

(unintelligible)....(Mrs. McManus)

Elaine Brown:

Yes of course but we specifically mentioned China because of the fact that they have just moved out of the phase particularly known as the Proletarian Cultural Revolution. But in Korea you see the people working together at all areas of work, people working together, there child care centers, they are the same kinds of opportunities for people to live together and be creative and to live together as human beings. But this is the first time in our lives that we had seen masses of people in all three countries, in all three capitals of Asia. This is the first time in our lives that we have ever seen human beings responding to each other as human beings. Other questions.
Unidentified newscaster:

What particular kind of jackets are you wearing?

(Garbled)....

Elaine Brown:

A particular kind...these are jackets, oh (obscene) you can recognize that. Well they are jackets that Agnet can't buy.....in Peking.

Unidentified newscaster:

(unintelligible)....are there any kind of message....

Elaine Brown:

He says that solidarity of the forty million Korean people and that he hopes that the American people will stand behind them in their struggle to reunify peacefully the forty million Korean people which are now suffering under the US imposed division of one whole people, particularly as a demilitarized zone and in the South people are suffering under fascist repressions under the US puppet Pop Chan Yei (phonetic) who allows himself to be called Chang Yei Pop (phonetic) by the Americans, and also has a Japanese name, so this is how much of American people support for his work for a peaceful unification of the forty million Korean people.

Unidentified female: (Mrs. Mc Manus)

Miss Brown do you speak both Chinese and Vietnamese?

Elaine Brown:

I speak American, you know....

Unidentified female: (Mrs. Mc Manus)

Do you speak Chinese?

Elaine Brown:

No I can't speak Chinese nor Vietnamese.
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(Mrs. McManus)

So, then...(what you are saying here is what you
were told by the "interpreters"?--How else did you know if
you do not know their language?)

Elaine Brown:

There is a certain feeling language people have...

(Mrs. McManus)

So all of your information would have to come
from an interpreter?

Elaine Brown:

Um, I don't know what that means...are there any
other questions that anybody has?

Robert Scheer:

I just want to say something about that question,
ma'am, we did have a great deal of people with expertise
in the group about the question about China, North Korea,
Vietnam and (unintelligible)....at the University of California
(unintelligible)....about the question it is very interesting
that here we are the first people to see China personally,
China stars, newspaper reporters who are supposed to be
experts heard and examined rumors you know coming out of Hong
Kong, year old papers and give all these big analysis, and
we have come back from China and there really isn't anyone
here from the press that seems to be concerned of what is
the most vital human experiment that history has known. I also
want to make one point, a closing about the Black Panther
Party and that is the degree to which this is true, that the
cyber clear point that which all of these movements were united
was on the vital role of the American movement and their
total support and they have very clearly expressed their point
of view that they feel that the Black Panther Party in the
United States is playing a vanguard role. I was in China,
Travel of United States Delegation to North Korea and North Vietnam

(Robert Scheer - continued)

Korea and Vietnam and they call us comrades-in-arms because this delegation was formed by the International Section of the Black Panther Party and the chief of the delegation was Eldridge Cleaver. And it was a tribute to the work of the Black Panther Party and to comrade Cleaver that they treated our delegation as happened to be a fellow that was sent to the Chinese Studies, comrades-in-arms and they expressed full solidarity in the complete integration of these struggles and that's what our anti-imperialist front and our delegation was all about, and we can end on that point and thank you.

Klaine Brown:

Power to the people!
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A characterization of the Black Panther Party (BPP) appears in the appendix attached hereto.

On September 16, 1970, a confidential source who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that upon the conclusion of the press conference at JFKIA, the members of the delegation proceeded from JFKIA to the residence of actress Jane Fonda, 33 East 74th Street, NYC, in order to attend a reception party. The source advised that Huey Newton, Minister of Defense of the BPP, attended the press conference.

On September 18, 1970, Mr. [Redacted] JFKIA, advised that the package containing the 374 letters were returned to Robert Scheer on September 17, 1970. Mr. Brown furnished a list of the 374 letters which included the name of the POW, his serial number of an apparent military nature, and the addressee.

On September 18, 1970, Mr. [Redacted] USC, 201 Varick Street, NYC, advised that the shipment of film belonging to the delegation which had arrived at JFKIA aboard another aircraft was examined by USC, NYC. This shipment included ten reels of .35 millimeter film, and consisted of five positive reels and five negative reels. These films were documentary in nature and for the most part attempted to enhance the image of North Korea. For the most part, the propaganda of the films was not directed against the US Government but was intended to demonstrate the success of the internal operation of North Korea. He advised that some portions of the negative reels which had a Korean commentator directed criticism against the US Government. As of September 18, 1970, Mr. Fishman was in possession of the above film.

The two tapes labeled, "Deutsche Demokratische Republik" were reviewed and found to contain oriental music without lyrics.

The September 18, 1970 late city edition of the "New York Post" carried an article on page 12 entitled, "The PW Letters In The Mail". In this article it was stated
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to North Korea and North Vietnam
July-August, 1970; Led by
Eldridge Cleaver

that the 374 letters written by the US POWs and seized
by Customs officials on September 16, 1970 were returned
to the delegation on September 17, 1970. This article
stated that Robert Scheer had said that the letters were
mailed immediately after their return by the Government.
In this article Scheer stated that the delegation planned
to distribute pamphlets and books "on how to make a
revolution", working in conjunction with the BPP on campuses
throughout the US.
APPENDIX

BLACK PANTHER PARTY
Also Known As
Black Panther Party for Self-Defense

According to its official newspaper, the Black Panther Party (BPP) was started during December, 1966, in Oakland, California, to organize black people so they can take control of the life, politics and the destiny of the black community. It was organized by BOBBY SEALE, BPP Chairman, and HUEY P. NEWTON, BPP Minister of Defense. NEWTON was sentenced in 1968 to serve 2 to 15 years after being convicted of manslaughter in connection with the killing of an Oakland police officer.

The official newspaper, "The Black Panther", which further describes itself as the "Black Community News Service", states that the BPP advocates the use of guns and guerrilla tactics in its revolutionary program to end oppression of the black people. Residents of the black community are urged to arm themselves against the police who are consistently referred to in the publication as "pigs" who should be killed.

"The Black Panther" issue of September 7, 1968, contains an editorial by BPP Minister of Education, GEORGE MASON MURRAY, which ends with the following:


Included in the introduction to an article appearing in the October 5, 1968, edition of "The Black Panther" is the statement, "...we will not dissent from American Government. We will overthrow it."

Issues of "The Black Panther" regularly contain quotations from the writings of Chairman MAO Tse-tung of the People's Republic of China and feature MAO's statement that "political power grows out of the barrel of a gun."

The national headquarters of the BPP is located at 3106 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley, California. Branches have been established at various locations throughout the United States.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE: NORFOLK
OFFICE OF ORIGIN: NEW YORK
DATE: 10/27/70
INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD: 8/26/70 - 10/7/70

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

REPORT MADE BY: SA
CHARACTER OF CASE: IS - MISCELLANEOUS; REGISTRATION ACT

REFERENCES:
- Norfolk report of SA 8/31/70;
- Norfolk letter to Bureau, 9/24/70;
- Baltimore letter to Bureau, 9/28/70;
- Bureau letter to all offices, 10/12/70.

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Extra copies of this report are being furnished to the Bureau because of the widespread interest in this case.

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW
ST-115
REC-5

17 NOV 4 1970

INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREBY IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN

Deleted Copy Sent by Letter Dated Per FOIPA Request
LEADS

Information copies are designated for Alexandria, Baltimore, Chicago, and WFO in view of their investigative interest in this matter.

NORFOLK

AT VA. Will interview Mrs. dated 9/67 pursuant to Baltimore letter

(2) Will recontact Mrs.
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS; REGISTRATION ACT

Synopsis: Additional relatives of Prisoners of War (POW's) in North Vietnam contacted. Mrs. [redacted], wife of a POW, advised COLIFAM forwarded her first letter and additional letters from her husband.

DETAILS:

On July 17, 1970, the Baltimore Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation contacted Mrs. [redacted], wife of [redacted] who has been listed as missing in action (MIA) in North Vietnam since August, 1966. She advised that she attended the meeting at the home of Mrs. [redacted] in March, 1970, at [redacted], Virginia, at which time she met Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ affiliated with COLIFAM, and furnished him a card which contained her husband's name as well as her own name and address. She stated she had not received any correspondence from COLIFAM and did not intend to write COLIFAM for assistance in determining whether her husband was being held as a POW. She claimed she had taken notes at the meeting mentioned above, but her notes were at her [redacted] residence. She anticipated returning to [redacted] in August, 1970 and stated she would attempt to locate the notes and review them for any significant statements made by FERNANDEZ concerning his connection with COLIFAM, and, if pertinent, she would contact the FBI.

On September 17, 1970, Mrs. [redacted] was contacted. She stated that she had reviewed her notes, but had found nothing else pertinent to her meeting with FERNANDEZ. She stated that she felt that she could furnish no additional information concerning COLIFAM and advised...
that due to personal hardships in her family, she did not desire to be further contacted at this time.
Virginia, furnished the following information:

She is the wife of a United States Air Force, who was shot down over North Vietnam in 1967. In June, 1967, the Air Force notified her that they had reason to believe that he was a Prisoner of War (POW). His name has not appeared on any list allegedly published by Hanoi.

Every month since he was declared POW, she has regularly directed letters to her husband to a POW camp in Hanoi. She has used the regular postal service.

She received a letter from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM), 365 West 42nd Street, New York, New York, postmarked January 29, 1970. The letter, which was signed by BARBARA WEBSTER, enclosed an Information Sheet which set forth information on the formation of COLIFAM.

She related that she has never seen any representative therefrom.

She stated that she had received an unsolicited letter from ETHEL TAYLOR of the Women's Strike for Peace, a copy of which is attached.

She further related that she had heard from one of the other POW wives that KENNETH KIRKPATRICK of the American Friends Service Committee, was going to Hanoi, so she forwarded a letter to her husband to KIRKPATRICK. In turn, she received a letter from KIRKPATRICK, a copy of which is attached.

She related that she has never testified at any hearing concerning COLIFAM or the POW situation, and she has not traveled overseas in an effort to ascertain...
Information from her husband. She stated that she has never received any mail from him and still hopes that he is alive.

______ stated that if necessary, she would testify as to the above if it were felt that such testimony were needed. She indicated, however, that if COLIFAM were prosecuted, it is entirely possible that this might sever the means of communication between the POWs and their wives.
Dear [Name],

I am sorry that it has taken me so long to write to you but I've been waiting until I could make definite suggestions to you and now I am pleased to say I can.

I regret very much that I did not bring back a letter for you but now an organization has been set up between the Peace Movement and Hanoi specifically for the purpose of forwarding mail and forwarding inquiries regarding prisoners from the immediate family.

The organization is the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam and is located at 365 W. 42nd Street, New York City, N.Y., 10036.

I am a member of this Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any reason.

Cordially,

Edel Taylor
Mrs. William Taylor

1505 Ashford Way
Phila., Pa., 19151
WX 2-9078 (Area Code 215)

P.S. You will shortly receive information directly from the Committee of Liaison with details of its operation.
July 27, 1970

Dear Mrs. [name]

I deeply regret that it was not possible for me to deliver the enclosed as you had requested when I went to Hanoi in June 1970. I was told in Hanoi by Mr. Tran Trong Quat of the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity with the American People that that Committee has compiled a list of 335 American servicemen who it says are held in detention camps in North Vietnam. (See attached list.) This Committee does not have responsibility for the administration of camps of detention in North Vietnam, but is the committee which invited me to visit Hanoi. Mr. Quat would accept from me only those letters which were addressed to persons on the list of 335. This is the same list which was turned over to the Committee of Liaison last April.

Mr. Quat informed me that the North Vietnamese authorities have no information regarding Americans who have been captured in areas outside North Vietnam. In other words, although the name of a person who is believed to have been shot down over Laos, Cambodia, China or South Vietnam does not appear on the North Vietnam list of 335, this does not mean that that person has not survived. It only means that according to the North Vietnamese he is not a person known to them or held by them and that, therefore, cannot deliver letters or packages to him.

Regarding those reportedly shot down over North Vietnam the refusal of Mr. Quat to accept letters for delivery because their names are not on the list of 335 implies, of course, a more somber situation, but I learned nothing more specific than that as to any particular individual.

My recent trip to Southeast Asia took me both to Hanoi and to Saigon. Both in North Vietnam and in South Vietnam, as well as here in the United States, one cannot help but see how this war has brought tragedy and sorrow into the lives of all affected by it, Americans and Vietnamese alike.

Again let me express my sincere regret that I was not able to deliver the enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Kenneth Kirkpatrick
Peace Education Secretary
AFSC
614 N.E. 40th Street
Seattle, Washington 98105
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

9/23/70

Mrs. Virginia, advised that she is the wife of [redacted] who was shot down over North Vietnam and declared a Prisoner of War (POW) on 1967.

She has recently

After her husband bailed out of his aircraft over North Vietnam, the Navy communicated with him while on the ground and it was, therefore, presumed that he was taken POW; however, his name was not officially released as a POW by Hanoi until 1970.

After waiting a couple of months subsequent to May, 1970, she began writing one letter each month to her husband using the regular postal service addressing mail to the Camp of Detention in Hanoi. She had also written letters to her husband which she had given to Reverend FERNANDEZ and STEWART HEACHAM after she had heard they would be traveling to Hanoi.

In April, 1970, the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) forwarded to her the first letter that she actually received from her husband. Since that time, COLIFAM has forwarded to her two more letters from her husband.

She related that when COLIFAM was first formed during the early part of 1970, she telephoned CORA WEISS and told her that she had received no official confirmation of the POW status of her husband from Hanoi. She asked WEISS to attempt to verify his status. WEISS asked if Mrs. [redacted] would write a letter to COLIFAN supplying this information and also enclosing a letter for her husband. Mrs. [redacted] did this.

Virginia File # Norfolk 100-6833

5/17/70

Date dictated 9/21/70

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.
Mrs. [redacted] stated that all she actually wanted was one letter from her husband to confirm the fact that he is a POW. She, of course, enjoys receiving additional mail from him but in no way wants to be responsible to COLIFAM in regard to her husband.

She related that she has not been pressured in any way by representatives of COLIFAM to join their organization or act on behalf of it. She stated that she would do nothing publicly to hamper the chances of other wives getting information concerning their husbands. In this regard, she also stated that she would not be willing to testify in a court of law concerning her dealings with COLIFAM until her husband was actually released and returned home.

She stated that she has never personally met any members of COLIFAM and has not traveled overseas in an effort to learn more information about her husband.

She stated it is her personal opinion that Hanoi is apparently behind the formation of COLIFAM although emphasizing this is speculation. She feels that this is a face-saving device by Hanoi enabling Hanoi to release information about the POWs as opposed to actually giving out such information over the peace conference table in Paris.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that she is reluctant to see the United States Government take action to jeopardize the chances of wives getting mail from or otherwise receiving information about their husbands.

Mrs. [redacted] furnished some recent communications which she stated are of interest and Xeroxed copies of same are attached.
January 18, 1970

Mrs. Cora Weiss
Committee of Liaison
365 West 42nd Street
New York 10036

Dear Mrs. Weiss:

Please request information from Hanoi about my husband, [redacted]. He was shot down on [redacted], 1967, and is listed as a prisoner of war by the United States Government because of information provided by other pilots and search and rescue forces. The Democratic Republic of Vietnam has never acknowledged that he is a prisoner and I have never heard from him.

I am enclosing a letter to my husband which I shall appreciate your forwarding to Hanoi. Thank you for any assistance you can give me.

Sincerely yours,
To: [Redacted] 

Date: 1/22/70

From: [Redacted] 

Subject: Your letter asking for information on the Vietnam War.

Dear [Redacted],

I received a copy of our information sheet which will do the job. We are working with our government as we feel it is our responsibility to do so. The Vietnamese are not the enemies of our country, but rather a people striving for peace. We should do all we can to support them. We are planning to send a letter to the Vietnamese government. We hope you will be able to help us.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]
March 25, 1970

Dear [Redacted]

We have just received word from Hanoi that a letter from [Redacted] has been mailed to you from North Vietnam. His name was included in a list of 50 servicemen just received; this list represents advance notice of 82 letters mailed together in a package due to arrive soon. As soon as it comes, we will forward it to you. Forgive this mimeographed communication, but we wanted you to know as quickly as possible.

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

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

Sincerely yours,

Cora Weiss  Dave Dellinger

Cora Weiss  Dave Dellinger  (212) 765-1641
June 14, 1970

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 Palomden, Nancy Rubin, and Judy Clever -- 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
May 2, 1970

Captain [Redacted]
Prisoner of War Affairs
Bureau of Naval Personnel
Washington, D.C.

Dear Captain Webster:

I am enclosing a letter which I have mailed to Mrs. Cora Weiss. I would like for you to insert this in my husband's record.

Thank you for all your assistance.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Coree Weiss
Committee of Liaison
365 West 42nd Street
New York, N. Y. 10036

May 2, 1970

Dear Mrs. Weiss:

I received the letter from my husband in North Vietnam, and I am grateful to have this confirmation of his capture. Although I believe you are being "used" by Hanoi as a face-saving device to release names and allow flow of mail, this does not bother me because I know the anguish of not having definite knowledge of my husband.

I have been relieved that Reverend Fernandez has not publicized his visit with some prisoners, and I hope that he will not. It is one thing to publicize the release of names and flow of mail. It is quite another thing to publicize forced anti-war statements made by prisoners of war. This is not even believable propaganda and I am sure you will agree that it is an exploitation of helpless men.

I respect your views on the Vietnam War and I do not blame you for attempting to gain support for your backers. However, a prisoner of war is in no position to be "for" or "against" this war and should not be used in this way. If my contacting your committee for information should result in an "interview" with my husband, I shall regret that contact.

I remain grateful for the information about my husband. I do understand your difficult position. I hope you can understand mine.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Dear [Redacted],

I'm sorry for the delay in replying to your thoughtful and concerned letter of May 2nd. It took a while before I was able to get to the Post Office to claim it in person.

I understand your concerns and wish to relieve you at once of any unnecessary anxiety. While I don't share your fear of seeing prisoners, I can assure you that family contact with this Committee results in nothing but what the family requests, e.g., information, mail, suggestions for packages, whatever. Visitors to North Vietnam and visits by prisoners have not "selected" those seen. The Vietnamese decide who should be brought out for those interviews. In the cases of those seen, it is not so much what the men have said which was considered important, but rather how they looked and their apparent state of mind. Such reports have been helpful to families. Over the years nearly 20 men have been seen, aside from those released (9). Four years ago some were found to be thin, though otherwise well. More recently they evidence improved conditions in North Vietnam. With severe wartime shortages eased, more food clothing and medication is clearly available.

In the extent that we have been able to put families in touch with prisoners, and to the extent that contacts including improved and varied gifts allowed, has improved the lot of the prisoner, we are really very pleased to play this role. It has not always been pleasant. As a wife and mother I easily sympathize with families who suffer from separation or lack of knowledge. Having visited North Vietnam, I also sympathize with the many women I met there who may know for years if their sons or husbands will return. I will more than anything that everyone may be reunited. That is why I continue to organize women here to bring an end to the war.

Of course the men are helpless. They do talk and feel, and I'm sure everyone is grateful that they're alive. They are among the victims of this war. Much of their interest is often discounted. But the greater tragedy is the propaganda from the Far East which tries to sell support for the war by spreading campaigns of hatred towards the o
I don’t want to impose myself and go on at length, on the other hand I don’t want you to feel that you haven’t been fully answered. You might be interested to know that we just received a request from a wife asking that a member of our next delegation to Hanoi specifically ask to see her husband as he has not been seen for two years. He apparently has had some medical history and she thought our asking for him might give some special attention or at least bring out a report on his condition. However, that is just an individual instance.

I do hope you will feel free to continue this discussion, or any other, and I do apologise for the inordinate delay in reply.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Cora Weiss
Virginia, advised that his son, is a Prisoner of War (POW) in North Vietnam, according to the United States Air Force. He stated he and his wife were first notified he was missing in action since October, 1967, and eight months later, they were notified by the Air Force their son is a POW in North Vietnam.

Mr. [redacted] advised they have had no dealings with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). He said no representative of COLIFAM has contacted them and they have received no correspondence from that organization.

Mr. [redacted] advised they have not received any mail from their son since October, 1967. He said they have not forwarded any mail to him or received any mail from him via COLIFAM.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Mr. [Redacted], Virginia, was contacted and furnished the following information:

He related that his son is [Redacted], U.S. Air Force, who was shot down over North Vietnam and declared a prisoner of war (POW) on [Redacted] 1967.

His son is married to [Redacted].

He stated that he and his son's mother have never received any correspondence directly from [Redacted].

He stated that his son has been sending letters to his wife, [Redacted], to the parents' address with a "forward" designation on the envelope.

She received the first letter from [Redacted] in April, 1970, and has since received two more. She has forwarded them on to the parents.

Mr. [Redacted] stated he has had no correspondence from or other dealings with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) although he is aware of the fact COLIFAM has been instrumental in forwarding letters of POWs to their wives.

He stated that all of the mail which was forwarded from [Redacted] is sent by Mr. and Mrs. [Redacted] to the Air Force at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

He stated that he and his wife have not traveled outside the United States in an effort to learn any information about their son.

On 10/7/70 [Redacted], Virginia File: Norfolk 100-6933

Date dictated 10/8/70
Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)
FROM: SAC, LAS VEGAS (100-365) (ER) 1
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM
(COLIFAM)
18-MISC.
REGISTRATION ACT

DATE: 10/29/70

Re: San Antonio letter to Bureau, dated 8/27/70; Bureau letter to Albany, dated 10/12/70.

Referenced San Antonio communication reflects five wives of POW's or MIA's residing in Nevada; four in Las Vegas and one in Reno.

On 9/30/70, SA contacted Mrs. [redacted], the wife of [redacted], who is a POW. Mrs. [redacted] stated she is in very close contact with the other wives residing in Nevada and none of them have had any contact with captioned group. She indicated, however, that she has had contact with this group.

At the time of the contact, [redacted] stated she was leaving immediately for the State of Mississippi to visit her husband's father who was seriously ill. She stated she expected to return to [redacted] on or about 11/5/70, and would gladly discuss this matter at that time.

Mrs. [redacted] will be recontracted on her return to Las Vegas.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT HERE SHOWN AS SECRET.
REFERENCE: San Antonio letter to Director, 8/27/70; Director letter to all offices, 10/12/70.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS DECLASSIFIED
DATE: 2/22/71

ADMINISTRATIVE

Individuals interviewed in this matter have in some instances spontaneously volunteered information concerning groups that they were familiar with that were presently handling communications with POW's and MIA's. These groups are set out below:

National League of Families of American Prisoners
and Missing in Southeast Asia
1 Constitution Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED

CONVICTED

ACCIDENTAL

PUBLISH

PRESERVED

SAVINGS

RECOVERIES

CASE HAS BEEN:

PENDING OVER ONE YEAR

PENDING PROSECUTION

OVER SIX MONTHS

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

[Redacted information]
American Friends Service Committee
314 W. 48th Street
Washington, D.C. 20016

No attempt has been made to secure additional information on these groups.

