

1 COMMITTEE SENSITIVE
2 DEPOSITION OF MURPHY MARTIN

3
4 Wednesday, June 24, 1992

5
6 U.S. Senate
7 Select Committee on POW/MIA
8 Affairs
9 Dallas, Texas

10

11 Deposition of MURPHY MARTIN, the witness herein,
12 called for examination by counsel for the Select Committee on
13 POW/MIA Affairs, pursuant to notice, Room 757, Federal Office
14 Building, 525 Griffin Street, Dallas, Texas, commencing at
15 9:00 a.m., on Wednesday, June 24, 1992, before Betty Morgan, a
16 Notary Public and Certified Shorthand Reporter in and for the
17 State of Texas, and the proceedings being taken down by
18 Stenomask by her and transcribed by her or under her
19 direction.

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On behalf of the Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs:

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Investigative Attorney for the Committee

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BARRY VALENTINE,

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Investigator on the Committee

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On behalf of the witness, MURPHY MARTIN:

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DAVID BRYANT, ESQ.

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C O N T E N T S

THE WITNESS	EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR	
MURPHY MARTIN	SELECT COMMITTEE ON POW/MIA AFFAIRS	
By Mr. Kravitz		4

E X H I B I T S

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 Whereupon,

3 MURPHY MARTIN,

4 the witness herein, was called for examination by counsel for
5 the Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs and, having been duly
6 sworn by the Notary Public, was examined and testified as
7 follows:

8 EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL ON BEHALF OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE

9 BY MR. KRAVITZ:

10 Q. Mr. Martin, good morning. My name is Neal Kravitz.
11 I'm a lawyer working with the U.S. Senate Select Committee on
12 POW/MIA Affairs.

13 With me is Mr. Barry Valentine who's another member
14 of the staff of the Senate Select Committee.

15 As you know, we're going to be taking your
16 deposition this morning. Before we begin, I'd like to give
17 you some instructions as to how the deposition is going to
18 proceed.

19 As you know, you've just been sworn to tell the
20 truth. The deposition will proceed in question and answer
21 form.

22 It's very important that if you have any questions
23 about what one of my questions means that you ask me for
24 clarification. Sometimes my questions are not as clear as
25 they should be, and sometimes they're just not the right

1 question. Our interest is in getting the most detailed and
2 accurate information. So if there is anything about my
3 question that you either think could be better or is simply
4 not clear, please just let me know and we'll try to rephrase
5 the question so that we can get the best information possible.

6 A. Good.

7 Q. Okay. As you know from having reviewed the rules of
8 the Senate Select Committee, you have the right to a lawyer at
9 your deposition. The record should reflect that Mr. David
10 Bryant is here representing you in this deposition.

11 A. Right.

12 Q. I just want to ask you one question. Are you
13 satisfied with Mr. Bryant's representation?

14 A. Yes, I am.

15 MR. KRAVITZ: Okay. Mr. Bryant, you might want to
16 state your name and address for the record.

17 MR. BRYANT: Sure. I'd be happy to. My name is
18 David Bryant. I'm a member of the State Bar of Texas. My
19 business address is 5001 Spring Valley Road, Suite 1075 W,
20 Dallas, Texas 75244.

21 MR. KRAVITZ: Since I'm going to be contacting you
22 when the transcript is completed, if you could give us your
23 telephone number.

24 MR. BRYANT: Sure. That's 214-715-1617.

25 MR. KRAVITZ: Okay. Thank you.

1 BY MR. KRAVITZ:

2 Q. On the subject of transcripts, Mr. Martin, as you
3 know, this deposition is being recorded by a court reporter
4 and will be transcribed and printed up into a verbatim
5 transcript. Under the rules of the Senate Select Committee,
6 you have the right to review that transcript when it is
7 completed and to prepare an errata sheet if you deem it
8 appropriate.

9 I understand from your counsel that you wish to
10 exercise the right to review the transcript. I will make sure
11 that you and/or your counsel are made aware of the fact that
12 the transcript is completed when it is.

13 A. Good.

14 Q. I don't know how long that takes, but hopefully it
15 won't be too long.

16 Just for the record, I want to state that you are
17 also tape recording this deposition. It's my understanding,
18 based on what you've told me that your purpose in recording
19 the deposition is simply for your own use --

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. -- and that you have no intention of sharing that
22 tape with anyone else who might be a witness before the Senate
23 Select Committee.

24 A. Right.

25 MR. BRYANT: Let me go ahead and state, though, that

1 we had a discussion off the record as we kind of went through
2 the authority and rules of the Select Committee this morning.

3 I was able to see only provisions of the rules that
4 relate to nondisclosure of Mr. Martin's testimony by members
5 of the Committee or their staffs. I did not see any
6 provisions in the rules regarding any restrictions on the
7 witness or the witness's counsel in disclosing any testimony
8 he may give.

9 I've asked Mr. Kravitz, and will ask him on the
10 record, that if there are any such restrictions, whether they
11 be set forth in these rules or not that would restrict Mr.
12 Martin or his counsel from discussing or disclosing his
13 testimony, to please advise us. It's our intention to comply
14 fully with any rules or regulations that may apply to that.
15 However, at this point we haven't been able to locate any.

16 MR. KRAVITZ: I understand your request.

17 BY MR. KRAVITZ:

18 Q. I'd first like to enter in evidence just a few basic
19 exhibits here, Mr. Martin. Exhibit No. 1 is a copy of the
20 Authority and Rules of the Select Committee on POW/MIA
21 Affairs. Have you had an opportunity to review a copy of that
22 set of rules?

23 (The document referred to was
24 marked Exhibit No. 1 for
25 identification.)

1 THE WITNESS: Yes, I have.

2 BY MR. KRAVITZ:

3 Q. Do you have any questions about the rules?

4 A. No, I do not.

5 Q. Exhibit No. 2 is the authorization form for this
6 deposition signed by Senator John F. Kerry -- that's K-e-r-r-
7 y -- the Chairman of the Senate Select Committee. Have you
8 seen a copy of that document?

9 (The document referred to was
10 marked Exhibit No. 2 for
11 identification.)

12 THE WITNESS: I believe that's a copy I received by
13 FedEx just yesterday. Yes, it is.

14 BY MR. KRAVITZ:

15 Q. Do you have any questions about that exhibit?

16 A. No. When I first read it, I must say I thought,
17 they're sending a bevy of people here to talk with me. It
18 listed about eight or nine people, but I think that says that
19 any one or more of these can be present.

20 Q. That's certainly the intention of it. Sometimes
21 this legal mumbo-jumbo gets more confusing than it's worth.

22 Exhibit No. 3 is the notice of Senate deposition,
23 again signed by Senator Kerry, the Chairman of the Select
24 Committee. Is that a document that you also received?

25 (The document referred to was

1 marked Exhibit No. 3 for
2 identification.)

3 THE WITNESS: Yes, I received it with the previous
4 page you showed me. I received that also yesterday by FedEx.

5 BY MR. KRAVITZ:

6 Q. Mr. Martin, while your counsel is reviewing those
7 documents, let me just say a word about our schedule.
8 Ordinarily, we go for an hour, an hour and a half at a time
9 and take a short break and then come back and keep following a
10 schedule like that until we're finished with the deposition.

11 However, feel free to ask for a break at any other
12 time. Sometimes depositions are tiring. We obviously want
13 you not in a state of fatigue because what we're looking for
14 is the best information you can give us. So any time you feel
15 like you want to take a walk or get a drink or just take a
16 break, let me know.

17 A. Thank you.

18 Q. All right. Sir, if you could start by telling us
19 your full name.

20 A. Clarence Murphy Martin.

21 MR. BRYANT: I would like, Neal, also just to note
22 for the record that Mr. Martin is appearing here voluntarily
23 without the necessity of any subpoena.

24 THE WITNESS: Yes.

25 MR. KRAVITZ: That will be noted, and I want to say

1 we very much appreciate that, Mr. Martin.

2 BY MR. KRAVITZ:

3 Q. Where do you live?

4 A. In Dallas, Texas. 12015 -- 1-2-0-1-5 -- Whitman
5 Lane, W-h-i-t-m-a-n, Lane, Dallas, 75230.

6 Q. What is your date of birth?

7 A. 7-4-25.

8 Q. I have now marked as Exhibit No. 4 a resume that you
9 provided to us this morning. Did you want to say something
10 about this not being quite up to date or --

11 (The document referred to was
12 marked Exhibit No. 4 for
13 identification.)

14 THE WITNESS: No. It is up to date. Had I had time
15 and received your request for same prior to yesterday, I would
16 have made it just a paragraph or two with the essential
17 information that you had requested, rather than giving you all
18 of that full page of background information as I did. But
19 time did not permit me to do that for which I'm sorry.

20 BY MR. KRAVITZ:

21 Q. Your resume indicates that you attended the
22 University of North Texas for 3 years.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What time period was that?

25 A. That was 1945, '6, '7 and '8.

1 Q. Did you receive a degree from --

2 A. No, I did not.

3 Q. Have you received any degrees from any other
4 college?

5 A. No, I have not.

6 Q. I'm just looking at your resume to try to get a
7 sense of -- Since your resume doesn't really have many time
8 periods on it, maybe you could briefly outline your
9 professional career since the time that you finished in
10 college.

11 A. Not including the working time in college when I
12 worked?

13 Q. Well, if you were working in college, we'd like to
14 hear about it.

15 A. I worked part time all through my college days at a
16 department store, at Russell's Department Store in Denton,
17 Texas. I also worked and received a partial scholarship for
18 playing in the college dance band. I did sports work. I was
19 sports editor for the college newspaper for a couple of years.
20 Then I did work for a local radio station in Denton, Texas.

21 Following college, I traveled for a year: Kansas,
22 Missouri and Nebraska selling ladies' and children's lingerie
23 to department store outlets. Then I went back into my first
24 love, which was broadcasting, in February of 1949, I believe
25 it was, in Lufkin, Texas. I was there until 1955 with one

1 station. Then a television station opened and I moved to it,
2 stayed there until 1959, and moved to Dallas to WFAA radio and
3 TV.

4 I was there until early 1963, February of '63. I
5 went to ABC TV in New York to anchor a late night news there.
6 I anchored that late night news program for a year before
7 moving to their flagship station, WABC-TV, Channel 7, in New
8 York where I anchored -- or co-anchored the news with Bill
9 Beutel for, I think, 2-1/2 years.

10 In the meantime, I was also a roving correspondent
11 for the network, covering news all over.

12 Q. This was 1964 to --

13 A. 1963 -- Well, I left the anchor job at the network
14 in '63. And in '64 I was a roving correspondent, and I also
15 co-anchored both the Democratic and Republican National
16 Conventions on the ABC Radio Network and continued -- moved
17 back to WABC then for 2 years, and then back to a roving
18 correspondent, and then back to Dallas in January of 1968 to
19 Channel 8 again.

20 Q. So you were in New York from 1963 until 1968?

21 A. Yes. Actually my termination, when I left the
22 network I think officially, was probably listed as November of
23 '67. But the contract was through '68 and I left.

24 Q. Just to interrupt for a moment. When you were
25 working as a roving correspondent, that was for WABC-TV?

1 A. No, it was for ABC-TV.

2 Q. Okay. Were you doing stories related to the Vietnam
3 war?

4 A. Some of them were -- well, many of them were,
5 particularly stateside. All of those -- I lost count of the
6 number of anti-war demonstrations that were covered. But,
7 yes, in that vein we did a number of them, things that
8 pertained to the war stateside.

9 Q. Did those stories include stories on POW and MIA
10 family members?

11 A. Not at ABC. I don't recall having done any at the
12 network level with families. That happened after I got back
13 to Dallas and Channel 8.

14 Q. So until you moved back to Dallas in 1968, you had
15 had no professional contact with the POW/MIA issue?

16 A. No, I had not.

17 Q. Had you had any non-professional involvement in the
18 POW/MIA issue before the time that you moved back to Dallas in
19 1968?

20 A. No, sir.

21 Q. Okay. Then why don't you continue with what you did
22 when you moved back to Dallas.

23 A. Okay. I moved back to Dallas December of '67, went
24 to work at Channel 8 in January of '68 and worked there as
25 special projects director, producing and anchoring

1 documentaries, half-hour public service interview type things.

2 As a part of that, there was a series that I did
3 once a week called "Face to Face." If I interpret your
4 question correctly, what led to the POW/MIA.

5 In August of 1969, I had in the interim also begun
6 anchoring their early and late news programs for the station.
7 Then in August of '69, continuing to do that program, I
8 interviewed four ladies, one of whom was a mother of a man
9 missing in Southeast Asia; the others were wives of men
10 missing or believed to be POW's -- in this weekly program.

11 They issued a plea for help and for someone to shed
12 some light on this problem that they were not getting many
13 answers about. That was my first exposure to that.

14 Q. Okay. We're going to come back to that in a lot
15 more detail in a few minutes. If you'll continue on with your
16 professional experience, and then we'll come back and talk
17 more about the POW issues in the late 60's.

18 A. All right. In the late 60's, through '68, '69, I
19 was at Channel 8, as I said, did documentaries, anchored
20 weekly programs and anchored the nightly news and did some
21 field reporting.

22 Continued to do that through until the fall of '69
23 when I became more involved in the POW activities and began to
24 do some traveling with some family members, trying to help
25 them get information about their missing people.

1 In the course of that, it led to a trip in the fall
2 when we put together an attempt to get into Hanoi.
3 Subsequently, that effort led me to take a leave of absence
4 from my job at Channel 8 and go full time with an organization
5 called United We Stand, whose effort was focused on the
6 POW/MIA program.

7 I worked with that organization until late 1972, I
8 believe. When it looked as if things were coming to an end
9 over there and that the release of the men was imminent, I
10 then returned to Channel 8 again to my anchor job as a
11 newsman; continued that until 1975 at which time at the end of
12 my contract I opened a media consulting business, a small one-
13 man operation; continued to do that until '78, I believe.

14 For a 1-year period I -- Correction. When I left
15 there, I -- and I'm not sure of the dates. I want to say it
16 was in the '76-'77 time frame, I'm not positive about those
17 dates.

18 But I think '76 and part of '77, I again did some
19 work for Ross Perot, most of which was tracking people and
20 interviewing people that had touched his life or whose lives
21 he had touched and so forth, putting together kind of an audio
22 background for research purposes. I did that for, I think,
23 about 18 months. I'm not positive the length of that.

24 Then I took a job as executive vice president of the
25 Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce, which is an area of Dallas, the

1 southwest area of Dallas. I did that until 1979.

2 I left that, and for a while -- for about a year and
3 a half or 2 years -- memory kind of fails me on the exact
4 length of time -- but then I sold drilling interests for an
5 oil firm.

6 Then in 1984, I had not closed my little corporation
7 that was the media consulting group, communications
8 consulting; and I began to devote more time to that.

9 I might should say, interspersed through all of this
10 as something of a hobby and avocation, I was and am the public
11 address announcer for the Dallas Cowboys and have been for --
12 this will be my 18th year. I was doing that, as you can see,
13 through those years too.

14 MR. BRYANT: He's a very familiar voice in Dallas.

15 MR. VALENTINE: I'll bet he is.

16 THE WITNESS: That brings to full time again --
17 That's it, when I got back into communications consulting
18 work. I have been doing that basically since '84.

19 That's a quick trip through the highlights of it.

20 BY MR. KRAVITZ:

21 Q. Let's go back to August of 1969 when you were
22 working at Channel 8 here in Dallas as the special projects
23 director. Can you tell us how you became interested in the
24 story involving the four women you interviewed?

25 A. A Mrs. Charles Powell who lived in Gatesville,

1 Texas, wrote me a letter stating about this problem -- her son
2 was missing -- and wondered if we would give thought to doing
3 a program. This was sometime prior to the actual program; I
4 would say 2 or 3 weeks prior to it.

5 Having stated that request in the letter, I did a
6 little research and found that there had not been any focus on
7 this and checked with her to find out who might be some other
8 names we could invite.

9 We put together the four ladies, she and three
10 others, and did an interview that evening.

11 Q. Do you remember the names of the other three women?

12 A. I believe one was -- in addition to Mrs. Powell,
13 there was Joy Jeffrey, Mrs. Bob Jeffrey; I believe Mrs. Joe
14 Whitford was one. And the other was either -- memory fails me
15 -- either Paula Hartness, Mrs. Greg Hartness, or Sandy
16 McElhanon. I'm just not sure of the last two, but I am sure
17 of three of them. I'm not sure who the fourth one was.

18 Q. What kind of investigation or preparation did you do
19 for the story?

20 A. I just spoke with them, and I also spoke with
21 Congressman Olin Teague, who had been very -- they told me
22 that he had a good listening ear and had tried to do some
23 things. So I contacted him, and he gave me some information.
24 It was very scarce at that time, information.

25 Q. What were these women's primary concerns and

1 complaints at that time?

2 A. They all had basically the same question: Are we
3 wives or widows? And the mother, of course. They all wanted
4 to know the fate; were their loved ones alive or dead or what
5 was their status.

6 Q. Do you know what the status was of the four men?

7 A. No -- At that point in time?

8 Q. In other words, were they listed as prisoners of war
9 or as missing in action as far as you know?

10 A. I think, if memory serves me correctly, one was
11 listed as POW, and that was Jeffrey. I believe the other
12 three were all listed as missing, if memory serves me
13 correctly, at that point in time.

14 Q. Tell us about the report that you did.

15 A. All right. We just did an interview. We sat and
16 did an interview, and each told us their story and they spoke
17 about their families. They told about their efforts, and they
18 told about the heartache that was brought about not knowing.
19 Are they alive or dead or how are they being cared for; what
20 are their needs, so on and so forth.

