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Clark event
strictly NSC
Hyatt Regency
Crystal City

9:30
per Janice from
scheduling - Nella
1/24

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 27, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR ELIZABETH H. DOLE

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL

SUBJECT: Draft Presidential Remarks -
National League of Families

These are fine remarks.

9:26 A

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 1/26/83ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 11:00 A.M. THURSDAY
January 27, 1983SUBJECT: DRAFT PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES OF AMERICAN
PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FULLER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MEESE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	GERGEN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HARPER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEAVER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	JENKINS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STOCKMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MURPHY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CLARK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/> P	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SS	WILLIAMSON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DOLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VON DAMM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DUBERSTEIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	BRADY/SPEAKES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FELDSTEIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FIELDING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Bakshian</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Remarks:

Please forward comments/edits directly to Aram Bakshian, with a copy to my office, by 11:00 a.m. tomorrow, January 27.

Thank you.

Richard G. Darman
Assistant to the President
(x2702)

Response:

(Dolan/AB)
January 26, 1983
5:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES OF AMERICAN
PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 1983

George Brooks, Ann Griffiths, members of the board, family members, and Members of the Congress:

I think most of you know that during the course of any given day, we meet with an assortment of groups who represent a cross section of interests and causes.

None of these meetings are routine but I must tell you that this meeting today is more than special. The anguish you've suffered -- the families of brave men listed as prisoners of war or as missing in action -- is unspeakable, something the rest of us can never really know even in partial measure. Twelve years ago, I said something to a group of you in California that I believe is even more true today: If they could be here today, millions of Americans, from every corner of this land, who have only a glimmer of your pain, would say to you "we want with all our hearts to share your burden."

And what a burden you have had to bear. You watched as we disengaged from Vietnam and many of our POW's returned for an emotional homecoming. You have seen task forces and committees hold hearings and issue reports that attempted to foreclose hope. But as the tragic flow of refugees from Indochina began a few years ago, those columns of humanity who had suffered hunger and thirst, disease and piracy, brought with them first-hand, "live sighting" reports of American prisoners held captive after 1973. As this information was investigated, respected figures in the

intelligence community reached personal conclusions that these reports were credible, even though the circumstances of the sightings prevented confirmation.

But with these refugees and the news they brought, another tragedy was unfolding here at home. You, the families of our missing men, were trying to be heard, and yet, you were sometimes unfairly and cruelly branded as an emotionally distraught group that ignored reality and simply hoped against hope.

Government and public attention began to wane. And instead of being a full partner with your Government in attempting to learn the fates of your loved ones, you were confronted with legal rulings that presumed your loved ones dead; you found yourselves quite literally on the outside, driven in some cases to demonstrate for attention in front of the White House gates.

Well, today I want you to know that your vigil is over. Your Government is attentive and the intelligence assets of the United States are fully focused on this issue. Furthermore, I pledge to you that we will take decisive action on any live sighting reports that can be confirmed.

We are also working to achieve an accounting of our missing men. I am sure you understand that some of these approaches must be done quietly. As Judge Clark told you yesterday, despite the differences between our governments, we have followed up the encouraging Lao response to the recent visit by the League's delegation. We are fully prepared to take additional, concrete steps with the Loatian government to improve relations. I pledge to you that progress on the POW/MIA issue will be a principle

measure of their sincerity. I wish to recognize publicly their positive steps to date and call upon them to continue with us in this humanitarian effort to end the years of uncertainty you have endured.

I also call on the government in Hanoi to honor their pledges to the American people on the POW/MIA issue. Not for me, not for our Government -- but for our missing men and those of you who did nothing to deserve this terrible emotional ordeal you have endured.

Now these steps are an indication of how things are changing for the better and how the work of those of you in the National League of Families has helped bring about this change.

You are the ones who have forged a partnership to realize our common quest: the return of all POW's, the fullest possible accounting for those still missing, and the repatriation of remains of those who died serving our Nation. The myth that this effort is partisan or needlessly raises your hopes has now been dashed.

The Government bureaucracy now understands that these goals are of the highest national priority and there is strong bipartisan support in the Congress. Those Americans who attempted to discharge Government responsibilities through private efforts should now understand that the full resources of our Government are now committed to these goals.

