Ms. Jeannette Giannoni

Dear Ms. Giannoni:

On behalf of President Carter, I am replying to your recent telegram regarding the reinstitution of status reviews on servicemen missing in Southeast Asia.

The Secretary of Defense recommended to the President reinstitution of status reviews, which the President approved, because the casualty status of a missing serviceman and accounting for that man, which includes getting information, are separate and distinct issues.

There is no reason to believe the Southeast Asian government's willingness to provide information is related to casualty status. Much of the specific information received from Vietnam or obtained as a result of our own efforts has concerned personnel who had been classified as killed. In addition, President Carter pledged that he would seek information on the missing men regardless of their casualty status. Over 1,700 of the 2,492 men on whom we are seeking information are already classified as killed in action.

Numerous government investigations have all concluded that there is no credible evidence that any U.S. servicemen are alive and being held against their will in Southeast Asia. In such cases, the law requires the Service Secretaries to conduct status reviews. These will be conducted on an individual case-by-case basis with respect for the rights of the missing men and with compassion for the families.

Be assured that President Carter will continue to seek information on the missing men and is moving in the direction he believes necessary to achieve this goal.

Sincerely,

Ms. Elinore Gourley

Dear Ms. Gourley:

On behalf of President Carter, I am replying to your recent telegram regarding the reinstitution of status reviews on servicemen missing in Southeast Asia.

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Be assured that President Carter will continue to seek information on the missing men and is moving in the direction he believes necessary to achieve this goal.

Sincerely,
DO NOT UNDERSTAND

Mr. Shupe's note

Telegram attached

Central Files

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

21 July 1977

Memo For Joni Stevens

Apparently the first page of Ms. Gourley's telegram has been lost, and we are unable to respond to her correspondence.

Leonard L. Shupe
OSD White House
Correspondence Section