

The original documents are located in Box 21, folder “MIA/POW - General (4)” of the John Marsh Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald R. Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

SEP 17 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



September 16, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JACK MARSH ✓
BRENT SCOWCROFT
RUSS ROURKE
JOHN CARLSON

FROM:

MILT MITLER *Real 4*

For your information, John Estocin, his wife and sister - family of an MIA - plan a walk from Turtle Creek, PA to Washington to dramatize the need for an Executive Order by the President to stop all changes in status from MIA to KIA. They will begin the walk on Saturday, September 18th and expect to reach the White House on Sunday, October 3rd. They have alerted the press to this.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SEP 21 1976

September 16, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JACK MARSH
BRENT SCOWCROFT
RUSS ROURKE ✓
JOHN CARLSON

FROM:

MILT MITLER *Handwritten signature*

For your information, John Estocin, his wife and sister - family of an MIA - plan a walk from Turtle Creek, PA to Washington to dramatize the need for an Executive Order by the President to stop all changes in status from MIA to KIA. They will begin the walk on Saturday, September 18th and expect to reach the White House on Sunday, October 3rd. They have alerted the press to this.

MIA'S

September 18, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: BILL HYLAND

FROM: JACK MARSH

Bill, before forwarding the attached memo to Bob Dole, I wanted to run Milt Mitler's suggested response through your office.

Please advise if you have any additions or corrections.

Many thanks.

JOM:RAR:cb



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 15, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: RUSS ROURKE
FROM: MILT MITLER *RM*

Russ, Mrs. Farrell J. Sullivan is a client of attorney Dermot G. Foley. Her husband was changed from MIA to KIA at the time when such actions were being taken without consultation with the next of kin but based upon sufficient evidence calling for a change. She has been arguing that the change was not predicated upon sufficient evidence. Foley's court actions brought about a requirement that any such changes cannot be accomplished without prior discussion with the next of kin. Mrs. Sullivan has raised the same points presented to Senator Dole on many occasions. She is most insistent about the Executive Order.

Also, Ken Quinn, in a response to a memo from Bud McFarlane, which was prompted by Jack's discussion with Bud, called Mrs. Sullivan and told her about the same thing that's in my memo.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 15, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: RUSS ROURKE
FROM: MILT MITLER ~~MM~~
SUBJECT: MIA/POW - DOLE REQUEST

1. Achieving an accounting from the Vietnamese of our Missing in Action and Prisoners of War has been a continuing effort by the Administration. Letters released by the Vietnamese following the August 13th announcement by Ambassador Scranton that we would veto Vietnam's admission to the United States because of their intransigence about the accounting, indicate the continuing efforts to accomplish this. The President has, on many occasions, said that he considers a full accounting of the Missing in Action to be of prime importance.
2. The President has never offered to appoint a White House Task Force for the Missing in Action problem. This was considered as a possibility in 1975. However, the formation of the House Select Committee for the Missing in Action in Southeast Asia seemed, at the time, to satisfy that need and that committee was formed with the approval and support of the National League of Families.
3. The negotiations for the accounting of our Missing in Action and Prisoners of War require the very delicate efforts of trained and experienced people in the diplomatic system. These negotiations are going on through the State Department. It is not believed, at this time, that a special negotiator could accomplish any more. The State Department did announce that the Deputy Chief of Mission in Paris would serve as a negotiator.
4. At the present time, the Department of Defense has a moratorium on all changes in status from Missing in Action to Killed in Action unless there is a request by the immediate next of kin for a status review or unless new and unquestionable evidence is surfaced.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Russ:

Get some answers. I don't
remember a March 8 Task
Force.

Jack



SEP 14 1976
2:50

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 13, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH
FROM: DICK CHENEY

2

Jack, attached is a memo given to the President by Bob Dole.

He wants some answers.

Attachment

POW/MIA ISSUE

March

1. When will a specific affirmative plan be announced to get an accounting?
2. Why was the Task Force not named as promised by President Ford on March 8, 1976?
3. When will a negotiator be named?
4. When will President Ford issue an Executive Order to stop all status changes until we can get an accounting?

Mrs. Farrell J. Sullivan
2504 McGregor Drive
Austin, Texas 78745

Home: 512-441-2496
Office: 512-475-5901

Pres. Schol.

