

Honorable Larry P. McDonald
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. McDonald:

This is in response to your letter of 16 April 1976 concerning Deputy Director of CIA, General Vernon A. Walters' testimony before the House Select Committee on Missing Persons in Southeast Asia.

With regard to the UPI story referred to in your letter, the following quote from General Walters' testimony summarizes the intelligence community's position on MIAs in Southeast Asia:

"A review of the intelligence community's holdings shows that we have no confirmed information that additional American PWs are still being held in captivity in Southeast Asia or elsewhere, as a result of the Indochina War.

Among the Americans unaccounted for, there are some who were known to have been captive at one time.

There is good reason to believe that the Hanoi government -- and the Saigon authorities, which are being unified with Hanoi -- could quickly resolve many MIA cases if they chose to, that the government of Laos could resolve some, but that the government of Cambodia may not be in a position to give more than vague information."

You might also be interested in General Walters' concluding remarks:

"I would like to say, Mr. Chairman, that, more than most committees before which I appear, I feel a human empathy with this Committee because it involves a human problem of an extraordinary prolonged dimension and I must say that I feel I am very happy to have had this opportunity to appear before this Committee which I think has really pursued this item as far as it's humanly pursuable.

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(H)

I would like to add that I agree that I could not see these
to have been seen that there are Americans alive in that area. I would
be very happy to hear of any reports of Americans alive. For all evidence
there is not.

PFC McKinley Nolan had been associated with Communist forces since his desertion from the U. S. Army in South Vietnam in November 1967. After years of being associated with the Vietnamese Communists, Nolan and his "family" left them about October 1973. After his reported break with the Vietnamese Communists, he was observed with the Cambodian Khmer Rouge. According to U. S. returnees released during Homecoming, Nolan was located with his Vietnamese wife and family near the returnees' last PW camp in northern Kratie Province. The latest information, dated May 1974, indicated that PFC Nolan and his family were still located in Cambodia. Apparently, Nolan was not allowed free movement by the Khmer Communists.

The Agency made no mention of "an unidentified tall blond man" in its testimony or written submission for the record. This reference may be connected with an American who was captured in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam in 1965, and later "crossed over" to the enemy and possibly is still alive in South Vietnam. According to U. S. returnees who had contact with this individual, he was a legitimate prisoner from 1965 to 1967, before joining the ranks of the enemy. As collaborator with the enemy, this individual performed escort and guard duties and other camp chores associated with the confinement of the U. S. PWs. As both a PW and later a collaborator/deserter, he had contact with U. S. PWs until 1969. Intelligence reports confirm the activities of this individual as reported by the U. S. returnees. The last intelligence possibly correlating to this American indicated that he might have been operating with enemy troops in Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam in August 1973, but the validity of the report could not be established. It is also possible that this reference describes Mr. Charles Dean, a U. S. civilian, who "disappeared" in Laos in September 1974. Dean was with his companion, Mr. Neil Sherman, an Australian citizen, when he disappeared. According to reliable information, Dean and Sherman were last seen alive at Ban Phontan, Khammouane Province on 23 February 1975. The Pathet Lao have continually denied any knowledge of Dean or Sherman.

Mr. Mike Mickle is not missing. He is currently in Saigon among the approximately 30 Americans who have not been able to obtain exit permits from Saigon authorities. The House Select Committee on Missing Persons in Southeast Asia has additional information about Mr. Mickle and you might wish to direct an inquiry to the staff of that Committee.

... the ... to a copy of ...
... the House Select Committee on ...
... Thank you for your interest in this matter

Sincerely,

Lyle L. Miller
Acting Legislative Counsel

Enclosure
As stated

Distribution:
Orig. - Addressee

1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]

(Typed 22 April 1976)