

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

19 January 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : Chairman, National Intelligence Council *BR*

FROM : Assistant NIO for East Asia

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SUBJECT : MIAs

1. Your memorandum of 15 January asked for details on 465 eyewitness claims cited in a "USA Today" article.

2. A full accounting is attached. The key sentence is;

"To date there has been no information to confirm any of the sightings."

3. As you may recall, the US in 1980 and 1981 raised with the PRC our interest in information on MIAs. The Chinese never responded. Presumably for this reason, Secretary Shultz is not planning to initiate discussion of MIAs with the Chinese. (I have confirmed this with State.)

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DIA review completed.

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant National Intelligence Officer for East Asia

FROM :

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SUBJECT : MIA Eyewitness Reports

1. Reference, 12 January 1983 USA Today article entitled "Group to Fight MIA Missions."

2. Official figures for MIA's are unclassified. DIA, which has the primary responsibility for accounting for the missing servicemen, holds 2,494 as unaccounted for. There are 478 first hand live sightings (the USA Today figure of 465 was probably accurate when the information was collected). Of these live sightings, more than half or 258 have been resolved. (186 ((38%)) were determined to be sightings of accounted for individuals, e.g. persons known to have remained in Vietnam after the fall of Saigon or persons such as [Redacted], (61 ((12%)) were tentative correlations to accounted for individuals), and (11 ((2%)) were definitively determined to be fabrications. 220 cases (46%) remain unresolved, and DIA considers them to be open cases. Some are as thin as a sighting of a Caucasian passing in a truck and it will be difficult, if not impossible to ever track such information. To date there has been no information to confirm any of the sightings.

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3. DIA collates all MIA data and interviews all available sources both in the United States and overseas.

[Redacted]

DIA

In resolving cases, DIA applies strict criteria which account for the large number of "unresolved cases."

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5. DIA this month forwarded an unresolved case to CIA for assistance. The case is unique in that the US resident alien (ethnic Lao) has twice passed the DIA-administered

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polygraph concerning his belief that he saw US Servicemen in 1977. (Inexplicably the Lao refugee did not pass other areas of the polygraph, notably his personal history).

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[Redacted] DIA continues to investigate the other unresolved cases, none of which seems promising.

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