Sat. - Sun. 9/18/19

NT-Ohio

SEP 14 1976

2:50

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 13, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH

FROM: DICK CHENEY

2

Jack, attached is a memo given to the President by Bob Dole.

He wants some answers.

Attachment

From Mr. Dale.

POW/MIA ISSUE

March

1. When will a specific affirmative plan be announced to get an accounting?
2. Why was the Task Force not named as promised by President Ford on March 8, 1976?
3. When will a negotiator be named?
4. When will President Ford issue an Executive Order to stop all status changes until we can get an accounting?

Mrs. Farrell J. Sullivan
2504 McGregor Drive
Austin, Texas 78745

Home: 512-441-2496
Office: 512-475-5901

Pres. Schell.
Sat. - Sun. 9/18/19
NT - Ohio

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 28, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: JACK MARSH

FROM: RUSS ROURKE *Rourke*

Jack, I have made the changes suggested by Bill Hyland in Milt's prepared response to Bob Dole's questions. Attached also is a transmittal memo from you to Bob Dole.

cc: MMitler

September 27, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR JACK MARSH

FROM: WILLIAM G. HYLAND *WGH*

SUBJECT: Responses to Mrs. Farrell Sullivan on MIA's

You requested (Tab C) NSC staff comments on draft replies (Tab B) to questions posed to Senator Dole by Mrs. Farrell Sullivan (Tab A). The NSC staff has reviewed the draft language and offers the following comments:

-- Answer no. 3 states that "these negotiations are going on through the State Department." In fact, there are no talks in progress at this time. It may, therefore, be better to change this wording to read "the State Department is currently involved in exchanges with the Vietnamese government on the MIA question as well as other issues of mutual interest."

-- Answer no. 3 also indicates that the State Department "announced" that the Deputy Chief of Mission in Paris would serve as a negotiator. This designation was contained in one of our private exchanges with the Vietnamese and was not announced publicly. It therefore may be more appropriate to state that the State Department has "appointed the Deputy Chief of our Embassy in Paris as our main negotiator with Vietnamese representatives in Paris."



A



POW/MIA ISSUE

March

1. When will a specific affirmative plan be announced to get an accounting?
2. Why was the Task Force not named as promised by President Ford on March 8, 1976?
3. When will a negotiator be named?
4. When will President Ford issue an Executive Order to stop all status changes until we can get an accounting?

Mrs. Farrell J. Sullivan
2504 McGregor Drive
Austin, Texas 78745

Home: 512-441-2496
Office: 512-475-5901

Psle Schel.

SAT. - Sun. 9/18/19
NT - Ohio

B



37-1073
2/50

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 13, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH
FROM: DICK CHENEY

Jack, attached is a memo given to the President by Bob Dole.

He wants some answers.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
September 18, 1976

Handwritten:
5267

MEMORANDUM TO: BILL HYLAND

FROM: JACK MARSH *Jack*

Bill, before forwarding the attached memo to Bob Dole, I wanted to run Milt Mitler's suggested response through your office.


Please advise if you have any additions or corrections.

Many thanks.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 15, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: RUSS ROURKE
FROM: MILT MITLER 
SUBJECT: MIA/POW - DOLE REQUEST

1. Achieving an accounting from the Vietnamese of our Missing in Action and Prisoners of War has been a continuing effort by the Administration. Letters released by the Vietnamese following the August 13th announcement by Ambassador Scranton that we would veto Vietnam's admission to the United States because of their intransigence about the accounting, indicate the continuing efforts to accomplish this. The President has, on many occasions, said that he considers a full accounting of the Missing in Action to be of prime importance.
2. The President has never offered to appoint a White House Task Force for the Missing in Action problem. This was considered as a possibility in 1975. However, the formation of the House Select Committee for the Missing in Action in Southeast Asia seemed, at the time, to satisfy that need and that committee was formed with the approval and support of the National League of Families.
3. The negotiations for the accounting of our Missing in Action and Prisoners of War require the very delicate efforts of trained and experienced people in the diplomatic system. ~~++~~ These negotiations are going on through the State Department. ~~X~~ It is not believed, at this time, that a special negotiator could accomplish any more. The State Department ~~did~~ announce that the Deputy Chief ~~of~~ Mission in Paris would serve as a negotiator. ~~(~~
4. At the present time, the Department of Defense has a moratorium on all changes in status from Missing in Action to Killed in Action unless there is a request by the immediate next of kin for a status review or unless new and unquestionable evidence is surfaced.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 15, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RUSS ROURKE

