

Mr. Speaker, I will close with this. Ask the 148 families of Americans who lost our men in the Gulf war, or the 99 British and French and allied people who lost men. Ask them if they think it was good to play the Iraq card against Iran. It is going to be a disgraceful day in our history tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD a press release from the American Defense Institute and a copy of a letter to President Clinton:

THE AMERICAN DEFENSE INSTITUTE,
Alexandria, VA, July 10, 1995.

FORMER UNITED STATES POW'S OPPOSE NORMALIZATION WITH VIETNAM

ALEXANDRIA, VA.—In a letter sent to President Clinton today, 60 former U.S. POWs—including Congressman Sam Johnson, (R-TX); LtGen John Peter Flynn, USAF (Ret); BG Robinson Risner, USAF (Ret); and Captain Red McDaniel, USN(Ret)—from the Vietnam War expressed their opposition to establishing diplomatic relations with Vietnam “until you, as Commander in Chief, tell us Hanoi is being fully forthcoming in accounting for our missing comrades.” The letter was sent by Captain McDaniel, President of the American Defense Institute, on behalf of former U.S. POWs from Vietnam concerned with recent reports that a White House announcement of the move is imminent.

“While we appreciate Vietnam’s support for U.S. crash site recovery and archival research efforts,” the former POWs stated, “we know first-hand Vietnam’s ability to withhold critical information while giving the appearance of cooperation.”

Elsewhere in the letter, the former POWs contend that Hanoi “could do much more” to resolve many of the unresolved POW/MIA cases.

“Some of our fellow servicemen became missing during the same incidents which we survived. . . Some were captured and never heard from again. . . Still others were known to have died in captivity, yet their remains have not been repatriated to the United States.”

The former POWs expressed their concern that many of the “reports from U.S. and Russian intelligence sources that maintain several hundred unidentified American POWs were held separately from us during the war, in both Laos and Vietnam, and were not released by Hanoi during Operation Homecoming in 1973. . . have yet to be fully investigated” and called on the President to “send a clear message to Hanoi that America expects full cooperation and disclosure on American POWs and MIAs before agreeing to establish diplomatic and special trading privileges with Vietnam.”

Attached is a copy of the letter and the list of the former POWs.

JULY 10, 1995.

AN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT CLINTON
FROM FORMER U.S. POW'S

Hon. WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: As former U.S. Prisoners of war during the Vietnam Conflict, we are writing to request not to establish normal diplomatic relations with Vietnam until you can certify that there has been full disclosure and cooperation by Hanoi on the POW/MIA issue. While we appreciate Vietnam’s support for U.S. crash site recovery and archival research efforts, we know first-hand Vietnam’s ability to withhold critical information while giving the appearance of cooperation. We were all subjected to such propaganda activity during the war, and we would be the least surprised if Hanoi was

continuing to use similar tactics in its dealings with the United States.

Of particular concern to us are the several hundred POW/MIA cases involving our fellow servicemen who were captured or lost in enemy-controlled areas during the war, yet they still have not been accounted for by Vietnam. We understand that much of the fragmentary information provided by Vietnamese officials to date indicates they could do more to resolve these cases.

Some of our fellow servicemen became missing during the same incidents which we survived. They have not been accounted for. Some were captured and never heard from again. They have not been accounted for. Some were known to have been held in captivity for several years and their ultimate fate has still not been satisfactorily resolved. They have not been accounted for. Still others were known to have died in captivity, yet their remains have not been repatriated to the United States. They have not been accounted for.

Finally, we remain deeply concerned with reports from U.S. and Russian intelligence sources that maintain several hundred unidentified American POWs were held separately from us during war, in both Laos and Vietnam, and were not released by Hanoi during Operation Homecoming in 1973. Many of these reports have yet to be fully investigated.

America deserves straightforward answers if Vietnam really wants normalized diplomatic and economic relations. If Vietnam truly has nothing to hide on the POW/MIA issue, then why have they not released their wartime politburo and prison records on American POWs and MIAs? Why have they not fully disclosed other military records on POWs and MIAs?

