

October 10, 1985

The Honorable Caspar W. Weinberger  
Secretary of Defense  
Department of Defense  
The Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The live POW issue has caused great frustration, not only to the families of our fighting men still missing and unaccounted for, but to all who continue to work with sincere determination and dedication on the many problems this issue has created?

As you are well aware, over the years there have been several allegations of live sightings of Americans, and other reports of Americans being held captive against their will in Southeast Asia.

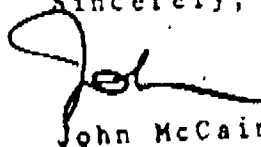
Very frankly, most of these allegations have not convinced me that this widely held belief is the case. However, testimony by Lieutenant General Eugene P. Tighe, former Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, has once again brought this issue to the forefront. There have been several occasions in which General Tighe has stated that he is convinced there are approximately fifty Americans being held captive against their will in Southeast Asia. These statements cause me deep concern.

During a recent hearing held by the Subcommittee on Asia and Pacific Affairs, I asked General Tighe why he continued to believe that live Americans are being held in Southeast Asia. He stated his conviction was based on his examination of reports of live sightings which over a period of years had crossed his desk.

In light of General Tighe's credibility and his expertise in this area, I strongly recommend that he be recalled to active duty for the appropriate length of time that is necessary for him to re-examine the existing evidence and be updated on the live sightings issue. I truly believe that unless General Tighe is allowed to thoroughly review the current evidence that exists, his beliefs will continue to fuel the "live sightings issue."

Awaiting your reply, I remain

Sincerely,



John McCain  
Member of Congress

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