DENVER

AT COLORADO: If not previously interviewed, locate
stated daughter-in-law, has had contact with COLIFAM and believes she actually spoke
to CORA WEISS by telephone from Chicago, Illinois.

PHOENIX

AT ARIZONA: If not previously interviewed, locate
and interview re daughter-in-law, has advised their daughter-in-
law, had been contacted by COLIFAM and had received
at least one letter from (POW) through COLIFAM.

PORTLAND

Will continue efforts to locate and interview the
below-listed individuals whose names received in San Antonio
Letter to Director, 2/27/70:

AT OREGON:

(wife) MIA
Mr. and Mrs. (parents)
Mr. and Mrs. (parents) MIA

COVER PAGE
AT OREGON: Mr. and Mrs. [name] (MIA)

AT OREGON: Mrs. [name] (wife) (MIA)

AT OREGON: Mrs. [name] (mother) (PW)

AT OREGON: Mr. and Mrs. [name] (parents) (PW)

AT OREGON: Mr. and Mrs. [name] (parents) (MIA)

AT OREGON: Mr. [name] (father) (PW)

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

Chairman

INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS REGISTRATION ACT

Synopsus

Mrs., [Name redacted], wife of [Name redacted], Oregon, contacted by COLIFAM by letter dated 4/7/70 and has letters forwarded to her from her husband through COLIFAM. Mrs. [Name redacted] will cooperate and testify and has made available original correspondence she received from COLIFAM. All additional interviews conducted in Portland to date with relatives of MIA's or POW's negative as to their having been contacted by COLIFAM.

DETAILS:

This document contains critical source material and is the property of the FBI. It is provided for your agency's use and distribution only. It is not to be distributed outside your agency.

[Signature]

[Date]

[Stamp: Confidential]

[Stamp: 100-11708]

[Stamp: 100-487899]
Mrs. [redacted], wife of [redacted], was interviewed at her home on October 14, 1970, and she furnished the following information:

She stated she had been contacted by the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in Vietnam (COLIFAM), by letter only, and this is how she in fact found out her husband was a prisoner of war and not merely missing in action.

The letter informing her of this was a form letter dated April 7, 1970, bearing the letterhead of the COLIFAM, 385 West 42nd Street, New York, New York, 10036. This letter merely informed her that her husband's name appeared on a list furnished by the North Vietnamese indicating he was a prisoner of war. This letter was signed by CORAMER and DAVE DELLINGER, and enclosed mimeographed "information sheet" indicating the functions of the committee, the background of the committee, and the membership of the committee.

The next letter she received from the committee was written May 13, 1970, and was addressed "Dear Friend." This letter indicated that the committee had received a packet of letters mailed by prisoners of war, and that the committee was forwarding her letter to her. This letter was signed BARBARA WEBSTER.

The third letter Mrs. [redacted] received was dated May 15, 1970, and indicated that any future correspondence.
would be directed to Oregon, the previous letters having been sent to Mrs. previous address. This letter was signed BARBARA WEBSTER.

The fourth and last letter received by Mrs. was dated September 18, 1970, and it too indicated that the committee was forwarding another letter from husband. This letter was signed by CORA MISS.

Mrs. provided the original letters, which were retained.

Mrs. stated that she has had no contact with the committee other than the above mentioned letters, and her only letters from her husband have been forwarded to her by the committee, or have been placed within committee envelopes and postmarked New York, New York. She has never corresponded with the committee herself, nor does she know the identity of any other prisoner of war families who have.

Mrs. advised that she is willing to cooperate with the FBI and testify in this matter at a later date if she can be assured that it will in no way compromise the safety of her husband.
Mrs. Oregon was interviewed and furnished the following information:

Mrs. advised she might have received a form letter from COLIFAM sometime in the past, but otherwise had no contact with them.

Mrs. advised, however, that her daughter-in-law, Arizona, had some contact with COLIFAM.

She advised she had received one letter from (prisoner of war) to her daughter-in-law and there may have been several other letters handled through COLIFAM.

Mrs. advised her-daughter-in-law could furnish the details and, she was sure, would willingly cooperate in any way.

She advised she had not seen any newspaper article regarding her receiving a letter from her son, but believed any statement to that effect must be based on letters received by her daughter-in-law.
Mrs. [redacted] advised that she has never been directly contacted by the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIPAM). Her only contact with any group concerned with imprisoned servicemen has been with the National League of Families or Prisoners of War and Missing in Action, whose offices are at One Constitution Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C.

Mrs. [redacted] stated she has never received correspondence directly from her son inasmuch as he has written to his father, then at Texas, thereafter makes a Xerox copy of the correspondence and sends it to Mrs. [redacted] at Tigard. Mrs. [redacted] is of the opinion that no organization is even aware that she is the mother of a prisoner of war except for the National League of Families.

Mrs. [redacted] stated her daughter-in-law, [redacted], Colorado, telephone has been in contact with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, and Mrs. [redacted] is of the opinion that she has actually spoken by telephone with CORA VETS in Chicago, Illinois.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that in all, she has received Xerox copies of 10 letters from her son since April of 1968, and she has successfully been able to send to him Christmas gifts in 1968 and 1969, all of which were mailed through.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that she knew of other families of prisoners of war in the area, but did not know whether
any of them had been contacted by COLIFAM, nor the circumstances surrounding such contact if any.

Mrs. indicated that should she be contacted by this organization, she would be amenable to furnishing any and all information to the FBI.

Mrs. advised that her ex-husband had been contacted by the American Friends Service Committee, and she provided Xerox copies of correspondence directed to her daughter-in-law at Texas, from that organization. These Xerox copies were retained.
Mrs. [redacted], Oregon, was interviewed and furnished the following information:

Mrs. [redacted] advised she had never had any contact with COLEMAN.

She stated it is a group with the membership confined to members of military and civilian prisoners of war or persons missing in action. She advised it is based on a prior organization founded in late 1965 by Mrs. [redacted], California; wife of U.S. Navy, a prisoner of war since 1965.

She named the following officers: National Coordinator – Mrs. IRIS R. POTTES, Lutz, Florida; Assistant Coordinator – Mrs. JOAN E. VINSON, Alexandria, Virginia; Secretary-Treasurer – Mrs. BERNARD F. TALLEY, SR., Baltimore, Maryland. All officers are volunteers.

She advised it is a non-political group which works for public awareness through posters, booths at fairs and similar activities.

She furnished the following list of official objectives:

1. Secure humane treatment of prisoners of war as outlined in the Geneva Conventions and recognized by general humanitarian standards.

2. Stimulate continuing world concern about the fate of the men and plight of their families.

10/1/70 - Oregon

Date dictated: 10/3/70

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is issued to your agency. It will be returned on its return to your agency.
3. Improve dissemination of information concerning the prisoner of war - missing in action program not only to the press and to families of the captured and missing men, but to agencies of the Government. [Handwritten: advised she would cooperate in any way possible.]
Mrs. [redacted] of Oregon advised she had never been contacted by COLIFAM representatives and knew nothing about the group. She stated she was in continuous close contact with her husband's parents and was certain they had not had any contact with COLIFAM either.

Mrs. [redacted] advised she wished to cooperate in any way possible. She stated if any attempt to contact either her or her husband's parents is made, she would obtain as much information as possible and immediately notify the FBI.
Oregon, advised he had never been contacted by THUMS representatives and knew nothing about the group. He advised his name must have been referred to the FBI through some mistake. He advised if he were contacted, he would notify the FBI.
Mrs. [Redacted], of Oregon, was advised of the identity of the interviewing agent and the purpose of the interview. She thereafter furnished the following information:

Mrs. [Redacted] states that her son by her former marriage is [Redacted] in the U.S. Air Force. In 1967, he joined the U.S. Air Force. He went through pilot training and was subsequently assigned to Vietnam. During the Fall of 1969, Mrs. [Redacted] was notified by the U.S. Air Force that her son's plane had been shot down over North Vietnam. She was advised by the Air Force that her son's plane crashed and burned and it was questionable as to whether or not he had escaped from the aircraft before it crashed.

Mrs. [Redacted] has never been officially notified as to whether or not her son is a Prisoner of War in North Vietnam. Every two months she receives a written report from the Air Force concerning efforts being made to ascertain whether or not her son is a Prisoner of War. Since Mrs. [Redacted] son was reported missing, she has never received any communications of any kind from her son. Mrs. [Redacted] advised her son's Air Force pay continues, even though it has not verified he is a Prisoner of War.

Mrs. [Redacted] advised that she has never heard of the Committee of Concern With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, also known as COLFAM. She stated that no one, other than Air Force personnel, has been in contact with her concerning her son's current status and no one has ever contacted her concerning the possibility of delivering a letter from her son. Mrs. [Redacted] advised she does not know of any other families who have sons who are Prisoners of War who have been contacted by the above organization. Mrs. [Redacted] advised that should she be contacted by such an organization, she would notify the FBI.
Oregon, advised she has not been contacted by Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAN), its individual members, or any other group regarding her husband, missing in action. Mrs. was advised the interview was at the request of J. Warrick REAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General. She stated in the event she is contacted by COLIFAN or any other group she will cooperate completely with the FBI.
Mr. [redacted], advised that he is the father of [redacted]. He advised he has not been contacted by the Committee on Assistance to Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, or by any one of its individual members, concerning his son. He further advised that no one has brought any mail or personal objects to him from his son. He also stated that he knows of no other prisoner of war families who have been approached by this committee.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

October 13, 1970

Mrs. [Redacted], Oregon, was interviewed at her place of employment, Milwaukie.

She advised she has had no contact from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, nor any of its individual members. She also stated no one has brought mail or other personal objects back to her from her son, [Redacted].

Date dictated 10/12/70

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is issued to your agency. It and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.
Mrs. [redacted] was interviewed at her home, and she furnished the following information:

She stated that she has never been contacted by any other organization other than the National League of Prisoners of War and Missing in Action, nor has she received any correspondence from an organization unknown to her as the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam.

She advised she has never heard from her husband, she has been listed as missing in action since 1968.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that she only knows one other individual in the area whose husband is also missing in action, this being [redacted]. She stated she did not know address, only her phone number, which is [redacted]. As to whether or not she had ever been contacted by the committee, she stated she did not know, but doubted whether she had. She stated she had just moved to this area from North Carolina, and had not had time to become established in the area as yet.
Mrs., the wife of , who has been reported as missing in action, was interviewed at her residence, and advised that she has not been contacted by the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. She further advised that no one has brought mail or personal objects to her or have any been delivered. She further stated she knew of no other prisoner of war families who may have been approached by this committee.

Date: September 14, 1970

9/2/70  Oregon  File #: FD 100-11409

By  Date dictated: 9/11/70

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is reserved to your agency in said its nature not to be distributed outside your agency.
Mrs. [redacted], mother of [redacted], missing in action since 1967, was contacted at her residence, and furnished the following information:

Mrs. [redacted] advised she has never been contacted by any group or organization with the exception of the National League of Families of Prisoners of War and Missing in Action, and is not aware of the existence of any other organization concerning itself with the prisoner of war problem. She stated, however, that her daughter-in-law, [redacted], has been contacted by such a group, but if so, she has no knowledge of it.

Mrs. [redacted] was extremely reluctant to furnish any information regarding her son's status or any other information inasmuch as she stated she feared for her son's safety if he is still alive, and in fact a prisoner of war.

She stated she did not know the identities of any other prisoner of war families in the area.
Mrs.

being advised of the identity of the interviewing agent and the purpose of the interview, voluntarily furnished the following information concerning her association with groups formed to obtain and coordinate information concerning missing servicemen in Vietnam:

is the mother of , who has been missing in action since 1967. Mrs. stated that she has received some correspondence from the U.S. Air Force regarding her son and has received a couple of calls from a Mrs. who resides in Oregon, about different groups formed consisting of families or close relatives of missing servicemen. Mrs. stated she has not participated in any organized activity with other families who have missing servicemen; however, she stated she believes her daughter-in-law, who resides at Oregon, has been somewhat active with the group headed by Mrs. Mrs. stated she does not know what organization nationally, if any, Mrs. is associated with, but believes it is an organization to disseminate information about conditions in the Prisoner of War camps in North Vietnam and also what the families of missing servicemen might do in an attempt to find out information about the missing Prisoners of War or men who are missing in action.

Mrs. stated she is in poor health and does not wish to travel or become further involved in this matter.

On 10/2/70.

Oregon

Re: PD 100-11709

Date: 10/2/70

This document contains sensitive information and is the property of the FBI and is intended for use by the following individuals only: {redacted}.

All other uses are prohibited.
Mr. [REDACTED], Oregon, was advised of the identity of the interviewing
Agent and the purpose of the interview. Mr. [REDACTED] thereafter
furnished the following information:

Mr. [REDACTED] is the father of [REDACTED], a United States
Air Force, whose plane was shot down over North Vietnam
during [REDACTED], 1969. Mr. [REDACTED] advised he was notified
by U.S. Air Force officials during [REDACTED], 1969, that
his son's aircraft had been shot down and that the aircraft
had burst into flame upon hitting the ground. He advised
that the U.S. Air Force has never been able to advise him
positively whether or not his son managed to escape from
the damaged aircraft. Mr. [REDACTED] advised he does not know
whether his son is presently a prisoner of war in North Vietnam
or whether he was killed in the plane crash.

Mr. [REDACTED] advised he has never heard of an organiza-
tion entitled "Committee of Liaison with Families of Service-
men Detained in North Vietnam." He advised he has never
received a letter or communication of any kind from his
son since his son was shot down in February, 1969. He
advised he has never been contacted by any individual or
organization concerning his son other than the U.S. Air
Force, and does not know the identity of other families
in the United States having sons who are prisoners of war
in Vietnam. Mr. [REDACTED] advised that should he be contacted
by the above organization or any other organization or
individual concerning his son, he would immediately contact
the FBI.

9/23/70
Oregon
No. #: FO 100-11709

by: [REDACTED]
Date dictated: 9/25/70

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency;
and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.
Mrs. [redacted] of Oregon, was advised of the identities of the interviewing agents and the purpose of the interview. Mrs. [redacted] then furnished the following information:

Mrs. [redacted] stated that she is the mother of [redacted] who is missing in action in Vietnam.

Mrs. [redacted] continued by saying that she has not been contacted by COLIFAM, and until this time, had never heard of COLIFAM. She did advise, however, that she has been contacted by the "Friends," a Quaker organization, and the address is set out below:

American Friends Service Committee
Mr. KENNETH KILPATRICK
814 NE 46th Street
Washington 98105

Mrs. [redacted] stated that she sent one letter to her son through the Quaker organization, however, has not heard from the Quaker organization that the letter was ever delivered, and for that matter, does not know whether her son, who is classified missing in action, is indeed alive.

Mrs. [redacted] then stated that she has been in telephone contact with a sergeant at McChord Air Force Base who had advised her that the Quaker group was a legitimate operation and that she may feel free to correspond through them. Mrs. [redacted] stated that she was originally contacted by the Quaker group through a telephone call and then subsequently received information through the mail as to their activities.

Mrs. [redacted] made available the following address of her son's wife, [redacted] who is presently living at [redacted].
Mrs. [redacted] assured that she was most anxious to cooperate with the FBI in this matter and stated should she be contacted by individuals representing themselves as COLIFAM she would in turn immediately contact the Portland Office of the FBI.
Mr. and Mrs. furnished the following information:

They have not been contacted by any group such as the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM).

Mr. stated he was retired from the military and he would be happy to cooperate with the FBI should he be contacted by COLIFAM. Mrs. also stated she would cooperate fully.

Both stated they would keep this interview confidential and would not even discuss the matter with their missing son's wife. Both stated they would immediately contact the FBI should COLIFAM contact them.
Mr. Oregon, advised he is the step-father of who has been missing in action in Vietnam since 1967. He has heard nothing to indicate whether or not his step-son is alive or dead.

Prior to instant contact by the FBI, he has been contacted by no one concerning his step-son. He has never heard of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, or of COLPAHL. He has not been contacted by, or even heard of any of the following:

DAVID DELLINGER, COPA WEISS, BERNIE DAVIS, REV. RICHARD FERNÁNDEZ, L'AGGIE GRODTS, STEVE FALIWMELL, STEWART MACCHI, BARBRA WEBSTER, TRUDI YOUNG, or MRS. ANNE BENNETT.
Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

FROM: SAC. JACKSON (100-1595) (P)

DATE: 10/13/70

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

Re San Antonio letter to Director, FBI, dated 8/27/70. Enclosed for the Bureau, Los Angeles, and New York are copies of an LRM setting forth the contents of a letter received by Mrs. _, mother of a prisoner of war, United States Air Force. In interview with Bureau Agents at Natchez, Mississippi, Mrs. _ advised that this letter was received from her daughter-in-law, who may be using the services of COLIFAM to correspond with her husband.

LEAD

LOS ANGELES DIVISION

AN

CALIFORNIA

Interview Mrs. _, regarding her knowledge of COLIFAM and its activities.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 2) (RM)
2 - New York (100-166469) (Enc. 2) (RM)
2 - Los Angeles (Enc. 2) (RM)
2 - Jackson

OCT 1970
Mrs. Mississippi, who advised in interview with Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on October 5, 1970, that she is the mother of prisoner of war [redacted], made available to the interviewing Agents the following letter received by her from her son's wife,
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 for forwarding please enclose but do not affix stamps as we send them 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: Capt. Robert Schweitzer of Lemoore, California, Capt. 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.
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.
TO SAC NEW YORK (100-168469)
FROM DIRECTOR FBI (100-457899)

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM), INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS; REGISTRATION ACT.

REPRESENTATIVE OF U.S. AIR FORCE HAS ADVISED COLIFAM HAS DIRECTED LETTERS TO NEXT OF KIN OF PRISONERS OF WAR (POW) ADVISING THEM THAT A DELEGATION OF LAWYERS IS LEAVING FOR VIETNAM IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THOSE FAMILIES WISHING TO CORRESPOND WITH THEIR POW RELATIVES WERE INSTRUCTED TO FORWARD SUCH LETTERS TO COLIFAM TO REACH NEW YORK CITY BY NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER SEVEN NEXT. IT IS ASSUMED THE DELEGATION OF LAWYERS WILL DEPART SHORTLY THEREAFTER.

INITIATE INQUIRY TO DETERMINE THE IDENTITIES OF THE ABOVE-NAMED ATTORNEYS AND THEIR TRAVEL PLANS. IN ALL PROBABILITY, THEY HAVE ANOTHER REASON FOR THIS TRAVEL WHICH SHOULD ALSO BE ASCERTAINED. INTEL RESULTS IN FORM SUITABLE FOR DISSEMINATION INCLUDING BACKGROUND AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA IN ORDER THAT OTHER INTERESTED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES MAY BE ADVISED.

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO
NOTE:

The above information was received from OSI, by MA [redacted]. We have been conducting Registration Act Investigation of COLIPAM which was formed in January, 1970, by U.S. antiwar leaders. This organization has served as a propaganda ploy for the North Vietnamese. Above instructions necessary to ascertain identities of individuals traveling to North Vietnam.
Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☐ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

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☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

☐ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

☐ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☐ For your information:

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

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FBI/DOJ
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)
FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (100-12042) (P)
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)
IS - MISCELLANEOUS REGISTRATION ACT
OO: New York
Re New York airtel, 7/14/70, to Bureau.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are 8 copies of an LHM on captioned matter reflecting results of interviews with Mrs. [redacted] in Illinois.

Enclosed herewith for the New York Office are two copies of this LHM.

Approved by Special Agent in Charge

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1970 O - 346-000 (111)
On August 24, 1970, Illinois, advised that his son, United States Navy, has been missing in action since his plane crashed in North Vietnam on 1967.

advised that he has not been contacted in any way by any member of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in Vietnam (COLIFAM). stated that his wife, had made a trip to Southeast Asia in March, 1970, to attempt to learn something of their son's whereabouts and if he were known to be dead or alive. stated that at that time had contacted a Reverend Richard Fernandez, who is a member of COLIFAM.

advised that neither he nor his wife have been harassed by COLIFAM and that they have not received any mail or personal objects from COLIFAM.

On August 31, 1970, Mrs. Illinois, advised that she is the mother of United States Navy, who has been missing in action since his plane disappeared over North Vietnam on 1967.

advised that on 1970, she left Los Angeles, California and traveled to Southeast Asia in an attempt to learn something concerning her son's
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH
FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN
DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM
(COLIFAM)

whereabouts with several other individuals who also have
relatives missing in action or who are prisoners of war
in Southeast Asia.

Mrs. [REDACTED] traveled in Southeast Asia and
several countries in that area attempting to obtain
information concerning her son. Her travels took her
to Hong Kong and Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Saigon, South
Vietnam and then to Vientiane, Laos on [REDACTED] 1970.

On [REDACTED] 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] accompanied by
Laos, visited the North
Vietnamese Embassy in that town during the morning and
requested an appointment. She was granted an appointment
at 2:00 PM on that date and she returned to the North
Vietnamese Embassy again accompanied by [REDACTED].
At the North Vietnamese Embassy she met a Phan Tam and
advised Phan Tam that she was an American mother acting
on her behalf and was not sponsored by any group, and
that the sole purpose of her visit was to seek information
concerning her son.

Mr. [REDACTED] was advised by Phan Tam who apparently
was the First Secretary of the North Vietnamese Embassy
that she would have to obtain information concerning her
son through the Committee of Liaison with Families
of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM), and
she met Reverend Richard Fernandez in Vientiane at the
hotel where she was staying. She knew that Fernandez
was associated with COLIFAM. She met Reverend Fernandez
and requested that Fernandez on his next trip to North
Vietnam attempt to learn whether her son was being held
as a prisoner of war. Fernandez stated that he would
determine if her son was being held as a prisoner of war.
She advised that Fernandez did not have any problem getting
into North Vietnam and he entered and left the North
Vietnamese Embassy in Vientiane, Laos at will. She stated
that he then left Vientiane, Laos on an airplane for North
Vietnam on the following Friday, and then returned one week
later which would be Friday, April 17, 1970. At that time Fernandez told her that her son was not being held a prisoner in North Vietnam. Fernandez told Mrs. [redacted] that he had visited prison camps in the area of Hanoi and talked to a few prisoners. Fernandez would not furnish much information to Mrs. [redacted] concerning his trip to North Vietnam and would not furnished information concerning individuals he had contacted in North Vietnam.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that shortly thereafter her daughter-in-law received information apparently from COLIFAM that she, Mrs. [redacted] had left Laos before Mrs. [redacted] had been given information concerning her son not being held a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. Mrs. [redacted] stated that this was incorrect and then she sent a telegram to Cora Weiss of COLIFAM stating that Mrs. [redacted] had stayed in Laos until the return of Fernandez from North Vietnam and that Fernandez had told her that he, Fernandez, had no information concerning her son.

She advised that this was the only contact she has had with COLIFAM. Mrs. [redacted] stated that she has not received any letters or mail from COLIFAM and that she has not been harassed or cajoled by COLIFAM.

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.
MEMORANDUM

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-10457992)
FROM: SAC, OMAHA (100-1045801) (WDC)
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF PERSONNEL DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)
ISS - MISC; REGISTRATION ACT
CO: New York

DATE: 10/30/70

Re Minneapolis letter to Bureau, 10/8/70; Omaha letter to Bureau, 9/3/70.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eleven copies of an IWM dated and captioned as above. Enclosed for New York are three copies of the IWM.