We would only be compounding a national tragedy if we normalized relations with Hanoi before you, as Commander in Chief, can tell us Hanoi is being fully forthcoming in accounting for our missing comrades.

Perhaps more than any other group of Americans, we want to put the war behind us. But it must be done in an honorable way. We, therefore, ask you send a clear message to Hanoi that America expects full cooperation and disclosure on American POWs and MIAs before agreeing to establish diplomatic and special trading privileges with Vietnam.

Sincerely,

John Peter Flynn, Lt Gen, USAF(ret); Robinson Risner, Brig Gen, USAF(ret); Sam Johnson, Member of Congress; Eugene “Red” McDaniel, CAPT, USN(ret); John A. Alpers, Lt Col, USAF(ret); William J. Baugh, Col, USAF(ret); Adkins, C. Speed, MAJ, USA(ret); F.C. Baldock, CDR, USN(ret); Carroll Beeler, CAPT, USN(ret); Terry L. Boyer, Lt Col, USAF(ret); Cole Black, CAPT USN(ret); Paul G. Brown, LtCol, USMC(ret); David J. Carey, CAPT, USN(ret); John D. Burns, CAPT, USN(ret); James V. DiBernado, LtCol, USMC(ret); F.A.W. Franke, CAPT, USN(ret); Wayne Goodermote, CAPT, USN(ret); Jay R. Jensen, Lt Col, USAF(ret); James M. Hickerson, CAPT, USN(ret); James F. Young, Col, USAF(ret); J. Charles Plumb, CAPT USN(ret); Larry Friese, CDR, USN(ret); Julius Jayroe, Col, USAF(ret); Bruce Seeber, Col, USAF(ret); Konrad Trautman, Col, USAF(ret); Lawrence Barbay, Lt Col, USAF(ret); Ron Bliss, Capt, USAF(ret); Arthur Rurer, Col, USAF(ret); James O. Hivner, Col, USAF(ret); Gordon A. Larson, Col, USAF(ret); Robert Lewis, MSgt, USA(ret); James L. Lamar, Col, USAF(ret); Armand J. Myers, Col, USAF(ret); Terry Uyeyama, Col,

USAF(ret); Richard D. Vogel, Col, USAF(ret); Ted Guy, Col, USAF(ret); Paul E. Galanti, CDR, USN(ret); Laird Guttersen, Col, USAF(ret); Lawrence J. Stark, Civ; Michael D. Bengt, Civ; Mar-ion A. Marshall, Lt Col, USAF(ret); Richard D. Mullen, CAPT, USN(ret); Philip E. Smith, Lt Col, USAF(ret); William Stark, CAPT, USN(ret); David F. Allwine, MSgt, USA(ret); Bob Barrett, Col, USAF(ret); Jack W. Bomar, Col, USAF(ret); Larry J. Chesley, Lt Col, USAF(ret); C.D. Rice, CDR, USN(ret); Robert L. Stirm, Col, USAF(ret); Bernard Talley, Col, USAF(ret); Paul Montague, Civ; Leo Thorsness, Col, USAF(ret); Robert Lerseth, CAPT, USN(ret); Ray A. Vodhen, CAPT, USN(ret); Richard G. Tangeman, CAPT, USN(ret); John Pitchford, Col, USAF(ret); Steven Long, Col, USAF(ret); Brian Woods, CAPT, USN(ret); Dale Osborne, CAPT, USN(ret).

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. GRAHAM (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today until 7:30 p.m., on account of illness.

Mr. MFUME (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today, on account of official business.

Mr. TUCKER (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today, on account of official business.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. KINGSTON) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. WELDON of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KINGSTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ROTH, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. LUTHER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. OWENS, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. KINGSTON) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. SHAYS.

Mr. BILBRAY.

Mr. MARTINI in two instances.

Mr. GILMAN in three instances.

Mr. LATHAM.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. LUTHER) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. STUPAK.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

Mr. FARR.