21 That was the gist of the entire -- It generated a
22 tremendous amount of public reaction.

23 Q. Was anyone working with you on this story, or was
24 this your own story?

25 A. At that point in time I think my research assistant,

1 Sarah Hubert, and I were the only ones, at the point of that
2 interview. That would change a little later.

3 Q. Okay. You said that there was a tremendous response
4 to the story. Can you describe that for us?

5 A. Telephone calls, mail, people, "What can we do? We
6 would like to help," that type thing.

7 Q. Was there a sense from these women that the U.S.
8 Government was not being forthcoming with information?

9 A. The sense was that they had not been, prior to -- it
10 seems to me -- again 23 years is a long time, but I think that
11 somewhere around May of that year, that Secretary Laird had
12 made a public statement and allowed families for the first
13 time -- said, "You can now talk about this," but within
14 whatever constraints. They were given guidance.

15 But prior to that time they were not even supposed
16 to be, you know, talking about their problems, I suppose,
17 except among themselves.

18 Q. Okay. Did you do any additional stories or
19 interviews or investigations on behalf of Channel 8?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- in the wake of this initial interview?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What did you do?

24 A. 2 or 3 weeks later -- I'm not sure of the exact date
25 again -- but sometime in late August or the first week of

1 September --

2 Q. 1969?

3 A. 1969.

4 -- I went to station management and I said, Perhaps
5 we can do something that would be helpful to these families.
6 And at worst we would have a documentary that certainly would
7 have some interest from the response that the public has
8 shown. If we could get some of the ladies, accompany them to
9 Paris, make a call on the North Vietnamese delegation there
10 and ask for information about their missing people.

11 Station management agreed to do this, to finance
12 this. In talking with the people that were in this general
13 Metroplex area -- what we call the Dallas/Fort Worth area --
14 we put together a trip and made the trip.

15 Q. Was the special projects director position or the
16 weekly series, "Face to Face," was that an editorial? Did
17 that have an editorial aspect to it, or was it simply really a
18 documentary-type program?

19 A. Really, the "Face to Face" weekly interview was
20 neither. It was never an editorial. It was always an
21 interview trying to glean whatever you could from the subject.
22 It could be an entertainer. It could be a politician, a
23 sports figure; interesting people were the subjects for the
24 interview program.

25 That particular group pertaining to the families of

1 these missing men became a very emotional thing. We realized
2 that they needed some information, so we projected that
3 further.

4 The special projects director -- That fit that
5 niche also because part of my responsibility was coming with
6 documentaries that would be meaningful to the community or be
7 on subjects of interest to the community.

8 Q. So the purpose of the trip to Paris in 1969 was to
9 speak with the North Vietnamese delegation to the Paris Peace
10 Talks and to urge members of that delegation to provide more
11 information about U.S. POW's and MIA's?

12 A. About those particular four. We had four ladies
13 with us that my wife and I accompanied there, along with a
14 cameraman.

15 Q. Okay. In other words, the only four POW/MIA family
16 members who went to Paris were the same four people who you
17 had interviewed in the August --

18 A. No. Two of them were, I believe. The four that
19 went to Paris were: Mrs. Jerry Singleton, Bonnie Singleton;
20 Mrs. Robert Jeffrey, Joy Jeffrey; Mrs. Sandy McElhanon; and
21 Mrs. Greg Hartness, Paula Hartness. Those are the four that
22 we accompanied to Paris.

23 Q. They were wives or mothers?

24 A. No, they were all wives.

25 Q. They were all wives?

- 1 A. Those four were wives, all of Air Force men.
- 2 Q. You and your wife and a cameraman --
- 3 A. Right.
- 4 Q. -- were the only other three people who went on this
- 5 trip?
- 6 A. That is correct.
- 7 Q. And your wife's name is?
- 8 A. Joyce.
- 9 Q. Joyce Martin?
- 10 A. Right.
- 11 Q. Do you remember the name of the cameraman?
- 12 A. Yes. Mal Couch, C-o-u-c-h.
- 13 Q. And he was a Channel 8 --
- 14 A. A Channel 8 staff member.
- 15 Q. Was the purpose to have a report from Paris, then to
- 16 be broadcast on "Face to Face"?
- 17 A. Yes. Rather than "Face to Face," we thought more of
- 18 it as being a documentary; we would make a documentary of the
- 19 trip rather than a weekly interview type "Face to Face."
- 20 Q. And the entire trip was financed by Channel 8?
- 21 A. That is correct.
- 22 Q. When did you go to Paris on this trip?
- 23 A. We left either September 12th or 13th, in that time
- 24 frame, of '69.
- 25 Q. When did you come back?

1 A. About a week later. I don't know the precise date,
2 but we were gone about 7 days.

3 Q. What happened in Paris?

4 A. We arrived and we had -- through my -- We had
5 gotten an interpreter to speak French. We had located this
6 person through my contacts. My former colleagues at ABC had
7 helped us locate this person.

8 We began -- Of course prior to going, we had sent -
9 - The four ladies had sent a telegram over their combined
10 signatures requesting a meeting to the delegation.

11 Q. To the North Vietnamese delegation?

12 A. To the North Vietnamese delegation.

13 Q. Was there any contact either from you or any of the
14 women involved with the U.S. Government before you went on
15 this trip?

16 A. Yes, there was. We met -- We overnighted -- We
17 left Dallas and overnighted at International Hotel (I believe
18 was the name) at JFK Airport in New York City.

19 A representative from the Pentagon came down. Two
20 names jump -- I don't know which it was; it was the one or
21 the other. It was either Colonel Bob Work or Colonel Milt
22 Kegley, one or the other. We had spoken -- And I'm just not
23 sure, I can't recall which it was.

24 One or the other of those came, briefed the ladies,
25 talked in general about the delegation, the makeup and

1 information and so on and so forth, the night before we left.
2 In other words, we left Dallas in the afternoon, spent the
3 night there. He came over and visited that night, and then we
4 proceeded.

5 Also, Congressman Teague had visited with the ladies
6 before going.

7 Q. Did the Defense Department indicate that it approved
8 of this trip?

9 A. They certainly did not disapprove, or we would not
10 have gone. It was not our station's intent to do anything
11 that the Government would not bless.

12 Q. Were there any contacts between you or anyone else
13 in your party and any members of the State Department?

14 A. I don't recall any.

15 Q. Were there any contacts before you went to Paris
16 between you or any member of your party and any member of the
17 U.S. delegation to the Paris Peace Talks?

18 A. We visited with -- What was his name in the U.S.
19 Embassy in Paris?

20 I can't recall his name, but we visited by phone not
21 in person, when we arrived there, let them know that we were
22 there and what we were trying to do, and then had no further
23 contact with them until after the ladies met with the
24 delegation.

25 Someone at the Embassy -- and I want to say Tarnoff.

1 Maybe I should not use the name. I visited with several down
2 through the months and years later, and I'm a little foggy so
3 I won't say a name.

4 But someone from the Embassy, after the ladies met,
5 I contacted them -- There was so much pressure from the press
6 for a news conference by these ladies. We were in a very,
7 very tiny little Paris hotel, and we asked for guidance, you
8 know, where -- Anyhow, they contacted -- Someone at the
9 Embassy gave us a name at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce office
10 in Paris and we held -- the ladies held a news conference
11 there.

12 Q. Was there any understanding -- Well, strike that.

13 Before the time that you went to Paris and met with
14 the North Vietnamese delegation or members of the North
15 Vietnamese delegation, did you have any knowledge as to the
16 status of negotiations between the U.S. and the North
17 Vietnamese on either the conditions or the possible release of
18 U.S. POW's?

19 A. The only thing that we had was what we had seen in
20 the press and what had been released by Secretary Laird, those
21 types of things.

22 There had been -- and I cannot remember exact dates
23 or chronologies, but there had been questions raised by these
24 family members regarding the Geneva Conventions and the
25 failure of the North Vietnamese to provide information and so

1 forth in accordance with the Geneva Conventions.

2 But did we have any other knowledge? No, we did not
3 have any other knowledge. There was -- I think at that time
4 the Government was using a figure of 1420 men that were known
5 to be missing in action. We used that number in our material
6 and in putting together programs and so forth.

7 Q. Did any member of the U.S. Government ever indicate
8 to you that by contacting the North Vietnamese delegation
9 yourselves that you might be interfering with the orderly
10 process of the negotiations?

11 A. No, they did not. To the contrary, they seemed to
12 be very pleased that someone was trying to gain information.

13 Q. The purpose was to gain information about POW's and
14 MIA's in general or specifically about the four that were
15 affected by the people you were with?

16 A. Our immediate goal was to get information about
17 those four, hoping that if we or they were successful in
18 getting information about their husbands, it would open the
19 doors to other families who had people missing. Such
20 information would also be provided to them.

21 Q. Was one of your intentions also to show the North
22 Vietnamese -- or give the North Vietnamese negotiators a sense
23 of the human suffering that their failures to abide by the
24 Geneva Conventions caused?

25 A. That was not prime in our being there and was not a

1 part of the reason that we were there at that point in time.
2 I think to the contrary, we kept it on a rather personal basis
3 in that we said -- the ladies said, "Give us information about
4 our husbands." That's what they kept saying over and over --
5 information about their men.

6 I guess a bottom line would have been what you
7 suggest, that we were questioning the treatment.

8 Q. You told us that at some point before you left on
9 the trip, the four women co-signed a telegram to the North
10 Vietnamese delegation in Paris. Was there a response to that
11 telegram?

12 A. No, there was not.

13 Q. So at the time you went to Paris, you didn't know
14 whether any meeting would actually take place?

15 A. No.

16 Q. How was the meeting arranged? I assume it was
17 arranged after you got to Paris?

18 A. Yes. As I mentioned, we had an interpreter who
19 could speak French. That was the common denominator language
20 that was used by the North Vietnamese.

21 Q. Was the interpreter from the U.S. Embassy?

22 A. No. She was a person that the ABC News Bureau had
23 used at some point in time. She was not with the U.S.
24 Embassy, nor any government.

25 But anyhow, from our hotel we did a number of

1 telephone calls. And finally, not getting approval for a
2 meeting, she and I and a driver that we had hired in Paris
3 drove out to their compound in Choisy-Le-Roi, which was a
4 suburb of Paris where the North Vietnamese delegation stayed,
5 and just made a cold call, if you will, and in a driving rain
6 rang their doorbell.

7 She told what -- They seemed somewhat surprised.
8 Anyhow, they said, "We'll -- Call tomorrow." We called back
9 the next day and they gave an appointment, set a time for the
10 ladies; and so the meeting was held.

11 Q. Do you remember the date of the meeting?

12 A. I want to say that it was the 14th or 15th of
13 September.

14 Q. Where was the meeting held?

15 A. It was held in their compound at Choisy-Le-Roi, in
16 that suburb of Paris.

17 Q. Do you remember who from the North Vietnamese
18 delegation you met with?

19 A. I did not meet. The four ladies met.

20 Q. Okay. It was only the four ladies that actually
21 met?

22 A. That was a part of the agreement. I said to them,
23 "I will stay out. You meet with the ladies. They are the
24 ones seeking information about their family."

25 We waited outside while they met, but we saw them

1 into the room and so forth. The man identified himself as Mr.
2 Bai, who seemed to do most of the speaking for the North
3 Vietnamese, although there were two other North Vietnamese in
4 that meeting with the ladies.

5 Q. Do you know who they were?

6 A. I do not know who they were, no.

7 Q. How long did the meeting last?

8 A. A little better than 2 hours, probably 2 hours and
9 15 minutes.

10 Q. What did you learn when the meeting ended from the
11 four women?

12 A. When they came out the door, the first thing I
13 learned was that apparently it had been very emotional because
14 I immediately spotted tears coming from a couple of the
15 ladies' eyes.

16 Then I was to learn that it was the usual very harsh
17 treatment by the North Vietnamese. "Your husbands are
18 criminals or war criminals. They have done this, that and the
19 other thing to our country and to our churches and schools,"
20 and all these charges. "They are to be treated like
21 criminals."

22 They showed the ladies pictures of bomb damage and
23 all this type of thing.

24 But in the bottom line, they said, "We will check" -
25 - Each of the ladies gave them a letter to their husbands and

1 pictures of their family, children; left them with them with
2 the belief that the North Vietnamese had promised to pass them
3 along to their husbands. They would get information and get
4 back to them.

5 That was -- That's a quick wrap of what they did.
6 Each of the ladies had spoken about family and made their own
7 pleas about why it would be very simple for them to let the
8 world see how the men are being treated, and then the
9 questions would no longer be asked.

10 Q. What happened after the meeting with the North
11 Vietnamese? Was there a press conference?

12 A. No. What we did, we immediately -- We had a little
13 van and we went back into Paris to the hotel. I wanted the
14 ladies to have a chance to gather their thoughts, and they
15 did.

16 After we were there, there were -- you know, there
17 were dozens of reporters. This had very rapidly gained world
18 attention and was a front page story around the world because
19 this was the first group that the North Vietnamese delegation
20 ever saw from America.

21 Q. To your knowledge had other groups similar to yours
22 requested meetings?

23 A. I believe they had, yes, as memory serves me, yes.

24 Q. And those requests had all been turned down until
25 yours?

1 A. For whatever reason, yes.

2 But we get back to the hotel and after they had a
3 chance to kind of pull themselves together, we scheduled a
4 news conference for the next day, the next morning, because we
5 had not finished that evening until -- I want to say that the
6 meeting began like 5 o'clock local time, Paris time; that we
7 were not back at the hotel until like 9 o'clock; and the girls
8 were -- ladies were very stressed.

9 So we waited until the next day, had the news
10 conference and then came back the following day.

11 Q. Back to Texas?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Was there any debriefing of any of the women by the
14 U.S. delegation to the Paris talks?

15 A. I believe that there was. I was not present for any
16 of it, but I believe that there was.

17 Q. In other words, after the meeting with the North
18 Vietnamese, negotiations --

19 A. Are you speaking of in Paris?

20 Q. Well, I guess the first part of my question would
21 be: Did any of the four women meet with any U.S. Government
22 officials in Paris after their meeting with the North
23 Vietnamese negotiators?

24 A. I don't believe. I don't recall. I don't recall
25 that.

1 Q. You don't recall any of the American negotiators
2 showing an interest in knowing what the North Vietnamese
3 responses were?

4 A. No, I do not.

5 Q. Were there any meetings back in the United States
6 between you and any of the four women and U.S. Government
7 officials regarding the trip to Paris?

8 A. When we were back, I spoke with -- here again I wish
9 I could make the differential. I probably spoke with both,
10 but I'm going to say Colonels Kegley or Work or both, Bob Work
11 or Milt Kegley or both.

12 I spoke with them. Of course, I spoke with
13 Congressman Teague because he was at the airport when we
14 arrived back in Dallas.

15 Because the story had received such interest,
16 Channel 8 had live cameras and originated a program at the
17 airport with the ladies when they arrived back from their
18 trip. Congressman Teague was there at that arrival.

19 They in turn -- with how many and with whom I'm not
20 sure in my own mind, but, yes, they did speak with -- I think
21 with probably the casualty officers, with whomever that were
22 interested in it from Washington.

23 Q. Congressman Teague, I take it he was a U.S.
24 Congressman from the Dallas area?

25 A. His district may have -- If it had any of Dallas

1 County in it -- I'm not sure how much, but his was kind of a
2 strange district that ran from way down in Central Texas at
3 Bryan -- it was a very narrow district -- and came up. I
4 don't know what all, but he was very vital and very involved
5 on a number of committees that involved Dallas projects. But,
6 yes.

7 Q. I guess none of us probably wants to know why the
8 district was drawn in that shape. It's probably not a nice
9 reason.

10 What was your involvement in the POW/MIA issue after
11 you returned from Paris?

12 A. We had filmed a great deal of footage of the trip.
13 We had come home and taken that footage, put it together as a
14 documentary -- for a documentary. We put it on the air, aired
15 it either the last week of September -- I want to say the last
16 week of September. It could have been the first week of
17 October, but we aired it soon, called it "Red Tea and
18 Promises," but that was the essence of what it turned out the
19 ladies got. They got some red tea and a lot of promises and
20 not much else developed.

21 Q. I take it no information had been provided by the
22 North Vietnamese as of the time the documentary was aired?

23 A. No, it had not. And --

24 Q. Had further inquiries been made?

25 A. Further inquiries had been made by phone. Following

1 the documentary, I made a subsequent trip back over alone
2 first to see -- in behalf of the ladies, "Where is the
3 information you promised to the ladies? You said they would
4 receive a response to their letters," and so forth.

5 Q. Did the North Vietnamese meet with you again?

6 A. By phone.. They did not meet -- talked at the gate
7 by phone. They did not meet with me again. I don't think
8 they liked the glare of publicity that had been thrust upon
9 them as a result of the meeting with the ladies.

10 Q. When you spoke with the North Vietnamese by
11 telephone at the gate on that second trip to Paris --

12 A. Well, I spoke with them in person at the gate, but
13 by phone from the hotel.

14 Q. On either of those two occasions that you had
15 conversations with the North Vietnamese then during that
16 second trip to Paris, did they give you any information
17 regarding the fate of these four MIA's?

18 A. No, they did not.

19 Q. What was the reaction to the documentary after it
20 was aired in late September or early October?

21 A. Tremendous response, tremendous response. The
22 people, "How can I help? How can we get involved," that type
23 of thing.

24 Q. In addition to your second trip to Paris following
25 the documentary, what did you do on this issue?

1 A. In November, again having no response to the
2 September meeting, nor to my added questions in October, in
3 November we took -- my wife and I again joined two of the
4 ladies: Mrs. Singleton and Mrs. Hartness, and we went back to
5 Paris to try to get information.