FROM:

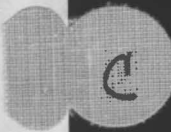
MILT MITLER

MJM

Russ, Mrs. Farrell J. Sullivan is a client of attorney Dermot G. Foley. Her husband was changed from MIA to KIA at the time when such actions were being taken without consultation with the next of kin but based upon sufficient evidence calling for a change. She has been arguing that the change was not predicated upon sufficient evidence. Foley's court actions brought about a requirement that any such changes cannot be accomplished without prior discussion with the next of kin. Mrs. Sullivan has raised the same points presented to Senator Dole on many occasions. She is most insistent about the Executive Order.

Also, Ken Quinn, in a response to a memo from Bud McFarlane, which was prompted by Jack's discussion with Bud, called Mrs. Sullivan and told her about the same thing that's in my memo.

1976



1976



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 28, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: BOB DOLE

FROM: JACK MARSH

SUBJECT: Responses to Mrs. Farrell
Sullivan on MIA's

- 1) Achieving an accounting from the Vietnamese of our Missing in Action and Prisoners of War has been a continuing effort by the Administration. Letters released by the Vietnamese following the August 13th announcement by Ambassador Scranton that we would veto Vietnam's admission to the United States because of their intransigence about the accounting, indicate the continuing efforts to accomplish this. The President has, on many occasions, said that he considers a full accounting of the Missing in Action to be of prime importance.
- 2) The President has never offered to appoint a White House Task Force for the Missing in Action problem. This was considered as a possibility in 1975. However, the formation of the House Select Committee for the Missing in Action in Southeast Asia seemed, at the time, to satisfy that need and that committee was formed with the approval and support of the National League of Families.
- 3) The negotiations for the accounting of our Missing in Action and Prisoners of War require the very delicate efforts of trained and experienced people in the diplomatic system. These negotiations are going on through the State Department. It is not believed, at this time, that a special negotiator could accomplish any more. The State Department is currently involved in exchanges with the Vietnamese government on the MIA question as well as other issues of mutual interest.

MIA

September 29, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: MILT MITLER
FROM: RUSS ROURKE

Milt, Jack's note is self-explanatory.

(re Exec. Order - MIA)



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 28, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: JACK MARSH

FROM: RUSS ROURKE *Russ*

Jack, Milt will be meeting some MIA people here at the White House on Sunday. He is positive that they will question him about the status of the Executive Order and wants to know whether he is free to inform them that, at the present time, the President is disinclined to issue an executive order...and then he'll give them, in essence, the response we have provided for Bob Dole on the same question.

Please advise.

*Tactfully explain
why he hasn't,
and probably
won't!*



JM

October 1, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE HONORABLE ROBERT DOLE
UNITED STATES SENATE

FROM:

JACK MARSH

1. Achieving an accounting from the Vietnamese of our Missing in Action and Prisoners of War has been a continuing effort by the Administration. Letters released by the Vietnamese following the August 13th announcement by Ambassador Scranton that we would veto Vietnam's admission to the United Nations because of their intransigence about the accounting, indicate the continuing efforts to accomplish this. The President has, on many occasions, said that he considers a full accounting of the Missing in Action to be of prime importance.
2. The President has never offered to appoint a White House Task Force for the Missing in Action problem. This was considered as a possibility in 1975. However, the formation of the House Select Committee for the Missing in Action in Southeast Asia seemed, at the time, to satisfy that need and that Committee was formed with the approval and support of the National League of Families.
3. The negotiations for the accounting of our Missing in Action and Prisoners of War require the very delicate efforts of trained and experienced people in the diplomatic system. These negotiations are going on through the State Department. It is not believed, at this time, that a special negotiator could accomplish any more. The State Department is currently involved in exchanges with the Vietnamese government on the MIA question as well as other issues of mutual interest.



4. At the present time, the Department of Defense has a moratorium on all changes in status from Missing in Action to Killed in Action unless there is a request by the immediate next of kin for a status review or unless new and unquestionable evidence is surfaced.

JOM/dl



October 1, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE HONORABLE ROBERT DOLE
UNITED STATES SENATE

FROM:

JACK MARSH

Bob, several weeks ago, you had given the President a list of questions on the POW/MIA issue, presented to you by Mrs. Farrell J. Sullivan.