In regard to the interview of...

...there are no details to the testimony concerning this committee because they have considered it new.

Inasmuch as a representative number of relatives of POWs have already been contacted in the Omaha Division, New York is requested to advise Omaha if it is desirable and necessary that all relatives of POWs as set out in San Antonio letter to the Bureau 8/27/70, also be contacted.
Mrs. Iowa, advised her husband is a Navy flier and has been a captive in North Vietnam about three and one-half years.

The letter from her husband did arrive a few days before Christmas, and was mailed at San Francisco or a last home city.

This is the first contact she had with the Committee of Liaison. Enclosed with her husband's letter was a circular that may have been signed by CORREKISS. It explained the Committee had been in Hanoi and brought back her husband's letter.

Mrs. [redacted] has received two more letters from her husband through this Committee. One letter arrived about April 21, 1970, and the third letter arrived September 18, 1970. The last two letters were mailed from New York City. Each letter was accompanied by a letter or circular from this Committee, and she recalls the names of MADELINE/BUCKLES appeared on one of the documents.

Mrs. [redacted] explained the first letter she received from her husband was like a bolt out of the clear blue sky and it was the first word she received concerning him since he was captured.

Mrs. [redacted] has received only the three letters from the Committee. She has not been contacted by them in any form except to receive her husband's letters. She has not been asked to contribute anything.

Mrs. [redacted] said it is only natural that she has a warm spot in her heart for the Committee as this is the only
manner in which she knows to have contact with her husband.

Mrs. [redacted] is not acquainted with other persons who may have received similar letters.

She located three letters or circulars she received from the Committee and copies have been made. One is signed by MAGGIE TEDDIES and another by CORA WEISS.
Committee of Liaison With
Families of Servicemen Detained
in North Vietnam (COLIFAM)

On October 20, 1970, Mrs. [Name] of Nebraska, was interviewed regarding the above captioned organization, the results of which are as follows:
Mrs. ______ advised she was being interviewed concerning
the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained
in North Vietnam (COLIFAH) at the direction of J. WALTER
YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General.

Mrs. ______ advised that her husband
has been missing in action as an Air Force pilot
for four years and she does not know if he is a prisoner
of war. Mrs. ______ stated she has not been contacted by
any means from COLIFAH but that she has heard about the
organization from the United States Air Force Casualty
Division, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

Mrs. ______ stated that since she does not
know if her husband is a prisoner she has been considering
possibly contacting COLIFAH herself in an effort to develop
information about her husband. She stated she has not
decided as yet whether to contact them or not.
Committee of Liaison With
Families of Servicemen Detained
in North Vietnam (COLIFAM)

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.
Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)  
DATE: 11/4/70

FROM: SAC, KNOXVILLE (100-4101)  

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIASON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)  
18 - MISCELLANEOUS REGISTRATION ACT  
(00: NEW YORK)

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

Enclosed for the Bureau and New York is one copy of FD-302 reflecting interview with Mrs. [redacted] on 10/27/70 at [redacted] Tennessee.

The original of the above FD-302 is being maintained in Knoxville File 100-4162.

Also made available a newspaper article entitled "Knoxvillian Missing in Vietnam." [redacted] said this article was in a Knoxville newspaper, however, she does not remember which one or the date in which it appeared.

Also made available another newspaper article with her son's picture as well as a short paragraph containing a message from him.

Xerographed copies of the above newspaper articles are maintained in Knoxville File 100-4162.

[Signature]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
Mrs. was interviewed at her residence, Tennessee. At the outset of the interview Mrs. was advised that this interview was taking place at the direction of J. Walter Teague, Assistant Attorney General of the United States. Mrs. stated that her son, was listed as Missing in Action on January 1967, when he was shot down over Vietnam. Mrs. stated in August of 1969 his wife received a letter notifying her that was a prisoner of war. Mrs. stated that they had received a letter approximately every two or three months since then from however, they had not received a letter since August of 1970. Mrs. was asked if any representatives of the "Committee Of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained In North Vietnam" (COLIPAM) had contacted her. Mrs. stated she had been contacted by no one from this group and as far as she knows, her daughter-in-law has not been contacted by this group. Mrs. made available two newspaper articles, one of them having her son's picture, and stated that her son was shot down over Khe Sanh on February 16, 1967, and was currently a prisoner of war. This article appeared in the Shelby County newspaper on March 1970. Another article made available was entitled "克斯-维米恩 联盟在越南". Mrs. did not recall when this article appeared in the paper, however, she did say it was shortly after he was shot down.

Mrs. provided her daughter-in-law's address and name as follows:

North Carolina

Mrs. stated she was willing to cooperate with the FBI in any manner she could.
Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

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

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIASON WITH FAMILIES
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH
VIETNAM (COLIFAN)
18 - MISCELLANEOUS
REGISTRATION ACT
(CO: NEW YORK)

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

Enclosed for the Bureau and New York is one copy
of FD-302 reflecting interview of Mrs. [blacked out]
on 10/20/70 at Knoxville, Tennessee.

The original copy of the FD-302 is being maintained
in Knoxville File 100-4155.

Mrs. [blacked out] also made available an article which
appeared in one of Knoxville's newspapers which was entitled
"Knoxvillian's Son Listed As POW." This article appeared during
September of 1970. [blacked out] stated she could not be

Xerographed copy of the above newspaper article being
maintained in Knoxville File 100-4155.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Mrs. [Redacted] was interviewed at her place of employment, at which time Mrs. [Redacted] was advised that this interview was taking place at the direction of J. WALTER YEMLEY, Assistant Attorney General of the United States.

Mrs. [Redacted] stated that her son, [Redacted], was listed as missing in action as of 1967. Mrs. [Redacted] stated that he had been shot down while he was on a mission over Laos.

In August of 1967, Mrs. [Redacted] said that she received a telephone call from an individual who said that he had been shot down and he was calling to advise her that her son was alive and was a prisoner of war.

Mrs. [Redacted] was asked if any representative of the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) had contacted her. Mrs. [Redacted] said that she had been contacted by no one other than officials of the United States Armed Forces.

Mrs. [Redacted] made available an article which appeared in one of the Knoxville newspapers of which is entitled "Knoxvillian's Son Is Listed As POW." Mrs. [Redacted] stated she does not remember the exact date this article appeared; however, it was either in 1969 or 1970.

Mrs. [Redacted] stated she would be willing to testify in Federal Court at a later date if needed.

10/20/70

Tennessee

KK 100-4155

10/23/70

Date

This document contains neither recommendations nor restrictions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is returned to your agency.

US and its contents are not to be disseminated outside your agency.
Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

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

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

DATE: 11/3/70

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

Enclosed for the Bureau and New York is one copy of FD-302 reflecting interview with Mr. [redacted] on 10/19/70 at Knoxville, Tennessee.

The original of the above FD-302 is being maintained in Knoxville File 100-4159.

Mr. [redacted] advised he would cooperate with the FBI in any manner whatsoever.

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

3 - Bureau (Enc. 1)
2 - New York (Enc. 1)
1 - Knoxville (2 - 100-4101)
(1 - 100-4159) (dc)
Mr. [Redacted] was advised that he was being interviewed at the direction of J. WALTER YOUNGLEY, Assistant Attorney General of the United States.

Mr. [Redacted] advised that his son is currently in the United States Army and that he has been listed as missing in action since 1967.

Mr. [Redacted] advised that two Army men came to his residence at approximately the above date and notified him of his son's status.

Mr. [Redacted] said that he has not been contacted by anyone other than members of the United States Army, and that he has taken two trips one to Nashville and another to Memphis, Tennessee, in an attempt to see if he could identify any prisoners of war as being his son.

Mr. [Redacted] was asked specifically if any member of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAN) has contacted him. Mr. [Redacted] said that no one except representatives of the Army have been in touch with him.

10/70  Tennessee  [Redacted]  10/22/70

[Security Information Contained: All Information Designated Sensitive to Be Declassified Except Using Sensitive Data]

Date disclosed  10/22/70
Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

FROM: SRC. KNOXVILLE (100-4101) (P)

DATE: 11/3/70

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAN) 13. MISCELLANEOUS REGISTRATION ACT (CO: NEW YORK)

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

Enclosed for the Bureau and New York is one copy of an FD-302 reflecting an interview with Mrs. [REDACTED] on 10/20/70 at Knoxville, Tennessee.

The original of FD-302 is being maintained in Knoxville file 100-4161.

Also made available a photograph which appeared in the Knoxville News-Sentinel and an accompanying article. This article appeared in the 1970 issue.

A xeroxed copy of the above picture and newspaper article are also maintained in Knoxville file 100-4161.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

10/28/70

Mrs. [redacted] was located at her place of employment [redacted] and was told that she was being interviewed at the direction of J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General of the United States.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that her husband [redacted] had been listed as missing in action since 1966.

Mrs. [redacted] was the only people who have been in contact with her have been officials from the United States Air Force. She was specifically asked if any member of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAN) had been in contact with her. She stated that no one other than the officials of the Air Force have contacted her.

Mrs. [redacted] did say that a reporter from the Knoxville News-Sentinel contacted her sometime during the last part of August or first week of September and stated that he would like to write an article on her and her family.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that she told him that she was not sure she could give him any information and that she would like to contact the Air Force before talking with him.

Mrs. [redacted] said that the reporter said he just wanted a few details which she gave to him.

On 10/29/70, an article appeared in the Knoxville News-Sentinel accompanied by a picture of [redacted].

Mrs. [redacted] stated that she was upset in that many things which appeared in the article were things she did not say to the reporter.
made available the photograph and the news story which appeared in the News-Sentinel. She also stated that she would be willing to cooperate if her testimony would be needed at a later date.
Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457889)  
DATE: 11/6/70

FROM: SAC, HONOLULU (100-8781) (NIG)

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLUMAN)

The interview of Mrs. [redacted], who was conducted by the Honolulu Office in this matter, was politely terminated when it became apparent that Mrs. [redacted] was highly emotional and extremely critical of the U.S. Government for not doing more in endeavoring to locate her son.

No further investigation remains to be conducted by the Honolulu Office in this matter.

For information of Bureau and New York: JOHN S. McCAIN, III, a Lt. Cdr. in the U.S. Navy, the son of Admiral and Mrs. JOHN S. McCAIN, Commander in Chief Pacific (CINC PAC), is a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. Since McCain’s name has not been set out, no contact has been made with his family and none is contemplated.
On September 28, 1970, Mrs. [redacted], who has been reported as a prisoner of war (POW) in the Vietnam conflict, advised that she learned of COLIFAM through a publication circulated by the U.S. Air Force (USAF) and that she, date not recalled, corresponded to COLIFAM asking if they could furnish her any information concerning the health and whereabouts of her son. Mrs. [redacted] advised that shortly after she sent this letter to COLIFAM she received a communication from this organization advising her that it would make inquiries concerning her son. Mrs. [redacted] said she did not know the identities of the individuals who were associated with COLIFAM, but she admired and respected them because they were the only organization which took any direct action in endeavoring to locate her son. Mrs. [redacted] was highly critical of the activities of the U.S. Government in this behalf and made numerous statements to the effect that the U.S. Government has done nothing to appease her anxiety as to the health and welfare of her son. Mrs. [redacted] did admit, however, that the USAF has been in continuous contact with her and reporting efforts on their part to locate her son.

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.
RE: COLIFAM

On September 28, 1970, Mrs. [redacted] of Hawaii learned of COLIFAM through Mrs. [redacted], who apparently read in newspapers that Mrs. [redacted] was the wife of a serviceman who was missing in action. Mrs. [redacted] telephonically contacted her and informed her of COLIFAM. Mrs. [redacted] advised that shortly after her conversation with Mrs. [redacted], which was sometime during early 1970, she directed a letter to COLIFAM, New York City, New York, advising them that her husband was missing in action and requesting any assistance they may be in a position to offer her. Mrs. [redacted] advised that shortly after she received the following letter from COLIFAM with the attached information set forth: [Text obscured by redaction]
March 16, 1970

Dear Mrs. [Redacted]

We received your letter last week asking that we seek information about your husband, and we have cabled Hanoi with an inquiry.

Word may not come for a while, but we will be in touch with you whenever it arrives. As the enclosed Information Sheet explains, the Vietnamese have said that they will respond to requests such as the one we have made for you to the extent possible for them. If your husband indeed did not survive his crash, then, it is necessary to understand that they may not have word on him. But, as I said, we will certainly contact you as soon as any news that does come arrives.

We understand how difficult this situation must be for you, and we hope we can be of help in finding out information for you.

Sincerely,

Maggie Goddes
with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam
365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

INFORMATION SHEET

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

Since 1965 there have been a number of meetings between people of Viet Nam (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 personnel 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 an 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 to End the War in Vietnam, The Conspiracy, Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam, U.S. Inter-religious Committee on Peace, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Quakers, 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.
RE: COLIFAM

Mrs. __________ advised that she has had no further correspondence with COLIFAM.

Mrs. __________ advised that the only other time she has contacted any organization or individual concerning the location of her husband was during October, 1969, when she wrote a letter to the Peace Delegates for North Vietnam during the Paris conferences. She said she received no answer to this letter.

Mrs. __________ advised that she has been advised by very close friends who are associated with the military service that she should have no further contact with any organization which proposes that they can assist her in locating her husband. Mrs. __________ advised that she will respect this advice and hereafter she will rely upon information received from the USAF.

On October 22, 1970, Mrs. __________ in Hawaii, advised that she has never contacted COLIFAM and in turn COLIFAM has never contacted her.

Mrs. __________ advised that approximately three months ago she did direct an inquiry to the International War Prisoners Rescue League, Inc., which was located at 1298 Kapiolani Boulevard, Honolulu. Mrs. __________ advised that she never did receive a reply from this organization. Mrs. __________ advised that she learned of the International War Prisoners Rescue League, Inc., through a newspaper clipping which appeared in the "Honolulu Star-Bulletin," a daily Honolulu newspaper. Mrs. __________ advised that it is her understanding that this organization is no longer active.

Mrs. __________ advised that she regretted that she directed an inquiry to the International War Prisoners Rescue League, Inc., because it was contrary to the advice furnished to her by the USAF. Mrs. __________ advised that she never forwarded any financial aid to COLIFAM or to the International War Prisoners Rescue League, Inc.
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)
FROM: SAC, KNOXVILLE (100-4101) (F)
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIPAM)
IS - MISCELLANEOUS REGISTRATION ACT (DO: NEW YORK)

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

Enclosed for the Bureau and New York is one copy each of an FD-302 showing the interview with Mrs. [redacted], Tenn., 11/5/70.

The original of the FD-302 is being maintained in Knoxville file 100-4156.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that she has not been contacted by any person or group other than by a representative of the Air Force. She further advised that she has not received any word concerning her son, who is listed as missing in action. She did advise that should she be contacted by any group such as the captioned group, she will immediately contact the FBI.
November 13, 1970

Mrs. [redacted] advised that she is the mother of [redacted] who has been listed as missing in action. She also advised that she has been in contact with a representative of the U.S. Air Force, and that all of her dealings is with this individual. She advised that she has never been contacted by any group such as the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, nor any similar type group. She further advised that to her knowledge, no member of this group has ever made any attempt to contact her or any member of her family.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that she does not know of any other families in the area that have relatives missing that may have been contacted by this particular group. She advised that should she be contacted by any such committee or organization, she will immediately make this fact known.

All information contained herein is unclassified except the above shown classified.

Date disclosed 11/10/70
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Detroit, Michigan
November 23, 1970

Re: Committee of Liaison with
Families of Servicemen Detained
in North Vietnam (COLIFAM)

An article captioned, "Family in Waterford Awaits
POW Return", which appeared in the January 28, 1970 issue
of "The Pontiac Press", a daily newspaper published in
Pontiac, Michigan, of general circulation, reveals in
part that Air Force Major Earl Cobeil is somewhere in
North Vietnam in a Prisoner of War (POW) camp, according
to Mrs. Earl Cobeil, the wife of Major Cobeil of Waterford
Township, Michigan, who reported she had not even
received a letter from Major Cobeil since November 5, 1967,
which was the day Cobeil's plane was shot down over
North Vietnam.

This article reveals that on October 10, 1969,
Mrs. Cobeil was reportedly contacted by one of three
American POWs released by Hanoi, one of whom had seen
her husband in custody of Hanoi Military Police on the
way to a POW camp.

Mrs. Cobeil revealed in this article that late
in 1969 she met in Washington, D.C., with her
correspondent's friends around the country who are
comprised of wives of husbands also POWs.

Mrs. Cobeil was reported to have advised in
this article that all she has to go on regarding her
husband is word of mouth stories from the tightly knit
group of wondering wives. She reported the 1400 men who
are in captivity are fed pumpkin soup and two slices of
bread a day with a little pig fat. The POWs are reportedly
getting improper medical attention and are reportedly
kept in military confinement, although she reportedly was
not sure concerning the accuracy of that information.
Re: Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM)

The article reveals that Mrs. Cobell writes every week to two addresses, one in Hanoi and one to the Red Cross.

stated that she had never heard of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). She was not familiar with the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia.

stated that she had learned of the fact that her husband, Air Force [redacted] was alive and a prisoner somewhere in North Vietnam, from having had direct contact in Chicago, Illinois, in August, 1969 with [redacted] (First Name Unknown) who had returned from North Vietnam as a POW and who informed her that he had seen her husband as a POW in North Vietnam.

stated that to her knowledge prior to her contact with him, had been completely debriefed by military and his contact with her was strictly legitimate on an individual basis.

stated this was the only information she had regarding her husband and under no circumstances has she ever been contacted by any organization regarding her husband, nor has she ever been harrassed or conjured by anyone concerning information relating to her husband or his plight as a POW. Further she has received no mail or personal objects delivered to or from her husband.

declined to furnish the addresses where she sends her correspondence addressed to her husband, but noted that she has no knowledge that any of
Re: Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM)

her personal correspondence directed to her husband has never reached him and added that she has never received any correspondence from her husband since he was a POW.

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.
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457889)  
DATE: 11/12/70

FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (100-66674) (P)

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAN)  
REGISTRATION ACT  
CO: New York

Re Cleveland letter to New York dated 8/3/70 (IO). Sacramento letter to Bureau dated 8/10/70; San Francisco airtel and LHM to Bureau dated 8/11/70; WFO airtel and LHM to Bureau dated 8/14/70 requesting verification of travel by certain subjects to North Vietnam; San Antonio letter to Bureau dated 8/23/70; Sacramento letter to New York dated 8/27/70; Sacramento letter to Kansas City dated 10/9/70 (IO); San Francisco airtels and LHM's to Bureau dated 12/8/69 and 1/20/70 bearing dual caption "Women's Strike for Peace Delegation To North Vietnam, 12/1/69; INFORMATION CONCERNING - IS." Bureau File 62-107350; Bureau File 100-440150; Bureau letter to Albany dated 10/12/70.

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

Referenced San Francisco airtels and LHM's captioned "Women's Strike for Peace" verified travel by MADELINE TAYLOR DUCKLES to North Vietnam.

Referenced Sacramento letter to New York dated 9/23/70 requested San Francisco interview. It is noted interview contained in referenced San Francisco airtel dated 8/11/70.
California advised on 9/28/70 that her brother, a U.S. Navy, has been a prisoner of war in North Vietnam since October 1967. Their mother, , died on 1/12/68 at her home at . Subsequent to the above, all the family moved away from the Princeton Street address and brother, , Kansas, has been receiving correspondence from COLIFAN.

Re San Francisco letter to Kansas City requested an interview of .

Referenced San Antonio letter to Bureau contained the following names of next of kin of prisoners of war:

Mrs. --- (Wife) California PW
Mrs. --- (Wife) California PW
Mrs. --- (Wife) California PW
Mrs. --- (Wife) California PW
Mrs. --- (Father) California PW

Interviews of Mrs. --- and Mrs. --- are contained in LFM.

Interview of Mrs. --- was contained in referenced San Francisco airtel 8/21/70.

Interview of Mrs. --- as requested in referenced Cleveland letter to New York dated 6/3/70 is contained in LFM.
on 10/29/70, and advised that he is the father of a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. He advised he had never been contacted by COLIFAM but that his wife, who resides in Texas, might have been contacted. He stated if necessary, she can be contacted through Col. White at Randolph Field, Texas.

Efforts to locate Mrs. have been negative inasmuch as she has been out of town.

LEADS

SAN ANTONIO

AT TEXAS: Will consider interview of regarding her knowledge of COLIFAM.

SAN FRANCISCO

AT CALIFORNIA: Will contact Mrs. for her knowledge of COLIFAM.
November 12, 1970

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

The following are results of interview:

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.
The letter has been made to COLIN to deliver personal objects and has not revealed their contacts or sources of information in Vietnam. No letter of this nature has been received in the manner described above.

No request has been made to COLIN to deliver personal objects or have her husband send to her any personal objects. She has no knowledge of other family members or friends who have been approached by COLIN in the manner described above.

Subsequent to the above referred to incident in December, 1969, received one letter from her husband through COLIN, by letter dated January 27, 1970, advising that letters could be forwarded to him by COLIN. She has not been harassed or defrauded in any way by COLIN.

In December, 1969, received a letter from her husband through COLIN, by letter dated January 27, 1970, advising that letters could be forwarded to him by COLIN. She has not been harassed or defrauded in any way by COLIN. In addition, she has received two letters from her husband through COLIN, by letter dated January 27, 1970, enclosing a letter.

In December, 1969, the committee of liaison with families of service personnel detailed in North Vietnam (COLIN), 265 W. 30th Street, New York, New York, 10001, enclosing a letter.

In December, 1969, received a letter from her husband through COLIN, by letter dated January 27, 1970, advising that letters could be forwarded to him by COLIN. She has not been harassed or defrauded in any way by COLIN. In addition, she has received two letters from her husband through COLIN, by letter dated January 27, 1970, enclosing a letter.
The nature of correspondence between [REDACTED] and COLIFAM has been limited to the above. [REDACTED] has retained copies of correspondence from COLIFAM, and she is willing to introduce this correspondence and testify as to her receipt of same in open court.
Mrs. [redacted] was contacted at her home, and at the outset of the interview she was advised that it was being conducted at the direction of J. WALTER YEAGLEY, concerning the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). She stated she has been contacted by COLIFAM on several occasions during the past year, although this contact has been through correspondence and telephone and she has never been contacted personally by any representative of this group. She stated that all of her recent correspondence from her husband, who is a prisoner in North Vietnam, has come through COLIFAM and that she received two letters from him through this source on the previous Saturday.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that she has been told names of persons who have called her but she resents this organization very much and has forgotten the names of the individuals who have contacted her. Just this past weekend she received a call from a person whose name she cannot recall, asking what she thought about the Committee and whether she would recommend the caller personally getting in touch with the Committee in an effort to help her husband.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that she did not know the individual who called and that she has no way of determining whether the caller is attempting to obtain her thoughts regarding the organization or is sincere in believing that this organization may be of assistance. She stated that she has also received a number of crank calls from various people telling her that her husband is a war criminal and should be punished and other remarks to this effect.

She stated that she resents very much the fact that she cannot receive mail from her husband except through this group. Their transmittal letters with his correspondence imply that his mail is being held up by United States Government Customs and other officials, which she knows to be incorrect.
She stated that COLIFAM has offered to transmit her letters to her husband but that she has never corresponded with him in this fashion. As a result, he receives very little, if any, of her correspondence to him. She stated that there has never been an instance where personal objects were delivered to her or an offer was made to transmit a personal object to her husband.