Today is a time for remembering many -- the private donors, the Congressmen and the Government employees, all those who are dedicated to organizing and supporting a variety of projects to

achieve our goals. Because of the very nature of their work, they must shun publicity, but I want them to know that their quiet and responsible efforts represent the highest patriotic humanitarian values. I urge them to continue on with their work regardless of the obstacles and frustrations -- for the return home of only one of our men will be a personal reward of far greater value than any words spoken here today.

But beyond all those I have mentioned, there are of course those of you here today. Today, this is a room of heroes who kept a vigil of unprecedented faith and devotion. Through all the years of heartbreak and mistrust you have been the ones who have cared, you have been the ones who asked for justice, for deeds not words.

The membership of the National League of Families, past and present board members, and your national office staff deserve the gratitude and accolades of this Nation. And I think I should mention other individuals who share our goals such as Fred Travelena, and returned POW Captain Jerry Coffee, have also given without regard to personal gain.

So all of us can be gratified that progress is being made -- but never satisfied. We need greater public awareness from the American people. So I ask each American who hears or reads of this to find a way to help. No matter how small each individual effort may seem, it is needed.

I ask too that you continue to provide us with positive suggestions through your Washington office. We welcome and solicit your help and cooperation, as well as your criticism when

you feel we deserve it. It is possible there will be differences from time to time on tactics and strategy, but I repeat: We are heartfelt allies and friends, our goals are the same.

The Government is large, it's possible that sometimes you will hear voices that will sound contradictory or insensitive. But we're doing what we can to eliminate that. So, please, don't let it shake our larger faith. Only if we are united, only if we have faith in each other can we finally hope to end the tragic ordeal that you have endured with such steadfast and wondrous courage.

FINAL DRAFT PROGRAM - JANUARY 27TH MEETING
HYATT REGENCY, CRYSTAL CITY

191
Duck Children
3576

JANUARY 26

4:00 - 9:00 p.m.	REGISTRATION	WASHINGTON ROOM
8:30 - 12:00 p.m.	EXECUTIVE SESSION BOARD OF DIRECTORS	WASHINGTON ROOM
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.	BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING	WASHINGTON ROOM

JANUARY 27

9:30 - 11:30 a.m.	OPENING BUSINESS SESSION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT	REGENCY ROOM (A & B)
12:00 - 2:00 p.m.	LUNCHEON - <i>Clark</i>	REGENCY ROOM (C & D)
2:30 - ^{4:00} 3:30 p.m.	NSC BRIEFING <i>JCRC / CIL Briefing</i>	REGENCY ROOM (A & B)
^{4:00} 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.	BUSINESS MEETING <i>Refugee Info</i>	REGENCY ROOM (A & B)
5:00 - 7:30 p.m.	DINNER BREAK	
7:30 p.m.	DEPART TO CANDLELIGHT SERVICE	
8:00 - 9:00 p.m.	COMMEMORATIVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE	FT. MYER MEMORIAL CHAPEL

JANUARY 28

① 9:30 - 10:00 a.m.	President Reagan REFUGEE INFORMATION SEMINAR	REGENCY ROOM (A & B)
② 10:00 - 12:30 a.m.	Business Meeting CIL & JCRC BRIEFING <i>Bus mty</i>	REGENCY ROOM (A & B)
12:30 - 2:30 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK	
③ 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.	PUBLIC AWARENESS SEMINAR	REGENCY ROOM (A & B)
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.	FINANCE REPORT	REGENCY ROOM (A & B)
5:00 - 7:30 p.m.	DINNER BREAK	
7:30 - 9:30 p.m.	BUSINESS MEETING OPEN DISCUSSION	REGENCY ROOM (A & B)

JANUARY 29

9:00 a.m.	BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING	WASHINGTON ROOM
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 10, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR RED CAVANEY

FROM

MORTON C. BLACKWELL *MB*

SUBJECT:

National League of Families of American
Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia

In consultation with Dick Childress from the NSC staff I have been informed that the best time for the President to address the National League of Families on January 28 would be at 9:30 a.m. There is still a great deal of action and interest relating to POW/MIAs. I hope the President is able to make this event.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

12/2/82

Red

Would it be possible
to do this POW/MIA event
on the 28th of January?

We are still showing
it as tentative, but I
believe that there is a
strong likelihood of
acceptance.

Fred

(T) APPROVED

4999

8/3/82

Date. 1/27/83

Time. TBD

Length. TBD

Date 8/5/83

THE WHITE HOUSE

FJR WASHINGTON

Bill
I would
suggest we put
this on Tentative.

