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Director
Intelligence Community Staff
Washington, D.C 20505

HC 84-211
25 May 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

SUBJECT: Intelligence Community Actions on
the POW/MIA Problem

REFERENCE: NSC/ICS-400399, 3 May 1984

1. I have reviewed Intelligence Community activities relating to the POW/MIA problem and conclude that they are in consonance with the President's expressed priorities and objectives. Specific actions taken by various components of the Community since intelligence priorities were raised in late 1982 are summarized in the attachment. (S)

2. [REDACTED]

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3. Resources devoted to the problem have been substantially increased, [REDACTED]

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4. The high national importance attached to the problem has been authoritatively conveyed [REDACTED]

since late 1982. (S)

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5. Intelligence reporting has increased significantly; for example, DIA DC-2 reviewed 411 reports from all sources in 1982 and 576 in 1983, and, at the current rate of receipt, is projecting over 770 reports for 1984. (S)

6. Finally, coordination and cooperation among organizations in Washington and overseas is excellent; every lead is pursued promptly and intensively; and the system is kept under close and continuing review by senior management of the responsible agencies, with DIA taking the lead. (S)

[REDACTED]

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7. The Intelligence Community considers the POW/MIA problem to be of highest national importance and is sparing no effort to address it. Please let me know if you need more information or assistance. (C)

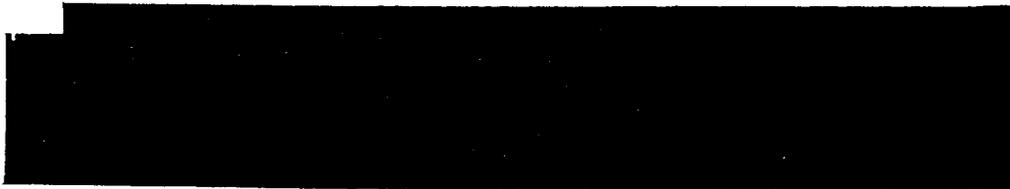
[REDACTED]
E. A. Burkhalter, Jr.
Vice Admiral, USN

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Attachment:
as stated

Intelligence Community Actions on the POW/MIA ProblemDefense Intelligence Agency (DIA)

The POW/MIA problem continues to be a matter of highest concern in DIA and the Department of Defense (DoD). DIA DC-2 collates all information received by the US Government about POW/MIAs and follows up as required. DC-2 obtains excellent cooperation from all components of the Intelligence Community on POW/MIA matters; cooperation with the Joint Casualty Resolution Center (JCRC) by HUMINT representatives in the field is correspondingly good. (S)

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Positive actions taken by DIA since late 1982 include: :

- o Permanent staffing of DC-2 has been increased by 42 percent; the five billets added bring the total to 17. (S)
- o Three part-time positions have also been approved. One, a linguist/analyst, augments the permanent staff. The other two analysts are devoted to the reexamination of grave site and aircraft crash reports. (S)
- o  (S)
- o Requirements were reviewed and revised where appropriate. A letter is currently being prepared to remind all  that the POW/MIA problem is the highest national priority; a similar circular was sent in 1982.  (S)
- o Operating procedures within DC-2 have been reviewed and streamlined, and its backlog has been significantly reduced. (S)

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Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)/Directorate of Operations (DDO)

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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Positive actions taken by CIA/DDO since intelligence priorities were raised in late 1982 include the following:

o [REDACTED]

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o The POW/MIA topic was formally added as a line item in the DDO Objectives [REDACTED]

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o [REDACTED] additional referents for POW/MIA matters [REDACTED] have been added to DDO Headquarters. (c)

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o [REDACTED] the Administration's high interest in the POW/MIA problem was reiterated. The need for DDO stations to respond was emphasized. In addition, [REDACTED] messages have been sent to field stations since late 1982 on specific reports or cases. [REDACTED]

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- o During a February 1984 visit to [REDACTED] a Headquarters officer reemphasized [REDACTED] that the POW/MIA problem was of highest priority for the DDO. (S [REDACTED])

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- o [REDACTED]

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- o DDO reporting on POW/MIA matters has increased. [REDACTED]

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The POW/MIA subject continues to be a primary item [REDACTED]

- o DDO continues to coordinate with and provide support to DIA DC-2. This includes authentication of sources and reports on POW/MIA matters [REDACTED]

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Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS)

FBIS resources are in place and alert to the need for POW/MIA information. FBIS bureaus in Asia monitor Indochinese radio and other media for information on POW/MIA matters; FBIS linguists in Washington similarly exploit all Indochinese publications received. The FBIS [REDACTED] gives high priority to the POW/MIA requirement in scrutinizing the Indochinese media. (S)

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FBIS reporting on POW/MIAs is determined by the amount of material overtly released by the Indochinese governments. (S)

Since late 1982, FBIS actions on the POW/MIA problem have included:

- o Information needs [REDACTED] were sent to FBIS bureaus in Asia, with a covering note emphasizing the increase in intelligence priorities on this problem--already a high-level requirement for these bureaus. (S)

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- o FBIS has provided support to DIA DC-2 by searching old media material to check refugee or other reporting; by informally providing fragmentary references in Indochinese publications (such as a Vietnamese military unit celebrating the shoot down of an unspecified US aircraft); and initiating analysis of media material as new developments occur (such as the FBIS analysis of statements made at the Indochinese Foreign Ministers' meeting in early 1984). (S)

Department of State

Since late 1982, US Embassies in Southeast Asia have on several occasions reviewed and, where necessary, adjusted their procedures for screening Indochinese refugees for information on POW/MIA matters. The Department message that initiated the latest review, in early 1984, reemphasized that the matter was of highest national priority and that every possible effort must be made to screen Indochina refugees for POW/MIA information. Coordination between the Embassy officers and JCRC is excellent. (S)

In early 1984, the Department of State instructed posts in friendly countries with missions in Hanoi to convey background information on the POW/MIA issue to these governments with the request that they send such information to their missions in Hanoi and alert them to the US Government's interest in any POW/MIA information they might encounter. (S)

In late 1983 and early 1984, using high-level approaches, the US Government obtained Chinese agreement to receive a JCRC briefing team to explain US interest in collecting POW/MIA information from former residents of Vietnam now in China. (S)

In early 1984, the Department of State, in connection with an Australian team's planned trip to Vietnam to discuss Australian MIAs, reemphasized to the Australian Government US interest in unaccounted-for Americans in Vietnam. (S)

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[REDACTED]

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