In regard to the operation of the organization, Mrs. [redacted] stated that the organization has indicated that their members go to North Vietnam as private citizens and the organization urges that mail to prisoners of war be sent with them and transmitted through them, indicating that their interest was for humanitarian causes.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that the only other two persons that she knows who have been contacted by COLIFAM are Mrs. [redacted], who currently resides at [redacted] California, and Mrs. [redacted] residing in [redacted] California.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that correspondence from COLIFAM to her has been largely literature regarding the organization, which urged her to use the organization for transmittal of letters to her husband and from her husband.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that she would be willing to cooperate and to testify if information at her disposal should be needed at a later date.
Mrs. [redacted], California, advised on October 6, 1970 that she is the wife of [redacted], a prisoner of war. She stated that she has not been contacted personally by anyone associated with the captured organization, Committee of Liaison With Families of Service Men Retained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM), but that she did receive a letter from her husband together with a letter of transmittal from the organization. She acknowledged receipt of the letter and has had no further contact. She has not received any personal objects from her husband through the organization. No representations were made concerning her husband or information concerning him, and she is not aware of any other families approached in a similar manner.

Date dictated 10/12/70
Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)
FROM: JAC, KNOXVILLE (100-4101) (P)
DATE: 11/10/70

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICE MEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLFAN)

IE - MISCELLANEOUS REGISTRATION ACT
(CD: NEW YORK)

Be New York airtel to Bureau 6/9/70.

Enclosed for the Bureau and New York is one copy of FD-302 reflecting interview with father of [REDACTED] on 11/6/70 at Cleveland, Tennessee.

The original FD-302 is being maintained in Knoxville file 100-4157.

[Handwritten notes and redactions]

54 NOV 23 1970

Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

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[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]
Memorandum

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)  

DATE: 11/13/70

TO:

FROM:

BAC. SPRINGFIELD (100-12012) (P)

SUBJECT:

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF Servicemen DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (GOLIANI)

US - MISCELLANEOUS REGISTRATION ACT

00: NEW YORK

Re: New York airtel to Bureau dated 7/14/70.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are eight copies of an LHM on captioned matter reflecting results of interview of Mrs. [illegible] in Illinois.

Enclosed herewith for New York are two copies of this LHM. Also enclosed for New York are nine copies of an FD-302 reflecting results of interview of Mrs. [illegible], Illinois, wife of 470-87 Air Force (PW).

Mrs. [illegible] respectively declined to identify other families of servicemen known to her and she respectively declined to testify in any government proceedings or make any public comment regarding any organization or political subject for fear reprisals may be taken against her husband. She stated she would deny to anyone other than a representative of the government of the United States that she had been interviewed or approached for any information whatsoever regarding her husband.
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Springfield, Illinois
November 23, 1970

Mrs.,

Her husband was listed missing in action in mid 1967, and for over two years she had no information as to his fate. She maintained her home, cared for a five-year-old daughter, and taught school in the elementary school system during that period of time.

On December 17, 1969, she received at her Post Office Box in , Illinois, a letter from Ethel Taylor, 1505 Ashford Way, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, written on stationery of Women Strike For Peace, 50 South 13th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In this letter were enclosed two letters dated November 19, 1969 and November 30, 1969 from her husband, in Vietnam.

In response to a telephone call by Mrs. Ethel Taylor informed her that she had just returned from North Vietnam where officials stated they were getting ready to mail letters to relatives of prisoners of war in the United States and asked her if she would personally deliver such letters which she agreed to do. She advised the conversation lasted approximately four minutes, and she has had no further contact with Ethel Taylor, but subsequent letters received approximately one every other month consisting of about six lines written by her husband, would be identified as being relayed by the Committee Of Liaison With Families Of Servicemen Detained In North Vietnam (COLIFAM), New York, New York.

She advised that she has had no personal contact with any individual associated with that organization.

Mrs. , advised by prior arrangement with United States Air Force Directorate of Personnel Offices, Randolph Air
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH
FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN
DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM
(COLIFAM)

Force Base, Texas, that she would respectfully decline to furnish further information or engage in further discussion on the matter.

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.
AMERICAN POWs/MIAs IN SOUTHEAST ASIA (SUMMARY)

PART 19 OF 26

FILE NUMBER : 100-457899
The following documents appearing in FBI files have been reviewed under the provisions of The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (Title 5, United States Code, Section 552), The Privacy Act of 1974 (PA) (Title 5, United States Code, Section 552a), and of Litigation.

**FOIA/PA**

**Litigation**

**Executive Order Applied**

**Requester:**

**Subject:**

**Computer or Case Identification Number:**

**Title of Case:**

*File* 

**Serials Reviewed:**

**Release Location:** *File*

**Section:**

**FOIA/PA**

**Litigation**

**Executive Order Applied**

**Requester:**

**Subject:**

**Computer or Case Identification Number:**

**Title of Case:**

*File*

**Serials Reviewed:**

**Release Location:** *File*

**Section:**

**FOIA/PA**

**Litigation**

**Executive Order Applied**

**Requester:**

**Subject:**

**Computer or Case Identification Number:**

**Title of Case:**

*File*

**Serials Reviewed:**

**Release Location:** *File*

**Section:**

*INDICATE IF FBIHQ OR FIELD OFFICE FILE NUMBER*

*(THIS FORM IS TO BE MAINTAINED AS THE TOP SERIAL OF THE FILE, BUT NOT SERIALIZED.)*
A SOURCE WHO HAS FURNISHED RELIABLE INFORMATION IN THE PAST, ADVISED DAVE DELLINGER AND CORA WEISS, CO-CHAIRMEN OF COLIFAM, AS WELL AS RENNIE DAVIS, A MEMBER OF COLIFAM COMMITTEE, PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING NEWS RELEASE,

"FOUR ADDED TO LIST OF CONFIRMED POW'S, FAMILIES RECEIVE FIVE SEVEN ONE LETTERS". THE SUBSTANCE OF THE NEWS RELEASE CONTAINED FOUR NAMES OF POWS NOT PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED, JOHN H. FELLOWES, SERIAL NUMBER SIX ZERO THREE NINE EIGHT THREE, VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA, BEN MARKSBURY POLLARD, SERIAL NUMBER FR FIVE THREE EIGHT SEVEN NINE TWO, COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO, GEORGE EVERETT DAY, SERIAL NUMBER FR FOUR NINE FIVE FIVE FIVE, GLENDALE, ARIZONA, AND JAMES J. CONNELL, SERIAL NUMBER SIX FOUR SEVEN FOUR THREE EIGHT. THE COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED THE ARRIVAL OF FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY ONE LETTERS FROM POWS BROUGHT TO THE UNITED STATES BY PROFESSOR SIDNEY PECK OF CAMBRIDGE. IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT SIX PILOTS DIED IN CAPTURE. ACCORDING TO THE NEWS RELEASE, THE UNITED STATES MILITARY HAS INFORMED THE FAMILIES. NO IDENTITIES OF THE DECEASED WERE REVEALED. THE NAMES END PAGE TWO
OF TEN PILOTS WITH WHOM THE COLIFAM SOUGHT CONFIRMATION FOR THEIR CAPTURE HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED AS NOT CAPTURED BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE.

DETAILED INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SHIPMENT OF PACKAGES AND MAIL TO THE POW WAS INCLUDED IN THE PRESS RELEASE.

COLIFAM ANNOUNCED THAT IN TWO WEEKS A DELEGATION WOULD BE LEAVING FOR NORTH VIETNAM AND COLIFAM EXPRESSED ITS WILLINGNESS TO CARRY MAIL TO THE POWS.

COLIFAM HANDED OUT AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE A COPY OF THEIR NEWS RELEASE, A COPY OF THE STATEMENT FROM THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CONCERNING THEIR POLICIES TOWARD THE AMERICAN PILOTS CAPTURED IN NORTH VIETNAM, ON THE OCCASION OF CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS, NINETEEN SEVENTY ONE, AS WELL AS A MESSAGE FROM ROBERT JAMES SCHWEITZER, FIVE SEVEN ONE EIGHT NINE FOUR, COMMANDER, UNITED STATES NAVY, TO HIS SON ERIC. IN ADDITION, COLIFAM FURNISHED A LISTING OF THREE HUNDRED THIRTY FIVE NAMES OF POWS.
OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED BY HANOI DATED APRIL THIRTY, LAST.

ADMINISTRATIVE

SOURCES UTILIZED

LOCAL AGENCIES ADVISED. LHM WILL FOLLOW.
PRESS CONFERENCE WAS RECORDED DETAILS OF WHICH WILL BE INCORPORATED IN THE LHM.
END

REDact WASH

ALL FIRE HDR LG 12812-2
630PM URGENT 11-12-70 AJN

TO DIRECTOR 180-457899

ATTN DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

FROM NEW YORK 100-168469

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED
IN NORTH VIETNAM: (COLIFAM) IS-MISC; REGISTRATION ACT; OO-NEW YORK.
Internal Security-Miscellaneous

RE NEW YORK TELETYPING TO BUREAU ELEVEN TWELVE INSTANT.

COLIFAM IS CONDUCTING NEWS CONFERENCE
AT DIPLOMAT HOTEL, NYC, ELEVEN AM, ELEVEN THIRTEEN NEXT. $U

SOURCE FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING MATERIAL WHICH WOULD COMPOSE
NEWS CONFERENCE. MATERIAL WILL BE RELEASED BY CORA WEISS AND DAVE
DELLINGER, CO-CHAIRMAN OF COLIFAM. $U

ONE. FOLLOWING RECORDING WILL BE PLAYED.

END PAGE ONE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN

REC-22

EX-102
HERE'S A RECORDED MESSAGE FROM HOME COMMANDER ROBERT JAMES SCHWEITZER, US PILOT CAPTURED IN THE DRVN.
FROM: ROBERT JAMES SCHWEITZER FIVE SEVEN ONE EIGHT NINE FOUR, COMMANDER, USN, CAMP OF DETENTION FOR US PILOTS DETAINED IN THE DRVN, TO: MASTER ERIC ROBERT SCHWEITZER, ONE ZERO SIX DAUNTLESS AVENUE NAVAL AIR STATION, LEMOORE, CALIFORNIA, NINE THREE TWO SIX FIVE USA.
DEAR ERIC,

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SON. FROM YOUR LATEST PICTURE I CAN SEE THAT YOUR ARE GROWING QUICKLY. I HOPE YOU AND KARL ARE ACTIVE IN SCOUTS AND SPORTS AND ARE DOING YOUR VERY BEST IN SCHOOL. TRY TO UNDERSTAND YOU STUDIES WELL AND LEARN GOOD READING HABITS. I'M SURE YOUR ARE HELPING YOUR MOTHER AND BEING A GOOD BROTHER. THERE ARE MANY THINGS WE WILL DO TOGETHER WHEN I COME HOME. CALL GRANDMA SCHWEITZER AND WISH HER A HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR ME TOO. I LOVE YOU AND AM PROUD OF YOU. HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

DAD

NOVEMBER TWO, NINETEEN SEVENTY
VOICE OF VIETNAM
ENGLISH TRANSMISSION*
END PAGE TWO
TWO. 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.

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.

END PAGE THREE
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
DRV STATEMENT WILL BE HANDLED 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.

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

END PAGE FOUR
SOURCE UTILIZED IS $UL$.

IN THE EVENT THAT THIS INFORMATION IS DISSEMINATED, IT SHOULD BE CLASSIFIED SECRET, SINCE DISCLOSURE OF SAME WOULD GREATLY ENDANGER THE FUTURE EFFECTIVENESS OF SOURCE. $UL$

DUE TO THE HIGHLY SENSITIVE NATURE OF THE SOURCE, NO LOCAL DISSEMINATION IS BEING MADE. $UL$

NEW YORK WILL FOLLOW AND PROMPTLY ADVISE.

LHM WILL FOLLOW.

memo

END
INFORMATIVE NOTE

11/14/70

Attached pertains to press conference held by Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM), on 11/13/70, New York City. COLIFAM representatives, in a news release, announced names of Prisoners of War (POWs) not previously published, and deaths of six unnamed pilots. COLIFAM, in addition, announced that a delegation to depart for North Vietnam in two weeks would carry mail to POWs.

Information in attached has been disseminated to Dr. Henry A. Kissinger at the White House, State Department, Central Intelligence Agency, Defense Intelligence Agency and the military. Copy has also been sent Attorney General by messenger.
GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NEW YORK OFFICE OF ORIGIN

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

SAVANNAH REPORTING OFFICE

DATE: 11/16/70

INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD: 9/15 - 11/12/70

TITLE OF CASE:

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

REFERENCES:

San Antonio letter to Bureau dated 8/27/70.
Bureau letter to Albany dated 10/13/70.

LEADS:

BIRMINGHAM DIVISION

AT ALA.

INTERVIEW MR. AND MRS.

MAMI DIVISION

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED:

NONE

ACQUIT-TALS

CASE HAS BEEN:

PENDING OVER ONE YEAR

PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

12 NOV 18 1970

EX-102

COVER PAGE

12/12/72 0 12/12/72

ALL DOCUMENTS RECIPIENT 12/12/72

457899 (RM)

1 - Birmingham (RM)

2 - Miami (RM)

3 - New York (100-168469) (RM)

4 - Tampa (RM)

5 - Savannah (100-5361)

DISMISSED 10/14/70

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency

K AI - 33

Request Recd.

Date Fwd. 11/2/70

H ow Fwd. 1/15

By
AT FLA.
If not already done, interview

AT FLA.
Interview

TAMPA DIVISION

AT FLA.
Interview

AT FLA.
Interview

AT FLA.
Interview

AT FLA.
Interview Mr. and Mrs.

AT FLA.
Interview Mrs.

SAVANNAH DIVISION

AT GA.

1. Will locate and interview Mrs.

2. Will locate and interview Mrs.

---
(Cover Page)

All 67c MD to 12/12/2
The list of names of next of kin of servicemen who are listed as missing in action, set forth herein, was obtained at Fort Stewart, Ga., and it is not known if these individuals have been interviewed. Leads set out to the various offices to interview these individuals should be handled only if appropriate.
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)

INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS; REGISTRATION ACT

Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED], who formerly resided at [REDACTED], now reside at [REDACTED]. Mrs. [REDACTED], wife of [REDACTED], has been missing in action in Vietnam since 1966, has received no indications of communications indicating her husband is a prisoner of war. She was contacted by letter in November, 1969, by the Committee of Liaison With Families Of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). She was never contacted personally by any individual in COLIFAM and received only one letter. This letter indicated COLIFAM could deliver personal letters to servicemen detained in North Vietnam. She sent one letter addressed to her husband through COLIFAM, but never received reply. She has all her records presently packed but will make a search for any correspondence from COLIFAM. She advised a [REDACTED] and a [REDACTED] who reside in [REDACTED], Ga., have no husbands missing in action in Vietnam. Attempts to contact [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] negative to date. List of area servicemen listed as missing in action with name and address of next of kin furnished by Fort Stewart, Ga.

DETAILS:

All 67c AER ED 12912-2

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE: 12/12/72 BY 9705

PD-343 (Rev. 3-3-59)

Copy to:

67c

Office: Savannah

November 16, 1970

Bureau File #: 100-5361

100-457899

Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained In North Vietnam (COLIFAM)

INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS; REGISTRATION ACT

Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED], who formerly resided at [REDACTED], now reside at [REDACTED]. Mrs. [REDACTED], wife of [REDACTED], has been missing in action in Vietnam since 1966, has received no indications of communications indicating her husband is a prisoner of war. She was contacted by letter in November, 1969, by the Committee of Liaison With Families Of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). She was never contacted personally by any individual in COLIFAM and received only one letter. This letter indicated COLIFAM could deliver personal letters to servicemen detained in North Vietnam. She sent one letter addressed to her husband through COLIFAM, but never received reply. She has all her records presently packed but will make a search for any correspondence from COLIFAM. She advised a [REDACTED] and a [REDACTED] who reside in [REDACTED], Ga., have no husbands missing in action in Vietnam. Attempts to contact [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] negative to date. List of area servicemen listed as missing in action with name and address of next of kin furnished by Fort Stewart, Ga.

DETAILS:

All 67c AER ED 12912-2

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE: 12/12/72 BY 9705

PD-343 (Rev. 3-3-59)
On September 15, 1970, WATSON, Adjutant General, United States Army Flight Training Center, (USAFTC), Hunter Army Airfield (HAAF), Savannah, Georgia, advised HAAF maintains no record of servicemen detained in Vietnam or missing in action; however, he will make inquiries to determine if such a list is maintained at Ft. Stewart, Georgia, which is also under the command of the USAFTC. He will advise of the results of his efforts as soon as possible.

Crime Investigation Detachment (CID), HAAF, Savannah, advised that no information concerning this matter has come to his attention.

On October 15, 1970, Lieutenant Colonel WATSON advised that a file is maintained in the Casualty Branch, Ft. Stewart, Georgia, on all personnel listed as prisoners of war or as missing in action. Lieutenant WATSON should be contacted at the Casualty Branch for any information desired.
The following investigation was conducted by at Georgia, on September 30, 1970. Mrs. Georgia, advised that Mr. and Mrs. had formerly lived at but had moved from that address in the spring of 1970. She advised they now reside at Alabama, telephone. She said that Mr. formerly worked at but is now retired.
A September 23, 1976, letter stated that Mrs. [redacted] had moved to Florida, and her address unknown. Thesavannah Real Estate Company handled the sale of Mrs. [redacted]'s residence and might possibly know Mrs. [redacted]'s forwarding address.

On September 28, 1976, Mr. [redacted] advised his firm of his daughter, Mrs. [redacted], forwarding address, but that Mrs. [redacted] and parents, Mrs. and Mrs. [redacted], reside at [redacted], Georgia.

On October 7, 1976, Mr. [redacted] advised that his daughter, Mrs. [redacted], now resides at [redacted], Florida.

On October 12, 1976, Mrs. [redacted] telephonically contacted the Savannah FBI Office and advised her is presently at her parents' home and will be available for interview on October 13, 1976.
Mrs. Georgia furnished the following information:

Her husband, [redacted], has been "missing in action" in Vietnam since July 25, 1966. She has received no indications now communications indicating that he is a prisoner of war or that he is still alive.

She was contacted by letter on approximately November 12, 1969, by the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). She was never contacted personally by any individual in COLIFAM and to the best of her knowledge, received only one letter.

This letter, to the best of her knowledge, indicated this committee could deliver personal letters to servicemen detained in North Vietnam. The letter requested that letters addressed to servicemen in North Vietnam be placed in an envelope addressed to the serviceman and then placed in another envelope addressed to the individual mentioned in the COLIFAM letter. Mrs. [redacted] cannot recall the name of the individual to which the letter was to be addressed. She sent one letter addressed to her husband to this individual, but never received a reply from her husband, nor any other communications from COLIFAM. She believes the letter received from COLIFAM had a letterhead, but cannot remember names on the letterhead nor who signed it. The letter mentioned that representatives were going into North Vietnam and would take these letters addressed to servicemen. She believes this group was working through a group in Switzerland, but cannot recall any specific details.

Mr. [redacted] know of any other families that were contacted by COLIFAM, but advised that a man whose brother was a husband who is missing in action in Vietnam, who resides at the [redacted] Street, has a husband missing in action in Vietnam.

For any further information contact COLIFAM.

[Redacted]

Enclosures:

[Redacted]

Copy:

[Redacted]

Savannah, Georgia 31402

10/15/70

679

[Redacted] 109-16546

10/15/70

[Redacted]

5390

679

[Redacted] 109-16546

[Redacted] 100-5390
The only correspondence from COLIFAM was the one letter mentioned above and this letter did not ask for an answer. The letter merely directed that any letters to servicemen be sent to the indicated address and they, COLIFAM, would take it into North Vietnam. She has never received any further information or inquiries concerning GEM.

Mr. [Name] has been living in Florida and is presently in a transient state, being undecided whether to again live in Florida. All of her records are presently packed and she is not sure she has the letter mentioned above from COLIFAM. She will make a search through her records for any correspondence concerning this matter and if any is found she will furnish same.

Due to her rather transient state, she could best be contacted at the address listed above, which is the home of her mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. [Name]. She intends to possibly return to Florida to live, but has not yet decided in what city she will live and does not know her address.

She stated she is willing to cooperate in any manner concerning this matter and will furnish any information coming to her attention regarding this. She will be happy to testify in this matter if requested.
The following investigation was conducted by 8A

On October 15, 1970, Second Lieutenant WILLIAM KEMPTON, Officer in Charge, Casualty Branch, Military Personnel Office, advised that his office maintains an official Prisoner of War (POW) list regarding servicemen held in North Vietnam inasmuch as the North Vietnamese have never released a list of prisoners held. Lieutenant KEMPTON stated his office does maintain a list of Army personnel noted as missing in action and this list encompasses those servicemen whose families are now living in portions of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. Lieutenant KEMPTON furnished a copy of Fort Stewart Regulation 800-18 dated June 27, 1967 which on Pages 2 and 3 lists the counties in Georgia, South Carolina and Florida which are covered by his office exclusively for U. S. Army personnel.

Lieutenant KEMPTON furnished the following list of individuals by rank and service number who are listed as missing in action, the name and address of their primary next of kin, and the date they were missing in action:

BAILEY, JAMES ALBERT
CW4, 176-22-8924
Wife -
Birth:_62c
Missing In Action 10/9/69

LA BORG, GARY RUSSELL
SP4, RA 16931557
Father -
Birth:_62c
Missing In Action 11/30/68

LINK, ROBERT CHARLES
WO1, 577 46 8449
Wife -
Birth:_62c
Missing In Action 4/21/68

- 7 -
MISSING IN ACTION

LORD, ARTHUR J.
Captain, 05406301
Wife -

MISSING IN ACTION 4/19/68

MC MILLAN, ISIAH
SP4, 365-66-39334
Wife -

MISSING IN ACTION 3/11/68

NEAL, DENNIS PAUL
Captain, 264 70 1714
Parents - Mr. and Mrs.

MISSING IN ACTION 7/31/68

PARELS, JOHN W.
Captain, 262-66-0832
Sons -

MISSING IN ACTION 2/3/70

PFORDT, CHARLES C.
CW2, W315868
Wife -

MISSING IN ACTION 5/29/69

POWERS, LOWELL STEPHEN
CW2, W3166262
Mother -

MISSING IN ACTION 4/3/69
WILLIAMS, EDDIE L.
M/Sgt., RA 14448848
Mother -

MISSING IN ACTION 10/3/66

Lieutenant KEMPTON stated with regard to LORD and
PPORDT, whose next of kin live in GA, they have
indicated they have seen their husband or films which have
been released by the North Vietnamese.

AT CA.

On November 4, 1970, attempts were made to locate Mrs.
at This was ascertained that Mrs. does not reside
at this address.

On November 4, 1970, it was ascertained at the U. S.
Post Office, Waters Avenue Branch, that Mrs. is presently residing at

On November 10, 1970, attempts were made to contact Mrs.
at this address with negative results.

A search of the Telephone Directory and the
City Directory reflected a Mrs. and a Mrs.

