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Chronology of US/SRV POW/MIA Activities

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NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

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CHRONOLOGY OF US/SRV POW/MIA ACTIVITIES

SRV?

February 1982 - April 1988

- February 1982 Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Armitage visited Hanoi to discuss the POW/MIA issue.
- August 1982 A Vietnamese team visited the Joint Casualty Resolution Center (JCRC) and the Central Identification Laboratory (CIL) in Hawaii.
- September 1982 A four-member League delegation met in Hanoi with Vice Foreign Minister Vo Dong Giang and other officials.
- September 1982 SRV Foreign Minister Thach announced agreement to a longstanding US request for regular meetings in Hanoi (four per year) between SRV and US technical experts.
- October 1982 The SRV turned over the remains of four individuals and identification data on three others.
- December 1982 First technical meeting since the September agreement was held with SRV officials in Hanoi.
- January 1983 The President addressed the League regarding POW/MIA as a matter of highest national priority.
- March 1983 A technical meeting was held in Hanoi. The SRV announced its intention to turn over data on 12 missing servicemen.
- June 1983 Technical meetings held in Hanoi resulted in the SRV turn-over of the remains of nine American servicemen.
- July 1983 The SRV suspended further technical talks, citing "hostile statements" by senior administration officials.
- September 1983 League Executive Director Ann Mills Griffiths met with SRV Foreign Minister Thach who pledged no linkage between POW/MIA and other issues.
- October 1983 White House representative Richard Childress and Mrs. Griffiths met with Foreign Minister Thach in New York.
- November 1983 The SRV agreed to high level US delegation.
- January 1984 Dates for high level US delegation proposed by SRV during meeting with Mrs. Griffiths in New York.
- January 1984 Indochina Foreign Ministers Communique indicated willingness to cooperate with US on the POW/MIA issue.

February 1984 Delegation led by Assistant Secretary of Defense Armitage met in Hanoi with senior SRV officials who agreed to accelerate cooperation on the POW/MIA issue, turn over 5 sets of remains and offered to resume technical meetings.

April 1984 SRV agreed to, then postponed, a mid-April technical meeting, citing "technical reasons."

May 1984 SRV announced plans to turn over eight remains to the US but failed to set a new date for the delayed technical meeting.

June 1984 Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman held a press conference to call on the SRV to reschedule the technical meeting, return remains and not link POW/MIA to other issues.

June 1984 Mrs. Griffiths met with Vietnamese officials in New York.

July 1984 SRV repatriated the remains of 8 persons (6 were later identified as US servicemen) and agreed to a mid-August technical meeting.

July 1984 President Reagan spoke at the White House ceremony for National POW/MIA Recognition Day, July 20, 1984, commending Vietnam for meeting two of three pledges made in February 1984, urging fulfillment of the other commitment made.

August 1984 Technical discussions were held in Hanoi.

October 1984 Mr. Childress and Mrs. Griffiths met with the Vietnamese Foreign Minister in New York.

October 1984 US and SRV technical officials met in Hanoi.

December 1984 Two Congressional delegations visited Hanoi on the POW/MIA issue.

February 1985 US and SRV officials met in Hanoi for technical talks.

March 1985 Mr. Childress and Mrs. Griffiths met with the Vietnamese Foreign Minister in Hanoi. The SRV agreed to increase technical level meetings from four to at least six per year and to turn over several American remains before the end of March, 1985.

March 1985 During ceremonies in Hanoi, 6 remains of American servicemen were repatriated, 2 of which had been listed as died in captivity in South Vietnam, a significant step in fulfilling the SRV's 1984 pledge to focus on these cases.

April 1985 Technical level talks between US and SRV were held in Hanoi.

July 1985 Indonesian Foreign Minister Mochtar announced Vietnam's commitment to resolve the issue "within two years."

July 1985 During July 3-6 technical meetings in Hanoi, Vietnam pledged to turn over to the US the remains of 26 Americans.

August 1985 SRV repatriated remains reported to be those of 26 Americans, the largest turnover since the end of the war.

August 1985 Mr. Childress, Mrs. Griffiths and State Department representative Lyall Breckon met in Hanoi with SRV Acting Foreign Minister Vo Dong Giang and Deputy Foreign Minister Hoang Bich Son for constructive discussions on both governments' workplans to resolve the issue.

September 1985 Technical talks were held in Hanoi, the most positive yet according to US representatives. SRV officials agreed to a joint excavation.