6 Q. Was Channel 8 funding this still?

7 A. No, no. Mr. Perot was funding this at this point in
8 time.

9 Q. How about your solo trip to Paris? Who funded that?

10 A. As I said earlier -- The September trip? Channel 8
11 -- Oh, my subsequent solo trip to Paris?

12 Q. Right.

13 A. Mr. Perot funded that.

14 Q. I'm sorry, I didn't mean to interrupt you.

15 A. With the ladies we went to Paris, got no
16 information.

17 Q. Did you get a meeting?

18 A. Got no meeting, a lot of telephone talk. Then we
19 went to Stockholm and met with Premier Olaf Polme because he
20 seemed to be the professional neutral country of the world and
21 he was on good relations with Hanoi.

22 The ladies spoke their case to him. From there we
23 went to the Vatican and met with the Secretary of State of the
24 Vatican.

25 Then we came home, again all focusing -- asking for

1 help for the ladies' cause. This is in November.

2 Q. What, if anything, did Mr. Polme promise?

3 A. Mr. Polme said that he would check into the matter
4 and see what the North Vietnamese would provide, made no
5 promises, but that he would check particularly on the four
6 that we had requested.

7 Q. Was any information received from him?

8 A. No, it was not.

9 Q. You said you met with the Secretary of State. Who
10 is --

11 A. The Vatican Secretary of State.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. His name escapes me at the moment. And it was a
14 plea for anyone -- It was a plea for humanitarian action that
15 anything that the Church could help them with or any
16 information, and...

17 Q. It's hard to imagine that the North Vietnamese
18 Communists paid all that much attention to what was coming out
19 of the Vatican.

20 A. Well, there were representatives from the Vatican in
21 Southeast Asia. That's what we actually were asking, to see
22 if they had information or could come up with any information
23 about the condition of the men or their status.

24 Q. Did anything come of that meeting?

25 A. No. However, there were some efforts made, but

1 there was nothing that was positive or helpful that answered
2 questions for the ladies.

3 Q. You mentioned that Mr. Perot financed both your solo
4 trip in October to Paris and also your trip to Paris and
5 Stockholm and Rome in November.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- with two of the women. What was your
8 relationship with Mr. Perot as of the fall of 1969?

9 A. My relationship at that point in time -- It
10 actually had begun -- I had never met Mr. Perot until, I
11 think, February of 1969 when he was a guest on this interview
12 program that I did.

13 Q. "Face to Face"?

14 A. "Face to Face." I believe that was his first time
15 ever on television.

16 Subsequently -- He had remarked on that program
17 that he was interested in community activities. And anything
18 that he or his company -- He was interested in putting things
19 back into America.

20 In May of '69, as part of my responsibilities as
21 special projects director, we did a 3-hour prime time program
22 on the civil rights problems of America called "The New Left:
23 Reform or Revolution." We interwove the frustrations on
24 campuses across the country.

25 EDS was one of the sponsors of that 3-hour prime

1 time. Since they were an institutional company, they had no
2 product to sell to the public. During a commercial spot they
3 said, "If you have subjects of interest that you would like to
4 see addressed on television, let us know; and we will sponsor
5 a series that would be beneficial to the community."

6 Remembering that, when I got the documentary put
7 together on the POW's, I made a call to Mr. Perot. He and a
8 couple of staff members -- Tom Marquez was one; I don't recall
9 the other -- came down to the studio to preview, take a look
10 at the footage.

11 It tweaked his interest. I'm not sure that this was
12 his first interest in the POW's, but it tweaked it and stepped
13 it up a notch or two. When he saw a young man -- Mrs.
14 Singleton's son, Rick -- and she told him that Rick had been
15 born after his father had gone to Southeast Asia,
16 Mr. Perot said, "Do you mean the young man has never seen his
17 father?" She said no. He said that he would like to do
18 whatever he could.

19 And it was at that point in time when the ladies
20 were becoming somewhat frustrated -- it had been 4 or 5 weeks
21 and they had heard nothing from the North Vietnamese about the
22 promises they had made.

23 So they asked him for his thoughts, and he said he
24 would like to be involved and help in whatever way he could.
25 So he became more involved, beginning at that point in time.

1 Q. As far as you're aware, had Mr. Perot ever had any
2 personal or financial involvement in helping POW/MIA families
3 before that time?

4 A. I'm not aware of any of that, which is not to say he
5 did or did not. I'm just not aware of any.

6 Q. What was the -- Going back to the February 1969
7 "Face to Face" interview, what was that all about?

8 A. At that point in time, Electronic Data Systems was
9 one of the great stories in the business world. Of course,
10 that was his firm. Since it was in Dallas and it had just
11 skyrocketed, I thought he was great subject matter, and
12 particularly when I found that he had never been on
13 television, so I invited him to be a guest for the Sunday
14 night program; and he accepted.

15 Q. I take it, POW's and MIA's were not a subject of
16 that interview?

17 A. No. No, they were not.

18 Q. Okay. So you were just an acquaintance of Mr.
19 Perot's by the fall of 1969?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Has that relationship changed in any way since that
22 time?

23 A. In what way?

24 Q. I mean, how would you describe your relationship
25 with Mr. Perot now, for example?

1 A. I would like to think that he is a good friend. I
2 have -- Since being exposed to him and involved with him
3 through such a worthwhile project as this was, that began in
4 '69, I've had the good fortune to observe and try to follow -
5 - although be it from a distance since I left active
6 involvement with United We Stand -- follow his activities.

7 Q. Have you ever had any business relationships with
8 Mr. Perot?

9 A. From time to time. As I mentioned earlier, I went
10 back in '76 and did about 18 months of work with him. Then a
11 couple of times I have done, you know, small chores for him
12 that he needed in the communications realm, put together a
13 press conference, that type thing.

14 Q. Have you ever had any business relationship with EDS
15 or any of Mr. Perot's other companies?

16 A. Oh, yes, yes. I have done freelance voice overwork
17 for training films. I have produced some company training
18 films and marketing films and things of that nature that fall
19 in my expertise. I've done work -- They have been among my
20 clients, I should say.

21 Q. Any joint investments or anything of that nature
22 between you and Mr. Perot?

23 A. Never.

24 Q. Do you have any involvement or any relationship with
25 Mr. Perot's political campaign?

1 A. I'm doing some --

2 MR. BRYANT: Mr. Kravitz, could I ask what this has
3 to do with the subject of the questioning? I know that -- I
4 have read in the paper that Senator Kerry doesn't want any of
5 this to touch on politics or what may be going on with Mr.
6 Perot these days.

7 So I would ask you to respect that. Also, if you do
8 need to ask some questions, I'd like to understand why that
9 pertains to the inquiry.

10 MR. KRAVITZ: I understand your objection. I think
11 it's just important for the Senators to have an accurate and
12 complete understanding of the relationship between Mr. Martin
13 and Mr. Perot just so over time they can understand the
14 various POW-related activities.

15 I really don't intend to go into any more detail
16 than I already have.

17 MR. BRYANT: Okay. That's why I didn't have a
18 problem with you asking about business relationships, et
19 cetera. But I would appreciate it if we stayed on the
20 subject.

21 BY MR. KRAVITZ:

22 Q. Okay. I believe the question was whether you have
23 any involvement in the current political campaign.

24 A. I have a communications consulting business and am
25 called on from time to time and respond when I am called on to

1 Mr. Perot and other clients.

2 Q. Have you been called on relating to the presidential
3 campaign?

4 A. I have been called on by Mr. Perot to do some
5 research work.

6 Q. Can you tell us what you mean by that?

7 A. I have been researching -- again which is my forte I
8 should say, and I seem to have spent a lifetime on talking
9 with people whose lives have been touched by or he has touched
10 these lives, and that's what I've been doing, people that --
11 Much what I was doing in the '76-'77 period, as I mentioned to
12 you earlier, just a continuation of that. And an updating of
13 some of those people that I did in '76 and '77 that had been
14 in contact with him in the early days, business days, Naval
15 Academy days, military days and so forth, just people with
16 whom his life had come in contact.

17 Q. Okay. So this is now, obviously, a much broader
18 scale than just POW/MIA issues that you're researching for Mr.
19 Perot?

20 A. Oh, yes.

21 Q. Okay. Let's go back to 1969. After the trip to
22 Paris, Stockholm and Rome in November of 1969, did anything
23 happen on this issue that you were involved in?

24 A. Yes. Because nothing happened on the North
25 Vietnamese side, we continued to try to get some information,

1 particularly for these four ladies, but not limited to the
2 four ladies.

3 Around December 12 I was sitting in Mr. Perot's
4 office in Exchange Park where his offices were located then.
5 'I was somewhat frustrated because all of our efforts -- and
6 the wives' efforts to that time -- had had a lot of promises,
7 but they didn't have any information that we were after.

8 And somewhat out of frustration, I remarked, "It's a
9 shame we can't just send 1420 Christmas dinners to these
10 guys."

11 He leaned forward in his chair and said, "Let's do
12 it," and from that came the '69 Christmas effort. He became,
13 as he is so effective in doing, a man of action. In 9 days we
14 put together 30 tons of cargo, chartered an airplane, put a
15 few people on board, tried to fly into Hanoi.

16 Q. Tell us about the arrangements that were made for
17 this trip and about who made them.

18 A. A lot of people made them because you can't
19 accomplish what was accomplished in 9 days with a few people
20 making them, but they were all -- I must say under -- they all
21 had a touch of Perot because of his action and his
22 acquaintances and his drive.

23 We had talked with three prisoners that had been
24 released in August. Frishman, Hegdahl and Rumble had been
25 released by the North Vietnamese.

1 We had talked with them about the men's needs, not
2 just Christmas dinners which had ignited this. What else
3 would they need if we could get it to them?

4 Q. Who talked with these three released prisoners?

5 A. I talked with them. Mr. Perot talked with them.
6 Probably other people in United We Stand talked with them,
7 too. I'm sure that Pentagon people talked with them also.

8 Q. Were these face-to-face interviews?

9 A. No, no, no.

10 Q. Telephone?

11 A. These are telephone for the most part at this point
12 in time, yes.

13 Q. Tell me -- I don't mean to interrupt your story,
14 but you mentioned this before and I was meaning to follow up
15 on it. What was United We Stand?

16 A. United We Stand was a nonprofit corporation put
17 together by -- founded by Mr. Perot for the express purpose of
18 focusing attention and trying to find information about,
19 relief for POW/MIA's.

20 Q. When was that corporation formed?

21 A. I believe in late '69. It was formed a short time -
22 - or sometime before I officially left Channel 8 to become
23 president of it.

24 Q. Was United We Stand already in existence at the time
25 of any of your trips to Paris that fall?

1 A. I don't know the answer to that. It could have
2 been. I don't think it was for my September trip that the
3 station sponsored. I'm not sure about the other -- I don't
4 have that answer.

5 Q. Did you have a position with United We Stand?

6 A. I did when I left Channel 8, yes. Effective
7 Christmas time '69.

8 Q. What was your position?

9 A. President.

10 Q. And was Mr. Perot a member of the board of
11 directors?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Do you remember who else was on the board of
14 directors?

15 A. I don't remember them all, no.

16 Q. Okay. I'm sorry, I interrupted you in your
17 description of the preparation for the trip to Hanoi.

18 A. Having ascertained as best we could from the three
19 returnees, we set about to get things that were needed:
20 clothing, medicines, air mattresses, Bibles, razor blades, a
21 lineup that had been given to us.

22 This was not easily done on the short time frame.
23 The most gratifying thing about it all was that heads of
24 corporations were out working on weekends to pull these things
25 together and to get them.

1 We had made an arrangement -- We obtained some
2 space from Flying Tiger Airlines at the Los Angeles
3 International Airport and used that as a point of pulling the
4 material together, palletizing it.

5 Then in the meantime we chartered a 707 from Braniff
6 Airways, made arrangements actually for two because at first
7 we thought we might need two planes to fly in because of all
8 the goods, but it wound up we only needed one.

9 We chartered the plane, and on board that plane --
10 We also had gone to Washington. We talked with Walter Reed
11 General Hospital, the people; and I don't know names there.
12 But we talked with them about what could someone find in
13 Southeast Asia, what would be his needs medicinally, what
14 diseases, what is he faced with.

15 We got those and reacted to those. We went to the
16 International Red Cross in Washington. They put together a
17 team that joined us on board the flight. It was a five- or
18 six-man team, a doctor and people that were trained in special
19 areas that could be beneficial to us.

20 We had five or six staff members from United We
21 Stand, and I want to say we had 10 or 12 members of the press,
22 various members of the press that we had on board the plane
23 also.

24 We left Dallas --

25 Q. What was the purpose of having members of the press

1 on the team?

2 A. To cover and spread the word about what we were
3 trying to do and continue to have a spotlight on the issue and
4 try to obtain the information for the ladies and for the other
5 families that we were going after.

6 I should hasten to add, most of the press, I
7 believe, was from Dallas though. It did not have that big
8 worldwide...

9 Q. Was one of the purposes of having press along to put
10 more pressure on the North Vietnamese to allow the shipment
11 through?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. In other words, to manipulate public opinion so that
14 they would feel more pressure to let the goods go through?

15 MR. BRYANT: I would object to the word
16 "manipulate." But go ahead and answer it.

17 MR. KRAVITZ: I'll withdraw the word "manipulate."

18 THE WITNESS: Mr. Kravitz, we always asked ourselves
19 one question: What will help the men? That was our preface
20 in doing everything. What will help the men.

21 We thought and felt very deeply, particularly since
22 we had been told by just about everybody, including people in
23 Washington, that after the ladies had gone to Paris that this
24 added pressure on the North Vietnamese was beneficial.

25 We thought that the presence of press keeping that

1 pressure on could be key also and might even be the difference
2 in getting us into Hanoi to deliver the merchandise that we
3 were trying to get to the men.

4 BY MR. KRAVITZ:

5 Q. Had any contacts -- Well, strike that.

6 Were any contacts made or attempted between your
7 organization and the North Vietnamese before the trip?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What contacts or attempts were those?

10 A. We sent cables to the head of the North Vietnamese
11 government telling them what we wanted to do, what we were
12 planning to do.

13 Q. So these cables went to people in Hanoi, as opposed
14 to --

15 A. To Hanoi and also I think later -- I'm a little
16 hazy, I had best not say. I started to say, we also sent
17 similar copies to their delegation in Paris. I'm not positive
18 about the latter, but I think that we probably did that, too.

19 Q. Okay. What response, if any, was received?

20 A. Hanoi replied that procedures have been set up for
21 handling Christmas packages to the men -- to the war criminals
22 being detained, and they're to go through Moscow, et cetera,
23 et cetera, et cetera. That was -- They did not say, "Do not
24 come," but they did say, "Plans do exist to handle Christmas
25 packages. We suggest that you use these."

1 Q. Was that word received before you left the United
2 States?

3 A. I think so. I'm not positive. I think it might
4 have been.

5 Q. Was any investigation or any follow-up done by any
6 members of your team to determine whether the Soviets would
7 assist in this project?

8 A. We did not -- The Soviets were suggested later in
9 our meetings with the North Vietnamese in Vientiane, Laos.

10 Q. I thought you said that the --

11 A. The telegram mentioned that previous arrangements
12 have been made with Moscow to handle Christmas packages going
13 to -- Right. But then following -- When we proceeded with
14 our trip and proceeded with a series of meetings with the
15 North Vietnamese, in one of those meetings the North
16 Vietnamese charge de affair in Vientiane, Laos, said, "If you
17 will get your cargo to Moscow before midnight, December 31,
18 they will see that it's delivered to the men."

19 Two different references to Moscow is what I'm
20 referring to.

21 Q. You told us that about five or six staff members
22 from United We Stand went on the trip. Do you remember the
23 names of any of those people?

24 A. Mr. Perot, Tom Marquez.

25 Q. What was Mr. Marquez's position?

1 A. I think he was a vice president of the organization.

2 Tom Meurer, Betty Taylor who was a secretary, Toni
3 Ratliff who was also a secretary-clerical. There may have
4 been one other. Who was the other? John Holman. I think he
5 was over there, though. He and Mr. Meurer, I think,
6 rendezvoused with us in Vientiane. They met us over there.
7 They were already over there. They had accompanied a couple
8 of POW wives to Vientiane to meet with the people there and
9 try to get information.

10 Q. What was Mr. Meurer's position with United We Stand?

11 A. He was assigned -- had joined the group out of EDS.
12 He was a systems engineer at EDS and had been assigned over to
13 this project on an as-needed basis. He was a vice president,
14 I believe, of United We Stand.

15 Q. In other words, Mr. Perot had assigned Mr. Meurer
16 from EDS over to United We Stand?

17 A. I don't know the official inner working of that.
18 But he did some very valuable work for United We Stand, yes.

19 Q. United We Stand you said was a nonprofit
20 corporation?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Who was it funded by?

23 A. By Mr. Perot.

24 Q. Entirely?

25 A. Yes. To my knowledge I should say it was.

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1 MR. KRAVITZ: Why don't we take a 5- or 10-minute
2 break and then talk about the trip.

3 (Recess.)

4 MR. KRAVITZ: Let's go back on the record.

5 BY MR. KRAVITZ:

6 Q. Mr. Martin, I want to ask you a question that I try
7 to remember to ask at the end of every recess and that is
8 whether there's anything you've said up until this point that
9 you'd wish to add to or take away from or change in any way?

10 A. I can't think of it if there is.

11 Q. Okay. If at any time during the deposition, you
12 think of anything you'd like to add to an earlier answer,
13 please just let me know and we can jump back to any point in
14 the deposition.

15 A. Good. Thank you.

16 Q. You gave us a list of people from United We Stand
17 whom you remembered as being part of this trip at Christmas
18 time 1969. Were there any other participants in the trip
19 whose names you can remember who might have been from outside
20 United We Stand?

21 A. There was a cameraman from Channel 8. Oh, golly,
22 what's his name? Travis Lynn was from Channel 8, and his
23 cameraman -- who was later killed and I can't think of his
24 name, I'm sorry. Thomas, something Thomas.

