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**Collection:** Blackwell, Morton: Files  
**Folder Title:** POW/MIA: POW's Banquet 05/24/1981  
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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

*Morton*

May 19, 1981

TO: ELIZABETH H. DOLE

FROM: Morton Blackwell

Re: Vietnam War P.O.W. Banquet May 24, 1981 Shoreham Hotel

When our office was tasked with working to get the Vice-President to speak at this banquet, we did the following:

1. We called the scheduling office of the Vice-President and learned that he would be speaking at the University of Virginia on that date in the afternoon. Thus, we put through a schedule proposal, and it was refused.
2. We called Secretary of Defense Weinberger's office and spoke with Jay Rixse's office, Special Assistant to the Secretary; we were informed that the Secretary would be out of town on that date.
3. We called Admiral Garrick and learned that Ed Meese would be out of town on that date.
4. We called Capt. McDaniels of the P.O.W. group and informed him of these events. We asked him his preference among the following names:
  - a. Jim Baker
  - b. Bill Clark
  - c. Bill Brock

Capt. Mc Daniels said that he was very sorry that the President and the Vice-President could not attend, but that he did not want to ask Jim Baker, Bill Clark, or Bill Brock. He said that he would be most pleased to stick with Lyn Nofziger speaking in behalf of the President. He thanked us cordially for all our efforts.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*Thanks Morton -  
nice work...*

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Capt. Mc Daniels said that he was very sorry that the President and the Vice-President could not attend, but that he did not want to ask Jim Baker, Bill Clark, or Bill Brock. He said that he would be most pleased to stick with Lyn Nofziger speaking in behalf of the President. He thanked us cordially for all our efforts.

NOTE: Secretary of State Haig had a prior speaking commitment and the P.O.W. group preferred not to ask Ambassador Kirkpatrick.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 19, 1981

TO: ELIZABETH H. DOLE

FROM: MORTON BLACKWELL

RE: Vietnam War P.O.W. Banquet May 24, 1981

We were informed this morning that the Vice-President had declined this invitation.

We spoke with Captain McDaniels of the P.O.W. group and asked him if his group would like us to find another speaker.

He informed us that they were unhappy that the President or Vice-President could not attend; however, they felt that Lyn Nofziger was a great substitute since he is very close to the President and could speak well for the President.

Captain McDaniel said that they would rearrange the program so that Ross Perot would speak longer about his rescue attempt and success in Iran, and then MR. Perot would introduce Lyn Nofziger.

cc. Lyn Nofziger



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

May 18, 1981

TO: JENNIFER FITZGERALD  
ASSISTANT TO THE VICE-PRESIDENT FOR APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE

REQUEST: The Vice-President to be the featured speaker at the Vietnam War  
P.O.W. BANQUET

PURPOSE: Honoring former P.O.W.'s

BACKGROUND: President Reagan has attended the last two banquets of this group (they have been held every three years), and he also welcomed them home. The President had given a tentative agreement (about one year ago) to attend this event. The P.O.W.'s planned this event 18 months ago "knowing that Reagan would be elected President" and chose Washington, DC as the location so that they could be near our new President.

Unfortunately, the President will be out of town on this date. The scheduling office of the President contacted your office, as did the P.O.W. group. Originally, your office declined. Then on May 14th, Admiral Garrick with Ed Meese's office contacted Greg Newell and was told that the Vice-President would be the speaker. The P.O.W. leadership group then met to make final arrangements. However, later that day, the scheduling office of the President called Capt. McDaniels of the P.O.W. group and said that there had been some confusion and the Vice-President had refused.

Other people were contacted to speak. Secretary of State Haig had a prior commitment. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick would be in town on this date, but the P.O.W.'s feel they want someone who is close to their group, and she does not have this background. Lyn Nofziger has agreed to speak if you cannot.

PREVIOUS

PARTICIPATION: President Reagan has a long standing commitment to this group

DATE: May 24, 1981 SUNDAY EVENING LOCATION: SHOREHAM HOTEL

PARTICIPANTS: Approximately 250 P.O.W.'s; total about 500 people.

OUTLINE OF EVENT: Reception: 6 - 7:30 PM Seating: 7:30 PM  
Speaking remarks begin at 8:30 PM

REMARKS REQUIRED: ROSS PEROT will introduce you for about a 15 minute  
address.

MEDIA COVERAGE: P.O.W.'s are arranging for press attendance at banquet.

RECOMMENDED BY: Dick Allen; Bob Kimmitt; Ed Meese; Admiral Garrick

OPPOSED BY:

PROJECT OFFICER: ELIZABETH H. DOLE

*pure  
Vietnam  
POWs*



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

*file*

TO: ELIZABETH H. DOLE

FROM: MORTON BLACKWELL

RE: Vietnam War P.O.W. Banquet May 24, 1981 Shoreham Hotel

The following people have been contacted to speak at this banquet:

About one year ago, the President had given a tentative agreement to attend this event. ( He had attended the last two banquets of this group and he also welcomed them home; In fact, this group planned this particular banquet in Washington about 18 months ago "knowing that Reagan would be elected President.")

Unfortunately, the President will be out of town on this date.

The scheduling office of the President contacted the office of the Vice-President, as did the P.O.W. group. Originally, the Vice-President declined. Then on May 14th, Admiral Garrick with Ed Meese's office contacted Greg Newell and was told that the Vice-President would be the speaker. The P.O.W. leadership group then met to make final arrangements. However, later that day, the scheduling office of the President called Capt. McDaniels of the P.O.W. group and said that there had been some confusion and the Vice-President had refused.

When the scheduling office of the President originally learned that the Vice-President had declined, they contacted Secretary of State Haig and he had a prior commitment. They then contacted Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick and found out she would be in town on that day. The P.O.W. group felt that they wanted someone who is close to their group and felt that she did not have this background.

Then Lyn Nofziger was contacted and he agreed to speak.

Then our office was given the task of trying to get the Vice-President again. We called the scheduling office of the Vice-President and learned that he would be speaking at the University of Virginia on that date in the afternoon. We put through a schedule proposal and it was refused. We then called Secretary of Defense Weinberger's office and spoke with Jay Rixse's office, Special Assistant, and we were informed that the Secretary would be out of town on that date. We then called Admiral Garrick and learned that Ed Meese would be out of town on that date. We then called Capt. McDaniels and asked him if he would like us to try anyone else. At that point, he said he was very unhappy that the President or the Vice-President could not attend, but he would be most pleased to have Lyn Nofziger and they have arranged their program accordingly.



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*file  
Vietnam  
POW's*

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