September 1985 Meetings were held in New York with SRV Minister of State Vo Dong Giang and Assistant Foreign Minister Le Mai. Mr. Childress, Mrs. Griffiths and Mr. Breckon represented the US. Minister Giang affirmed the joint excavation near Hanoi and pledged additional American remains would soon be repatriated.

November 1985 Technical officials met in Hanoi and conducted the first joint excavation of a US crash site.

December 1985 SRV repatriated to US technical officials in Hanoi remains reported to be those of seven US servicemen.

December 1985 US proposed scheduling of high level delegation to Hanoi.

January 1986 Assistant Secretary of Defense Armitage led a US delegation to Hanoi, accompanied by Assistant Secretary of State Wolfowitz, Mr. Childress and Mrs. Griffiths, and met with SRV Foreign Minister Thach and Deputy Foreign Minister Son. A late February date was set for the next technical talks during which the SRV pledged to turnover results of their investigations on 50 MIA reports.

January 1986 Senator Frank Murkowski led a Congressional delegation to Hanoi and obtained reaffirmation of commitments made to Mr. Armitage.

* February 1986 House POW/MIA Task Force Chairman Gerald Solomon led a delegation to Hanoi for meetings with SRV officials who reiterated their pledge to investigate live sightings, publicly admitted the possibility of Americans alive in remote areas, and reaffirmed a late February technical meeting, plus information on 20 more cases.

February 1986 Technical talks were held in Hanoi between US and SRV officials.

April 1986 SRV turned over 21 remains believed to be those of US personnel.

April 1986 Vietnam postponed scheduled technical meetings, citing US action in countering international terrorism.

May 1986 Mr. Childress, Mrs. Griffiths, Mr. Breckon and DOD representative COL Howard Hill met in New York with SRV Deputy Foreign Minister Hoang Bich Son.

June 1986 US and SRV officials met in Hanoi for technical discussions.

July 1986 Mr. Childress, Mrs. Griffiths, Mr. Breckon and COL Hill met in Hanoi with Foreign Minister Thach and Deputy Foreign Minister Son. At SRV request, the US formalized its support for Vietnam's two-year plan; the SRV made specific pledges to implement the workplan, including technical meetings to be held in August and October.

August 1986 Technical level talks were held in Hanoi.

September 1986 SRV repatriated remains reported to be those of an American.

October 1986 Deputy Assistant Secretary of State John Monjo, Mr. Childress, and Mrs. Griffiths met in New York with SRV Minister.

October 1986 Technical talks were held in Hanoi between US and SRV officials.

November 1986 SRV repatriated three remains believed to be Americans.

April 1987 The President's February appointment of former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General John Vessey, Jr., was made public.

May 1987 Mr. Childress led a delegation to Hanoi, accompanied by Mrs. Griffiths and Mr. Shep Lowman, Department of State, attempting to establish a valid framework for the proposed Vessey mission.

August 1987 Presidential Emissary General John Vessey met in Hanoi with Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach. Vietnam agreed to resume POW/MIA cooperation with the US, focusing first on discrepancy cases and those listed as DIC in the south; the US agreed to address certain Vietnamese humanitarian concerns.

DIC ?

August 1987 Two teams of US and Vietnamese experts (POW/MIA and prosthetics) met separately in Hanoi to implement agreements reached between General Vessey and Minister Thach. Vietnam reported recovery of 3 remains.

September 1987 General Vessey met in New York with Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien to follow up early August talks in Hanoi. Vietnam repatriated 3 remains reported to be American.

October 1987 US and Vietnamese POW/MIA technical teams met in Hanoi. Vietnam reported investigating 10 discrepancy cases and stated some remains would be returned soon.

November 1987 Vietnam turned over 5 remains reported to be Americans.

December 1987 Mr. Childress, Mrs. Griffiths and Acting Director of Vietnam, Lao, Cambodia Bureau, Department of State Mr. Jeff Millington met with Vietnamese UN officials in NY, reaching agreement to hold POW/MIA technical talks January 22-25, 1988.

January 1988 Three Congressional delegations met with Vietnamese officials to express bipartisan interest and the need for serious cooperation with the US Government. Technical level meetings were held in Hanoi January 22-25th; Vietnam said they have information or remains on 23 Americans and would turnover some in about a month.

March 1988 Vietnam turned over 17 remains reported to be American and information on 3 others, also announcing agreement for the next POW/MIA technical meetings, which were held March 12-15th.

April 1988 Vietnam turned over 27 remains reported to be American, the largest turnover ever, bringing to 52 the number repatriated since the August Vessey mission.