25 The Red Cross team was led by Enzo Bighnatti. His

1 last name is spelled B-i-g-h-n-a-t-t-i, I think.

2 And there was a Sam Krakow, K-r-a-k-o-w.

3 And the other, the doctor -- What was his name?

4 The other members of the Red Cross team I can't remember.

5 The New York Times reporter, I can't remember his
6 first name, but I think his last name was Nordheimer.

7 The other names escape me at the moment. If I think
8 of them later, I'll be happy to pass them along.

9 Q. Was Mr. McKillop involved in that trip?

10 A. Yes, yes. Harry McKillop, I called at Braniff when
11 I was trying to charter aircraft. I called a number of
12 airlines. I called Braniff, and it was his department. I
13 made an arrangement with him for the airplane. He -- That
14 reminds me of two more names.

15 Harry McKillop was on board, as was a mechanic by
16 the name of Garland and a radio man by the name of Gene
17 Stewart from Braniff. Those three Braniff personnel, in
18 addition to the flight crew.

19 Yes, Harry McKillop was most valuable in our early
20 efforts of the POW affairs in working with Braniff because
21 they readily accepted the challenge and provided aircraft that
22 Mr. Perot chartered to go over there.

23 Q. Did Mr. McKillop have any direct relationship with
24 United We Stand, either as a board member or an officer?

25 A. No, he did not.

1 Q. Were there specific roles on the trip? In other
2 words, was somebody in charge and was someone else in charge
3 of doing a certain duty?

4 A. Prior to the trip there were a number of roles, as I
5 mentioned. Once the trip proper got under way, Mr. Perot
6 basically was in charge. If you wanted to define beyond that,
7 I think we all were available to do whatever needed to be
8 done.

9 I kind of served as coordinator throughout the trip
10 and followed whatever the needs were to try to make it happen.

11 Q. What contacts, if any, were there between your team
12 for this Christmas trip and the U.S. delegation in Paris?

13 A. In Paris? I'm not sure of any direct contact with
14 us with them. I know they were made aware of the trip by the
15 State Department. We were in contact with the State
16 Department here.

17 Q. Did the State Department approve of this trip?

18 A. Yes. To my knowledge they did, yes.

19 Q. Do you have any idea as to what level at the State
20 Department the trip was approved?

21 A. I believe Secretary Rogers was aware of it and Frank
22 Sieverts. Of course the people along the way where we -- at
23 embassies and so forth, and finally in Vientiane, Mack Godley
24 and his staff.

25 Q. Just for the record, Mack Godley's position at that

1 time was what?

2 A. Whatever they call the head -- I don't know if he
3 was ambassador to Laos. He was the head of the embassy, but
4 I'm not sure of the precise title or correct title. McMurtry
5 Godley was his name.

6 Q. What contacts had there been between your team for
7 the Christmas trip and Frank Sieverts before the trip took
8 place?

9 A. We had had several telephone calls, conversations;
10 and I'm not sure when those began, if they began prior to our
11 putting together that trip proper or back before the other
12 trips and following the initial contact.

13 But we were in conversations about the POW problem.
14 I'm just not sure of the date that they started, but we did
15 nothing that was a surprise or news to anybody in Government I
16 don't think.

17 Q. What was your understanding at that time of Frank
18 Sieverts' position at the State Department?

19 A. It seems to me that it was an assignment -- and I
20 don't know what title went with it -- but it was an assignment
21 to the POW/MIA affairs. What title that would be I don't
22 know.

23 Q. Did Mr. Sieverts provide you or any other member of
24 your team with any information regarding POW's and MIA's
25 before the time of your trip at Christmas time?

1 A. I'm not sure of the dates, if he did it before that
2 trip. I know we had much stepped up activity and conversation
3 following that trip with Mr. Sieverts and visits and so forth.

4 I just don't recall the amount that we had prior to
5 the trip proper with him.

6 Q. Okay. In other words, at sometime Mr. Sieverts did
7 provide a substantial amount of information?

8 A. That's my recollection.

9 Q. You just don't know whether it was before or after
10 the Christmas trip?

11 A. I don't -- I can't recall that, sir, no, sir.

12 Q. Did you ever have any contact at any time with a man
13 named Roger Shields of the Defense Department?

14 A. Yes, we did.

15 Q. Was it your understanding that Dr. Shields held an
16 analogous position at the Pentagon to Frank Sieverts' position
17 at the State Department?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What kind of contacts did you have with Mr. Shields,
20 and if you remember, when did you have those contacts?

21 A. I can't recall the start date of the contact with
22 Mr. Shields. We had numerous contacts with him, visits with
23 him. But I'm not sure of the start dates, and I'm not sure if
24 it was prior to that trip or following that trip.

25 We also had contacts with numerous people that were

1 involved in the POW/MIA problem. I'm hazy on dates when they
2 started. We had contacts with them.

3 I do know that we started with Mr. Work and Mr.
4 Kegley back as early as September. I do know that we were in
5 contact with various other people at the Pentagon, General
6 James, General Hughes at the White House, on and on.

7 Q. You mentioned that you were working with the number
8 1420.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Was that a number that was provided to you by a
11 Government official?

12 A. Yes, it was.

13 Q. Do you remember who gave that to you?

14 A. I think that came either from Kegley or Work, one or
15 the other or both.

16 Q. Did you have an actual list of names or just a
17 number?

18 A. We just had a number I believe at that point in
19 time.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. That's incorrect. I beg your pardon. The reason I
22 say it's incorrect, we had to have a list, but when I got the
23 list I'm not sure. When we got the list I'm not sure.

24 But we had to have a list because when we got to
25 Anchorage and broke down the 30 tons of cargo into 3-kilo

1 individual packages, each addressed to an individual man
2 missing, we had that 1420 and we addressed it to those. So we
3 had to have a list that we got somewhere.

4 Q. Where did the trip leave from?

5 A. The plane proper, initially empty, left from Dallas;
6 I say empty, empty of cargo, except for some packages that
7 POW/MIA families had brought to the Dallas area to go on it.
8 We flew from Dallas to Los Angeles where the cargo
9 had been palletized, put together, palletized and loaded on
10 board there and then left from there.

11 Q. What does "palletize" mean?

12 A. Put on pallets, those wooden pallets that they put
13 all the merchandise on and secure it on individual pallets
14 that can be lifted by cranes, taken up into the plane and
15 loaded in particular areas.

16 Q. At this point all the merchandise was just all
17 together. It hadn't yet been divided into individual --

18 A. No, it had been divided in -- Well, it had
19 been -- No, it was still in bulk form basically then and
20 packaged on these pallets, each of the pallets weighing ... I
21 have no earthly idea, a couple of thousand pounds probably.

22 Q. Where did you go from Los Angeles after the plane
23 was loaded?

24 A. Honolulu, from Honolulu to --

25 Q. Let me interrupt you for a second. Were there any

1 meetings with Government officials either in Los Angeles or in
2 Honolulu?

3 A. There was a meeting with family members in Los
4 Angeles, Sybil Stockdale from the League of Families; and I'm
5 not sure if there were Government officials present at that
6 meeting or not with them. But there was a news conference in
7 Los Angeles. While the plane was being loaded, Mr. Perot went
8 over with Sybil Stockdale and the ladies that she had gotten
9 together there and visited.

10 Q. How about in Honolulu?

11 A. I don't think there were -- I don't recall any
12 meetings in Honolulu.

13 Q. Okay. Where did you go from Honolulu?

14 A. I don't know which comes next: Hong Kong or Wake
15 Island, whichever comes next.

16 MR. VALENTINE: Wake Island.

17 THE WITNESS: Wake Island. We went to Wake Island.

18 BY MR. KRAVITZ:

19 Q. Was that just a refueling stop?

20 A. Yes, it was a refueling stop. Then from Wake Island
21 to Hong Kong and then on into Bangkok.

22 Q. What was the date or the dates that --

23 A. We took off from Dallas on the 21st of December
24 1969.

25 Q. So you arrived in Vientiane --

1 A. Would it be the...

2 Q. Or did you say Thailand first or --

3 A. Well, we sat the plane down in Bangkok, the big
4 plane. Mr. Marquez and I then proceeded to Vientiane on a
5 private charter, single engine, a little twin-engined craft
6 that night, and the next morning completed arrangements for
7 the first meeting with the North Vietnamese.

8 Then the big plane was brought up with the rest of
9 the people.

10 Q. What was the purpose of arranging it the way you
11 just described, rather than just having the big plane go to
12 Vientiane?

13 A. Twofold. We were not positive in our mind what the
14 airport capability was in Vientiane. We had heard varying
15 stories, and we had reason to believe -- and the crew had
16 reason to believe that they could be comfortable, the runway
17 could be short and not as long as they would desire, but that
18 it would be okay.

19 But, nonetheless, we sat down in Bangkok and we
20 wanted to make sure that everything was arranged and we had a
21 comfort level before we took the plane on up there to the
22 airport, and also that the final arrangements for the meeting
23 had been made.

24 Q. What did you and Mr. Marquez do in Vientiane before
25 the time that the others arrived?

1 A. Mr. Meurer was already there. He had gone there
2 with these two ladies: Mrs. Jones and -- I forget the other
3 lady's name -- whose husbands were missing; and they had made
4 a call.

5 He met us that evening, and the next morning then we
6 went to the North Vietnamese compound and arranged for a
7 meeting with Mr. Perot and them.

8 Then we advised the people in Bangkok. As a matter
9 of fact we went back to Bangkok and then came on on the plane
10 because there was some question about leaving Bangkok to go
11 there without the same people on the manifest that had landed
12 there. So we had to get back and get on board before we could
13 proceed.

14 Q. When you refer to the North Vietnamese compound in
15 Vientiane, is that an embassy?

16 A. It was everything. Yes, it was an embassy; it was -
17 - I seem to recall two or three buildings within this high-
18 fenced area, down a long, dusty, dirt road.

19 Q. Why did you choose the North Vietnamese embassy or
20 compound in Vientiane as the place to make your initial
21 personal contact for this mission?

22 A. It was the closest to Hanoi.

23 Q. When you and Mr. Meurer and Mr. Marquez went to the
24 compound to make the arrangements for the whole group to come
25 there the next day, what was that meeting like? I mean, was

1 your proposal immediately accepted; or was there negotiations?

2 A. I would say it was almost immediately accepted. We
3 sensed, I think, a little bit of disappointment on their part.
4 They thought that Perot was going to be in that first meeting,
5 but then they readily scheduled a meeting.

6 Q. Do you remember who it was that the three of you met
7 with that first time?

8 A. If memory serves, his name was Mr. Vu Tien, like V-
9 u, T-i-e-n, was the name he gave us.

10 Q. Do you know what his position was?

11 A. I think charge de affair.

12 Q. What did you tell --

13 A. I'm not positive about that, but I think that's what
14 it was.

15 Q. What did you tell Mr. Tien the purpose for
16 scheduling the meeting the next day was?

17 A. To discuss gaining information about the men and
18 permission to take cargo in prior to Christmas time for the
19 men being held -- or the Americans being held in Hanoi.

20 Q. Based on your observations and also on anything that
21 Mr. Tien might have said to you, what was your perception as
22 to his level of authority to make any decisions on behalf of
23 the North Vietnamese government?

24 A. Our interpretation was he was the top man in that
25 delegation, but that a decision on this matter would have to

1 come from Hanoi and he would have to contact Hanoi for that.

2 Q. Okay. So you went back to Bangkok and then returned
3 to Vientiane the next day?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Did the entire delegation go to Vientiane for this
6 second trip?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Do you remember what day it was that the whole
9 delegation arrived in Vientiane?

10 MR. BRYANT: When you say delegation, you're talking
11 about the group that was on the Braniff plane?

12 MR. KRAVITZ: Right.

13 THE WITNESS: I think we were there the evening of
14 the 24th, or the afternoon of the 24th. It could have been
15 the morning. Sometime on the 24th.

16 BY MR. KRAVITZ:

17 Q. December 1969?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Was the meeting held that day?

20 A. Yes, it was.

21 Q. Who represented the North Vietnamese government at
22 this second meeting?

23 A. Mr. Vu Tien.

24 Q. Just one person?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Who from your team, your group, was present at the
2 meeting?

3 A. I think Mr. Perot met with him first. I'm not sure
4 if he met with him alone first or if Mr. Meurer and I were
5 also there. I'm just not positive, but I know that Mr. Perot
6 met and an interpreter. The interpreter was a young German
7 lady who was a flight attendant for Braniff, but she spoke
8 five languages. She served as interpreter at that meeting.

9 Q. The meetings were conducted in French?

10 A. In French. That is correct. And, of course, in her
11 translating to Mr. Perot, the English at times seemed to be
12 recognized by the person with whom they were meeting.

13 Q. What was the content of the meetings on the 24th of
14 December 1969 in Vientiane?

15 A. They ranged from everything such as the North
16 Vietnamese representative saying that "You're only talking
17 about 1420 men. A nation of 200 million is not concerned
18 about 1420 men."

19 Mr. Perot told them that in America, a nation of 220
20 million can become concerned about one person, much less 1420
21 and that they had a misread on that.

22 He got a long, steady line of the war criminal
23 atrocities, those type of things that was their normal line of
24 thinking, and all of the reasons that he shouldn't go there
25 and they shouldn't... But the bottom line was they would

1 check with Hanoi and notify the next day, get him word back
2 the next day.

3 Q. Was Mr. Perot doing all of the negotiating on behalf
4 of your team?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Were other meetings held in Vientiane between
7 members of your team and anyone else?

8 A. Before we left, there was. We called following the
9 direction of the North Vietnamese, when they finally said, "If
10 you will get your goods to Moscow by midnight, the 31st," et
11 cetera, "the Russians will see that they are delivered into
12 Hanoi."

13 We called upon the Russian embassy, and they in turn
14 said they would contact -- We started working...

15 The other people -- Let's see. Did we meet with
16 other people?

17 Q. Did you have any contact with the U.S. Embassy in
18 Laos?

19 A. Oh, of course, yes. Jim Murphy and Mr. Godley
20 and... I'm trying to think who else might have been in that
21 embassy on that trip at that time. It's a little hazy, but I
22 know that we visited with Mr. Godley.

23 Q. Mr. Godley you've already described as the head of
24 the U.S. Embassy in Laos at the time.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. What was your understanding of Jim Murphy's position
2 at the embassy?

3 A. I don't know the official title, but whatever the
4 title is for the political officer. That seemed to be the
5 impression I recall of the role he carried out there.

6 Q. Was Mr. Murphy your point of contact in Laos or was
7 someone else in that position?

8 MR. BRYANT: On that trip?

9 MR. KRAVITZ: On that trip.

10 THE WITNESS: It seemed to me that -- I don't
11 recall if our first point of contact was Mr. Godley or Mr.
12 Murphy. I just don't recall.

13 BY MR. KRAVITZ:

14 Q. Was it actual face-to-face meeting between members
15 of your team and members of the U.S. Embassy?

16 A. Yes, yes. In fact -- I shouldn't say anything that
17 I'm not positive of, but I seem to recall that Jim Murphy was
18 at the airport when we brought the big plane up that second
19 day. I think, if my memory serves me correctly, he was at the
20 airport.

21 Q. You said that there was a face-to-face meeting. Was
22 there a face-to-face meeting with anyone other than Mr. Murphy
23 at the airport on that trip?

24 MR. BRYANT: You mean did they meet anybody else at
25 the airport, or did they meet anybody else any time on the

1 trip?

2 BY MR. KRAVITZ:

3 Q. At any time that you were in Vientiane during the
4 Christmas trip, 1969, did you or other members of your team,
5 to your knowledge, meet with any U.S. Embassy officials other
6 than Jim Murphy at the airport?

7 A. At the airport? I don't recall.

8 Q. Okay. Did you meet with any other U.S. Embassy
9 officials at the embassy during that trip?

10 A. I think that's where we met with Mr. Godley was at
11 the embassy.

12 Q. Can you tell us about your meeting with Mr. Godley?
13 Again, I'm talking about this one trip, Christmas time 1969.

14 A. I don't -- I'm hazy on that. I wish I could -- my
15 recall were better. I'm not sure. I don't recall and I
16 don't...

17 A lot of things run together in Vientiane. I mean,
18 from the Lane Xang Hotel to the airport, the compound, the
19 marketplace, the Pathet Lao and all of these things in that
20 small area. I'm just not positive.

21 Q. You don't recall then receiving any intelligence
22 briefing or anything like that from U.S. Embassy personnel at
23 any time during that Christmas trip to Southeast Asia?

24 A. I don't recall. I wouldn't know if it were -- what
25 I consider to be an intelligence briefing, not on that trip at

1 that time.

2 Q. Okay. I understand that something fitting that
3 description may have occurred on a subsequent trip.

4 A. Right. I mean, you could talk about the rice drops
5 or things that were going on at Paksanne, refugee camps or...
6 I don't know which of that was, if any -- was intelligence.
7 But we got a broad view of what was going on in the area.

8 Q. During the Christmas trip?

9 A. I think that was, yes.

10 Q. And that information was provided to you by whom?

11 A. I don't recall.

12 Q. It may have been Mr. Godley?

13 A. Could have been, I suppose, or Mr. Murphy. I'm just
14 not sure. I hate to say something that I'm not sure about.

15 Q. Did you, or to your knowledge, anyone else, any
16 other member of your team have any contact during that
17 Christmas 1969 trip with any representatives of the Pathet
18 Lao?

19 A. I don't know if we met with Soth Pethrasi on that
20 trip also. I know we did in April, but I'm not sure about...
21 For some reason I want to -- I don't recall meeting with him
22 personally on the Christmas trip.