In response to your request I am attaching the responses we have prepared to those questions. For your further information, I am attaching a memo from Milt Mitler to my Deputy, Russ Bourke, which provides some background information on Mrs. Sullivan.

cc: Dick Cheney

JOM/RAR/dl

MIA's

October 6, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: DICK CHENEY
FROM: JACK MARSH

The attached memorandum is self-explanatory. While you are on the West Coast, I thought you might want to be aware of this so that possibly the call can be placed.

(re MIA's -- Anne Griffiths)



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
October 4, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: JACK MARSH

FROM: RUSS ROURKE *rr*

Jack, I am not sure I agree with Milt on this one. The President has paid a lot of attention to the MIA situation -- and these constant audiences with the President are becoming more difficult to justify.

Having said that if an open 10 minutes can be found on the schedule a day or so after the debate, I would recommend it, if only to counter-balance the Carter publicity, and to give us a little nudge in conservative country.

Please advise.

Ann Griffiths - PH: (714) 826-3110 (home)
(213) 431-2788 (office)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 4, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: JACK MARSH

FROM:

RUSS ROURKE *rus*

Jack, I am not sure I agree with Milt on this one. The President has paid a lot of attention to the MIA situation -- and these constant audiences with the President are becoming more difficult to justify.

Having said that if an open 10 minutes can be found on the schedule a day or so after the debate, I would recommend it, if only to counter-balance the Carter publicity, and to give us a little nudge in conservative country.

Please advise.

*R - They should be
aware of request on
West Coast & make
call there - Det
to them.*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 2, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RUSS ROURKE

FROM:

MILT MITLER *How*

Russ, Ann Mills Griffiths, Member/Board of Directors, National League of Families and the wife of an MIA, called to ask if there was any possibility of meeting briefly with the President while he is in California.

Ann is a reasonable person and has not been one of the hard liners concerning the MIA matter. At the same time, she does seek an Executive Order and does support the League's desire for a Presidential Task Force and a White House negotiator.

Carter, as you know, did meet with a number of League members, including Earl Hopper, in Phoenix. Following that meeting, he said he would form a Task Force if he is elected. He has since stated that he would also send a Presidential Fact Finding group to Hanoi and the other Southeastern Asia areas to explore the MIA accounting and resumption of relations with those countries.

I do believe if a short, informal meeting with Ann could be arranged, it would produce positive results even though the President could not promise an Executive Order, Task Force or negotiator. Just the opportunity to spend five minutes talking about the emotional factors in this would go a long way.

I leave the possibilities to you and Jack. I'll be out on Monday, atoning for all you sinners, but will check with you on Tuesday.

Jandy

Ann Griffith

(714)

826-3110

(213)

431-

2784

h.

w.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 8, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JACK MARSH

FROM:

MILT MITLER *Milt*

SUBJECT:

MIA

Jack, while this may not be one of the most pressing or predominant issues, I believe, and so does Roger Shields, that the President can show a special degree of compassion and morality in taking several important steps concerning the accounting of our Missing in Action. His past performance in this has been excellent and has enjoyed the support of the families. However, there are two points for which they have pressed and which have not been satisfied.

We did announce that our Deputy Chief of Mission would be the negotiator named to meet with the Vietnamese in Paris. We have not made this a firm commitment in terms of giving the DCM positive direction. The President could now announce that the DCM has not only been named the negotiator, but has been told to begin to work toward regular meetings with the Vietnamese in order to effect an accounting of our MIA's as quickly as possible. An announcement such as this could also include some of the past positive action the President has taken.

The second step would be the issuance of an Executive Order to stop all changes in status for the time being. Obviously, that order could be rescinded at any time it was no longer necessary. Both State and Defense have been telling the families that a change in status does not mean we will not continue to press for an accounting. The families have consistently maintained that once the status of a man has been changed, interest in an accounting for that individual will diminish. They use as proof of this our continued reduction of numbers of MIA's as changes take place. The League of Families believe we should be talking in terms of 2,500 MIA's for whom an accounting is required. The other night, the President used the figure of 800 which is approximately the number remaining which are still in the hard core MIA classification.

I also wish we had done something about the Presidential Task Force so that Carter could not have been the one to surface that. However, on our side is the fact that we are working on it and have been for the past month.