On November 10 and 12, 1970, attempts were made to
contact Mrs. at this address with negative results.
Information in attached has been disseminated by teletype to Dr. Henry A. Kissinger., Central Intelligence Agency, Defense Intelligence Agency and the military. Copy has also been sent to the Attorney General. A messenger copy is enclosed.

Attached is a press conference in New York City on 11/13/70. During the conference there will be a recorded birthday message from a captured American pilot to his son. In addition, they will announce regulations under which the families of captured American pilots may send Christmas packages and letters to captured American pilots in North Vietnam.
TREAT AS YELLOW
FBI

Date: 1/17/70

IMMEDIATE

TO:
☐ THE PRESIDENT
☐ THE VICE PRESIDENT
☐ ATT.: ____________________________
☐ WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM
☐ ATT.: DR. HENRY A. KISSINGER
☐ SECRETARY OF STATE
☐ DIRECTOR, CIA
☐ DIRECTOR, DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
☐ DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
☐ DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
☐ NAVAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE
☐ U.S. SECRET SERVICE (PID)
☐ ENCODED
☐ PLAINTEXT
☐ ATTORNEY GENERAL (BY MESSENGER) 11/10 AM
☐ NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY, ATT: SENIOR OPERATION OFFICER

From: DIRECTOR, FBI

Classification:

Subject: COMMITTEE OF LIASON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM
(COLIFAM)

(Text of message begins on next page.)

Approved

M Per

5-6 Nov 2, 1970

COPIES DESTROYED

51 [MARKED OUT] TELETYPING UNIT

Sent
CODE PRIORITY

TO: WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM
ATTN: DR. HENRY A. KISSINGER
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 MESSNGER)
FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI

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

REFERENCE IS MADE TO MY TELETYPE NOVEMBER TWELVE LAST.
ON NOVEMBER THIRTEEN, LAST, AT ELEVEN TWENTY AM, COLIFAM
HELD A NEWS CONFERENCE IN THE HOTEL DIPLOMAT, NEW YORK CITY.
A SOURCE WHO HAS FURNISHED RELEVANT INFORMATION IN
THE PAST, ADVISED DAVE DELLINGER AND CORA WEISS, CO-CHAIRMEN
OF COLIFAM, AS WELL AS RENNIE DAVIS, A MEMBER OF COLIFAM
COMMITTEE, PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING NEWS RELEASE,
"FOUR ADDED TO LIST OF CONFIRMED POW'S, FAMILIES
RECEIVE FIVE SEVEN ONE LETTERS". THE SUBSTANCE OF THE
END PAGE ONE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT AS SHOWN

DECLASSIFIED BY
ON OCT 25 78

67G

67C
NEWS RELEASE CONTAINED FOUR NAMES OF POWS NOT PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED, JOHN H. FELLOWES, SERIAL NUMBER SIX ZERO THREE NINE EIGHT THREE, VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA, BEN MARKSBURY POLLARD, SERIAL NUMBER FR FIVE THREE EIGHT SEVEN NINE TWO, COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO, GEORGE EVERETTE DAY, SERIAL NUMBER FR FOUR NINE FIVE FIVE FIVE, GLENDALE, ARIZONA, AND JAMES J. CONNELL, SERIAL NUMBER SIX FOUR SEVEN FOUR THREE EIGHT. THE COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED THE ARRIVAL OF FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY ONE LETTERS FROM POWS BROUGHT TO THE UNITED STATES BY PROFESSOR SIDNEY PECK OF CAMBRIDGE. IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT SIX PILOTS DIED IN CAPTURE. ACCORDING TO THE NEWS RELEASE, THE UNITED STATES MILITARY HAS INFORMED THE FAMILIES. NO IDENTITIES OF THE DECEASED WERE REVEALED. THE NAMES END PAGE TWO
OF TEN PILOTS WITH WHOM THE COLIFAM SOUGHT CONFIRMATION FOR THEIR CAPTURE HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED AS NOT CAPTURED BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE.

DETAILED INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SHIPMENT OF PACKAGES AND MAIL TO THE POW WAS INCLUDED IN THE PRESS RELEASE.

COLIFAM ANNOUNCED THAT IN TWO WEEKS A DELEGATION WOULD BE LEAVING FOR NORTH VIETNAM AND COLIFAM EXPRESSED ITS WILLINGNESS TO CARRY MAIL TO THE POWS.

COLIFAM HANDED OUT AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE A COPY OF THEIR NEWS RELEASE, A COPY OF THE STATEMENT FROM THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CONCERNING THEIR POLICIES TOWARD THE AMERICAN PILOTS CAPTURED IN NORTH VIETNAM, ON THE OCCASION OF CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS, NINETEEN SEVENTY ONE, AS WELL AS A MESSAGE FROM ROBERT JAMES SCHWEITZER, FIVE SEVEN ONE EIGHT NINE FOUR, COMMANDER, UNITED STATES NAVY, TO HIS SON ERIC. IN ADDITION, COLIFAM FURNISHED A LISTING OF THREE HUNDRED THIRTY FIVE NAMES OF POWS.

END PAGE THREE
OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED BY HANOI DATED APRIL THIRTY, LAST.

GP - I

BT

NNNN
APPROVED BY SA
END
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-168469)

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

IS-MISC REGISTRATION ACT

ReButel, 11/4/70; NYtel, 11/5/70, and WPotel, 11/6/70.

In an effort to obtain the identities of the attorney who reportedly were traveling to North Vietnam with letters for the Prisoners of War (POWs). Source stated that to date there is no activity in the old headquarters of COLIFAM nor has she heard any mention of lawyers traveling to North Vietnam.

In reference to NYtel to the Bureau dated 11/6/70 captioned, "ANGELA YVONNE DAVIS, aka-UFAP-MURDER, KIDNAPPING", reference was made to a young white attorney, according to who had been in contact with the North Vietnamese Government relative to a prisoner release for ANGELA DAVIS. Information gathered in NY showed that PETER WEISS, husband of CORA WEISS of COLIFAM, traveled with WILLIAM STANDARD to North Vietnam. To date, NY is attempting to develop any possible connection between the trips of STANDARD and WEISS with the unknown attorney who traveled in connection with ANGELA DAVIS proposal.

Mrs. was contacted on 11/10/70 and was advised the following:

[Handwritten note: "Bureau (RM) New York 10-2-70"]
In view of the fact that she is the wife of a POW, she received a letter from COLIFAM stating that if she desired to communicate with her husband by letter she should send the letter by 1/17/70 to COLIFAM and it would be delivered to the POWs. Mrs. [redacted] further advised that through her contacts with COLIFAM, she ascertained that PETER WEISS traveled to North Vietnam sometime last week. Mrs. [redacted] stated she was not aware of the identity of the individuals bringing the letters to North Vietnam but in the letter from COLIFAM it was stated that a group of attorneys would forward the letters to the POWs.

It should be noted for the Bureau's information that Mrs. [redacted] has expressed a desire to be cooperative in an active way with the FBI's investigation into the COLIFAM organization. Mrs. [redacted] stated that she is in periodic telephonic contact with PETER WEISS.

Investigation to date in NY reflects that COLIFAM is being operated out of the home of CORA and PETER WEISS. Attempts to obtain information concerning this organization is extremely difficult.

NY will continue its efforts to determine the identity of the attorneys traveling under COLIFAM to North Vietnam. NY will also attempt to ascertain if the attorneys mentioned in the letter received by the families of POWs could possibly be identical with WILLIAM STANDARD, PETER WEISS and the unknown white attorney from the SF area. This matter will be closely followed.

NO DISSEMINATION IS BEING MADE IN VIEW OF THE FACT OF THE SENSITIVITY OF

All 67c PER EO 128/2-2
All 61 PER EO 128/2-1

SECRET
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)
FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (100-8195) (P)
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM) IS - MISCELLANEOUS - REGISTRATION ACT

Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and ten copies of a LHM dated and captioned as above and suitable for dissemination.

Two copies of the enclosed LHM are being submitted to the New York Division, which is the office of origin in this case.

Atlanta is continuing its investigation, interviewing families of servicemen who are missing in action or prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HERETIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11/23/70 BY 1903 REC 77 100 497899 170 10 NOV 16 1970

EX-103

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1969 O - 545-080 (11)
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN
NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)
INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS -
REGISTRATION ACT

On November 8, 1970, Mrs. [redacted] furnished the following information:

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.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date November 12, 1970

Mrs. [Redacted] advised that she is the wife of [Redacted], who is a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. Mrs. [Redacted] furnished a letter and enclosures which she received from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam.

Mrs. [Redacted] reiterated that she is completely opposed to the activities of the committee, even though they have made available to her letters from her husband.

On 11/8/70 at [Redacted], Georgia

by SA [Redacted]

File: Atlanta 100-8195

Date dictated 11/10/70

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREBIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

This document contains no confidential or sensitive information. 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.
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
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.)

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 disregard 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 American citizens 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 not been in Hanoi over six years.

The furor nonetheless does an injustice to the North Vietnamese, who have probably treated their captive 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 an astonishingly 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 face value. The other seven pilots who have been released by North Vietnam have never been formally pr

[Continued on next page]
resented to the press. In fact, they
all been told that it would not be
legal to their military careers to say
anything that would interfere with
the government's attempts to put
pressure on North Vietnam.

ABC News was finally able to per-
suade another of the freed pilots to
speak last month and he gave quite a
different picture of North Vietnam's
prison camps. Air Force Captain Joe
V. Carpenter said that he had been
pushed around a bit when first cap-
tured, and was kept separate from
the other prisoners, but that he had not
suffered in any significant fashion.
Physical conditions were not too bad,
and he was able to make friends with
the North Vietnamese who lived in
the neighborhood of his cell.

The complaints lodged against
the treatment of prisoners by the Viet
Cong in South Vietnam mostly con-
cern the extremely austere lodging
and food. Many Viet Cong units are
constant on the run, so that until a
prisoner can be taken to a secure
area, the prisoner must also be con-
stantly moving. Even in a secure
area, the prisoner — like everyone
else who lives in the area — must al-
ways be on guard for American bomb-

founding attacks.

Considering these difficulties, the
treatment given to prisoners by the
Viet Cong is probably as good as
could ever be provided by a revolu-
tionary army. Many of the Americans
who have spent time in Viet Cong
prisons during the last two years have,
in fact, commended the enemy
for the treatment received.

In November, 1969, three young
GI's who had been prisoners for pe-
riods ranging from eight months to
two years were released by the V.C.
After they were transported to an
Air Force Base in Japan, they were
displayed to the press for fifteen min-
utes and proceeded to praise the Viet
Cong for their treatment. Private Coy
R. Tinsley of Cleveland, Tennessee,
said, "I'd have to think twice be-
fore I'd fight them again after what
they did for me. I was wounded. They
took real good care of me."

The Army reacted typically to
these stories of Viet Cong kindness.
High officials decreed in January,
1970, that all soldiers subsequently
released from enemy prisons would
be kept from the press until they had
undergone extensive debriefings both
in Vietnam and the United States
and had gone through a "readjust-
ment" period. The U.P.I. quoted in-
fommed military sources as saying
that exceptions may be made if the
former prisoner is found in his early
debriefings to be hostile toward his

captors.

The spotlight must be focused
on U.S. — Saigon treatment in order to
gain perspective on the relative merits
of North Vietnam's handling of
prisoners.

There are six formal P.O.W. camps
run by the Saigon government, with
the assistance of U.S. advisors, con-
taining some 33,000 men. These
camps are subjected to scheduled and
unscheduled inspection by the Inter-
national Committee of the Red Cross,
and they do conform to the Conven-
tion's requirements. Many of the
Viet Cong who were captured never,
however, make it to these formal
camps.

There have been a number of trials
during the past year of American G.I.'s
acused of killing Viet Cong prisoners.
Despite uncontradicted eye-witness
testimony, all of the accused have been
acquitted or given extremely lenient
penalties. These acquittals must be
based on the knowledge of the officers
on the court-martial panel that killing
of prisoners take place among U.S.
PRISONERS FROM HANOI

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.

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, were not 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 protest 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 the 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. No

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

For the first six pilots who were released, did 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 told the world that the prisoners 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 torture.

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 not 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 the continuing silence of the others. Before the accounts by Frishman and Hegdahl are accepted, the other five prisoners must be allowed to tell their stories.
GỬI (Address)

BỆNH TRƯỞNG (Name in full):

SỞ LĨNH (Service number):

NGÀY MỪNG CHI (Date & place of birth):

GIA CHÍ (Address):

TRẢI GIÁM PHI CÔNG MỸ BỊ BẮT TẠI
NUOC VIỆT-NAM DÂN CHỦ CÔNG HOÀ

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

COMMITTEE OF LINKAGE
with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

NGƯỜI GỬI (Address)

HỌ TÊNH (Name in full):

GIA CHÍ (Address):
GHI CHÚ (N.B.):

1. Phải viết rõ và chỉ được viết trên những dòng kẻ răn (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 dòng màu, khuôn khổ và quy định này (Letters from families should also conform to this format).
MEMORANDUM

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)          DATE: 11/17/70

SAC, ALBUQUERQUE (100-3655) (RUC)

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

O0: New York

Re Albuquerque letter and LHM dated 9/3/70; San Antonio letter dated 8/27/70; and Bulet to Albany dated 10/12/70.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are five copies, and for New York two copies, of a letterhead memorandum regarding captioned matter.

Referenced San Antonio letter sets forth a list of U. S. Air Force prisoners of war and Air Force personnel missing in action. Enclosed letterhead memorandum sets forth the results of interviews with relatives of prisoners of war whose names appear on this list and who reside in the Albuquerque Division. Albuquerque does not contemplate interviewing relatives of missing in action Air Force personnel as there is no indication they are in a prisoner of war status and in view of reBulet to Albany, 10/12/70, UACB.
Albuquerque, New Mexico
November 17, 1970

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH
FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN
DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM

On October 22, 1970, Lieutenant Colonel JOSEPH
BLAZINA, Commander, United States Army, Fort Wingate, Gallup,
New Mexico, was contacted concerning captioned organization
and advised he had no information regarding this organization
and knew of no servicemen or relatives thereof who had been
contacted by captioned group.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All 67c 252 EO 12827

Date 10/6/70

Mrs. [redacted] advised that she currently resides at [redacted] in New Mexico.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that at no time has any individual representing themselves with the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Viet Nam contacted her by mail, telephone, or any other manner.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that should she be subsequently contacted by any individual possibly associated with this organization, she will immediately contact the Alamogordo, NM, Resident Agency.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/25/73 BY 9703

9/24/70 of New Mexico File AQ 100-3655

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 9/30/70

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.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

 Date 10/13/70

[Handwritten text redacted]

She is the wife of an American Air Force pilot currently being held as a prisoner in North Vietnam. She has been active in the past in attempting to gain information concerning her husband and in connection with this, she has heard of an organization known as the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. She understands CORA WEISS and DAVE DELLINGER are active in this organization. She has never been approached personally by anyone claiming to be a representative of this organization. She received one letter from her husband which was dated July 18, 1969, which came to her by mail. However, the entire letter had been placed in a second envelope along with a cover letter of the printed form type containing some instructions on how she could write to her husband. Also enclosed were some forms to be utilized for this purpose. Mrs. indicates she did not maintain the envelope or its contents. She is not certain, but she states she might have used one of the forms and tried sending a letter, but she obtained no reply as the letter dated July 18, 1969 is the last word she has heard directly from her husband.

Mrs. indicated she has been involved in so many different projects and trying to seek information that she does not remember everything in detail. She remembers sending a small package to her husband containing some skin lotion, but she is not certain if she actually attempted to send it through the instructions obtained from this committee or if she only thought about it and later decided to send it by regular international mail. Again, she does not know if it was delivered. She writes at least once a month through the regular international mail and none of the letters have been returned, but none have been answered. She does not know from first-hand knowledge if anyone has had letters actually brought to them by this organization or if they were able to deliver messages or packages to prisoners in

On 10/8/70 at New Mexico File A-100-3655

by SA Date dictated 10/13/70

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.

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Vietnam. She further advised the information received by mail contained nothing regarding the committee's sources of information or their contacts. She assumes other families have been approached in a similar manner, but she cannot identify any specifically.

Although Mrs. [redacted] never met CORA WEISS, in connection with the above mentioned committee, she did have a short visit with WEISS in Vientiane, Laos, in late 1969. Mrs. [redacted] and Mrs. [redacted] also the wife of a prisoner, were in Vientiane attempting to arrange for transportation to North Vietnam and meetings with Vietnamese Officials concerning the status of their husbands. They learned a CORA WEISS, along with MADELINE DUCKLES were staying in the same hotel, and that they had just returned from Hanoi. Mrs. [redacted] and Mrs. [redacted] went to their motel room and learned that WEISS and DUCKLES were just getting ready to leave, but that they would have time to have breakfast together. At this breakfast, WEISS mentioned having interviewed some of the American war prisoners and that they all seemed to be healthy and in good condition. [redacted] inquired how long those interviewed had been in custody and how old they were. WEISS immediately took a defensive position to the point where she, Mrs. [redacted] got the impression WEISS was defending the North Vietnamese. As Mrs. [redacted] recalled, WEISS even had some pictures. Mrs. [redacted] learned that WEISS had not talked to either her husband or the husband of Mrs. [redacted]. She then found WEISS had not talked to either Mrs. [redacted] or Mrs. [redacted] called several other names, and suggested that WEISS try to interview some of them and find out their condition and obtain pictures of them. [redacted] told WEISS that then she would be in a position to believe that WEISS was learning the truth. Mrs. [redacted] indicated she was getting very upset at this point, and that Mrs. [redacted] intervened to calm things down. [redacted] stated they learned nothing from their visit with WEISS and DUCKLES. Mrs. [redacted] related she was not at all impressed by WEISS. She indicated she would have thought that when two American women met in a foreign country, and when one was seeking information concerning her husband being held in the country from where the other just returned, that there would be a common ground for discussion and that a friendly, if not helpful, attitude would have existed. However, Mrs.
stated that it was her impression WEISS was after publicity. **asked concerning the possibility they had brought any messages and WEISS indicated they had none with them.** She remembers mentioning to WEISS that she had not received any word from her husband, to which WEISS replied that mail was probably being detained by the State Department. She got the impression that WEISS honestly believed the prisoners were sending out mail, but that the State Department was intercepting it.

Mrs. **relates she is not sympathetic with any of the peace groups which are attempting to establish communications between families and prisoners because she feels it hinders the families' chances of establishing contact. She continued by explaining that she felt it possible that if the North Vietnamese did not have the peace groups to deal with, that they might then deal with the International Red Cross. She further states she does not feel her husband would approve of dealing with such organizations and for this reason, too, she stays away from them. She substantiated this opinion by indicating that when in Laos, she spoke to a North Vietnamese official asking if he could deliver the small package she had for her husband. She was then told that she should bring it back to the United States and give it to one of the peace groups for handling. She related that should she possess any information which might be useful testimony, that she would be willing to testify at any time.
Mrs. [Redacted], wife of [Redacted], advised that she currently resides at [Redacted], New Mexico.

[Redacted], advised that her husband, [Redacted], is currently a POW of the North Vietnamese; and this she learned officially from a telephone call from Lieutenant Colonel A. W. Gratch, United States Air Force, Directorate of Personnel Services, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, on 11/20/69. Even though his name was officially released as a POW on that date, she was aware of her husband's status prior to this date and had, on occasion, forwarded letters to her husband via the American Friends Service Committee, Inc., of 150 N. 15th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Mrs. [Redacted] advised that the following letters have been received from this organization:

1. A letter dated December 15, 1969, American Friends Service Committee, Inc., signed by Louis W. Schneider, Associate Executive Secretary.


Mrs. [Redacted] advised she has no objection to releasing these letters for any possible value to this inquiry.

Mrs. [Redacted] advised that she has also been in contact with the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, 365 W. 42nd Street, New York, New York (COLIAFAM). Her only contact has been via these enclosed letters and there has been no attempt to force their services on her on the part of COLIAFAM and each of these attached letters represent her receipt of a communication from her husband. [Redacted] advised that she has forwarded mail to this organization which has been, she presumes, subsequently delivered to her husband. Mrs. [Redacted] advised that the Directorate of Personnel Services, Lieutenant Colonel A. W. Gratch, at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, is aware of this correspondence and she
presumed this method of letter exchange was officially sanctioned.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that she did not desire to do anything which might tend to jeopardize her husband as a PW and if this meant testifying before any type of body, she would most assuredly refuse to do so. Mrs. [redacted] advised that the following letters represent all of her correspondence from the COLIAFAM group:

1. Letter dated April 7, 1970, Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, signed CORA WEISS and DAVE DELLINGER

2. Letter dated April 20, 1970, Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, signed STEVEN E. HALLIWELL

3. Letter dated May 4, 1970, Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, signed from Rev. RICHARD FERNANDEZ

4. Letter dated May 13, 1970, Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, signed BARBARA WEBSTER

5. Letter dated June 14, 1970, Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, signed BARBARA WEBSTER

6. Letter dated September 14, 1970, Committee of Liaison, signed CORA WEISS

7. Letter dated September 18, 1970, Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, signed CORA WEISS
January 20, 1970

Dear Friend,

I am happy to report that during my visit to North Vietnam between December 26, 1969, and January 9, 1970, I was able to deliver to the representatives of the Vietry (Viet Nam Committee for Solidarity with American People) about 500 letters that had been forwarded on to me by you and other family members of prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

Immediately prior to my departure from North Vietnam I was given 69 letters from 64 American prisoners of war, and in keeping with the North Vietnamese request these letters have been given to the

Committee of Liaison
with Families of Service men detained in North Vietnam
365 W. 42nd Street
New York, New York

for transmittal to the individual addressees. We at the American Friends Service Committee are pleased to have had a part in opening a channel for communication between the prisoners and their families and hope that this will continue.

You may be interested to know that during my visit to North Vietnam I was able to deliver a second contribution of open heart surgical equipment to the Benh Vien Viet-Duc Hospital in Hanoi in keeping with a long-standing Quaker concern for civilian sufferers on both sides of a war.

Following my departure from North Vietnam I traveled on to Quang Ngai in South Vietnam to visit the American Friends Service Committee (Quaker) rehabilitation project for civilian casualties.

I have asked my colleagues in Philadelphia to mail this letter to you prior to my return to the United States, so that you might know more promptly that your letter has safely arrived in Hanoi and was given to the appropriate North Vietnamese authorities with my specific request that it be delivered to the individual addressee.

Most sincerely yours,

Roger G. Fredrickson

for: Louis W. Schneider
December 15, 1969

Dear Friend,

This is but a brief note to acknowledge receipt of your letter addressed to your family member who is being held as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam.

My current plans call for me to arrive in North Vietnam on or about 26 December at which point I hope to be able to turn your letter along with a large number of other letters from the immediate families of men being held to the appropriate authorities of the Democratic Republic of North Vietnam, along with my request that the letters be delivered to the individual prisoners.

After my return to the United States I will write to you again to let you know whether it was possible to deliver the letters.