23 Q. Do you recall if anyone else from your team met with
24 Mr. Pethrasi?

25 A. I can't answer that. I don't recall that.

1 Q. Your understanding of Soth Pethrasi's position with
2 the Pathet Lao is what?

3 A. That he was head of the Pathet Lao and was their
4 diplomatic representative in Vientiane.

5 Q. You said that during your meeting with
6 representatives of the U.S. Embassy, whether it was with Mr.
7 Godley, Mr. Murphy or someone else, you were given general
8 information about what was going on. What information
9 generally were you given? Was it limited to Laos or was it
10 about -- Did it extend to all of Southeast Asia?

11 A. I think -- I seem to recall that most of it
12 pertained to Laos and was an overview of what was going on,
13 the USAID activities, just an overview.

14 Q. Do you recall being provided with an overview of
15 POW/MIA issues during your meeting with U.S. Embassy
16 officials?

17 A. I don't recall it as much during the Christmas trip
18 as I do later on.

19 Q. Okay. Now, at some point your testimony is you
20 received word from the North Vietnamese compound in Vientiane
21 to go through Moscow with the packages; is that right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What form did that information or that directive
24 come in?

25 A. It was face to face to Mr. Perot by the North

1 Vietnamese representative.

2 Q. To the best of your recollection, what exactly was
3 the directive?

4 A. I was not --

5 MR. BRYANT: Mr. Martin, were you present?

6 THE WITNESS: I was not present. I was about to
7 say, I was not present; therefore, I could not quote the
8 directive.

9 BY MR. KRAVITZ:

10 Q. Well, based on what Mr. Perot related to you and
11 other members of the team, what was your understanding as to
12 the North Vietnamese directive?

13 A. He said that he was told by the North Vietnamese
14 representative that if you will take your cargo and get it to
15 Moscow in 3-kilo packages, individual packages, before
16 midnight January (sic) 31st, that they will see that it gets
17 delivered to the men. Again, when we say "the men," it was
18 the 1420, the list that we were using. We set in motion
19 trying to get that done.

20 Q. You said that one of the things you did before
21 leaving Vientiane was to go visit with the Soviet Embassy in
22 Laos?

23 A. Right. And we told them -- They said they did not
24 know about it. We asked that they notify Moscow that we were
25 en route to Moscow to try to comply with the directions that

1 we had been given by the North Vietnamese.

2 Q. Did you learn anything, either from the Soviet
3 Embassy in Laos or from any other source, to indicate that the
4 Soviet Government was willing to go along with this directive
5 from the North Vietnamese?

6 A. Not in Vientiane we did not get that. As I just
7 said, they seemed to reflect that they were not aware of this
8 yet. That's when we asked them to please notify Moscow, that
9 we were heading in their direction, and we planned to comply
10 with North Vietnam's directive, which meant a stopover to
11 repackage that 30 tons of cargo into 3 kilos each.

12 Q. Did you have any contact with U.S. Government
13 officials after receiving the directive from the North
14 Vietnamese and before heading to Moscow?

15 A. I don't recall that I did. I'm sure we notified
16 them at that point in time what we had been told. And to whom
17 we gave that information in Vientiane, I'm not positive. But
18 I'm sure that we made them aware of what we had been told.

19 Q. When did you leave Vientiane?

20 A. I think we left Vientiane on like the 28th or 29th.
21 It was -- We didn't have a lot of room timewise to get things
22 done. But I think it was around the 28th or 29th. I'm not
23 positive.

24 Q. And then your next destination was Alaska?

25 A. Alaska, Anchorage.

1 Q. What happened when you got to Alaska?

2 A. We had stopped to refuel in Tokyo, and we had a
3 single side band radio on board the aircraft. We had radioed
4 ahead to Anchorage to a radio station and newspapers to tell
5 them what our plight was and that we were going to stop there.

6 We made arrangements, got permission for a hangar to
7 be used. We were going to offload this 30 tons of cargo. We
8 needed volunteers to help repackage and to have everything
9 needed to repackage there waiting for us so we could make it
10 happen.

11 We landed, and there was a sea of volunteers -- I
12 don't know how many hundreds -- from all walks of life. I
13 must say -- getting away from what we're talking about here --
14 - it was one of the most moving things that I had ever seen
15 because a country that was so torn and in disarray by a war
16 ... there were so-called hippies and anti-war protestors and
17 Boy Scouts and U.S. personnel in uniform and senior citizens
18 and all colors that were out there volunteering. They put
19 together a common cause for these men. They got it done. I
20 think we did it in 7 hours. We took off in a snowstorm.

21 Q. Was your whole team in Anchorage, or had anyone gone
22 ahead to Moscow separate --

23 A. No, no. We were all still together. We were all
24 still together. I'm trying to think. The crew used that time
25 to grab a little sleep, refresh themselves and to get some

1 information about flying over the North Pole because the crew
2 -- this particular crew had not flown over the Pole before.

3 But we stopped in Anchorage, got it done and then
4 flew on to Copenhagen.

5 Q. Was Copenhagen merely a refueling stop or was there
6 something else --

7 A. No, no. That's where -- We hoped to go from there
8 direct to Moscow. We spent... I don't know how many visits
9 we made that day -- we made more than two -- to the Russian
10 Embassy and met with them, trying to get that final permission
11 and how Moscow wanted it to take place to get this mission
12 completed, as has been dictated by the North Vietnamese.

13 We could not get the word from them. This, mind
14 you, is now New Year's Eve; time is running out and the
15 Russian Embassy was getting ready for a huge New Year's Eve
16 party at the embassy. They were laying out this big banquet
17 and shoulder-to-shoulder chair arrangements.

18 We met in various rooms that day, the first one
19 having taken place early that morning with Mr. Perot and
20 myself and Mr. Meurer calling on them while it was still dark.
21 And him stating, you know -- We continued to go back to try
22 to make it happen.

23 We offered to change planes, put it in a Soviet
24 plane, put it in a plane of their choice, whatever, when the
25 resistance was recognized.

1 Q. Were any U.S. Government officials assisting in the
2 negotiations?

3 A. I don't know what was going on behind the scenes or
4 on the telephone. They were aware. We had spoken -- Among
5 other people, we had spoken with Ambassador Beem in Moscow by
6 that time, I mean when we got to Copenhagen.

7 Q. He was the U.S. Ambassador to Moscow?

8 A. To Moscow, yes.

9 And stated what we had been told and what we were
10 trying to do and asked that he try to get some approval or
11 some answers for us in Moscow.

12 Q. What was the final result of all of your efforts?

13 A. The final result was that they refused to allow us
14 to fly that plane or any other plane to deliver the cargo. We
15 tried -- We called Premier Kosygin's home, left word there.
16 And finally the word came back to us that they would not allow
17 this to happen, that we could not do it; and we came home.

18 Q. From Copenhagen?

19 A. From Copenhagen through New York to Dallas.

20 Q. With all the cargo?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Was there any conclusion to the trip other than just
23 coming home? Was there a TV program or press conferences or
24 anything like that documenting the trip that you were involved
25 in?

1 A. No. I was not -- Oh, there were a lot. That we
2 did, no, per se, because Channel 8 had a crew on board; and I
3 think ABC had a crew on board maybe. But, no, we did not do a
4 special on that, per se, that I was involved with or can
5 remember.

6 Q. My understanding is, just based on things I've read,
7 that notwithstanding the refusal of the North Vietnamese and
8 the Soviets to allow your cargo to be delivered to the POW's,
9 this whole trip did result in a substantial improvement in the
10 treatment of our prisoners.

11 Was there anything that you and other team members
12 did or said at the conclusion of the trip specifically pointed
13 toward that end?

14 A. At that point in time, I don't believe that there
15 was. We would only learn of that later on after the men were
16 released, that the treatment had changed at about that point
17 in time.

18 So, no, we did not say anything then. The only
19 thing that I recall that Mr. Perot and those of us that were
20 involved in the project at the time said, some people wanted
21 to call the trip a failure and how do you explain a failure.
22 We said that we did not consider it a failure.

23 While the prime objective was not realized -- and
24 that was delivering the goods to the people, to the men -- it
25 did serve to focus on a world problem. Therefore, because of

1 that, we did not consider it a failure.

2 Q. I guess it wasn't until 3 years later that we all
3 learned that it was not only not a failure, but really a big
4 success in terms of the improvement in the treatment of the
5 prisoners.

6 A. Right.

7 Q. What POW-related activities were you involved in
8 after you returned, I guess it would have been early January
9 1970?

10 A. New Year's Day we returned. We started -- and I'm
11 not sure if it was February or when. There were some other
12 intermingled trips by other wives and/or family members on
13 their own to Paris.

14 We made some trips, again "we" being United We Stand
15 representatives, myself or Mr. Meurer. Any time we got a
16 lead, we'd try to follow it up.

17 But we started what was called The Village Campaign.
18 The Village Campaign was people around this nation were saying
19 what can we do. We said we can start these letter writing
20 campaigns.

21 They started those and began sending people over to
22 Paris to meet with the North Vietnamese delegation and present
23 their mail and so forth.

24 And then in April we said, "Let's put together a
25 trip with press from all over the world." The strategy behind

1 this was first to go through camps in South Vietnam where
2 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong prisoners were being held and
3 let the world press see them, do stories about them, film
4 them, we will have our own crew film them.

5 And then we will take this information to the North
6 Vietnamese in Vientiane and say, "Let the world press go in,
7 and if you are doing what you say you are doing, treating
8 these men properly and that they're in good condition, let the
9 world press see it. Here is film of how your people are being
10 treated in the south," and so forth.

11 We thought that that might for the first time get a
12 bulk of information about who was there, what was their
13 condition, what was their need and so forth. We did that trip
14 in April.

15 Q. Who went on the April 1970 trip?

16 A. About a hundred news personnel from around the
17 world, United We Stand staff, Mr. Perot, Mr. Marquez, Mr.
18 Meurer. Again we had Red Cross representatives.

19 You know, I just thought of something that I left
20 off on the Christmas people that were there. We had two
21 ministers on board that flight also. We had a rabbi and a
22 Protestant minister on board the Christmas trip. I just
23 thought of that.

24 But back to April. We invited a cross-
25 representation of all the world press, everyone from Tass to

1 all the foreign media. We had Swedish television, French
2 television, BBC were represented on board.

3 We had reporters from overseas. But by far the bulk
4 of the reporters and/or television people were from America,
5 all across this country and the networks.

6 Q. Was Mr. McKillop involved in assisting the April
7 1970 trip?

8 A. Yes. We chartered the plane from him again.

9 Q. Was he present on the trip?

10 A. Yes, he was the Braniff representative on board that
11 trip.

12 I neglected also to mention another activity that
13 was at the Christmas time. A second plane went at Christmas
14 time loaded with wives and their children, went to Paris only
15 to call on the North Vietnamese. At the time we were going to
16 Vientiane, another plane was going -- and did go -- to Paris
17 and call on them.

18 It was a planeload of wives and children of men
19 missing. Representatives of the North Vietnamese finally did
20 meet with representatives, but they did not provide them with
21 very much. But that was another plane that was involved at
22 Christmas time.

23 Q. How many planes went on the April 1970 trip?

24 A. One, Braniff.

25 Q. More people but less cargo?

1 A. Yes. We carried no cargo at this point in time.

2 Q. Okay. Where was the first stop on the April 1970
3 trip? Actually, let me strike that question because I want to
4 -- In terms of preparation for the trip I want to ask you
5 about what type of meetings and information you had from U.S.
6 Government officials.

7 You mentioned earlier that you know that at some
8 point in this time period you met or had several discussions
9 with Frank Sieverts of the State Department.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You just weren't sure whether they were before the
12 Christmas trip or not. Were there definitely meetings or
13 discussions between members of your team and Mr. Sieverts
14 before the trip in April 1970?

15 A. Yes, there was.

16 Q. Were those face-to-face meetings or telephone or
17 both?

18 A. Both.

19 Q. Where did the face-to-face meetings take place?

20 A. At the State Department.

21 Q. Were you present at any of those meetings?

22 A. Yes, I was.

23 Q. Do you remember how many of those meetings there
24 were?

25 A. Face-to-face meetings?

1 Q. Right.

2 A. I can't say with a degree of certainty, but I would
3 say at least three or four that I was personally involved,
4 personally saw Mr. Sieverts in.

5 Q. Were Mr. Perot and Mr. Meurer also present at those
6 meetings?

7 A. I know that Mr. Perot was present at a couple of
8 State Department meetings that Mr. Sieverts was also present
9 at. Mr. Sullivan from the State Department was there.

10 Q. Is that William Sullivan?

11 A. Yes. I don't recall others, and I'm not positive,
12 Mr. Meurer could have gone alone at times because we were not
13 always operating as a group. The same for Mr. Perot. Mr.
14 Perot could have gone alone at times.

15 Q. Were these meetings held at the request of the State
16 Department or at the request of your group?

17 A. I think probably both at times. Sometimes they were
18 -- Sometimes government agencies would call and ask us about
19 something and we would... And sometimes we would try to find
20 out something that would be helpful.

21 Q. What was your understanding of the purpose of these
22 meetings that you and your group had with the State Department
23 officials before the April trip?

24 A. The same as it always had been: What can we do that
25 will help the men?

1 Q. Did you and other members of your group have
2 security clearances which enabled you to be provided with
3 intelligence information or other classified information?

4 A. I don't know. If you're talking about having been
5 issued a card or something, I don't recall. I was not issued
6 one myself. I've had security clearances in the past when I
7 was a functioning newsman at the United Nations and things of
8 that nature.

9 I also know that I was invited to and went to just
10 about all areas of the Pentagon, to the control center
11 downstairs at the White House, on one occasion to CIA
12 headquarters. I don't know what type clearances those have,
13 but in answer to your question, I never was aware that I was
14 being scrutinized or had to have or had been issued any
15 security clearance.

16 But let me hasten to point out: There's no doubt in
17 my mind that whoever needed in Government to know about Murphy
18 Martin and was he secure knew it.

19 Q. What type of information did you and other members
20 of your team receive about POW's and MIA's from Mr. Sieverts
21 and Mr. Sullivan and any other State Department officials?

22 MR. BRYANT: During this period, prior to April
23 1970?

24 MR. KRAVITZ: Before the trip in April 1970.

25 THE WITNESS: Who was meeting, I mean, how things

1 were going with groups that had gone to Paris, who was
2 planning to go to Paris, what was the status going on at the
3 Peace Talks, who was coming out of North Vietnam, who had any
4 information, how could we be helpful, what can be done, just a
5 broad, general list of subjects, but all centered on one
6 thing. That was the POW/MIA's.

7 BY MR. KRAVITZ:

8 Q. Were you provided with an update on the number of
9 U.S. personnel --

10 A. We always felt that we were, yes.

11 Q. Had the number grown higher than 1420 by --

12 A. Oh, yeah. I think that by April we were up to 1500-
13 something, 1550 or something like that.

14 Q. Were you provided with lists or names or even just
15 numbers of men out of that 1500-and-something who were
16 believed by the Government actually to be live prisoners of
17 war?

18 A. We were provided such a list, and I'm not sure when
19 we got that list, if it was in that time frame or could it
20 have been earlier or maybe even later. But, yes, we had what
21 was believed to be -- because from time to time we would use
22 names to test information, if you will.

23 We would use a name that was known to be a POW and
24 one that was missing in action and no verification was known.
25 We'd put them together for someone to try to find information

1 about, someone that said they could get us information about
2 POW's, to test and see if they were for real because there
3 were a lot of people around that just wanted to pluck from the
4 Perot money tree in those days.

5 Q. In other words, these were individuals --

6 A. From all over the world.

7 Q. -- from all over the world, but who had nothing to
8 do with the U.S. Government or the Vietnamese Government?

9 A. Right. They would come to us and say, "We can do
10 this or we have contacts or we know this or that or whatever."
11 And in order to find out if they're for real and would it be
12 worthwhile to pursue -- because we tried to pursue anything
13 that we thought was worthwhile or could get us the information
14 about the men.

15 Q. Did you find any people from among this group who
16 did provide fruitful information?

17 A. Well, we found some fruitful information that we
18 passed along to the various agencies in Washington and the
19 people involved. We found some pictures, for example, of U.S.
20 personnel live on the ground that had been listed as killed.
21 We passed that along.

22 Q. Where did you get those pictures?

23 A. I tracked it down -- The first picture that we got
24 was of Ron Dodge, and I found it in the picture morgue at
25 Paris Match, a publication in Paris. We took that, showed it

1 to his wife in California. She said it was her husband. He
2 was on the ground live being held by North Vietnamese on
3 either side, head bandaged and so forth.

4 I was able to get -- I got another -- Well, we got
5 several, but another one comes to mind. I went through, made
6 a contact with a Communist publication in Paris and a reporter
7 and met with her and got from her a picture of a POW by the
8 name of Kasler, K-a-s-l-e-r, that she had interviewed. At
9 that point in time no one had got that picture.

10 Then I got from Ly Van Sau who was the Viet Cong
11 representative in Paris a tape from a man captured by the name
12 of Shrunk, Raymond Shrunk, who had been captured in the south.
13 I took Mrs. Shrunk over and he gave her the tape.

14 But little basic things like that.

15 Q. And that information was turned over to the
16 appropriate government agencies?

17 A. Yes, we tried to make -- you know, the Pentagon,
18 State Department, whomever, the White House, people that were
19 interested at that time. We tried to keep them apprised of
20 things that, of course, they would have much greater resources
21 to follow up and search out than we.

22 Q. Do you know who provided you the list of people
23 believed to be POW's when you got that list?

24 A. I don't know if that came from the Pentagon. I
25 don't know if it came from General James. I don't know if it

1 came from General Hughes at the White House or if it came from
2 Frank Sieverts. I'm not positive. It could have been any one
3 of those three.

4 Q. Was General James your primary contact at the
5 Defense Department?

6 A. He was my most consistent contact, yes. He was not
7 my initial contact, but he became the most consistent because
8 of the role that he was playing.

9 Q. What role was General James playing?

10 A. General James was not only the Deputy Secretary of
11 Information at the Pentagon, but he was also -- and I don't
12 know the title that he carried -- but he was the contact for
13 the families at the Pentagon.

