

DIA CONFIRMS KNOWLEDGE OF LOCATION OF PRISONERS: I was somewhat shocked to receive a copy of Ann Griffiths' reply to a request release live sighting reports received by DIA after 1 August, 1979. The shock is not from the denial of DIA, but from the content of the letter. It was forwarded to the Board members and Regional Coordinators after the League newsletter was printed. It is not marked confidential and I feel it is of great importance to you; therefore, I submit it to you in its entirety. The underlining is mine.

DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301



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

Dear Ms. Griffiths:

This is in response to your letter of 22 March 1982, in which you appeal DIA's decision not to release live sighting reports of U.S. personnel in Southeast Asia received after 1 August 1979.

It is the policy of this Agency that all live sighting reports of U.S. personnel in Southeast Asia received after 1 August 1979 are properly classified in their entirety and are exempt from release under provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552 (b) (1), Freedom of Information Act.

Release of the information in the form you requested would enable the Vietnamese and Lao Governments to equate this released information to that which may exist. Obviously, these governments know the location of any American prisoners they might hold. By comparing this information to the released documents, even though they may be sanitized, would confirm to them the fact that we know the location of these prisoners and show the extent and capability of our collection efforts. Thus release of the information in the form you requested would be counterproductive to our intelligence efforts in this vital area. Your appeal for release of these documents is therefore denied.

Sincerely,

E. A. BURKHALTER, JR.
Rear Admiral, USN
Acting Director

ATTACHED IN REPLY