Most sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Louis W. Schneider
Associate Executive Secretary
April 7, 1970

Dear [Redacted]

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

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,

[Redacted]  [Redacted]

Cora Weiss  Dave Dellinger

P.S. Kindly excuse the mimeographed letter, but there are many families to reach at the same time.
April 20, 1970

Dear [Redacted]:

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
May 4, 1970

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.
Dear friend:

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 155. 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
June 14, 1970

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
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
Dear Friends,

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

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

(Last Saturday 143 letters were brought by a traveller returning from Hanoi. That brought to 1243 the number of letters from prisoners that have been delivered by hand to the U.S. without interference.)
No explanation has been offered by anyone for the seizure of the mail, and no guarantees have been made that this will not happen again. On Thursday afternoon the State Department assured me that the mail was available to be claimed and expressed concern that it be forwarded immediately to relieve anxiety of waiting families. We reminded the State Department that it was the government that had seized the mail in seeming disregard for the families, prisoners, and the future of communication between them. Mr. Scheer offered to meet with representatives of the State Department at the airport to discuss the situation and see what could be done to prevent future occurrences of this nature. His request was rejected. When he went with Rennie Davis and myself to reclaim the mail, he was unnecessarily harrassed, and the press was ejected from observing the reclamation, despite the fact that the very same people had observed the seizure. When he finally got the letters, Mr. Scheer immediately transferred them to the Committee of Liaison for distribution.

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

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

Sincerely yours,

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

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

Date: 11/6/70

Transmit the following in

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRT EL
(Priority)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE: 11/8/70

Re New York airtels to Bureau, 6/9/70 and 7/14/70; and Charlotte airtel to Bureau, 10/13/70, enclosing LHM.

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

Investigation at N. C., was conducted by SA, and at N. C., by SA.

Investigation continuing.

3 - Bureau (Encls - 11)
2 - New York (100-168469) (Encls - 3) (RM)
2 - Charlotte

AGENCY: ARMY, ONI, OSI, SEC. SER., STATE, CIA

57 DEC 1970

57 DEC 1970

Special Agent in Charge

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1969 O - 546-000 (131)
Charlotte, North Carolina
November 6, 1970

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN
NORTH VIETNAM (COLIPAM)
INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS
REGISTRATION ACT

On November 3, 1970, Mr. [redacted], North Carolina, advised he is the father of [redacted] who was shot down over Vietnam and is missing in action. He stated that neither he nor [redacted] wife or mother have had any contact with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam regarding [redacted].

The following individuals were contacted at [redacted], North Carolina, at which time they advised they have never heard of captioned organization or been contacted by any member: [redacted]

Mr. [redacted], father of [redacted] missing in action since October, 1966.

Mr. and Mrs. [redacted], parents of [redacted] missing in action since September 17, 1968.

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.

ENCLOSURE.
RE: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)

Mrs. [redacted], wife of [redacted], missing in action since April 1, 1967.

Mrs. [redacted], wife of [redacted], missing in action since August 2, 1965.

Mrs. [redacted], wife of [redacted], missing in action since March 16, 1966.
On September 29, 1970, Mrs. [redacted] was interviewed at her residence, North Carolina, and furnished the following information:

Mrs. [redacted] advised that her husband was taken prisoner in May three years ago, and until January, 1970, she had not received any communication from her husband. Between January, 1970, and September, 1970, she has now received eight letters, all delivered through COLIFAM. She advised that she personally talked to two members of COLIFAM in January, 1970, on the telephone, and they were ETHEL TAYLOR and STEWART MEACHAM. She stated the phone calls concerned her getting letters from her husband. Each time a letter was delivered Mrs. [redacted] stated, it was delivered in a plain white envelope marked Committee of Liaison, Second Floor, 365 West 42nd Street, New York, New York, 10036. Mrs. [redacted] stated that by communication with her husband through this organization, it appears that her husband has not actually received any of her letters but he has received some packages. Mrs. [redacted] furnished a list of letters and newspaper clippings which reflect her communication with COLIFAM. She stated she would be willing to furnish any additional information to the FBI when she receives it.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HERIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE: 7/29/70

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

On 9/29/70 at N. C. File: CE 100-10936

by SA Date dictated 9/29/70

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.
December 15, 1969

Dear Friend,

This is but a brief note to acknowledge receipt of your letter addressed to your family member who is being held as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam.

My current plans call for me to arrive in North Vietnam on or about 26 December at which point I hope to be able to turn your letter along with a large number of other letters from the immediate families of men being held to the appropriate authorities of the Democratic Republic of North Vietnam, along with my request that the letters be delivered to the individual prisoners.

After my return to the United States I will write to you again to let you know whether it was possible to deliver the letters.

Most sincerely yours,

[Signature]
Louis W. Schneider
Associate Executive Secretary

MEMBER OF SUBJECT ORGANIZATION:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE: 12/13/62
OD 12/8/62
CN34S.570 FOWHIA PRED 12/8/62
Dear Mrs. [Redacted],

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

This letter, along with 69 others, was recently handed to Louis Schneider by Vietnamese authorities in Hanoi, and he mailed them to us from Hong Kong. This was in line with a system for handling such letters which has been opened up to our Committee by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

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

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

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

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

[Handwritten signature]

For the Committee of Liaison

[Handwritten names]
January 20, 1970

Dear Friend,

I am happy to report that during my visit to North Vietnam between December 26, 1969, and January 9, 1970, I was able to deliver to the representatives of the Vietmy (Viet Nam Committee for Solidarity with American People) about 500 letters that had been forwarded on to me by you and other family members of prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

Immediately prior to my departure from North Vietnam I was given 69 letters from 69 American prisoners of war, and in keeping with the North Vietnamese request these letters have been given to the

Committee of Liaison with Families of Service men detained in North Vietnam
365 W. 42nd Street
New York, New York

for transmittal to the individual addressees. We at the American Friends Service Committee are pleased to have had a part in opening a channel for communication between the prisoners and their families and hope that this will continue.

You may be interested to know that during my visit to North Vietnam I was able to deliver a second contribution of open heart surgical equipment to the Binh Dien Viet-Duc Hospital in Hanoi in keeping with a long-standing Quaker concern for civilian sufferers on both sides of a war.

Following my departure from North Vietnam I traveled on to Quang Ngai in South Vietnam to visit the American Friends Service Committee (Quaker) rehabilitation project for civilian casualties.

I have asked my colleagues in Philadelphia to mail this letter to you prior to my return to the United States, so that you might know more promptly that your letter has safely arrived in Hanoi and was given to the appropriate North Vietnamese authorities with my specific request that it be delivered to the individual addressee.

Most sincerely yours,

Louis W. Schneider
Roger C. Fredriksson

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

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

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

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

Functions of the Committee

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

The Committee will seek to facilitate communication between families in the U.S. and servicemen now imprisoned in North Vietnam. Basically, the Committee will receive letters from servicemen and forward them through their respective organizations, thereby keeping families informed of the conditions of their loved ones. We will also forward letters to North Vietnam at the request of relatives. Families are of course free to send letters and parcels directly but should note that the instructions on mailing previously issued by the State Department are wrong. The correct address is:

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

VIA POST OFFICE, U.S. POST:

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

Clarification

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

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

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

We Are

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

We are active in a variety of organizations committed to ending the war: American Friends Service Committee, the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam, Women Strike for Peace, The Conscient, and Women Against U.S. War. The Committee is supported by donations from individuals and organizations, and welcomes any gifts to sustain its work.
January 28, 1970

Dear Mrs. [Name],

Though we certainly hope that you have received the letter sent to you from North Vietnam by this time, we understand that there has been trouble with its delivery. The letter has not been returned to this office (its return address), and Stewart Meacham is still checking through the post office in Philadelphia.

While we are attempting to find out what the difficulty is, we thought we should send you our information sheet, so that you might know what the Committee of Liaison is.

As noted in the Sheet, letters will be periodically sent from North Vietnam to families in this country. The families will be able to send letters once a month (note the mail address on the Sheet), and packages less than 6 pounds in weight once every other month. We are also enclosing a letter form which you may wish to use in writing back to your husband, once you do receive his letter.

Again, we hope that you have heard or will hear soon, and understand the frustration this must have caused you and your family.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Maggie Geddes
April 20, 1970

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 airmail 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
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:

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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 300 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.
May 13, 1970

Dear Friend:

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
May 25, 1976

Dear Mrs. [Redacted]

Just a note to let you know that we will send your recent letter to your husband, along with the photographs, to North Vietnam with a group of anti-war people who are going there in June.

Sincerely,
Barbara Webster
June 14, 1970

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.

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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
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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
On September 25, 1970, Mrs. [redacted] was interviewed at her home at [redacted], North Carolina, and furnished the following information:

Mrs. [redacted] stated that since her husband has been declared missing, she has received no mail from him. She stated that she has attempted to write to her husband through the American Friends Service Committee, 160 North Fifteenth Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19102, and this committee was suggested to her by the Casualty Office at Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. She advised that the Casualty Office notified her that KENNETH KIRKPATRICK was going to Hanoi in June, 1970, and would take any letters over at that time. Mr. KIRKPATRICK's address was listed as Peace Education Secretary, AFSC, 814 Northeast 40th Street, Seattle, Washington, 98105. Mrs. [redacted] stated she wrote a letter on June 3, 1970, and sent it to KIRKPATRICK in Washington, and she received a letter back on July 27, 1970, stating that he was unable to deliver the letter due to the fact that Mrs. [redacted] husband was not on Hanoi's POW list. She advised that in the letter from KIRKPATRICK was a list of POW's furnished by the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). She stated that this is the only contact she has had with this group.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/25/70
N. C. File CE 100-10986

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.
On September 24, 1970, Mrs. [redacted] was interviewed at her home, North Carolina, and furnished the following information:

Mrs. [redacted] stated that she has never received any mail from her son in nearly four years since he was shot down flying. She stated that she has written to her son on a number of occasions and has dealt with only two different organizations. She stated one was the National League of Families of American Prisoners of War in Southeast Asia on Constitution Avenue, Washington, District of Columbia, and the other was United We Stand organized by H. Ross Perot in Dallas, Texas. Mrs. [redacted] advised that no other members of her family have ever been contacted by any other organization.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Mr. [redacted] was interviewed at his home, North Carolina, and furnished the following information:

Mr. [redacted] stated that he has not heard from his son since he was shot down flying. He advised that he has not been in contact with any organizations attempting to deliver letters to his son. He advised that his wife had made several trips to Washington in attempts to discover additional information concerning their son.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
FEDERAL INVESTIGATION
Dated: 10/7/70

On 9/24/70 at N. C. File CE 100-10986

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

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Mrs. [redacted], North Carolina, advised that she is the mother of [redacted], who is a pilot in the United States Air Force. Mr. [redacted] was not present at the beginning of this interview, but came home just as the interview with Mrs. [redacted] concluded.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that her son, along with seven crew members, departed from Thailand on [redacted], 1969, in a [redacted] on a mission and never has been heard from since. Mrs. [redacted] noted that her son, [redacted], was the Aircraft Commander. She said that the information she received from the United States Air Force revealed that weather conditions held up the proper performance of her son's first mission, and he was directed to another area, and while en route to the second area, apparently was hit by enemy aircraft fire and his plane was last seen crashing in [redacted] and fellow pilots in the immediate area saw no parachutes or life in the immediate crash area.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that neither she nor her husband or [redacted], wife, [redacted], has received any communication or been contacted by the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLFIVN). She did state that they have communicated with the American Red Cross National Headquarters, Washington, D. C. 20006, The United States Air Force, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas 78148, PRINCE SOUHANUBONG, care of M. STT. PETHRASI, MEO LAO HAK. STT., representative, Vientiane, Laos, and finally they obtained an address from a newspaper of P. O. Box 7777, Washington, D. C., which she wrote to and received periodicals concerning families that have relatives in the hands of the North Vietnamese. She noted that this last address advertised that if she wrote, they would forward her communications to the proper individuals, who could furnish her letter to her son if he was held captive in North Vietnam. Mrs. [redacted] said that they have never received any positive information concerning their son, in regard to whether he survived the crash of his airplane. Mrs. [redacted] furnished the following:

On 10/5/70 at [redacted], North Carolina

File: CE 100-10986

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 10/12/70

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Mrs. \[\text{line cut}\] stated after her husband, Mr. [\text{line cut}], arrived at their home that neither she nor her husband could furnish any further information concerning this matter and that she would immediately contact the FBI in the event that any of their family was contacted by any individual concerning her son.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Mr. advised he received a call from an officer stationed at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, where his brother was stationed asking his permission to furnish his name to a Committee of Liaison With Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. The officer stated this Committee had a letter from addressed to him and they needed his permission to furnish his name to the Committee so the letter could be sent. Mr. advised he inquired of the officer if there were strings attached as he was not going to get involved in any blackmail. The officer assured him the Committee was O.K. so he gave his permission.

Mr. advised since this he has received two letters. He is certain the first letter was from his brother as information in the letter would have been only known to his brother. The second letter was fairly general and he cannot be certain. Mr. has received no other correspondence. No one from the Committee has contacted him in person or by letter.

Mr. advised he sends vitamins and other items to his brother through the Randolph Air Force Base but has not furnished nor been requested to give money or food through the Committee.

Mr. advised his brother's co-pilot is also detained and he is in touch with the co-pilot's wife who resides in Florida. She was also contacted by an officer from Randolph Air Force Base regarding her permission for her name to be furnished this Committee.

Mr. offered his cooperation and will report any contact made by this Committee.

On 10/22/70 at North Carolina Filo CB 100-10926

by SA

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Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)
DATE: 11/17/70

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

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

(00: NY)

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

Enclosed for the Bureau and New York is one copy each of an FD-302 showing the results of an interview with [redacted], 11/5/70. The original of the FD-302 is contained in the Knoxville file 100-4160.

[Redacted] Mr. [redacted] upon interview, informed agents that he has not been contacted by any member of the COLIFAM group and is of the opinion that he will not be contacted. He advised that from the circumstances reported to him of the disappearance of his son two years ago he does not believe there can be any hope that he is still alive. Mr. [redacted] advised that should he be contacted by any such group, he will immediately inform the FBI.

2 - Bureau (100-457899) (Enc. 1) (RM)
2 - New York (100-168469) (Enc. 1) (RM)
3 - Knoxville (2 - 100-4101)
   (1 - 100-4160 C)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREOF IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE: 7/13/70 BY 9/26/70
CN345,570 POLY/MIA REV07/82

57 DEC 8 1970

Savings Bonds Regularly on the all Savings Plan
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All 6/24 60 12/4/2-2

Date November 17, 1970

residence address advised that the father of the U.S. Air Force. Mr. is informed by a representative of the Air Force that his son is missing in action and from the circumstances he is of the opinion that his son is dead.

According to Mr. his only contact concerning his son has been with the representative of the Air Force and as far as he knows there has been no attempt by any group or committee to contact him. He stated that he has no information of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam and is positive that this group has not made any effort to contact him. He further advised that no one has attempted to deliver any personal objects to him that might have belonged to his son nor has he received any communications through the mail indicating that anyone or any committee could do this for him.

Mr. further advised that he does not know of any other family in the Chattanooga area that has a relative missing who has been approached by the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. He stated that should any such information come to his attention, he will immediately make this information known.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREBIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

Date 11/5/70  by 12/12

100-4160

11/10/70

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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

REFERENCES:
Baltimore airtel to Bureau dated 7/23/70.
San Antonio letter to Bureau dated 8/27/70.
Baltimore letter to Bureau dated 9/28/70.
Bureau letter to all offices dated 10/12/70.
Norfolk report of SA dated 10/27/70.

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA:
Extra copies of this report are being furnished to the Bureau for any appropriate dissemination deemed advisable.

LEADS:
1 - Bureau (100-457899) (Registered Mail)
2 - New York (100-168469) (Registered Mail)
1 - Norfolk (100-6833) (Info) (Registered Mail)
3 - Baltimore (100-27337)

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency
Request Rec'd
Date Rec'd
How Fwd'd
By

Cover Page
2. Will obtain any additional information concerning the activities of the organization's members. It is noted that Mr. [(author's name redacted)] stated that the taped recording was located at the home of Mr. [redacted name].

Baltimore, Maryland

Baltimore Division

A copy of this report is being furnished to Mr. [redacted name] in Monopolia Information Division concerning this matter.

[Redacted text]

[Handwritten note: "Tell me to talk to [redacted name]."]

[Handwritten note: "Tell me to talk to [redacted name]."]

[Handwritten note: "Tell me to talk to [redacted name]."]

[Handwritten note: "Tell me to talk to [redacted name]."]
RELATIVES OF PRISONERS OF WAR (POW's) AND MISSING IN ACTION (MIA) IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Contacted and interviewed. Mr. [Redacted], Maryland, father of [Redacted], was shot down in 1965, was contacted by representative from Women's Strike for Peace, New York, by letter in December, 1969. Enveloped contained letter from son and note from Ethel Taylor from Philadelphia representing Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Returned in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). Mr. [Redacted], daughter, attended a meeting in Washington, D.C., where CORA Weiss, Co-Chairman of COLIFAM spoke. Daughter took notes and coordinated notes she took on a tape. Mr. [Redacted] has met Reverend Richard Fernandez, "Society of Friends" a Quaker Organization, and has been contacted by Maggie Geddes by telephone, member of COLIFAM, which concerned the receipt of letters from his son. Mrs. [Redacted], Maryland, mother of [Redacted], received letter from CORA Weiss in September, 1970 expressing regret for delay in forwarding a letter from her son, which had been confiscated by the U.S. Government upon its arrival at Kennedy Airport, New York.

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DETAILS:

AT BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

between the captives in North Vietnam and relatives in this country. He also instructed them as to how they should address their letters and each woman at this meeting gave FERNANDEZ their husband's names, names and their own names and addresses.

Mrs. [redacted] gave her husband's name as well as her own name and address to FERNANDEZ at this meeting; however, she has not received any word from this group and she was under the opinion that her card became lost. To date she has not written to this committee for any assistance in verifying the fact that her husband might be alive and held captive in North Vietnam. She has received no mail or inquiries from anyone concerning her husband other than occasionally she received information from the Intelligence Unit of the United States Navy regarding any recent developments concerning the publication of names who are listed as captives held by the North Vietnamese. Mrs. [redacted] claims that she writes letters to her husband once a month and sends packages every two months. She has never received any of the letters or packages back. Mrs. [redacted] stated that she had taken notes regarding the meeting at Mrs. [redacted] home in [redacted] concerning the gathering where Reverend FERNANDEZ appeared, however, she was not certain whether she retained those notes which she believes are at her residence.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that if necessary she would be willing to testify to the above in a court of law.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date July 30, 1970

ALL REDACTED

The past few weeks have been very trying for Mrs. TAYLOR. In January, 1969, she returned from Nha Be, South Vietnam, where a woman, who was identified as ETHEL TAYLOR, was

considered to be one of the women who had returned from Nha Be around Christmas, 1969.

At the meeting Mrs. TAYLOR presented what she, Mrs. TAYLOR, considered an extremely distorted biased opinion of the United States involvement in North Vietnam and claimed that she, ETHEL TAYLOR, was bringing a message from the "compassionate" women in North Vietnam to those in the United States in an effort to set up an avenue of exchange of information, devoid of any government connections. She explained that the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam was organized for providing for this avenue of exchange.

Mrs. TAYLOR indicated that various questions were asked by those attending and only the pastor of the Church stood up to sever the comments made by Mrs. TAYLOR. With regard to a question directed as to who paid for the trip, no answer was given. ETHEL TAYLOR did remark that her telephone bill was very high and that her "angry husband" paid the bill. Mrs. TAYLOR concluded by saying that she did not feel that Mrs. TAYLOR and her committee

Mrs. TAYLOR also indicated that she would be willing to cooperate should her request be added at a later date.

Date dictated 7/30/70

MD
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All 676 No 60 128122

July 30, 1970

On April 1, 1970, she received a long distance telephone call from OUSA KRIS in New York City telephone number 82-549-1765. She did state that she was OUSA KRIS and did represent some organization which Mrs. Doe could not recall. She said she had just returned from there, and that there was a letter in the mail for them from their son.

The parents were already aware that their son was a prisoner through notification by the Air Force. No other information was furnished by OUSA KRIS and she did not ask any questions.

The letter was received shortly thereafter around April 17, 1970, postmarked Hanoi. Their son had indicated he did receive their letters and packages.

The parents continue to write letters twice a month and send a package every two months. Only their first package mailed in December, 1966, was returned.

Although the parents received two pieces of correspondence from OUSA, one dated April 7, 1970, signed by OUSA KRIS and RAYE HOLLINGER and the other dated May 4, 1970, from the Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ, both from New York, they have never contacted this organization.

The first letter confirmed their son's name was listed as being held by North Vietnam and the second letter provided instructions on sending communications to the prisoners held in North Vietnam.

The letter advised that she was willing to cooperate should any testimony be needed at a later date.

7/30/70

Maryland

File 6A 100-27337

7/24/70

2A

Date dictated.

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-6-
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All 67c PER E2 (1/8/2-2)   Date 8/28/70

was contacted at her residence,

She was advised of

the procedure of the interview and that the interview was requested

at the direction of the U.S. Attorney General

Attorney General.  Thereafter, she was interviewed

and furnished the following information:

She is the wife of missing in action since 1965.  She

has received four or five letters from the Committee of

Kiaison with Families of Servicemen detained in North

Vietnam (COLIFAN) which all occasions except one, had

enclosed two letters from her husband, presently a

Prisoner of War in North Vietnam.  She first received

her husband's letters from COLIFAN on December 24, 1969.

Mrs. advised she had never been

contacted telephonically or personally by anyone representing

COLIFAN.  She knew of no other Prisoner of War Family

in the Wilmington, Delaware area.  She advised she would

immediately notify the FBI should she be contacted by a

representative of COLIFAN.

She made available one of the COLIFAN form letters

which she had received dated May 13, 1970.  A copy of the

letter follows:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/31/70 BY 9303

FILE # MEO 1287
CAB 1945 07

On 8/13/70 at Delaware   File # SA 100-27327
by SA   Date dictated 8/19/70

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency.

and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.
May 13, 1970

Dear friend:

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
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Mrs. [redacted] and received through the U.S. Mail two mimeographed letters from the Committee of Adjustment with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, one of which was dated April 7, 1970 and the latter dated May 4, 1970. She also received through the U.S. Mail a letter dated January 20, 1970 from the American Friends Service Committee, Inc.

Mrs. [redacted] was available for whatever was deemed necessary by the FBI, all three letters, and requested only that they be returned to her upon completion of use by the FBI.

Mrs. [redacted] has not replied to either Committee as a result of their correspondence.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7/23/73 BY [redacted]

On 8/28/70 at Maryland File # 100-27337
by [redacted] Date dictated 8/28/70

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.
April 7, 1970

Dear [Name],

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

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,

Dave Dellinger

[Signature]

Corsa Weiss

Dave Dellinger

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

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 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. In these 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...
created by the North Vietnamese and is an extension of previous efforts. 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. servicemen 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 the 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 to 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.
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 300 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.
January 20, 1970

Dear Friend,

I am happy to report that during my visit to North Vietnam between December 26, 1969, and January 9, 1970, I was able to deliver to the representatives of the Viet Nam Committee for Solidarity with American People) about 500 letters that had been forwarded on to me by you and other family members of prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

Immediately prior to my departure from North Vietnam I was given 69 letters from 69 American prisoners of war, and in keeping with the North Vietnamese request these letters have been given to the

Committee of Liaison
with Families of Service
men detained in North Vietnam
365 W. 42nd Street
New York, New York

for transmittal to the individual addressees. We at the American Friends Service Committee are pleased to have had a part in opening a channel for communication between the prisoners and their families and hope that this will continue.