14 He was not like Colonel Archie Gratch, the casualty
15 officer in San Antonio. But at the Pentagon he was the
16 contact man for the families.

17 Q. Did you have any contact with a man named Jerry
18 Freidheim?

19 A. Yes. I seem to remember him as General James'
20 superior.

21 Q. That's right. Mr. Freidheim was the Assistant
22 Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, and General James was
23 the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs.

24 A. Right.

25 Q. Did you have contact with Roger Shields?

1 A. Yes, not as much as with others, but I have, yes.

2 Q. What type of POW-related information, if any, did
3 you receive from Roger Shields, Jerry Freidheim and General
4 James before the trip in April 1970?

5 A. I can't recall specifically, but just general
6 information, whatever they had at the time that I suppose they
7 felt they could tell us about. Anything that was not for eyes
8 only type information.

9 Q. You mentioned that you met with General Hughes.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Was it your understanding that General Hughes was
12 the military assistant to the President?

13 A. That is correct.

14 Q. What was the purpose and contents of your meetings
15 with General Hughes?

16 A. We talked about the problem and its agenda and where
17 we perhaps could be of help with the families in this country,
18 as well as trying to find additional information on their
19 people.

20 We also found from him -- He kept us posted on
21 things going on at the Peace Talks that might cast a light in
22 some way on the POW question. We just had various regular
23 meetings from time to time with him at the White House or by
24 telephone.

25 He on occasion would call us to see if we had heard

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1 about or what did you -- and then when we'd get back from a
2 trip, we'd report in information to him, as we did to most all
3 the people that were involved in the problem at the Government
4 level.

5 Q. Did you or anyone else on your team have any
6 meetings with President Nixon?

7 A. I did not, no.

8 Q. Do you know if anyone else on your team met with
9 President Nixon on the POW issue?

10 A. I am not personally aware. I don't know if Mr.
11 Perot did or not. There were other White House people that we
12 visited with occasionally. I don't know that anybody or who
13 they were that might have met with Mr. Nixon.

14 Q. Where was the first place that your team went abroad
15 in April 1970 on this trip?

16 A. It started in Honolulu, then I think we were at the
17 Philippines. We did not go back to Wake. I think we went to
18 Hong Kong again and then to Bangkok.

19 Q. Were there any meetings in Hong Kong relevant to the
20 POW mission?

21 A. What type?

22 Q. I mean, was Hong Kong just a refueling stop?

23 A. I think it was just a refueling stop. We were only
24 on the ground for a couple of hours or so.

25 Q. What did y'all do in Bangkok?

1 A. We again -- We put the people in the hotel, landed
2 the plane, went to Vientiane to set up the meetings there and
3 kind of did a replay of the Christmas thing, got the meeting
4 set.

5 Q. Was it just a small group going to Vientiane
6 initially?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Who went to Vientiane to set up the meetings?

9 A. I believe Mr. Meurer, Mr. Marquez and myself. I'm
10 not positive on that. I know that we flew -- that Mr. Perot
11 came up there also, that we had a meeting --

12 Q. Came up to Vientiane?

13 A. To Vientiane. After we had been there and had
14 arranged a meeting and then we had to go back and get the
15 plane and bring it up.

16 Q. Okay. When you and the others who went with you to
17 Vientiane to set up the meetings were in Vientiane at that
18 time before the rest of the group came from Bangkok to
19 Vientiane, who did you meet with in Vientiane?

20 A. I don't know if it was the same North Vietnamese
21 man. For some reason I want to say by that point in time Mr.
22 Vu Tien was in Hanoi reportedly and Mr. Tan was there, I'm not
23 -- North Vietnamese. And I'm not sure if it was Vu Tien or
24 Mr. Tan.

25 Q. What was the content of that meeting?

1 A. The content of that meeting -- See, we had already
2 been to a -- I stand corrected. I said we went to Bangkok.
3 We didn't go to Bangkok from Hong Kong. We went to Saigon
4 because we go to the south first on that trip and toured all
5 of those camps in the south.

6 Q. So you had already done that by the time you got to
7 Vientiane?

8 A. Yeah, by the time we got to Vientiane.

9 Q. Then why don't we backtrack a little bit.

10 A. Let me backtrack because I think that I've confused
11 two trips. We went to Saigon and broke out in groups, and
12 various groups went to various POW camps there, to Pleiku, Da
13 Nang and all around the country.

14 Q. Just so the record is clear, these were camps in
15 which North Vietnamese and Viet Cong --

16 A. North Vietnamese and/or Viet Cong were being
17 detained, yes. And interviewed people, filmed, gathered all
18 types of information.

19 Q. Who was running those camps, American or South
20 Vietnamese?

21 A. South Vietnamese. I think also at each of them
22 perhaps there was an American advisor, but the South
23 Vietnamese were operating them because we were accompanied by
24 South Vietnamese people, officers.

25 Q. And the south Vietnamese officers permitted your

1 group to film the camps?

2 A. That is correct. Now, you asked me about American
3 representatives. In Saigon we met with people from the
4 embassy.

5 Q. The U.S. Embassy?

6 A. The U.S. Embassy. And the elderly gentleman that
7 was the -- Ellsworth Bunker. Ambassador Bunker was there. I
8 think a Mr. Abrams. Was that his name? No, that's not his
9 name. He was the assistant. I can't remember his name.

10 But we met with four or five people at the embassy
11 there on various occasions. And on that trip Mr. Marquez and
12 Mr. Meurer had gone over ahead of us and laid out the trip,
13 got permission to do the trips, and then we came with the news
14 people and locked up with them in Saigon and started touring
15 the camps.

16 We met with those people. And during that time Mr.
17 Perot also met with President Thieu.

18 Q. Do you know what the purpose of Mr. Perot's meeting
19 with President Thieu was?

20 A. Yes. It concerned the POW's. The president had
21 sent word that he would like to visit with him, is my
22 understanding. I was not in the meeting.

23 Q. President Thieu had sent word that he wanted to meet
24 with Mr. Perot?

25 A. Right, that he would like to meet with him. He went

1 over for a meeting. I was outside with a couple of others. I
2 think it was Marquez and myself. We waited outside in a car
3 while that meeting took place at the Presidential Palace.

4 Other people -- We spent a lot of time out at Tan
5 Son Nhut and Bien Hoa, a POW camp just outside of Saigon, at
6 Long Binh, and then as I said, we went to Da Nang and Pleiku
7 and these other areas. We broke the news group up into
8 smaller groups so they could be handled. There's no way you
9 could take a hundred into each one of those.

10 If memory serves me, there were groups of about 20,
11 25 people, no more than that in each of the groups that
12 visited these facilities.

13 Q. Not counting the advance work that was done before
14 you and the others arrived in Saigon, how many days was the
15 group in Saigon during that April trip?

16 A. I think 3. I think we were there 3 days.

17 Q. In terms of your goal of providing filmed or
18 otherwise documentary evidence of the treatment of enemy
19 prisoners by the South Vietnamese, was it your sense that that
20 was successful? In other words, did you find that the South
21 Vietnamese were treating North Vietnamese and Viet Cong
22 prisoners well?

23 A. Yes, very well, very well.

24 Q. Was there good film footage taken of that treatment?

25 A. Yes, we took that.

1 Q. During your meetings with President -- when I say
2 "your meetings," I mean meetings of all members of your group,
3 regardless of whether you were present. During your meetings
4 with President Thieu and Ambassador Bunker and others in South
5 Vietnam, did you as a group learn any additional information
6 relating to U.S. POW's in Indochina?

7 A. I don't recall specifically any information that we
8 had not had prior to going there.

9 Q. Okay. In other words, in South Vietnam in April
10 1970 you didn't learn any additional information as to the
11 numbers of U.S. POW's?

12 A. Not in South Vietnam.

13 Q. Okay. Where did you all go after you were finished
14 in South Vietnam?

15 A. I think that's when we went to Vientiane then. The
16 thing that's hazy in my mind, I can't recall if we did the
17 stop in -- For some reason, I don't think that we stopped in
18 Bangkok then. We just flew directly to Vientiane.

19 Q. This would have been the whole team then?

20 A. Yes, the whole team.

21 Q. What happened in Vientiane?

22 A. I'm wrong on that. We did go to Bangkok. The
23 reason I know, because in flying back Ross went up, and that's
24 when we had the incident of the door blowing off the airplane
25 when we were flying back to Bangkok from Vientiane in the dead

1 of night. That got our attention for a while, but nobody was
2 injured, thank goodness.

3 I think that the people stayed in Bangkok one day
4 and night, and then we took the whole plane up again to
5 Vientiane.

6 Q. Were there any meetings in Bangkok that you
7 remember?

8 A. With whom?

9 Q. Well, with anybody. Either with --

10 A. Not that I recall, no.

11 Q. No meetings --

12 A. Other than with members of the press.

13 Q. In other words, in Bangkok there were no meetings
14 either with U.S. Embassy officials or with --

15 A. Not that I'm aware of.

16 Q. Did North Vietnam have an embassy --

17 A. For some reason I want to think that their nearest
18 one was in Phnom Phnen, Cambodia, other than Vientiane.

19 Q. So there certainly weren't any contacts with North
20 Vietnamese government officials in Bangkok?

21 A. Not that I recall.

22 Q. What meetings did you all have in Vientiane?

23 A. Met with the North Vietnamese stating what we were
24 trying to do and wanted to do.

25 Q. Who was present at that meeting?

1 A. Mr. Perot and five POW/MIA wives, Mr. Meurer and
2 myself made the call. There was a little house outside the
3 main facility, and they made us wait in that house for several
4 hours.

5 Q. Did you have an appointment?

6 A. Yes, we thought we had an appointment. But we
7 waited for a long while, and then finally Mr. Perot -- they
8 did see him after they had --

9 Q. They saw him individually?

10 A. They saw him individually. While we waited in the
11 house, they saw three ministers from the protestors group in
12 America and met with them, and then they saw Mr. Perot later
13 in the day.

14 Q. Do you remember who the ministers were?

15 A. I remember one; I may remember two. Fernandez and
16 Norm Chamesky were two that I want to remember. And maybe --
17 - Is Chamesky a minister or was he from -- a faculty member
18 from Yale or...

19 MR. BRYANT: He's a linguist.

20 THE WITNESS: A linguist. So he's not a minister.

21 BY MR. KRAVITZ:

22 Q. Was William Sloan Coffin there, too?

23 A. I believe he was the third man; I'm not positive.
24 But I do remember Fernandez and Norm Chamesky.

25 Q. Was that group working together with you in any way,

1 or was it just a --

2 A. In no way whatsoever.

3 Q. It was just a coincidence that they were there at
4 the same time?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Did they interfere with what you were doing in any
7 way, in your opinion?

8 A. I cannot say. Let us say that -- I'm sure they
9 were not trying to be helpful, but what they did I'm not aware
10 of. We were never privy to that.

11 Q. After the North Vietnamese met privately with Mr.
12 Perot, was there another meeting with the North Vietnamese
13 that you attended?

14 A. Only while he -- I would go with him while he would
15 meet with them. I would be there for that. But in the room
16 proper during the meeting, no, there was none.

17 Q. So you were not privy to any of the discussions that
18 Mr. Perot had with North Vietnamese government officials in
19 Vientiane?

20 A. No, other than getting summaries from him after he
21 attended those meetings.

22 Q. To the best of your recollection, can you tell us
23 how Mr. Perot summarized his meetings with the North
24 Vietnamese officials in Vientiane in April 1970?

25 A. Always the center focus was we have the world press,

1 let them all -- or pick and choose -- go and tour your camps
2 so the world can see if you're treating the men as you say
3 that you're treating them. We have this film we'll give to
4 you of your people that are being held in the south.

5 That was the general thrust of everything. They
6 discussed and they contended -- On the one hand, they
7 contended, of course -- They were still contending at that
8 time that they had nobody in the south; therefore, there could
9 not be North Vietnamese prisoners in the south. They were
10 contending that. But, of course, we had all the footage and
11 through an interpreter had spoken with some of those people.
12 The general thrust was that.

13 Then he went through all sorts of scenarios, such as
14 we'll send a small delegation, we will change planes, we will
15 do whatever. You define the parameters, and we'll work within
16 those parameters in order to get information about the people
17 you are holding. That was the thrust of it all.

18 Q. And the North Vietnamese response as summarized to
19 you by Mr. Perot was what?

20 A. That they would not allow the press to come in, or
21 this plane to come in, or any members to come in. And then
22 the wives were there, and they met -- Three of them went out
23 together alone after the North Vietnamese had told Mr. Perot
24 these summaries. They went out to see if they could get
25 permission to go in and visit. They were told, disassociate

1 yourself from Mr. Perot and come back and see us and we'll
2 talk about it.

3 Q. How did you interpret that?

4 A. Typical North Vietnamese reaction. The same thing
5 that they had told the initial group of wives they had seen in
6 Paris; you know, they'll make them empty promises, but they
7 would not fulfill.

8 That statement meant nothing. Disassociate yourself
9 and come back and we'll talk about it, that doesn't say
10 they'll let anybody go in or we'll get you the information.

11 Q. To the best of your recollection, how many meetings
12 did Mr. Perot have with the North Vietnamese representatives
13 in Vientiane during the April 1970 trip?

14 A. I'm not sure, but for some reason I want to think
15 three. I'm not positive.

16 Q. How long did these meetings take?

17 A. Well, if you count all the time we had to wait in
18 that hot, stuffy, little cabin outside, some of them were very
19 long. But the meetings proper where they were discussing
20 business, from 1 to 2 hours.

21 Q. And Mr. Perot was the only member of your team
22 present at the actual meetings?

23 A. That's correct. And an interpreter.

24 Q. Again, these meetings were held in French?

25 A. Yes. That is correct.

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1 Q. Were there any additional meetings that you or
2 members of your team had in Vientiane in April 1970, in
3 addition to the meetings with the North Vietnamese?

4 A. Yes. We went to the embassy --

5 Q. U.S. Embassy?

6 A. U.S. Embassy. -- and there was a man who -- We
7 were always seeking additional information about POW's, you
8 know, where can we prime the pump to help this.

9 We were told by this gentleman that there were some
10 U.S. prisoners being held in caves in the Sam Nuea area.

11 Q. Let me back up for a minute so we can get more
12 detailed. Who went to the U.S. Embassy in Vientiane in April
13 1970?

14 A. I'm not sure of the total group, but I'm sure of two
15 or three: Mr. Meurer, myself, Mr. Perot. And I'm not sure
16 who else.

17 Q. You don't remember whether Mr. Marquez was there?

18 A. I don't remember with clarity. I'm just not sure.

19 Q. Do you remember whether Mr. McKillop was there?

20 A. I don't, I don't. I think he was not, but I'm not
21 sure.

22 Q. Was the visit to the U.S. Embassy in Vientiane
23 before or after the meetings that Mr. Perot had with the North
24 Vietnamese?

25 A. I think -- I want to recall that it was in the

1 midst of, and also in the midst of meetings that we had had
2 with Soth Pethrasi for the Pathet Lao. But there again I
3 can't be definitive on the dates. 20 years is a long time.

4 I think in the midst -- After at least the first
5 meeting -- It could have been after all the meetings, I'm not
6 sure; but I want to say it was in the midst of the meetings.
7 I know it was in the midst of the Soth Pethrasi meetings.

8 Q. Okay. So the three of you -- and perhaps others,
9 but you know it was at least you, Mr. Perot and Mr.
10 Meurer --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- went to the U.S. Embassy. Was that for an
13 arranged meeting at the embassy, or was that just a courtesy
14 call?

15 A. As I recall that, there had been a function at the
16 Lane Xang Hotel given, I thought, by the lady ... or the
17 people who owned the Lane Xang, that being the small little
18 city that it is and they have all the diplomatic corps show up
19 from all around the world.

20 This was a party on that lawn back behind the hotel
21 near that pool that didn't get under way until eight or so.
22 But at this party, I think Jim Murphy was there. He was one
23 of the many, many people there.

24 He remarked that they had some information that
25 might be helpful. He remarked -- I believe he told that to

1 Mr. Meurer. Anyhow, we -- After the party was over or late -
2 - it was midnight or so, it was late in the evening -- we went
3 over to the embassy.

4 Q. Do you remember if Ambassador Godley had been at
5 this function?

6 A. The party? I'm not positive. I'm not sure.

7 Q. Until that time, though, there had been no visit to
8 the embassy while you were --

9 A. Oh, I think there had been, yes. During that trip?

10 Q. (Nods head.)

11 A. I think there had been an earlier -- That probably
12 was what led to this being mentioned that night because while
13 Ross would be meeting, you know, other people sometimes --
14 like Meurer or Marquez, if they had any other leads they could
15 track down through anybody doing the rice drops or anybody
16 over there, we tried to follow up and get whatever information
17 we could.

18 Q. Okay. So there was a late night meeting over at the
19 U.S. Embassy in Vientiane after this party?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And you know that it was attended by you, Mr. Perot
22 and Mr. Meurer and perhaps others whom you can't remember?

23 A. Right.

24 Q. Who from the embassy staff was at the meeting?

25 A. I recall -- I'm not sure of all, but I recall that

1 Jim Murphy and this Mr. Devlin was there, and whom else I'm
2 not sure, if anybody else.

3 Q. Okay. So there was Jim Murphy, and your
4 understanding of his position at the embassy was that he was
5 in the political section?

6 A. Right. Political section.

7 Q. Did you understand what that meant? I mean, what
8 Mr. Murphy's job entailed?

9 A. No.

10 Q. There probably aren't more than two or three people
11 in the United States who would know any more about that than
12 you.

