Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: Correspondence, Office of: Records, 1981-1989

Series: I: RESPONSE TO PUBLIC FORM LETTERS SIGNED

BY ANNE V. HIGGINS

Folder Title: YA-78 – POW/MIAs and Amerasian Children

Box: 29

To see more digitized collections visit: https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digitized-textual-material

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Inventories, visit: https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/white-house-inventories

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/research-support/citation-guide

National Archives Catalogue: https://catalog.archives.gov/

Last Updated: 01/10/2025

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 20, 1986 (XXXY78)

6/16/8/

Dear Mr. Ortega:

On behalf of President Reagan, I want to thank you for your message. The President receives many letters from young people asking him about what our government is doing about the issue of our men missing in action from the conflict in Southeast Asia. Many young people also ask about the status of Amerasian children.

The President is deeply concerned about both of these issues and he has directed his Administration to attempt to resolve them. These are problems left from the Vietnam era which we are making progress in solving.

We have high-level negotiations underway with the governments of both Vietnam and Laos on the missing in action issue, and just last year the remains of over fifty of our men were returned. The Vietnamese recently pledged to our negotiators that they would try to resolve this issue within two years. Our greatest concern is the possibility that some of these men could still be held alive. We thoroughly investigate every report received, but we have not been able to prove that any Americans are still held captive. I can assure you there is no cover-up of this issue. The information is scrutinized by many people in the Executive branch and the Congress. We also share much of this information with the families of our missing men.

The issue of Amerasian children is also of deep concern to us. We have already negotiated with the other governments concerned for the return of thousands of these children to the United States. We will continue our efforts to help these children find a happy life in this country.

I hope this answers your questions and reassures you that President Reagan and his Administration are working hard on these issues which concern you.

Sincerely.

Anne Higgins

Special Assistant to the President and Director of Correspondence

(3/20/86)

Mr. Michael Ortega Evening/Supervisor Correspondence Analysis Section Room 60 Old Executive Office Building Washington, DC 20500

AVH/NSC-Childress/CGM/CAD/AVH

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 20, 1986 (XXXY78A)

Dear Mr. Ortega:

On behalf of President Reagan, I want to thank you for your message. The President receives many letters from young people asking him about what our government is doing about the issue of our men missing in action from the conflict in Southeast Asia.

The President is deeply concerned about this issue and he has directed his Administration to attempt to resolve it. We have high-level negotiations underway with the governments of both Vietnam and Laos, and just last year the remains of over fifty of our men were returned. The Vietnamese recently pledged to our negotiators that they would try to resolve this issue within two years. Our greatest concern is the possibility that some of these men could still be held alive. We thoroughly investigate every report received, but we have not been able to prove that any Americans are still held captive. I can assure you there is no cover-up of this issue. The information is scrutinized by many people in the Executive branch and the Congress. We also share much of this information with the families of our missing men.

I hope that this responds to your concerns and reassures you that President Reagan and his Administration are working hard on this important subject.

Sincerely,

Anne Higgins Special Assistant to the President

Inne Higgins

and Director of Correspondence

(3/20/86)

Mr. Michael Ortega
Evening Supervisor
Correspondence Analysis Section
Room 60
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20500

RR/NSC-Childress/CGM/CAD

AUH/NSC-Childrens/Com/coo/

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

March 17, 1986

AVHY78A (POW-MIDS - Concern Re)

On behalf of President Reagan, I want to thank you for your message. The President receives many letters from young people asking him about what our government is doing about the issue of our men missing in action from the conflict in Southeast Asia.

The President is deeply concerned about this issue and he has directed his Administration to attempt to resolve it. We have high-level negotiations underway with the governments of both Vietnam and Laos, and just last year the remains of over fifty of our men were returned. The Vietnamese recently pledged to our negotiators that they would try to resolve this issue within two years. Our greatest concern is the possibility that some of these men could still be held alive. We thoroughly investigate every report received, but we have not been able to prove that any Americans are still held captive. I can assure you there is no cover-up of this issue. The information is scrutinized by many people in the Executive branch and the Congress. We also share much of this information with the families of our missing men.

I hope that this responds to your concerns and reassures you that President Reagan and his Administration are working hard on this important subject.

Connie - _____ You wont this as a rate?

Both Amerasian chilhem & POW-MIA comes included? If as, vistall in Robers. Tr.

--

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

Date: 2/10/86

TO: CAO

A assume this dropt

Cur be Should into

a yt

FROM: CONNIE MACKEY

Presidential Correspondence -

Children's Unit

Room 435, Extension 7734 or 7735

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

CONNIE

Sorry for the delay, but die been to son trice doing the nyotining to which I refer in the letters.

Dich

Dear Johanna:

Thank you for your letter to the President concerning the issues of our men missing in action from the Vietnam War and Amerasian children.

The President is deeply concerned about both issues and directed fluing the his government to attempt to resolve them. They are problems left from the Vietnam War which we are making progress in solving.

We have high-level negotiations with both the governments of Vietnam and Laos on the missing in action issue, and just last year, the remains of over fifty of our men were returned. The Vietnamese recently pledged to our negotiators that they would try to resolve this issue within two years. Our greatest concern is the possibility that some of these men could still be held alive. We investigate thoroughly every report received, but have not been able to prove Americans are still held captive. I can assure you there is no cover-up of this issue. The information is looked at by many people in the Executive Branch and the Congress. We also share much of the information with the families of our missing men.

The issue of Amerasian children is also of deep concern to us.

We have already negotiated with the other governments concerned for the return of thousands of the children to the United States. We will continue our efforts to help these children find a happy life in this country.

I hope this answers your questions and reassures you that

Alministration

President Reagan and his government are working hard on these issues which concern you.

Sincerely,

C60

AWTPBW,

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

FROM: CONNIE MACKEY

Presidential Correspondence -

Children's Unit Room 435, Extension 7734 or 7735

Rew ENV.
AU14/0. Children /Com/

WASHINGTON

March 17, 1986

AVHY78 (PUW-MIAS & American Children)

On behalf of President Reagan, I want to thank you for your message. The President receives many letters from young people asking him about what our government is doing about the issue of our men missing in action from the conflict in Southeast Asia. Many young people also ask about the status of Amerasian children.

The President is deeply concerned about both of these issues and he has directed his Administration to attempt to resolve them. These are problems left from the Vietnam era which we are making progress in solving.

We have high-level negotiations underway with the governments of both Vietnam and Laos on the missing in action issue, and just last year the remains of over fifty of our men were returned. The Vietnamese recently pledged to our negotiators that they would try to resolve this issue within two years. Our greatest concern is the possibility that some of these men could still be held alive. We thoroughly investigate every report received, but we have not been able to prove that any Americans are still held captive. I can assure you there is no cover-up of this issue. The information is scrutinized by many people in the Executive branch and the Congress. We also share much of this information with the families of our missing men.

The issue of Amerasian children is also of deep concern to us. We have already negotiated with the other governments concerned for the return of thousands of these children to the United States. We will continue our efforts to help these children find a happy life in this country.

I hope this answers your questions and reassures you that President Reagan and his Administration are working hard on these issues which concern you.