OCT 8 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 8, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JACK MARSH

FROM:

MILT MITLER *Milt*

SUBJECT:

MIA

Jack, while this may not be one of the most pressing or predominant issues, I believe, and so does Roger Shields, that the President can show a special degree of compassion and morality in taking several important steps concerning the accounting of our Missing in Action. His past performance in this has been excellent and has enjoyed the support of the families. However, there are two points for which they have pressed and which have not been satisfied.

We did announce that our Deputy Chief of Mission would be the negotiator named to meet with the Vietnamese in Paris. We have not made this a firm commitment in terms of giving the DCM positive direction. The President could now announce that the DCM has not only been named the negotiator, but has been told to begin to work toward regular meetings with the Vietnamese in order to effect an accounting of our MIA's as quickly as possible. An announcement such as this could also include some of the past positive action the President has taken.

The second step would be the issuance of an Executive Order to stop all changes in status for the time being. Obviously, that order could be rescinded at any time it was no longer necessary. Both State and Defense have been telling the families that a change in status does not mean we will not continue to press for an accounting. The families have consistently maintained that once the status of a man has been changed, interest in an accounting for that individual will diminish. They use as proof of this our continued reduction of numbers of MIA's as changes take place. The League of Families believe we should be talking in terms of 2,500 MIA's for whom an accounting is required. The other night, the President used the figure of 800 which is approximately the number remaining which are still in the hard core MIA classification.

I also wish we had done something about the Presidential Task Force so that Carter could not have been the one to surface that. However, on our side is the fact that we are working on it and have been for the past month.

October 18, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: JACK MARSH
FROM: RUSS ROURKE

Jack, please note Dole's comments again on MIA situation. You will recall his pointed reference to MIA's on debate with Mondale.

President should announce Task Force within next week, at the latest!

RAR:cb



MIA

MILT

NSC

J



① Forged it!
JOM will say keeping Brent

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 18, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: JACK MARSH

FROM: RUSS ROURKE *Rourke*

Jack, please note Dole's comments again on MIA situation. You will recall his pointed reference to MIA's on debate with Mondale.

President should announce Task Force within next week, at the latest!

R *S/M*

AD41

R A

PM-DOLE 10-18

BY GENE BERNHARDT

SIOUX CITY, IOWA (UPI) -- REPUBLICAN VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ROBERT DOLE IS INVOLVED IN A WIDE-RANGING ATTACK ON DEMOCRATS IN WHAT HE DESCRIBES AS A "ROUGH-AND-TOUGH CAMPAIGN."

THE KANSAS SENATOR SCHEDULED A MID-MORNING TOUR OF THE SIOUX CITY STOCKYARDS TODAY, AN AFTERNOON-AND-EVENING SWING THROUGH THE SOUTHEASTERN MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS AT CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO. AND GOP RALLIES IN A SHOPPING CENTER AND HOTEL AT SPRINGFIELD, MO.

COMPLAINING ABOUT DEMOCRATIC CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT FORD BEFORE A GOP RALLY AT SIOUX CITY SUNDAY; DOLE SAID, "IT'S A ROUGH AND TOUGH CAMPAIGN."

"WE MIGHT HAVE TO HAVE ONE MORE DEBATE AFTER THE ELECTION TO GET THINGS STRAIGHT," DOLE SAID IN WATERLOO, IOWA, REFERRING TO HIS HISTORIC CONFRONTATION FRIDAY WITH WALTER MONDALE, HIS DEMOCRATIC COUNTERPART.

"TO SUGGEST THAT PRESIDENT FORD PLAYED A ROLE IN WATERGATE IS DIRTY POLITICS AND THEY KNOW ITS DIRTY POLITICS," SAID DOLE. "EVEN THOUGH PRESIDENT FORD WAS CLEARED BY THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE HE HAS BEEN SMEARED BY THE DEMOCRATIC TICKET."

LATER, AT THE SIOUX CITY RALLY, DOLE SHOWED THE WIT HE IS CREDITED WITH; WHETHER FOR OR AGAINST REPUBLICANS.

"I'M REALLY PLEASED TO BE HERE AND I KNOW WHERE I AM, AND I KNOW WHERE I'VE BEEN," SAID DOLE, REFERRING TO FORD'S CONFUSION SATURDAY OVER THE STATE AND CITY IN WHICH HE WAS CAMPAIGNING.