SCHEDULE OUTLINE

August 2, 1982

TO: FRED RYAN

FROM: MIKE DEEVER *MD*

REQUEST: To participate in the next meeting of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia.

PURPOSE: To reaffirm the President's commitment to the families of our missing men and stress our stepped-up efforts to resolve the issue.

BACKGROUND: National League is the major organization representing the families. There was great disappointment that the President could not speak to them at their recent meeting (8-11 July). Through extraordinary symbolic gestures such as the flying of the POW/MIA Flag and a substantive address by Secretary Weinberger originally written for the President, some of the disappointment was neutralized. The next meeting will coincide with the Tenth Anniversary of the Paris Peace Accords.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: Rose Garden signing of the POW/MIA Proclamation in 1981. President Reagan is the first President who has not held substantive discussions with the League or addressed them in a meeting. Presidents Nixon and Ford spoke at the League's Annual Banquet and President Carter had a 45-minute meeting in the Cabinet Room with League officials thirteen days after taking office.

DATE: January 27, at Breakfast, Luncheon or Dinner.

LOCATION: Local hotel, to be determined.

PARTICIPANTS: 500-600 POW/MIA family members and friends.

OUTLINE OF EVENT: Address to League (10-15 minutes)

MEDIA COVERAGE: Major coverage by all national networks and news media.

RECOMMENDED BY: NSC, State and Defense.

TALKING POINTS: Speech to follow.

Fred
OKAY

cc: Fred
Helen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE OUTLINE

August 2, 1982

HCID
Attach to
File
FR

TO: FRED RYAN

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TALKING POINTS: Speech to follow.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

CRM
NOV 4 1982

NOVEMBER 2, 1982

MEMORANDUM

(12)

TO: RED CAVANEY

FROM: WILLIAM K. SADLEIR, DIRECTOR
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATION

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR RECOMMENDATION ON THE FOLLOWING
SCHEDULING REQUEST UNDER CONSIDERATION:

EVENT: Attend a special meeting of the National
League of POW/MIA Families.

DATE: January 27, 1983

LOCATION: Washington, D.C.

BACKGROUND: See attached

YOUR RECOMMENDATION:

Accept X Regret Surrogate Message Other
Priority
Routine

IF RECOMMENDATION IS TO ACCEPT, PLEASE CITE REASONS:

Ch

Feelings were very hurt last year
when the President could not
attend & they are very hopeful that
he will go out of his way to be on
hand for this year.

JFR

RESPONSE DUE

11-10-82

TO

Fred J. Ryan



Jan (27-28) '83

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

1608 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 223-6846

Scheduling

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Mr. President:

January 27, 1983, will signify the tenth year since the signing of the Paris Agreement to End the War in Vietnam. To mark that anniversary when all the POWs were supposed to be returned and the missing accounted for, the National League of POW/MIA Families is holding a special meeting in Washington, D.C. As part of that meeting, we want to bring our members up to date on the many significant events which have transpired in recent months.

Past presidents of both parties have met with us, and our members were deeply disappointed this past July when you were unable to attend our 13th Annual Meeting. In January, as we begin the third year of your administration, we feel it would be an opportune time for the Commander-In-Chief to speak to the assembled POW/MIA relatives and supportive veterans organizations. As a result of your personal commitment and that of the members of your administration, there is significant progress to report.

The League's meeting is scheduled for the 27th and 28th of January at the Hyatt Regency, Crystal City. We would specifically like for you and Mrs. Reagan to join us and for you to address our noon luncheon on the 27th.

For the first time in these ten years, we feel the President and the U.S. government are truly committed to resolving this important humanitarian issue. We are hopeful you can attend to personally express your deep commitment.

Respectfully,

Ann Mills Griffiths

Ann Mills Griffiths
Executive Director

October 22, 1982 *VND*

(T) APPR

Date. 1/27/82

Time. 11:30

Length. 40 min

Date 11/11/82 WKS

106292

Start to Red Cavanaugh

PR 11/1/82

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 6, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR MORTON BLACKWELL

FROM: RED CAVANEY 

SUBJECT: National League of Families of American Prisoners
and Missing in Southeast Asia

As a result of a scheduling conflict, it will be unable for the President to accept on January 27. Without extending a specific commitment, would you please contact the group to ascertain what times might be available on 1/28 for Presidential participation.

Please advise.