13 What about Mr. Devlin? What was your understanding
14 of his position at the U.S. Embassy?

15 A. I was not sure. I was not necessarily led to his
16 being in a position at the embassy, but that he was from
17 intelligence, some section of intelligence, be it embassy
18 intelligence or just U.S. intelligence or CIA or what. I'm
19 not sure; he was intelligence.

20 Q. He was not specifically introduced to you, either by
21 himself or --

22 A. If he was, I don't recall that as being specific
23 embassy.

24 Q. Was Ambassador Godley present at this meeting?

25 A. I don't recall his being present at this meeting.

1 He could have been, but I don't recall or not. I believe that
2 I would have recalled that.

3 Q. He certainly wasn't running the meeting?

4 A. No, not to my knowledge.

5 Q. How late at night was the meeting?

6 A. It was after midnight, and it was when the party had
7 broken up or begun to break up, but it was late.

8 Q. Can you tell the subject matter discussed and what
9 people said at the meeting?

10 A. Talked about POW's and the general -- Here again we
11 had heard, as anybody in the POW thing and had been to Laos,
12 you'd hear from time to time Sam Nuea being mentioned. But he
13 mentioned that they were aware that there were 20-some-odd --
14 25 or 26 -- and he would refer to them sometimes as
15 Caucasians and other times as U.S. prisoners.

16 Q. Who is "he"? Devlin?

17 A. Devlin.

18 But the words were, I felt, interchangeable, that he
19 was talking about the same people, Caucasians -- And maybe he
20 was talking about different sources. Maybe one source would
21 call them Caucasians and the other called them U.S. prisoners.

22 But there was no doubt in our mind that he believed
23 that his information was good and that there were 25 or '6
24 U.S. prisoners being held in caves in Sam Nuea at that time;
25 and that was April 1970.

1 Q. Did Mr. Devlin provide the names of any of these 25
2 or '6?.

3 A. No, not that I recall.

4 Q. Did he tell you how recent his intelligence
5 information was?

6 A. He implied it was current. Now what parameters you
7 want to put on that, I'm not sure.

8 Q. But, in other words, Mr. Devlin didn't put any
9 specific parameters on what he meant when he said it was
10 current intelligence information?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Did Mr. Devlin indicate to you what type of
13 intelligence information it was? In other words, was it
14 indigenous people who had seen the prisoners and then reported
15 back to him, or was it by intercepting radio broadcasts? I
16 mean, in other words, did you know where the information came
17 from?

18 A. Do not know, and I don't recall. If he said it, I
19 don't recall.

20 Q. Okay. Did Mr. Devlin give more detail than just to
21 say that these 25 or '6 POW's were in caves? I mean, in other
22 words, did he say, "They're all in one cave," or "There's just
23 one in each cave, and there's 26 caves"?

24 A. He didn't spell it out in that manner. My
25 interpretation was that there were more than one in the caves.

1 Whether it was only one cave or two or three, I don't know.
2 But it was not like they were using them and in isolation in
3 various caves. No, it was not that at all.

4 Q. Did Mr. Devlin indicate to you who was holding these
5 prisoners? Specifically, did he say that it was the Pathet
6 Lao or did he say that it was North Vietnamese army personnel?

7 A. I'm a little hazy here, but I seem to recall that
8 the pattern was, in those days, the Lao would get the
9 prisoner, and at that point at Sam Nuea they were under
10 control of the North Vietnamese.

11 Now, for some reason -- I'm hazy on that, but
12 that's my interpretation. That's very, very near to Dien Bien
13 Phu, isn't it, and not far from the North Vietnamese border?
14 And in my own mind, I sometimes try to reconcile why would
15 that happen if you're in Laos.

16 I'm not positive that that was the arrangement, but
17 I seem to remember that was the arrangement, that they were
18 men that had been captured in Laos, but were under control of
19 the North Vietnamese perhaps.

20 Q. You testified that it was your sense that Mr. Devlin
21 believed that there were in fact 25 or 26 American POW's being
22 held in caves in the Sam Nuea area as of April 1970. What was
23 your sense during that meeting as to the reliability of Mr.
24 Devlin's own sense, I mean, of his information?

25 A. Well, I put great validity into it for the simple

1 reason in the way that it -- where we were receiving it, from
2 whom we were receiving it and the way that we had gotten to
3 the point where we were receiving it. I thought that added
4 great credibility to it.

5 Q. Do you remember whether during this meeting anyone
6 questioned Mr. Devlin, really in a manner similar to what I'm
7 asking you now? I mean, did people -- you or Mr. Perot or Mr.
8 Meurer ask Mr. Devlin for details as to the basis of his
9 opinion, as to the source of his information, so that you
10 could determine in your own minds the credibility of what he
11 was telling you?

12 A. I don't recall. I don't recall that. It could have
13 been. I don't recall it if it was. I don't think that I did.
14 Again, I thought that the background of where it was taking
15 place and who was saying it and all of that postured it into a
16 believable situation for me.

17 Q. You've told us that you found Mr. Devlin's
18 information believable and convincing, whatever the word one
19 might choose. Based on your conversations with Mr. Perot and
20 Mr. Meurer, were you able to ascertain what Mr. Perot and Mr.
21 Meurer's view of Mr. Devlin's information was?

22 A. I think at that time we all were much of the same
23 opinion, although we didn't discuss it at length because we
24 had so much going on. But I think that we all tended to
25 accept it as fact again because of where it came from and

1 where it originated.

2 Q. Do you remember where, within the U.S. Embassy in
3 Vientiane, this meeting took place?

4 A. I'm not positive, but I somehow want to recall that
5 it was in some kind of little -- We walked down some steps to
6 get to a room where we met.

7 Q. Was this some kind of a briefing room or just a
8 regular --

9 A. I seem to recall I sensed that it was that; but I
10 don't know. I did not spend a lot of time in that embassy
11 over there. I was bouncing here, there and everywhere, over
12 to the Pathet Lao and so forth, and trying to ride herd on a
13 group of newsmen and everything.

14 But my memory is that we walked down some steps to a
15 room. It was not unlike what I would call a situation room,
16 certainly not as big or as equipped as the one at the White
17 House, but a meeting room.

18 Q. Were you and Mr. Perot and Mr. Meurer, during the
19 meeting in the U.S. Embassy that you've been talking about,
20 provided any additional intelligence information about U.S.
21 prisoners of war in Laos? When I say in addition, I mean in
22 addition to the report on the 25 or 26 POW's in the caves near
23 Sam Nuea?

24 A. I think that we -- and I'm not sure if it was at
25 that time or if we had gotten it previously or if we got it

1 later, I want to think that it was that time, not from Mr.
2 • Devlin but from Mr. Murphy. He talked about that there had
3 been some sightings, again around the Sam Nuea area, but it
4 was not a group that large or anything. It would be a single
5 sighting of a Caucasian or "big eyes." The Lao sometimes
6 would refer to them as "big eyes." Americans were "big eyes."

7 We had some of that. And then in general we would
8 hear a repeat of some information that we had gotten back in
9 the States from various people before going over there.

10 Then we had the -- I don't know if it was -- I think
11 it was Mr. Meurer who -- I'm not sure. We were at a loss to
12 understand why the Pathet Lao had changed position from one
13 day to the next.

14 We tried to see if anyone could get a read on that
15 at the U.S. Embassy, and they didn't have a read on that for
16 us.

17 Q. I want to go back to the meeting at the U.S.
18 Embassy, the late night/early morning meeting that we've been
19 talking about. Was there a map of Laos up on the wall in the
20 room that this meeting took place?

21 A. I don't know if it was on the wall or on a table.
22 It seems to me there was a map. I don't know... I don't
23 recall.

24 Q. In your recollection, was the map of Laos a subject
25 of discussion during this meeting at the U.S. Embassy?

1 A. Well, it was a subject of discussion. Whether or
2 not it was used in the meeting, is that what you're saying?

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. Certainly it was discussed where we were talking
5 about the point. But was it used in the meeting? I don't
6 recall. It probably was, but I can't say with certainty.

7 Q. Do you recall whether during that meeting in the
8 U.S. Embassy, the late night meeting, you and Mr. Perot and
9 Mr. Meurer were told, either by Mr. Murphy or by Mr. Devlin or
10 anyone else from the embassy, that the embassy was tracking
11 hundreds of U.S. prisoners throughout Laos from the moment of
12 their shootdown?

13 A. I don't recall it being in that verbiage. I know
14 that at various times in discussing with them, they talked
15 about trying to track individual shootdowns. But I don't
16 recall anyone saying, "We are tracking hundreds," as you
17 phrased it. I don't recall that language.

18 I recall -- and I'm not sure if it was that night or
19 another occasion -- we talked about one of the tragedies of
20 the shootdowns in Laos were that the men who made 'chutes when
21 they left the planes, because the foliage was so tall and so
22 thick, there was great concern because some of the men who
23 were injured or wounded would hang in their 'chutes in those
24 trees and die in the 'chutes and not ever be able to get on
25 the ground. We discussed that tragedy, but I'm not sure if

1 that was that night or other times. But that was one of the
2 big problems of the shutdowns in Laos.

3 Q. You mentioned that in addition to the 25 or 26
4 prisoners you were told about being seen or at least being
5 learned of in the caves near Sam Nuea, that there was some
6 information you were provided regarding isolated sightings of
7 U.S. prisoners in Laos.

8 Did you get a sense during that meeting in the U.S.
9 Embassy in April 1970 as to the magnitude of these other
10 sightings?

11 A. Not really. I think I came away with the feeling
12 that they were isolated incidents more than numerous. They
13 were somewhat isolated incidents.

14 Q. If you can answer this question -- and if you can't,
15 just tell me -- but based on the meeting that you all had in
16 the embassy, the late night meeting in April 1970, how many
17 U.S. prisoners of war did you come away thinking that the U.S.
18 Intelligence officials knew about in Laos at that time?

19 A. Do you want to include the others, the sightings and

20 --

21 Q. Right. Based on everything that the intelligence
22 officers told you.

23 A. It would be a guess on my part, and I don't know
24 that you want a guess.

25 Q. Well, I understand that it's really just a sense

1 that you would have had.

2 A. I would say that we were talking about something
3 less than 50, 50 to 60 total.

4 Q. Did you have a sense as to the number -- Well,
5 strike that.

6 Based on what you were told during that late night
7 meeting in the U.S. Embassy, did you have a sense as to the
8 number of shootdowns of U.S. pilots that the embassy and/or
9 U.S. Intelligence officers working in Laos had been able to
10 track as of that time?

11 A. What is your definition of "track"? We just
12 recorded shootdowns in Laos. Those? Are you talking about
13 shootdowns where someone was able to get a fix and actually
14 track?

15 Q. I'm talking about the latter, in other words, where
16 intelligence officers were able to find out that someone had
17 hit the ground alive.

18 A. I think those numbers were -- There was a number
19 for that. I don't recall what the number was. I recall that
20 in the context that the shootdowns -- they would make the
21 radio contact, and then quite often they would lose the radio
22 contact. That would be as far as they could track.

23 So the number that they had where just radio contact
24 had been made after a shootdown was probably far different
25 from one that they could track on out and get a feel that he

1 was taken prisoner and so forth.

2 Also, I would like to add to what I said while ago
3 when I said 50 or 60. That's not to be confused with the
4 number we were working with or believing that we had got out
5 of official sources of the number of shootdowns in Laos,
6 because it was a far greater number of planes that had gone
7 down in Laos and men that were missing in Laos than the 50 or
8 60.

9 Q. Sure. Based on what you were told at the late night
10 meeting in April 1970, what was your sense as to the number of
11 pilots who had been shot down whose movements on the ground
12 were tracked? Was that larger than the 50 or 60 whom you were
13 led to believe were actual prisoners?

14 A. Well, my interpretation and belief was that the
15 number of people with recorded verification of a shootdown or
16 radio contact was far greater than the 50 or 60. That's what
17 I was saying a moment ago. It was far greater.

18 Q. Was it a hundred? Was it 200, 300? Do you have any
19 sense?

20 A. Oh, yeah, it was probably more than -- I don't
21 remember what those numbers in Laos were, but I think
22 certainly it was more than 300 that had established radio
23 contact.

24 Q. Okay. I just want to be clear. When you're giving
25 us that number, you're talking about pilots who had

1 established radio contact after hitting the ground?

2 A. I don't mean after hitting the ground. After
3 bailing out. Some of them could still be hanging in a tree
4 and were trying to extricate themselves from that situation
5 and make radio contact, which would make a variable out of the
6 number I'm talking about.

7 Q. Okay. I understand what you're saying then. I want
8 to ask you some questions about Soth Pethrasi, but why don't
9 we take about a 5-minute break.

10 (Recess.)

11 MR. KRAVITZ: Let's go back on the record.

12 BY MR. KRAVITZ:

13 Q. Mr. Martin, I just want to start again by asking you
14 whether, now having had a brief recess, you have anything that
15 you want to add or change about any of your earlier answers?

16 A. No. I was just thinking that I -- I'm sorry I can't
17 remember more, the dates and so forth, but 20 years does that
18 to you.

19 Q. Well, let me just say that I think your memory is
20 very impressive. We understand that things happened a long
21 time ago. All we ask it that you remember as much as you can
22 remember. So please don't worry about that.

23 Before we move to the subject of Soth Pethrasi, I
24 want to ask you, you've given us information about POW-related
25 information that you received during this late night meeting

1 at the U.S. Embassy in Vientiane in April 1970. Were there
2 any other meetings during that April 1970 trip, any other
3 meetings in Vientiane at which you or other members of your
4 team received additional information relating to U.S. POW's in
5 Laos?

6 A. There was a meeting with Prince Souvanna Phouma who
7 was the leader of Laos. It bordered primarily I would say,
8 however, on the social or diplomatic call or something to that
9 -- not "diplomatic," that's not the right word. But he and
10 Mr. Perot -- He talked about prisoners and about looking
11 forward to peace time and that type thing, but not a great --
12 nothing in depth about POW's.

13 Q. Did Souvanna Phouma provide you and Mr. Perot with
14 any information about U.S. POW's in Laos that was in addition
15 to information you had learned at the late night meeting at
16 the U.S. Embassy?

17 A. No. He did not do that per se that I recall. I do
18 recall his mentioning that we should try to visit Soth
19 Pethrasi, which we had already set in motion and already had
20 done.

21 Q. Before we move on to Soth Pethrasi, were there any
22 other meetings that you had in Vientiane in April 1970 that
23 touched on the subject of U.S. POW's?

24 A. Other than the North Vietnamese, Souvanna Phouma,
25 those are the only ones that I recall, sir. Now we did visit

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1 -- it was during this April trip. We visited -- after we got
2 to Vientiane, there was an outlying facility that held Pathet
3 Lao and North Vietnamese prisoners in Laos. We visited that
4 camp, too.

5 We had an encounter with some of the anti-war,
6 liberal, reporter-type, from a man named Bronfman there. But
7 that was not along the lines you're talking about.

8 Q. Okay. Tell us how Soth Pethrasi was contacted and
9 arrangements were made for a meeting with him.

10 A. We made a call to his -- I guess you would call it
11 his embassy, his home; it's there adjacent to the Marketplace;
12 it was the embassy, I guess -- and requested a meeting. A
13 meeting was set up.

14 Q. Where did the meeting take place?

15 A. In that location. At the embassy or whatever you
16 call that. It has a big fence around it, the guards around it
17 there on the Farmer's Market.

18 Q. And again your understanding of Soth Pethrasi's
19 position was that he was the Pathet Lao's head government
20 official in Vientiane?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. The Pathet Lao's top-level diplomat in Vientiane, if
23 you will?

24 A. Yes, that would be a correct interpretation.

25 Q. Who from your team went to the meeting with Soth

1 Pethrasi? Actually, before you answer that, how many meetings
2 were there with Soth Pethrasi during the April 1970 trip?

3 A. At least two, possibly three, but at least two.

4 Q. Who went to the first meeting?

5 A. Mr. Perot, myself, I think Mr. Meurer and I think
6 the same interpreter that we used at -- Karen Freitag.

7 Q. Not Mr. McKillop?

8 A. I don't believe he was in the meeting. I don't
9 recall him being there.

10 Q. And who was there, if anyone, in addition to Mr.
11 Soth Pethrasi, from the Pathet Lao side?

12 A. There was no one that seemed to be -- that I recall
13 in an official capacity. There was a manservant type that
14 would bring something to drink.

15 Q. And again this meeting was held in French?

16 A. Yes, it was.

17 Q. Actually just so I'm clear, you all were speaking in
18 English, and it was being translated into French --

19 A. Right.

20 Q. -- and Soth Pethrasi was speaking in French and it
21 was being translated into English?

22 A. Right. And he had a person there that was
23 translating for him, too.

24 Q. Okay. So there were two translators?

25 A. Yes. Oh, yes, always whomever we were meeting with

1 had a translator.

2 Q. Was this first meeting with Soth Pethrasi before or
3 after the late night meeting at the U.S. Embassy that you've
4 described for us?

5 A. The first meeting was before.

6 Q. So your first meeting with Soth Pethrasi then was
7 before you had the information about the U.S. POW's in the
8 caves in Sam Nuea and about the other sightings of individual
9 U.S. POW's?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. So is it fair to say that at the time of your first
12 meeting with Soth Pethrasi, the knowledge about U.S. POW's
13 that you and Mr. Perot and Mr. Meurer held was certainly less
14 extensive and less specific than it became later on in the
15 trip?

16 A. That is correct.

17 Q. If you can remember, what was the conversation
18 during this first meeting with Soth Pethrasi?

19 A. I remember the net of the first meeting more easily
20 than anything else because we got what we felt was good news
21 because after visiting -- after Mr. Perot impressed upon him
22 the need for families to know about missing people, he
23 indicated to Mr. Perot that he felt he could get a list of the
24 names of the people being detained in Laos by the Pathet Lao
25 and would get such a list. He intimated, left us with that

1 impression.

