



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

1608 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 223-5846

April 10, 1981 April 13, 1981

To the Board of Directors
National League of Families
of American Prisoners and
Missing in Southeast Asia

Dear

The enclosed letter has been sent to Ann because of my concern that she has involved the League in an operation which does not lie within the scope of our agreements with the DIA nor within our League Charter. While we all have a responsibility, individually, to do everything possible to permit the return of our men, we also have a responsibility to the families not to involve them in clandestine activities to which they have not all agreed.

My main concern is that classified information to which Ann has access, has been made available to the Gritz group--and others--which if provided by our Executive Director, certainly does not fall into the terms of our agreement with the DIA on the use of such classified information.

As stated in the enclosed letter, Ann obviously has made statements to numerous people concerning specific sites. We will discuss this at our Board meeting this month. I will expect you to determine what course of action is necessary.

Regards,

Charles E Walker
Chairman of the Board



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

1608 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 223-8846

April 10, 1981

Mrs Ann Mills Griffiths
Executive Director
National League of Families
of American Prisoners and
Missing in Southeast Asia
1608 K Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Mrs Griffiths:

On January 30, 1981, the officers of this organization met with Rear Admiral Jerry O. Tuttle of the Defense Intelligence Agency to discuss the accomplishment of the League's primary objective--the return of any Americans being held in captivity in Southeast Asia. We agreed that since a preponderance of information indicates that Americans are being held, any inadvertent release of information could be catastrophic. Therefore it was determined that any information that was in, or was to come into, our possession which could be used to circumvent any recovery of Americans was to be closely held by all parties. We further agreed that the League should continue its' public awareness campaign and take all steps possible to insure that the Administration does take all necessary actions to recover those men held against their will.

Each of us has a responsibility to do whatever is possible to assist in the prompt, safe recovery of those Americans. We each also have a responsibility to insure that we do nothing to prevent accomplishment of the most likely method of recovery.

Admiral Tuttle has indicated to me, as I am sure he has to you, that the Department of Defense is taking positive action toward recovery of Americans held captive in Southeast Asia and unless such actions were compromised, he felt they could not be "stonewalled" and an actual recovery will take place. Each member of the Board was informed informally that such actions were being contemplated.

Your recent conversations and actions in regard to any covert para-military activities toward this same goal appear to be well beyond the scope of our stated responsibilities and, unfortunately, could be made to appear to be oriented toward preventing a successful U. S. Government recovery attempt. I have been informed that you have passed sensitive information to unauthorized persons several times in recent months.

In view of your responsibility to the U. S. Government to hold secure any defense classified information, the passing of current intelligence data to an unauthorized individual, regardless of their self-expressed need is not only illegal but irrational. Further, creating a situation wherein current operational intelligence data, i.e., that data being used by United States agencies to plan an operation, is made available to outside persons, if true, is unconscionable.

Your position as Executive Director is, by necessity, an extremely "visible" position. Any statement you make, or actions you take, reflect on the families and those officers, past and present, who selected you for the office. The fact that you have usurped the prerogatives of those elected to guide this organization by being involved, in any way, with a plan which could conceivably harm or delay the repatriation of those men we are pledged to help is beyond belief.

If you have been in receipt of information that the United States Government does not, in fact, intend to act on verified information, you have had a responsibility to inform the Board of Directors. To my knowledge, you have not done so.

Had I been informed in advance of your intent to work directly with a paramilitary force or to disclose privileged information, I would certainly have counselled you otherwise. Since you did not have the foresight to discuss this matter with anyone on the Board of Directors prior to your meeting with the Gritz group and prior to your passing knowledge of the situation on to several unauthorized persons and the news media, I feel it is my responsibility to make the Board of Directors aware of all information currently available concerning this apparent breach of trust, and to recommend, if appropriate, that the Board of Directors consider asking for your immediate resignation as Executive Director.

With the foregoing in mind, I, as Chairman of the Board of Directors, instruct you as the Executive Director, to:

1. Make no further public statements, or statements that could be made public, concerning any government or non-government actions to recover Americans from Southeast Asia, until the Board of Directors next meets on April 24th.
2. Prepare for the Board of Directors to be briefed, in-depth, on all statements, actions and conversations made by you concerning recovery of Americans in Southeast Asia to persons not on the Board of Directors, office staff or members of agencies of the U. S. Government.
3. Make necessary arrangements for the Board of Directors to discuss, in special Executive Session, with Admiral Tuttle, the possible adverse ramifications to any recovery efforts planned by U. S. Government brought about by your statements and actions.

If you wish to discuss this situation prior to the next Board of Directors meeting, I will be in the Office in Washington Tuesday, April 21, and we may do so at that time.

Sincerely,

Charles E Walker
Chairman