You may be interested to know that during my visit to North Vietnam I was able to deliver a second contribution of open heart surgical equipment to the Binh Bien Viet-Duc Hospital in Hanoi in keeping with a longstanding Quaker concern for civilian sufferers on both sides of a war.

Following my departure from North Vietnam I traveled on to Quang Ngei in South Vietnam to visit the American Friends Service Committee (Quaker) rehabilitation project for civilian casualties.

I have asked my colleagues in Philadelphia to mail this letter to you prior to my return to the United States, so that you might know more promptly that your letter has safely arrived in Hanoi and was given to the appropriate North Vietnamese authorities with my specific request that it be delivered to the individual addressee.

Most sincerely yours,

Roger C. Fredrickson

for: Louis W. Schneider

RF/h
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

Date 9/14/70

[Redacted]

Maryland, was interviewed and advised that his son, [redacted], holds the rank of [redacted] in the United States Navy and on [redacted] 1965 was shot down over North Vietnam and believes he is now a captive at a Detention Center in North Vietnam.

Mr. [redacted] stated that he and his wife received a letter, December 21, 1969, from the Women's Strike for Peace, somewhere in New York. He stated he did not know the exact return address on the letter but recalls that the return address was the Women's Strike for Peace.

He stated that inside this letter was a six line letter which indicated that his son received a Christmas package in February of 1969 and also a package in October of 1969, however this letter did not mention any previous letters that Mr. [redacted] and his wife had sent to his son. The letter did include the fact that he sent his love to his wife and children.

Mr. [redacted] stated that this first letter from his son carried a mixture of emotions. He advised he did not believe that it was written by his son at the time but has since changed his mind and believes that his son is alive. He stated that the envelope which held the letter also had a note in it from a woman named UNELL TAYLOR from Philadelphia.

He further advised that the letter itself was mailed from Philadelphia and that UNELL TAYLOR was an individual who is part of a group called the Committee of Liaison with families of servicemen detained in North Vietnam. He further stated that UNELL TAYLOR did make a tour and go to Hanoi and then to Paris.

Mr. [redacted] then advised that he received a second letter on 9/5/70 in Maryland. D: 100-2/737

[Redacted]  2/6/70

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from his son sometime in April of 1969. Mr. stated that he believed this letter was also from his son. He then advised that several days later he received a long distance telephone call from New York from the Committee of Liaison and advised that they told him that they had a letter addressed to his son's wife, who was residing in New Mexico. Mr. advised that his daughter-in-law did receive a letter and that she did send a copy of the letter to him.

Mr. stated that since his son had been shot down he has maintained close liaison with the Navy Department and that he contacted them upon the receipt of the letters. He further stated that the Navy Department feels the letters are letters written by his son and furthermore stated that they took one of the letters and compared handwriting and one state that the handwriting from the letters was written by their son, even though Mr. did question the handwriting.

Mr. stated that he and his wife belong to a group who really has no official name, but as a group consists of parents of servicemen who are believed to be prisoners in North Vietnam. He stated that he and his wife are personally acquainted with Mr. and Mrs. who reside in but that he does not know of any other families in the area who have sons who are believed to be prisoners.

He further advised that he had a copy of a letter sent to him by MAGGIE GEDDES, and that this letter was written on stationery from the Committee of Liaison and that on the left hand side of the paper are names of the co-chairman, treasurer and committee members. Mr. further stated that he recognized the name of one of the co-chairman, and
the name of a committee man, Rennie Davis, as being individuals involved in the Chicago riots.

He further stated that his daughter attended a meeting in Washington, D.C., where a woman named Consul Weiss, a co-chairman of the Committee of Liaison, was a speaker and that his daughter claimed that the entire group involved in this Committee of Liaison was anti-American. He stated that his daughter attended this meeting for him and that she took notes and recorded the notes she took on a tape and sent them to him, but that he does not have this tape in his possession.

He advised that the tape is at his other home, located at [redacted] telephone number [redacted] further advised that he does have other items that perhaps would interest the FBI in their investigation and that he also believes that this group is un-American.

He further stated that in spite of the group being un-American it represents the only contact he and his wife have with their son, but that he would be willing to cooperate with the FBI and testify to anything that he knows which would assist them in their investigation.

Further advised that on one occasion, he met another of the committee men named Rev. Richard Fernandez. He stated that Rev. Fernandez was a missionary in the "Society of Friends," which he believed was a Quaker organization.

Added that Rev. F. is the only person that he has ever met personally involved in the group and that the other contact has been that ofigger orders, by telephone and direct typing by letter. He stated that at no time did any of these three individuals ask for any kind of contributions from him or did anything which he might consider subversive. He stated that the only thing he has to indicate the group is un-American is the tape at his home in [redacted] which was made by his daughter [redacted] in present a warrant and order to turn over a copy of this tape to him but if they needed it.
NRS. [redacted], Maryland, was interviewed and furnished the following information:

MRS. [redacted] advised that [redacted] United States Navy, is her son, and was reported missing in action after being shot down while on a mission over North Vietnam on 1967.

MRS. [redacted] advised that in November, 1967, the North Vietnamese released the names of 14 American Servicemen being held as prisoners, among which was the name of her son. MRS. [redacted] stated that she started receiving letters and postcards from her son in April, 1968 and has received a total of approximately 10 or 19 to date. All the letters have been addressed to her residence and have been written to her, wife, his in-laws and his grandparents residing in [redacted] for the past couple of years but is presently visiting with her at [redacted].

MRS. [redacted] stated that she has had no personal contact with the committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM), but added that all of her son's letters since January, 1970 have been forwarded to her Cambridge residence with a cover letter from COLIFAM. She stated that she has not acknowledged any of the letters sent through COLIFAM, nor has she corresponded with them in any manner. She stated that the cover letters from COLIFAM were form letters and were signed by CORA WEISS, Co-Chairman. MRS. [redacted] stated that she would report any additional pertinent information in this regard to the FBI. She stated that she would cooperate if her testimony is needed at a later date.

All information contained herein is unclassified.

Date 12/23/73 by 9203

On 9/25/70 at Maryland File DA 100-27337

By SA Date dictated 9/28/70

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All 670 RSR 80 125/1-2

Date 9/28/70

[Redacted information]

[Redacted information]

was interviewed at

Maryland, and furnished the following

information:

[Redacted information]

stated that her husband,

[Redacted information] United States Navy,

was reported missing in action on 1967

after being shot down while on a mission over North

Vietnam. She stated that she had been residing in

since that time. MRS. learned that

her husband was being held as a prisoner in North

Vietnam in November, 1967 when the North Vietnamese

released the name of her husband, along with 13 other

American Servicemen being held there.

MRS. stated that she received her

first letter from her husband in April, 1968, addressed

to her mother-in-law's residence at

Maryland. Her mother-in-law, MRS.

resides at

Maryland.

All of the letters received from her husband have

been addressed c/o [redacted] address. MRS.

forwards all of her son's letters to her in

Among those who have received letters from her

husband c/o the [redacted] address are MRS.

[Redacted information] parents

and MRS. [Redacted information] and all the letters have been

received through the United States Mails. The

fourth letter from her husband dated August 30, 1968

was mailed from Warsaw, Poland and arrived at

in November, 1968. One letter was brought

into the United States in August, 1968 with RENNIE

DAVIS when he arrived in the United States with three

Servicemen who had been released by the North

Vietnamese. Another letter was forwarded to

by the American Friends Service Center,


ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/35/70 BY 900Q

On 9/25/70 of [Redacted] Maryland File BA 100-27337

by SA [Redacted] Date dictated 9/28/70

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.
MRS. stated that she has had no contact with the "Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam" (COLIFAM), but added that all of the letters from her husband arriving at Maryland since January, 1970 have been forwarded by COLIFAM with a form cover letter. She stated that she has not acknowledged these letters, nor has she written letters of appreciation to them. MRS. stated that no one in the family, who has received letters from her husband have been contacted personally by anyone from COLIFAM, nor have any of them corresponded with COLIFAM. She stated that they have received a total of approximately 18-19 letters written by her husband since April, 1968.

MRS. advised that the "National League of Families of American Servicemen Missing in South East Asia" are holding a convention at the Marriott Twin Bridges Motel, Washington, D.C. on October 2-4, 1970. MRS. stated that she is allowed to write to her husband once a month, and she has never sent any of the letters through COLIFAM, nor has any other member of the family. She stated that she has sent letters to her husband from and the United States and her husband's letters have indicated that he has received some of these letters, along with some of those sent by members of his family from the United States.

MRS. made available copies of the COLIFAM cover letter dated September 14, 1970, which accompanied a letter from her husband dated May 6, 1970, sent to his mother and grandmother, and a COLIFAM cover letter dated September 18, 1970, which accompanied a letter from her husband dated June 25, 1970 sent to her.

MRS. stated that she has no intention of contacting COLIFAM in any manner, nor has any member of the family any such intention. MRS. stated that she would cooperate if her testimony is needed at a later date and would forward any pertinent information in this regard to the FBI.
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
Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

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☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): •

For your information: 84904 EXHIBIT OR OM 1/24/82

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages: 160-457199-120 85423
September 18, 1970

Dear Friends,

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

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

(Last Saturday 143 letters were brought by a traveller returning from Hanoi. That brought to 1243 the number of letters from prisoners that have been delivered by hand to the U.S. without interference.)
No explanation has been offered by anyone for the seizure of the mail, and no guarantees have been made that this will not happen again. On Thursday afternoon the State Department assured me that the mail was available to be claimed and expressed concern that it be forwarded immediately to relieve anxiety of waiting families. We reminded the State Department that it was the government that had seized the mail in seeming disregard for the families, prisoners, and the future of communication between them. Mr. Scheer offered to meet with representatives of the State Department at the airport to discuss the situation and see what could be done to prevent future occurrences of this nature. His request was rejected. When he went with Ronnie Davis and myself to reclaim the mail, he was unnecessarily hassled, 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
GHỊ 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 đơn xin phải theo đúng mẫu, khuôn khố và quy định này (Letters from families should also conform to this proforma).
On October 5, 1970, Mrs. [redacted] of Maryland, advised the SA that she had received correspondence from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. It requested that she send the organization a letter for her husband, [redacted], who may be a prisoner of the North Vietnamese. She stated that she could not recall the name of the individual sending her correspondence in this regard, but advised that she did send a letter to the organization which was returned to her in early August, 1970, with a notation that her husband's name was not on a list of 335 prisoners maintained by the North Vietnamese and therefore, they would not accept a letter for him.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that she was previously contacted by the same group, believed to be in late winter of 1968 and that she, together with 13 other relatives of prisoners of North Vietnamese, traveled to Washington, D.C. and conferred with Secretary Laird of the Department of Defense and the secretary of the Air Force. She was not sure, and could locate no records, but believed this organization was captioned the National League of Families of American Prisoners Missing in Southeast Asia.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that her husband was a phantom Air Force jet fighter pilot shot down during a raid in North Vietnam in [redacted] 1968 and that she believed her husband to be dead.
Mrs. [Redacted], Maryland, was telephonically contacted on October 3, 1970 in an effort to arrange a time and date for an interview.

Mrs. [Redacted] inquired as to the nature of the proposed interview at which time she was advised that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) upon direct request of the Assistant Attorney General, U. S. Department of Justice, was conducting investigation with regards to the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM).

Mrs. [Redacted] readily stated that this committee and information relating to her son's capture and imprisonment by the North Vietnamese was a matter of public information and recently appeared in the New York Times and other newspapers.

Mrs. [Redacted] subsequently reconcated Special Agent [Redacted] at the Silver Spring, Maryland, Resident Agency, and volunteered the following information:

She is the mother of Air Force [Redacted], who was shot down over North Vietnam on [Redacted] of 1967. She subsequently received confirmation from the Department of the Air Force on [Redacted] 1969 that her son was a Prisoner of War in North Vietnam.

Mrs. [Redacted], a widow, received a letter from CORA WEISS, postmarked New York City, New York, sometime during the latter part of September 1970, whereby CORA WEISS expressed her regret in forwarding a letter from her son to her which had been confiscated by the U. S. Government upon its arrival at Kennedy Airport, New York. Accompanying this letter from CORA WEISS was a letter from her son who was being held captive in North Vietnam.
Mrs. [redacted] stated that no future meetings or correspondence was proposed by CORA WEISS nor were contributions or donations sought after.

Mrs. [redacted] subsequently wrote a letter to CORA WEISS, care of COLIFAM, New York City, New York, thanking both CORA WEISS and the organization she represented for furnishing her a letter from her son.

Mrs. [redacted] was of the opinion that her daughter-in-law, Mrs. [redacted], had received mail from her son through COLIFAM, however, could not be certain.

She has had no further communication or correspondence with CORA WEISS or COLIFAM.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All 6c 562 60 1812-2

Date: October 12, 1970

Mrs. [redacted], was contacted at her residence on October 6,
1970 by [redacted], FBI, [redacted], Maryland, Resident Agency and the nature of the interview
explained to Mrs. [redacted].

Mrs. [redacted] stated that she is the wife of Air
Force [redacted] who has been missing in action in
Vietnam since 1967.

She related that she has had no correspondence
or communication with the Committee of Liaison with
Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam
(COLIPAC) although she was knowledgeable of this
organization.

Mrs. [redacted] was reluctant to discuss the matter
further, henceforth the interview was terminated.
Maryland, was furnished the identity of Special Agent 
Federal Bureau of Investigation, Silver Spring, Maryland Resident Agency, and advised of the official nature of the interview.

Mr. voluntarily furnished the following information:

He is the father of Air Force who was shot down over Vietnam and confirmed as Missing in Action by the Department of the Air Force on 1966.

In June of 1970, he received permission from the Department of State to visit Paris, France, and meet with the North Vietnamese Delegation in connection with the Peace talks held in Paris, France, during June of 1970.

Prior to his departure from the U. S., he met with high ranking officials in the State Department and Air Force whereby he received instructions and briefings which were of intrinsic value to him.

Mr. explained that although his son was never confirmed by the Air Force as a Prisoner of War, word of mouth returned from a former prisoner of war in North Vietnam indicating that his son was actually a prisoner of war in North Vietnam.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED 
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

On 10/7/70 in Maryland 

by 

Date dicoted 10/12/70
He stated that he was successful in meeting with representatives of the North Vietnamese Republic for a thirty minute meeting in Paris, France, however, received no recognition from the delegates as to the imprisonment of his son.

He returned to the United States approximately one month later.

Mr. [redacted] stated that while he was in Paris, he maintained close liaison with the American Embassy and reported the results of that meeting to officials of the State Department and Air Force upon his return to the United States.

Mr. [redacted] has had no communication or correspondence with the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam.
Mrs. [Redacted], telephonically contacted Special Agent [Redacted] on October 7, 1970, at the Silver Spring, Maryland, Resident Agency of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) after Special Agent [Redacted] had unsuccessfully attempted to locate Mrs. [Redacted] at her residence on October 6, 1970.

Mrs. [Redacted] inquired as to the nature of the proposed interview at which time she was advised that the Department of Justice, at the request of the Assistant Attorney General, was conducting investigation concerning the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM).

Mrs. [Redacted] readily stated that she has had no communication or correspondence with COLIFAM since her son, Air Force [Redacted] was shot down over North Vietnam on [Redacted], 1968, and confirmed as missing in action, henceforth it would serve no purpose to arrange a later and personal interview.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

10/15/70

Mrs. [Redacted], telephonically contacted Special Agent (SA) [Redacted] on October 7, 1970, at the Silver Spring, Maryland, Resident Agency of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) after SA [Redacted] had unsuccessfully attempted to locate Mrs. [Redacted] at her residence on October 6, 1970.

Mrs. [Redacted] inquired as to the nature of the proposed interview at which time she was advised that the Department of Justice had been requested to conduct investigation at the request of the Assistant Attorney General concerning an organization known as the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam.

Mrs. [Redacted] readily stated that she has had no communication or correspondence with this Committee since her husband, Air Force [Redacted] who was shot down over North Vietnam on 1968 and confirmed as missing in action, henceforth, it would serve no purpose to arrange a later personal interview.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/31/73 BY 9803
C NS49370 PWR/MIA PUBL 77-00

On 10/7/70 at Maryland - 100-27337
by SA [Redacted] Date dictated 10/12/70

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

November 11, 1970

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

Date: 11/3/93 by 9a03

CA343,570 POW141A 1ED012712

On 11/5/70 at Maryland

by SA 11/5/70

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All 17c files 12812-2

November 11, 1970

[Text redacted]

On 11/5/70 by [Name redacted] Maryland

BA 100-27337

[Signatures and dates]

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Date: 11/11/70

CIA/SM-104  File  BA 100-2733

SA 67c  11/11/70

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-37*-
Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

DATE: 11/20/70

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

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 HERIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 1/29/70 BY [redacted] CNJ45676

ENCLOSER

57 DEC 8 1970

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date: November 17, 1970

There is the residence address 555 E. Main St., Dekalb, Tenn., where he is the father of a U.S. Air Force. His son, according to Mr., 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. 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., 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. strongly doubts that any effort will be made by any group to contact him concerning his son. Should this happen, Mr. advised that he will immediately inform of the contact.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE: 11/5/70

FILE: XX 100-4154

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

ENCL. X X
Transmit the following in
(Plaintext or code)

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

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:

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

On 11/6/70, was interviewed and advised as follows: She said she has

1. New York (100-168469) (info) (RM)
2. Richmond (RM)
2. Washington Field (100-50739) (Enc.1) (RM)

App. __________
57 DEO 2 1970

Sent __________ M Per __________
never received a letter from her son, 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 and does not have her address but she resides in Virginia. Her name is probably in the telephone book.

Mrs. 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 information. Mrs. received this pamphlet through the mail from the group and it does not need to be returned.

It is to be noted that Mrs. No further contacts with her are contemplated.

LEAD RICHMOND

AT VIRGINIA

Attempt to locate, and if feasible interview Mrs. complying with instructions as set forth in referenced New York airTEL.
TELETYPING

NR016 WF CODED

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

TO DIRECTOR

ATTENTION DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

NEW YORK

FROM WASHINGTON FIELD 1P

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

RE NEW YORK TELETYPING TO BUREAU, NOVEMBER FIVE, NINETEEN SEVENTY.

INFORMATION FROM 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

57 DEC 21970
DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)  DATE: 11/23/70

SAC, SACRAMENTO (100-2745) (P)

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

INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS;
REGISTRATION ACT

OO: New York

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 EX-105
by routing slip for

Info □ action
date 11/16/70
by 12/17/70

11/16/70
California

2 - Bureau (Encs. 120) (RM)
2 - New York (100-168469) (Encs. 2) (RM)
4 - Sacramento

ENCLOSURE

Buy U.S./Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan
Repeated attempts to locate and interview have been unsuccessful to date.
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLFA1:)

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.

ENCLOSURE
Mr. [redacted] was advised that his son, [redacted], 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 later sent a second letter to Mrs. [redacted] at [redacted], Georgia, repeating the message.

The aforementioned telegram was from HENNIE 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 G. 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.

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

by [redacted] Date dictated 8/13/70

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 content are not to be distributed outside your agency.
In the latter part of November or early December, 1969, two letters were received in for Mrs. [redacted] from [redacted]. These letters arrived in one envelope from COLIFAM.

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

By letter dated April 20, 1970, STEVEN E. HALIWEL, COLIFAM, New York, New York, forwarded a letter from [redacted] addressed to Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] California. In HALIWEL'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] stated that neither he and his wife nor Mrs. [redacted] have received any additional letters from [redacted] since April of 1970.

Mr. [redacted] advised that he has received approximately two letters from COLIFAM in which they offered to forward mail from the family to [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] 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] also noted that he knows of no other prisoner of war families who have been approached in a similar manner.

Mr. [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".
Presently resides at ___

wife, Mrs. ___

All 6K 50 12/12-__

620

50 100-2745

620
Mrs. [redacted], 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 (COLFAM). 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.
Mrs. [Redacted], Naval Air Station, California, is the wife of [Redacted], United States Navy, a prisoner of war in North Vietnam who was captured in 1968.

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

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 coaxed 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.
California, is the wife of 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.

On 9/14/70 at [redacted] California File: SC 100-2745

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.
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 California, were also wives of prisoners of war held in North Vietnam.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All Info Rel EO 12812-2

Date: September 23, 1970

Mrs. [name redacted] was advised of the identity of Special Agent [name 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:

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

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.

On 9/15/70 at [name redacted], California
File: SC 100-2745

by [name redacted]

Date dictated: 9/21/70

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.
Mrs. [redacted] 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] 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] 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.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

ALL INF. SOL ED 12/12-2
Date 9/28/70

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.

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.

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.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that at no time during her contacts with COLIFAM has she been harassed or cajoled; 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.

On 9/22/70 at California File SC 100-2745

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 9/22/70

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.
Dear Friends,

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

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

(Last Saturday 143 letters were brought by a traveller returning from Hanoi. That brought to 1243 the number of letters from prisoners that have been delivered by hand to the U.S. without interference.)
No explanation has been offered by anyone for the seizure of the mail, and no guarantees have been made that this will not happen again. On Thursday afternoon the State Department assured me that the mail was available to be claimed and expressed concern that it be forwarded immediately to relieve anxiety of waiting families. We reminded the State Department that it was the government that had seized the mail in seeming disregard for the families, prisoners, and the future of communication between them. Mr. Scheer offered to meet with representatives of the State Department at the airport to discuss the situation and see what could be done to prevent future occurrences of this nature. His request was rejected. When he went with Rennie Davis and myself to reclaim the mail, he was unnecessarily harrassed, and the press was ejected from observing the reclamation, despite the fact that the very same people had observed the seizure. When he finally got the letters, Mr. Scheer immediately transferred them to the Committee of Liaison for distribution.

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

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

Sincerely yours,

Cora Weiss

184
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Mrs. [Redacted] advised that she is the mother of [Redacted], a member of the United States Air Force who has been missing in action since 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 HERIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7/23/70 BY [Redacted]

CN: 68675

On 9/28/70 at [Redacted] California File #: 100-2745

by [Redacted] Date dictated 9/28/70

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.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All ex Parte 6012812-2 Date 10/23/70

Mrs. [redacted] advised that she was first contacted by the Committee of Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIPAC) about four years ago. She advised that all contacts have been by mail and that she has never been contacted in person by anyone representing COLIPAC. She advised that she has not retained counsel to handle any legal proceedings. She stated that she has never corresponded with COLIPAC.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that she was advised by the United States Air Force that it would be unwise to establish any contact with COLIPAC and that in view of this she has never done anything to encourage continued contact by COLIPAC but that she continued to receive mail from that organization.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that in January, 1970, she traveled from Oklahoma to California, and during this period of travel she regularly contacted her cousin regarding any late information which she might have received. She stated that through her cousin she learned that there was a letter being held for her at the United States Post Office, Cordell, Oklahoma. She stated that she had shipped letters forwarded to her in California.

All information contained herein is unclassified.

Date 10/23/70

On 10/21/70 at California

File No. SC 100-2745

by [redacted]

Date dictated 10/21/70

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.
Mrs. [redacted] advised that the letters mentioned above had been opened and it contained a letter apparently from her husband. She exhibited the original of the letter and it is identical with the copy previously made available by the counsel of Mrs. [redacted].

