

Attachment 1

2 November 1982

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: The DIA Center for POW/MIA Information

1. The following information results from an interview at the DIA Center for POW/MIA Information in the Pentagon on 2 November with its director, [redacted] and other officers. [redacted]

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2. The POW/MIA problem receives very high attention in DIA. The Center is directly responsible to the DIA Acting Chief of Staff [redacted] and DIA Director LTG James Williams. The Center prepares a report every day on what it has accomplished for the DIA Director. [redacted]

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3. The Center receives excellent cooperation on POW/MIA matters from all of the HUMINT collectors--DDO, FBIS, State, DIA-- and Center officers believe there is not much more the HUMINT collectors could do, given their current access. The Center's greatest problem is that refugees are virtually the only sources of information on POW/MIAs. [redacted]

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4. Cooperation in the field among the HUMINT collectors and with the Joint Casualty Resolution Center (JCRC) is also good. [redacted]

[redacted] have been most helpful in tracking down resettled refugees and arranging interviews. Although DCID 1/2 priorities on the POW/MIA problem are probably lower than warranted, the National Security Agency and the National Photographic Interpretation Center have given the DIA Center full and prompt support on particular problems. Outside of searching their records, there is not much more the technical collectors can do. [redacted]

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5. Center personnel are reasonably confident that refugees are being adequately screened for POW/MIA information. JCRC officers in Hawaii and Bangkok screen refugees throughout Southeast Asia; DIA interviews in the US if necessary. Refugees are asked questions about POW/MIAs in forms used during their processing, and JCRC follows up on these. The National League of Families regularly places advertisements in Southeast Asian newspapers seeking information. [redacted]

[redacted] A letter was sent to all Attaches in 1981 reminding them of the importance of the resolution of the POW/MIA problem, and another circular letter is

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DIA review completed.

SECRET [redacted]

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SECRET [redacted]

currently being prepared. The Navy screens all refugees picked up at sea and some in the Philippines. [redacted]

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6. Center officers estimate that out of some 900,000 refugees in the free world, about 1,600 have said they have some knowledge of POW/MIA matters. Of these, about 450 are firsthand reports of Americans in captivity, and the remainder pertain to hearsay sightings and to crashsite and gravesite information. Of the 450 firsthand reports, just over half have been resolved by correlation with now accounted-for individuals, a few (two percent) are considered fabrications, and the remaining 200 are under continuing investigation by the Center. There is a large unscreened group of refugees in China, but political considerations, have precluded US contact with them. The Center has found Vietnamese exile groups in the US to be unproductive sources for POW/MIA information. [redacted]

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7. The Center's information needs include any sightings of Americans, information on crashsites and gravesites, Indochinese governments' knowledge and policy intentions, and any information on storage of remains and records. [redacted]

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[redacted]  
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SECRET [redacted]

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