DOLE HIT JIMMY CARTER ON HIS PROPOSED PARDON FOR VIETNAM WAR DRAFT EVADERS WHICH DOLE SAID HE AND FORD OPPOSED.

"THERE'S STILL HUNDREDS OF AMERICAN BOYS MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA," SAID DOLE. "SOME MAY BE PRISONERS OF WAR AND SOME MAY BE ALIVE. I'VE JUST GOT TO BELIEVE THAT IF WE HAVE ANY PRIORITIES WE'VE GOT TO CONCERN OURSELVES WITH THOSE FORGOTTEN AMERICANS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA BEFORE WE WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT THOSE WHO FORGOT AMERICA AT A TIME OF NEED."

DOLE ALSO CRITICIZED DEMOCRATS FOR ANY RECOLLECTION OF WATERGATE AND SAID "IF WE WANT TO GO BACK IN HISTORY WE CAN ASK HOW MANY MEN DIED IN WARS WHEN DEMOCRATS WERE IN CONTROL."

UPI 10-18 04:49 AED

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 15, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RUSS ROURKE

FROM:

MILT MITLER *MM*

Russ, Mrs. Farrell J. Sullivan is a client of attorney Dermot G. Foley. Her husband was changed from MIA to KIA at the time when such actions were being taken without consultation with the next of kin but based upon sufficient evidence calling for a change. She has been arguing that the change was not predicated upon sufficient evidence. Foley's court actions brought about a requirement that any such changes cannot be accomplished without prior discussion with the next of kin. Mrs. Sullivan has raised the same points presented to Senator Dole on many occasions. She is most insistent about the Executive Order.

Also, Ken Quinn, in a response to a memo from Bud McFarlane, which was prompted by Jack's discussion with Bud, called Mrs. Sullivan and told her about the same thing that's in my memo.

R s/m

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 18, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH

FROM: MILT MITLER *Handwritten signature*

Jack, today - October 16th - I met with the Board of Directors of the National League of Families at their request. The meeting was a typical one full of pressure for two things. They desparately want the President to announce a Presidential Task Force on MIA's and they want an Executive Order to stop all changes in status from MIA to KIA or PFOD.

They were promised nothing although I did tell them that we are exploring the Task Force matter because it was a part of the Republican Platform. Last night, during the Vice Presidential Debates, as you may know, Senator Dole said that one of his prime assignments after taking over as Vice President would be a direct responsibility in seeking an accounting of the MIA's and POW's. This has led the League to believe that the President has discussed this with Senator Dole and has some plan in mind.

They believe that we are not moving toward negotiations even though we have announced that the Deputy Chief of Mission in Paris would be our negotiator and the Vietnamese have announced their negotiator. They now want to know why negotiations haven't moved ahead since August.

They also were concerned about the President's mention of 800 MIA's when they consider the figure to be more appropriately 2,500 which would cover those who were at one time in the MIA/POW category and have now been moved into the KIA or PFOD category.

They are also adamant about an Executive Order to stop changes in status maintaining that the rights of the men are being violated by changes without additional evidence.

I don't want to be a bleeding heart about this, but, we should at least move ahead with the Task Force so that we have taken some positive step. It's quite possible that this issue will again surface during the next debate.

Mr. Helms, for your information -

TABLE 1 (A)

AMERICANS MISSING OR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN
DECLARED DEAD -- BODIES NOT RECOVERED

Country	Servicemen (B)				Civilians	
	MIA	POW	PFOD	KIA (BNR)	Missing	Presumed Dead
North Vietnam	260	15	200	294	0	0
South Vietnam	240	15	286	567	14	12
Laos	241	2	102	205	5	4
Cambodia	22	2	4	47	7	0
China	2	0	2	0	0	0
Sub-totals	765	34	594	1,113	26	16
	1,393					
GRAND TOTALS	2,506				42	

(A) Based on Department of State official record, "U.S. Civilians Missing, Killed, or Unaccounted For in Southeast Asia," June 1976; and Department of Defense official record, "Table 1-51, Number of Casualties Incurred by U.S. Military Personnel in Connection with the Conflict in Vietnam," June 1976.

(B) MIA, POW, PFOD, and KIA (BNR) refer respectively to those Americans currently listed as missing-in-action, prisoner of war, presumed dead (presumptive finding of death), and killed-in-action with body not recovered.