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

Col. [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 specimen of his handwriting, it is sufficiently the same, considering his probable physical and emotional state, to conclude it is his handwriting.

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

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:
Dear Mrs. [redacted]

We're very happy to forward this letter to you which just arrived from North Vietnam along with 91 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
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, imasmuch as letters she has received appear to be form type letters which must receive wide distribution.

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. [redacted] opened the above mentioned envelope and advised that she did not want to keep it and furnished it to me.

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:
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 Lenore, 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.
NGƯỜI GỬI (Address)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

SỐ LỊNH (Service number):

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

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

TRẠI GIÁM PHI CÔNG MY BỊ BẠT TẠI
NUÔC VIỆT - KAM 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):


28
CHÚ (N.B.):

1. Phải viết rõ và chi tiết về từng bệnh cần ăn uống, và các biện pháp cần được thực hiện (kiên trì và kiên nhẫn).

2. Trong thời gian điều trị cần phải chú ý sức khỏe và dành nhiều thời gian cho việc nghỉ ngơi và chăm sóc bản thân.

Mãy Việt (Đọc): [Signature]

[Blank space for additional notes or handwriting]
advised that she is the wife of

She stated that at approximately 9:00 p.m. on
January 23, 1969, she was contacted by

Mail at Fort Mac, Louisville,

California relative to the fact that her husband was

missing in action. She indicated that

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.

LETY stated that she does not belong to any clubs or
groups whose members are related to dead or missing

service men. 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.

All information contained

HEREN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7/6/1969 D# 265

RCN# 576

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**FEDERAL INVESTIGATION**

**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 (COLIFAK)

**REPORT MADE BY**
SA

**CHARACTER OF CASE**
IS - MISCELLANEOUS REGISTRATION ACT

**REFERENCES:** Report of SA at San Antonio, 9/23/70,

**LEADS**
HOUSTON

AT TEXAS, WILL, if not already

PER INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED IN THIS MATTER

**INFORMATION COPIES BEING FURNISHED TO ALEXANDRIA**
inasmuch as Mrs. wife of

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED**
NONE

**ACQUIT- TALS**

**CASE HAS BEEN:**
PENDING OVER ONE YEAR YES NO

**DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW**

---

**APPENDIX A**

**COPPIES MADE:**
1. Bureau (100-457899) (RM)
2. New York (100-168469) (RM)
3. Houston (RM)
4. Alexandria (Info) (RM)
5. San Antonio (100-11851)

**Dissemination Record of Attached Report**

**Agency:**

**Request Recd:**

**Date Inv:**

**How Inv:**

**By:**

**70 DEC 7 - 1970**
"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 INFO CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN

Copy to:

Report of:

Date: 11/10/70
Office: San Antonio, Texas

Field Office File #: 100-11851

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

Bureau File #: 100-457899

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS REGISTRATION ACT

Synopsis: Mrs. Texas; Mr. and Mrs. Texas; Mrs. Texas; Mrs. Texas; Mrs. Texas; Mrs. Texas; Mrs. Texas; Mrs. Texas; and Mrs. Texas, have not received any information from captioned group. Mrs. Texas; Mrs. Texas; Mrs. Texas; Mrs. Texas; Mrs. Texas; Mrs. Texas; Mrs. Texas; and Mrs. 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.

DETAILS: AT TEXAS

The following investigation was conducted by

SA

On September 21, 1970, Mrs. advised as follows:

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

Mrs. 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.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

10/6/70

Mrs. [redacted], wife of [redacted], was advised of the official identity of Special Agent [redacted], of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 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.

Mrs. [redacted] was advised that she is the wife of [redacted], who is listed as missing in action in Vietnam. Mrs. [redacted] was 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 [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 7/23/73 BY 1710

FAX 117418

CONFLUENT 17418

ON 10/1/70 AT TEXAS

FILE # SA 100-11851

TO 10/1/70

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.
Mrs. [REDACTED], wife of [REDACTED], 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.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she was 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 that 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:

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 telephone number or address.

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised she received two letters in April, one letter in May, one letter in June, and two letters in.
Mrs. [redacted] advised that the telephone contact was the only contact she had 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 harassing 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 of the letters it basically spelled out who the individual was that had obtained the letters in North Vietnam. None of the other families of prisoners have been approached in the same manner by the committee.

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.

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

When [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 an answer and would have to make that determination in the event she was actually asked to testify.
MINISTRY OF LIAISON
with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam
365 West 46th Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

[Redacted text]

[Handwritten note]

[Redacted text]

[Handwritten note]

The Committee of Liaison was set up to facilitate communication between those who are held in North Vietnam and their families in this country. You may have received a letter from us with the enclosed arrangement for mail. The mail service has been confirmed as held by the North Vietnamese. Your mail is on its way and it is expected that mail will soon be received.

Sincerely yours,
[Signature]

[Redacted text]
April 20, 1970

Dear Mr. [Name]

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 form. 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,

[Signature]

Steven E. Halliwell

---

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HERIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE: 7-3-73   BY 903
POW/MIA 62812
CNP-855780

---
Committee of Families of Convicts Detained in North Vietnam
365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

CABLE ADDRESS: COLSAFAM

Co-chairs: Dave Dellinger
Cora Weiss

Treasurer: Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee: Richard J. Benssner
Ronnie Davis
Madeleine Duckles
Prof. Richard Falk
Rev. Richard Fernandez
Norman Fuchs
"Maggie Geddies
Steve Holliswell
Prof. Donald Kalish
Stuart Kiecham
Prof. Ben Seitzman
Prof. Franz Schumann
Evel Taylor
Barbara Webster
Ted Yoeg

*staff

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

May 4, 1970

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 Dond of Cornell University and I met with three pilots: Cdr. Robert Schneitzer 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 razor 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 these, 350 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.
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 Pelomdon, Nancy Rubin and Judy Clover -- 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
COMMITTEE OF LISSON
with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam
365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

CABLE ADDRESS
COLLIAM

Co-chairs:
Dave Dallinger
Cara Weiss

Treasurer:
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee
Richard J. Bennett
Ronnie Davis
Madeline Duckles
Prof. Richard Falk
Rev. Richard Fernandez
Nadine Fuchter
*Maggie Gaddes
Steve Hallin
Prof. Donald Kalish
Stewart Muschen
Prof. Ben Steinman
Prof. Peter Schumann
Rebecca Taylor
*Barbara Webster
Tadl Young
*staff

Dear [Redacted]

We're very happy to forward this letter to you which just arrived from North Vietnam along with 33 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
for the Committee of Lission

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7/23/73 BY [Redacted]
ARMY 4TH EOB 12/8/72
CAI#9, 570

62-12812-2
 communicates:  
Dave Dellinger  
Sara Weis  

Viewed:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett  

Committee (in formation):  
Dave Dellinger  
Rev. Richard Femandez  
Laurence Golub  
Steve Weiss  
Robert Cohn  
Prof. Boris Shtudy  
Bob Taylor  
Ruby Webber  
Teddi Young  
"Still"  

COMMUNICATION WITH CAPTURED AIRMAN  

eSTABLISHED BY NEW COMMITTEE:  
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. Sara Weis, 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. Weis, "and immediately forward them to the addressor. 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. Weis, "the North Vietnamese have agreed to send and receive one letter per month to each serviceman known to be held in North Vietnam and relatives in this country. Letters sent from the U.S.," she continued, "will be addressed to prisoner, serial number, Camp of Detention for U.S. Pilots Captured in the DMZ, Hanoi, Democratic Republic of Vietnam, via Vienna, Soviet Union." Packages, Mrs. Weis added, can be sent every other month and are not to exceed six pounds. Mrs. Weis noted that the Committee will forward letters to the families in 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 the prisoners released 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 derided 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 gruesome torture, 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, Stuart Halshom, 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 from Hanoi from servicemen and those letters will soon arrive from Hong Kong to New York, and will immediately be sent to the addresses." Mr. Heschel said that "the 69 letters en route to the U.S. were written by 69 prisoners and the Committee is presently confirming the names of 162 airmen held by the North Vietnamese, or reported to be dead or insane." Mr. Heschel emphasized that the list (available upon request) of 162 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
PRESS RELEASE

Devisa, a defendant in the conspiracy trial, the Rev. Richard Fernandes, Director of Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam, and Reggie Caddis and Chuck Young, staff workers of the Committee.

In December 1969, Mrs. Cora Weiss and two other women, Ethel Taylor of Philadelphia and Madeline Bowers of San Francisco, all active with Women Strike for Peace, came from Hanoi with 230 letters from prisoners for the Committee. Mrs. Weiss said at the press conference that she had worked out the details for this Committee during her visit. 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. Ede Seitzman, Steve Hillman and Barbara Webster. The Committee's office is at 365 West 42nd Street, 2nd floor, New York, N.Y.

--- 30 --- 30 --- 30 ---

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

from The New York Times, 1/15/70

from San Diego Union, 1/19/70
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 traveler returning from Hanoi. That brought to 1243 the number of letters from prisoners that have been delivered by hand to the U.S. without interference.)
No explanation has been offered by anyone for the seizure of the mail, and no guarantees have been made that this will not happen again. On Thursday afternoon the State Department assured us 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 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 Rannie Davis and myself to reclaim the mail, he was unnecessarily harassed, and the public was ejected from observing the reclamation, despite the fact that the very same people had observed the seizure. Then 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 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 Vietnam, 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 change 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,

[Signature]

Core Weiss
by a representative of the Committee. She 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).

In response, Mrs. [redacted] stated that she has received 12 letters in all from her husband since he was captured in 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.

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.
Mrs. [redacted] stated that she had just returned from a meeting in Waco, Texas, in which she had been involved and that she had attended one national meeting in Washington, D.C., but was unable to attend the one that was recently held. She advised that she had been in continual contact with some of the other wives in Waco, Austin, and San Antonio and had received information from them that the W.I. was contacting the wives concerning the activities of the committee. She further advised that at the beginning when the original letters were received through the committee, several of the wives had contacted the U.S. Air Force regarding the committee and they were instructed by Air Force authorities to accept the letters and to have no further contact with the committee other than the acceptance of the letters. She reiterated that she has never contacted the committee and has never been contacted in person by any member or representatives of the WIPATAN.

Mrs. [redacted] stated she would be willing to cooperate in any manner whatsoever and stated that she would save all of the mimeographed or formal letters that are included with her husband's letters as they are received in the event they are needed at a later date.

She stated that she was no longer teaching but was taking courses at Mary Hardin Baylor in order to be able to teach on a higher level.
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 he would 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 15, 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 downtown 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 GHILAN in Vin Tine, Laos, that night.
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.
The following investigation was conducted by

Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] were interviewed October 12, 1970. They advised their son, who 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, [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 OR PART OF 12912-2

Date 10/22/70

Mrs. [redacted], 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:

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.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7/23/93 BY 9C02

POW/MIA Conf Ed 1891
CN 345, 570

On 10/16/70 at TEXAS

File # SA 100-11851

by SA

Date dictated 10/26/70

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.
Mrs. [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.

On 10/14/70 at Texas File # SA 100-11851

by SA Date dictated 10/20/70

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.
All information contained herein is unclassified.

Date 11/3/75 by 982

POSTMIL PER 6012812
CN 345/970

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

by SA 670 Date dictated 10/19/70

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.
July 28, 1970

Dear Mrs. [Redacted]

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.

Sincerely,

Barbara Webster

P.S. I am sorry for the delay in writing but we wanted to wait [Redacted] until Ken had returned and we could talk with him.
In conclusion, Mrs. [redacted] advised this was her only contact with or knowledge of COLIFAM.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Mrs. [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.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All 60C 1105 12872-2

10/22/70

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 SCHRAD 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.

10/14/70

On 10/14/70 at [redacted] Texas File # SA 100-11851

by [redacted] 10/20/70

DATE 765793 BY 9765

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.

- 29 -
In conclusion, Mrs. [redacted] said that the following three letters from COLIFAM are the only ones she retained and that these are self-explanatory.
April 20, 1970

Dear Mrs. [Redacted]:

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
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

- 32 -
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
212-419-4878

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
Mrs. 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 investigations be undertaken to ascertain of the Committee of Liaison 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 engaged with political activities or as a publicity agent in violation of the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

Thereafter, Mrs. 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.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

ALL INFO PER ED 2892-2

Date 11/10/70

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 11/10/70

On 11/5/70 at Texas

by SA

Date dictated 11/5/70

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.
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
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.
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 relentlessly 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 disregard 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-
sented to the press. In fact, they have all been told that it would not be beneficial to their military careers to say anything that would interfere with the government's attempt to put pressure on North Vietnam.

All these were finally admitted by the North Vietnamese who freed in the neighborhood of his cell.

The complaints lodged against the treatment of prisoners by the Viet Cong in South Vietnam mostly concern the extremely sparse bedding and food. Many Viet Cong units are constantly on the run, so that even a prisoner can be taken to a secure area, the prisoner must also be constantly moving. Even in a secure area, the prisoner—like everyone else who lives in the area—may not be on guard by American bordering patrol.

Considering these difficulties, the treatment given to prisoners by the Viet Cong is probably as good as could ever be provided by a modern democratic army. Many of the Americans who have spent time in Viet Cong prisons during the last two years have considered the treatment to be better than what they were accustomed to in the United States.

As a result of these conditions, the United States has been forced to question the ability of our military to withstand such conditions. However, the evidence presented so far does not indicate that the United States military has been unable to withstand the conditions in South Vietnam and the other nations of Southeast Asia.
PRISONERS FROM HANOI (continued)

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 Strategies for Surviving, to be published this year by Pacific Books.

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, enevolike 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 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
David P. Matheny, who was released in February 1968, said that he was beaten on interrogation but only after he had struck a guard. The other, 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. Cunehansa 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

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 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 of 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.

THE NATION/October 6, 1969

Reprinted by the COMMITTEE OF LIAISON with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam 365 West 42nd St., N.Y.C., N.Y.
GỬI (Address)

Họ Tên (Name in full):

Số Lụm (Service number):

Ngày Và Một Đệm (Date & place of birth):

Địa Chỉ (Address):

TRẢI GIẢM PHỊ CỘNG MỸ BỊ BẮT TẠI
NUOC 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 (Address)

Họ Tên (Name in full):

Địa Chỉ (Address):

- 43 -
ONI 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 cần phải theo đúng mẫu, khuôn khổ và quy định này (Letters from families should also conform to this proforma).
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

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

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

O0: 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.

 POV/MIA pm ED/812
 CN 345, 570

(5) 100 910-D

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

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan
UNIVERS STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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].

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/9/73 BKY 9903
POLY LIAISON 11/28/73
CN 145, 270

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.
Mrs. [redacted] advised that she is aware of the existence of the Committee of Liaison 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] 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] 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] made available copies of all correspondence she has had with this committee.
Dear Mrs. [redacted]

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

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 reunited again.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

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

INFORMATION SHEET

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. 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 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 relations.

Background

The Committee of Liaison has been established in response to an initiative...
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. 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. to send her a copy of the list of which Mrs. did after obtaining approval from the casualty office (Colonel GRATCH) at Randolph Air Force Base.

This list, Mrs. 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.

Then, when Mrs. and Mrs. went on a world trip to seek information about the prisoners, Mrs. 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.

It was confusing to Mrs. 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.

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

Mrs. 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.

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

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.

Correspondence from COLIFAM has not been interpreted by Mrs. as any effort to harass or cajole her and contact with the committee has been strictly as described above.
Mrs. Washington, advised that she had recently received a letter from her son, 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.

Mrs. 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 in (received two letters); in (received one letter); and (PH) in

Mrs. 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.

On 9/28/70 at Washington File# SR 100-30385

by SA Date dictated 9/29/70

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.
Mrs. Washington, advised that her son was shot down in an airplane while fighting in the Vietnam War in 1965. She first heard that he was a prisoner of war sometime in 1967 and heard through the news media on 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 servicemen 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.

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

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

Mrs. advised she is the wife of 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.

Mrs. 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. 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. 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. 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.
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.
Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

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

DATE: 11/25/70

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)
IS - MISCELLANEOUS
REGISTRATION ACT
(00: 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.

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

REC 11 - 11 - 11 - 11 - 11 - 11 - 11 - 11 - 11

1 Nov 30 1970

TREAT AS YELLOW

FBI

Date: 11-15-70

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, DEFEENSE 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

From: DIRECTOR, FBI

Subject: COMMITTEE OF LEADERS WITH FAMILY
OF SERVICE MEMBERS DETAINED AT NORTH VIETNAM
(Colony)

(Text of message begins on next page.)

702-411-3713

CLASSIFIED}

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

REC 85 11-15-70 189
DECEMBER 1, 1970

FBI

IMMEDIATE
URGENT

Priority

FIELD DISSEMINATION 62c

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HERIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12-24-70
BY 985

3-29-70
MIA-PW Special

985

EXPONIES DESTROYED

Approved ____________
M Per ____________

1970

1970
CODE PRIORITY

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

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

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.

END PAGE ONE
VOICE OF VIETNAM

ENGLISH TRANSMISSION

TWO. 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
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 DELLLINGER
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
SOURCE STATED HE IS UNAWARE THAT THE CONFERENCE WILL DISCLOSE NEW NAMES OF POW'S.
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED
IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM), NS-MISC, REGISTRATION ACT.
(00-WY).
RENYAT TO BUREAU, NOVEMBER TEN, LAST.

COLUMFAM 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. QUO

NYO WILL COVER AND PROMPTLY ADVISE.

LOCAL AGENCIES ADVISED DECLASSIFIED BY 1975

END
created by the North Vietnamese and is an extension of previous efforts. 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 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 to 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

Chairman:
Dave Dellinger
Cdr. Weiss

Treasurer:
Mrs. Anne Bennett

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

*staff

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE
July 12, 1973

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 certain foods. In particular they mentioned soap, shaving cream (no razors or blades), toothpaste, powdered milk and cream, instant coffee, 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 500 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 LIASON
with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

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

CABLE ADDRESS:
C. LIAFAM

Co-chairmen:
Dave Dellinger
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee
Richard J. Barnet
Rennie Davis
Madeleine 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
*staff

May 13, 1970

Dear friend:

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

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HERIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/73 B1-1892-260, 1892-1892-1892
24/45, 570
June 14, 1970

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 Palomdion, 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
Dear friend:

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
September 18, 1970

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

(Last Saturday 143 letters were brought by a traveller returning from Hanoi. That brought to 1243 the number of letters from prisoners that have been delivered by hand to the U.S. without interference.)
No explanation has been offered by anyone for the seizure of the mail, and no guarantees have been made that this will not happen again. On Thursday afternoon the State Department assured me that the mail was available to be claimed and expressed concern that it be forwarded immediately to relieve anxiety of waiting families. We reminded the State Department that it was the government that had seized the mail in seeming disregard for the families, prisoners, and the future of communication between them. Mr. Scheer offered to meet with representatives of the State Department at the airport to discuss the situation and see what could be done to prevent future occurrences of this nature. His request was rejected. Then 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
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
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.
GÜI (Address)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

DỮ LỊCH (Service number):

NGÀY SÁT SINH (Date & place of birth):

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

TRẠI GIẢM PHI CÔNG MỸ BỊ BẮT TẠI
NUOC 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

NGUỘI GÜI (Addresser)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):
NHAY VIỆT (Dated)

NÂM SỬ (N.B.):

1. Phải viết rõ và chỉ dược viết trên những dòng kẻ sẫm (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 càng phải theo đúng mẫu, khuôn khổ và quy định này (Letters from families should also conform to this format).
Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

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

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


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

Copy to LHM - LHM - Action
by routing slip for
- Info - Action

date 12/12/71
by 902

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

CONFIDENTIAL

KE: 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 dis-
creetly.

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.

DECLASSIFIED
BY
10-2-77

DECEASED 12/5/77

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN

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ON 10-2-77

CONFIDENTIAL

GROUP Y

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

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. In 1967, the U.S. Air Force, their son, was stationed in Thailand flying missions over Vietnam and on October 15, 1967, the U.S. Air Force notified the parents that he 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 ARSON of San Antonio, Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] received their first letter from [redacted] in October, 1967. It was forwarded through an East Berlin, Germany, photographer, Heynowski and Schuman. 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. 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 Schuman 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.
and requested pictures of their family, etc. This request was ignored by the

The next letter received from Hanoi 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 the return address 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.

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

In August, 1968, the received a letter from the American Friends Service Committee in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The cover letter was signed by ANTONIO CALLADO, 12-Cilacap Road, Massachusetts, ANNE W. SCHERER, 1718 Benvouline Avenue, California, and WILLIAM REACHAM of the American Friends Service Committee.

A further letter was received from 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 note bore the letterhead "JORNAL DO BRASIL, DIRETORIA, Rio de Janeiro." It was dated October 8, 1968, and signed "M. P. do NASCIMENTO BRETO." The letter said, "One of our journalists, ANTONIO CALLADO has just returned from North Vietnam today and was the bearer of this letter."

Neither Mr. nor Mrs. have had any contact with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen detained in North Vietnam which, Mrs. 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
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 they do not understand.

On August 11, 1969, the 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 was then named as RENNARD C. DAVIS and then the letter from 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 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 the girl's 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. never learned what significance, if any, this call had.

The next letter received 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 Nanol with CORA WEISS, but had returned before WEISS. On December 21, 1969, another letter was received from Captain direct from him at Nanol 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. received another letter from in a cover envelope of the Committee of Aid to Vietnam. There was no cover letter nor name of anyone connected with the committee. The committee has
sent them a form letter describing how to write to American prisoners of war in Hanoi and sent also some forms to use, similar to the type used by the Committee of Liaison, but Mrs. 
represents 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.

In June, 1970, Mrs. and Mrs. 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. husband, has been missing since 1966, and she has never heard anything from the Committee of Liaison. Mrs. husband was missing in action from 1965 to 1969, when the U.S. Government changed his status to prisoner of war. Mrs. 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. 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.

While in Paris, Mrs. and the two other ladies from 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.
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 have received no letters from since then.

Mrs. advised that she is in contact with many other mothers and wives of American servicemen held prisoners in North Vietnam. Specifically, she mentioned Mrs. mentioned above, who lives at telephone. Mrs. Washington, 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. Washington, whose husband, is a POW and who has received letters through the Committee of Liaison, the first one being about Christmas, 1969.

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

Mrs. advised that she has no misgivings about the publicity and propaganda 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 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 in person.
Mrs. [Redacted] furnished the following information:

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

Shortly thereafter, on April 29, 1970, Mrs. 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. as there had been no prior notice of this second letter.

The next letter received by Mrs. 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 15, 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.

On May 4, 1970, Mrs. 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. has not.

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.

Mrs. 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.
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.

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 (VIETNY), 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.

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

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.

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
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.
Mrs. furnished the following information:

Her husband is 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 in 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. 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.' address and phone number and indicating that they, the committee, had some knowledge of a letter possibly from Colonel GRATCH stated he needed Mrs. 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 name was among them, and that there was a letter en route.

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

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Preliminary Information

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Date dictated 9/24/70

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Shortly thereafter, Mrs. 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 stationary 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. could not recall.

In May, 1970, Mrs. 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.

Mrs. 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. 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. 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 ELDREDGE 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. stated that the alleged verification of the number of prisoners being held in North Vietnam