2 Q. Did Mr. Pethrasi give any indication to you all
3 during that first meeting as to the number of U.S. POW's he
4 knew to be prisoners of war in Laos at that time?

5 A. He didn't list -- I don't recall a particular
6 number.

7 Q. How long did that first meeting last?

8 A. Something over an hour, as I recall it.

9 Q. Was that meeting filled with the same type of
10 statements and overstatements that seemed to be a major part
11 of the meetings with the North Vietnamese? In other words,
12 for example, was he referring to U.S. prisoners as war
13 criminals?

14 A. I don't recall him being as venomous with his
15 statements as the North Vietnamese were.

16 Q. What was your sense of Soth Pethrasi just as a
17 person? What was he like?

18 A. In what way?

19 Q. Well, if you can describe his personality or his
20 character. What I'm ultimately getting at is whether you
21 found him to be a believable or a credible person and why or
22 why not.

23 A. I personally did not have anything to judge him with
24 as to credibility. And because of what he said and because of
25 wanting to believe that a great deal, it could have colored my

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1 attitude toward his believability.

2 I thought his personality was much warmer than any
3 of the opposition that we had met in Southeast Asia. I
4 thought that he indicated a desire to be helpful more than any
5 of the opposition with whom we had met in Southeast Asia.
6 That was my total feeling about him.

7 Q. What was your sense as to Soth Pethrasi's level of
8 authority within the Pathet Lao structure?

9 A. I regarded him as having a high level of authority.

10 Q. What made you reach that opinion?

11 A. I'm not sure. I just regarded him that way.

12 Q. Was it the way he carried himself or the degree of
13 decisiveness with which he spoke, or was it just... Does
14 anything come to mind?

15 A. No, nothing in particular.

16 Q. Do you remember whether anyone from your team asked
17 Soth Pethrasi how much authority he had, even generally or
18 more specifically with regard to POW issues? I mean, how much
19 authority he had, for example, to release a list of names of
20 U.S. prisoners.

21 A. I don't recall such a question being asked. I
22 recall in my own instance that I had no doubt whatsoever that
23 he could provide the list that he said he could come with.

24 Q. When Soth Pethrasi made this promise to provide your
25 group with a list of U.S. prisoners held in Laos, did he say

1 when he would get you the list?

2 A. He indicated that he would do it the next day.

3 Q. Did Mr. Pethrasi indicate to you during this first
4 meeting how it was that he was going to go about obtaining
5 this list?

6 A. No, I don't recall it.

7 Q. Do you remember if anyone asked him that question?

8 A. I don't recall it.

9 Q. Were any other promises made by Mr. Pethrasi during
10 this first meeting?

11 A. I don't recall any others.

12 Q. Did you or other members of your team make any
13 promises to Mr. Pethrasi in return?

14 A. Not that I recall.

15 Q. So as far as it appeared to you, this was really a
16 one-way, almost humanitarian --

17 A. As I recall it, it was a humanitarian effort that
18 would be made on his part.

19 Q. Is that the way that your group presented your
20 request to him?

21 A. We always mentioned the humanitarian need for human
22 beings, yes.

23 Q. Was there a second meeting the next day?

24 A. Yes, there was.

25 Q. At the same location?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. With the same participants?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Any additional participants?

5 A. I don't recall any.

6 Q. As of the time of the second meeting with Soth
7 Pethrasi in April 1970, had you yet had your late night
8 meeting at the U.S. Embassy during which you learned
9 additional intelligence information on the U.S. POW's in Laos?

10 A. I think that we had, yes.

11 Q. Okay. So by the time of the second meeting, you and
12 Mr. Perot and Mr. Meurer had substantially increased your own
13 knowledge and understanding of the U.S. POW situation in Laos?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. What happened at the second meeting?

16 A. With Soth Pethrasi?

17 Q. Yes. I'm sorry.

18 A. He did not have the list, said he could not provide
19 the list.

20 Q. Did Soth Pethrasi explain why he was unable to
21 provide the list?

22 A. He did not.

23 Q. How long did that meeting last?

24 A. Not very long. I would say less than a half hour.

25 Q. How was the meeting left? I mean, did he say that

1 he would make additional efforts, or was it just cut off and a
2 final "no" provided?

3 A. I don't recall.

4 Q. During that second meeting, despite Soth Pethrasi's
5 statement that he was unable to provide a list, did he provide
6 any information on U.S. POW's in Laos?

7 A. No, not that I recall.

8 Q. You indicated earlier that there might have been a
9 third meeting during that trip with Soth Pethrasi. What is
10 your memory of that now?

11 A. Well, I seem to recall -- and I should not have even
12 mentioned a third -- but I seem to recall that we checked back
13 -- now, whether we did that in person or by telephone -- to
14 see if there had been further development or coming up with
15 that list. We checked back before we left.

16 Q. At this second meeting with Soth Pethrasi, in light
17 of the fact that you and Mr. Perot and Mr. Meurer were now
18 armed with additional information about U.S. POW's in Laos
19 that you had not had at the first meeting, did any of you
20 confront Soth Pethrasi with this additional information and
21 ask him for an explanation?

22 A. I don't recall that.

23 Q. So you don't recall any specific discussions with
24 Soth Pethrasi about U.S. POW's in caves near Sam Nuea?

25 A. I don't recall that at that meeting. I don't recall

1 it.

2 Q. Do you recall at any other time, whether on that
3 trip or at any point, discussing with Soth Pethrasi any of the
4 information about U.S. POW's that you had learned during the
5 late night meeting at the U.S. Embassy?

6 A. I did not. I don't recall my being involved in
7 that.

8 Q. Do you have any recollection of anyone else on your
9 team --

10 A. No, not offhand.

11 Q. So as far as you're aware, Soth Pethrasi never
12 either confirmed or denied that existence of 25 or 26 U.S.
13 prisoners of war in caves near Sam Nuea?

14 A. No. I would say my personal opinion was what he had
15 told us prior to our hearing from U.S. sources about the men
16 in caves, having heard from him that he possibly could provide
17 a list and then having heard the other, my personal opinion
18 was that it lent credence to what he was saying.

19 MR. BRYANT: Lent credence to what who was saying?

20 THE WITNESS: What Pethrasi was saying about coming
21 with a list. I personally thought -- you know, I was looking
22 forward to that information and getting that from him.

23 BY MR. KRAVITZ:

24 Q. Looking at the three meetings we've just been
25 discussing in a totality -- first, your meeting with Pethrasi;

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1 second, the late night meeting at the embassy; and then,
2 third, your second meeting with Pethrasi -- is it accurate to
3 say that you viewed Soth Pethrasi's promise to provide a list
4 of names really as general confirmation of the POW information
5 that you received during the late night meeting at the U.S.
6 Embassy?

7 A. Yes, that we received later from U.S. -- Yes, I
8 thought that the two tied together well for some good
9 information that we were happy to get, or would have been
10 happy to get.

11 Q. You've told us that your sense of Soth Pethrasi was
12 that he really did have a high level of authority --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- as his level of authority related to POW matters.
15 Did his inability or his stated inability to provide the list
16 of U.S. POW's at that second meeting change your opinion in
17 any way as to Soth Pethrasi's level of authority?

18 A. Not necessarily. Not his level of authority with
19 the Pathet Lao.

20 Q. What was your understanding or sense after that
21 second meeting as to the reason or reasons -- and I understand
22 you may be speculating -- but what was your sense as to the
23 reason or reasons that Soth Pethrasi said he was unable to
24 provide the list?

25 A. I never knew, never really knew. A lot of things

1 went through my mind, but nothing that I could put a finger
2 on. I wish I did know. I wish I had known at that time.

3 Q. Did you have any additional meetings in Vientiane
4 during the April 1970 trip that you haven't already told us
5 about?

6 A. I think -- No. I mentioned the Russians. We had
7 two or three. We went back -- because we were trying to set
8 in motion -- I don't think there were any other meetings
9 regarding the POW/MIA's on that trip.

10 Q. After this series of meetings in Vientiane, did your
11 group come back to the United States?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. So that was the last --

14 A. No, no. We again went to Europe, and we made a call
15 -- tried to make a call on the North Vietnamese there to
16 deliver that footage that we had that they had turned down,
17 that we had of their people in the south.

18 MR. VALENTINE: So you went back to Paris?

19 THE WITNESS: We went back to Paris, not to
20 Copenhagen. We went to Paris.

21 We went to Mai Van Bo's location, which is on Le
22 Verrier Street. He was -- Mai Van Bo -- I forget what his
23 delegation was called, the North Vietnamese delegation. He
24 was not a member of the negotiating team from North Vietnam.
25 He was at their regular North Vietnamese embassy.

1 We went there and tried to present the film. Then
2 having no luck, we went to Choisy to the delegation, tried to
3 present; they would not accept. We came home.

4 BY MR. KRAVITZ:

5 Q. You told us earlier this morning that you held this
6 position as president of United We Stand, I think through at
7 least the middle of 1972?

8 A. I believe that's correct, yes.

9 Q. Were there any subsequent trips to Southeast Asia
10 between April 1970 and the fall of 1972 when you left that
11 position?

12 A. I made several more trips to Paris. How many more
13 did I make to Southeast Asia, I'm not sure. It seems to me I
14 made -- I know I made at least one more and maybe more than
15 that.

16 But we did not let up on working. In fact, we
17 increased our efforts here, and we were constantly chasing
18 down leads. And, yes, I did make more trips, but I'm not sure
19 exactly how many.

20 Q. In those 2 years or 2-1/2 years between the April
21 1970 trip and the time that you left that position as
22 president of United We Stand in the fall of 1972, did you
23 learn additional information about U.S. POW's being held in
24 Laos?

25 A. In Laos? I don't believe that we did other than

1 routine... I don't recall anything different.

2 Q. Did you learn any information in that time period
3 regarding U.S. prisoners of war either in Vietnam or in
4 Cambodia that you think the Committee should know about?

5 A. I don't recall any additional specific ... various,
6 you know, other stories, people saying they could provide, but
7 nothing substantive. No, in answer to your question, I don't
8 recall.

9 Q. When you returned from Vientiane through Paris back
10 in April 1970, when you returned to the United States after
11 that trip, did you have meetings with members of the U.S.
12 Government?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. To report on what had happened during the trip?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Do you remember who you met with?

17 A. I do not remember the order, but again we
18 continually met with Mr. Sieverts; he was our contact at the
19 State Department.

20 I do not know if it was at that point in time, but
21 we updated the people at the White House, General James. I'm
22 not sure if we met personally with Shields after that time. I
23 know there were numerous telephone calls with basically that
24 group of people.

25 Q. Did you report to that group of people -- Sieverts,

1 Shields, Sullivan, James, or at least some among that group -
2 - the information that had been provided to you during that
3 late night meeting at the U.S. Embassy in Vientiane?

4 A. I don't recall specifically to whom, but we gave
5 them a full report of everything that we had heard.

6 Q. So there's no question that the intelligence
7 information that you had heard about U.S. POW's in Laos during
8 that late night meeting in the U.S. Embassy was reported to
9 U.S. Government officials back in the United States after the
10 trip?

11 A. There's no question in my mind, no, sir.

12 Q. You just don't know which U.S. Government officials
13 were provided that information?

14 A. No, I don't know.

15 Q. Do you recall what the reaction was of whichever
16 official or officials received that information?

17 A. I don't recall anything different from reactions to
18 normal information.

19 Q. Do you recall whether the officials who received the
20 information said or indicated that they already knew that
21 information or whether they indicated that it was new
22 information in their view?

23 A. I don't recall specifically their attitude on it.

24 Q. Do you recall learning of any actions that may or
25 may not have been taken by U.S. Government officials as a

1 result of the information you provided on U.S. POW's in Laos?

2 A. I don't know of any specific action. I don't recall
3 any.

4 Q. When you left your position as president of United
5 We Stand in the fall of 1972, did the organization continue to
6 exist, or did it go out of existence?

7 A. I'm not sure. I know that they continued some
8 efforts on the POW activities from time to time. But I can't
9 answer that about United We Stand; someone else will have to.

10 Q. Okay. You went back at that time to Channel 8 here
11 in Dallas?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Did you continue to have any direct involvement in
14 POW or MIA-related issues?

15 A. Other than a great deal of interest, no personal
16 involvement per se.

17 Q. Did you --

18 A. Let me correct that. At the time of the release in
19 '73 and prior to that when that -- yes, I got involved and
20 covered it as a story again.

21 Q. In other words, by the time Operation Homecoming was
22 happening, you were back at Channel 8?

23 A. Yes. That's right.

24 Q. And I would imagine you had a heightened degree of
25 interest in covering those stories?

1 A. Yes, very muchly so.

2 Q. Did any of the family members of the women that you
3 had worked with come home during Operation Homecoming?

4 A. Yes, a number of them, thank goodness. And on the
5 other side of the coin, tragically some of them did not come
6 home.

7 Q. You mentioned that in 1966 and '67 you were involved
8 in preparing a history of Mr. Perot's life contacts.

9 A. '76 and '77.

10 Q. What did I say?

11 A. You said '66.

12 Q. Okay. Thank you.

13 In '76 and '77 you were involved in preparing,
14 really, kind of a life history or a history of contacts,
15 people who had had contacts with Mr. Perot. Did any of that
16 work involve the POW/MIA issue?

17 A. I talked with a few people that had been involved
18 with the POW/MIA's, yes; some of the POW/MIA's themselves and
19 some other people that were involved, yes.

20 Q. To your knowledge, had Mr. Perot continued to be
21 personally involved in the POW/MIA issue after you essentially
22 got out of the issue or at least stopped your own personal
23 involvement in the issue with Operation Homecoming?

24 A. I don't know how long he continued to be involved,
25 but he was involved to a degree after I left I know. But how

1 long did it last after Operation Homecoming, I don't know.

2 Q. As you were working on this project for Mr. Perot in
3 1976 and '77, how big a portion of the project -- or how big a
4 portion, really, of Mr. Perot's life story (as it were) was
5 centered on his POW/MIA activities and his attempts to help
6 the situation?

7 A. Golly, I wouldn't know how to gauge that. It's
8 certainly not anywhere near the majority of his life because
9 when you track this man from Texarkana, Texas, through his
10 young life, through the Naval Academy, through his military
11 career, through establishing a most successful business firm,
12 and then all the sidebar effects of that, and interesting
13 people he comes in contact with.

14 Even though this was a major project for him, it
15 still did not -- does not constitute in any way -- my
16 involvement did not constitute in any way the majority of his
17 life.

18 Q. What was the final product of this project? Was it
19 a film or a report?

20 A. Nothing. It just is in a library where people can
21 research and go through. If they ever want to, they can... I
22 mentioned to him doing it. It was not his idea.

23 I mentioned -- suggested doing it just so there
24 would be a record, because as people -- as you live, people
25 that were in contact, they disappear or they move on to other

1 things and they're hard to locate and so forth. It would just
2 be nice to have, whether he ever needed it or not.

3 Q. Are there transcripts of interviews?

4 A. I don't know what there is. I mean, we did
5 interviews with a lot of people. I don't know... I don't
6 know if it even exists anymore.

7 Q. Were you aware of contacts that Mr. Perot had with
8 Vice President Bush in the mid 1980's on the POW or MIA issue?

9 A. This does not pertain to what we're supposed to be
10 discussing, but in answer to your question, I have no
11 knowledge of that whatsoever. I'm not aware of any contacts.

12 Q. You're not aware of any contacts whatsoever between
13 Mr. Perot and Mr. Bush --

14 A. No.

15 Q. -- in the mid 1980's?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Mr. Perot has never said anything to you about his
18 dealings with Vice President Bush?

19 A. I'm not aware of any contacts that he had.

20 Q. President Reagan also apparently had some dealings
21 with Mr. Perot on the POW/MIA issue toward the end of his term
22 as president. I think it was 1987, and more specifically it
23 involved, I think, President Reagan seeking Mr. Perot's
24 counsel as to how the administration ought to approach the
25 problem of POW's and MIA's and the accounting for these

1 missing Americans.

2 Do you know anything about Mr. Perot's contacts with
3 President Reagan?

4 A. No, I don't.

5 Q. Mr. Perot has never said anything to you about those
6 contacts?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Are you aware of a report that Mr. Perot submitted
9 to President Reagan in 1987 outlining his recommendations for
10 how the president should proceed on the POW issue?

11 A. I don't recall that I'm aware or have seen anything
12 on that.

13 Q. And Mr. Perot has never said anything to you about a
14 meeting that he had with President Reagan regarding POW's?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Have you had any discussions with Mr. Perot since
17 1972 on the subject of POW's or MIA's?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Can you tell us about that?

20 A. We talked about Operation Homecoming. After that we
21 put together -- I worked with putting together a party for
22 the Son Tay Raiders, the people that had tried to get the
23 POW's out of Son Tay in San Francisco. Mr. Meurer was the
24 lead in that, but I worked on that weekend.

25 I produced the weekend for him when he gave the

1 retirement party for General Reisner in Las Vegas. I went out
2 and produced that weekend for him. We invited and flew in
3 some 470 POW's and their spouses or friends and gave them a
4 great weekend.

5 So I've done things like that for him that pertained
6 to the POW's. We have not lost the subject, but we have not
7 spent the time on it either that was put forth earlier.

8 Q. Do you have any knowledge of trips to Vietnam that
9 Mr. Perot has made in the last several years, 1987 to the
10 present?

11 MR. BRYANT: Mr. Kravitz, when you ask this
12 question, as the previous ones, I assume you're asking other
13 than reading the newspaper or other than published
14 reports?

15 MR. KRAVITZ: Yes --

16 THE WITNESS: I was about to say, only what I've
17 seen in the press.

18 BY MR. KRAVITZ:

19 Q. Okay. I appreciate that. That was a terrible
20 question; let me rephrase it.

21 In addition to anything that you've read, heard or
22 seen in the press regarding Mr. Perot's trips to Southeast
23 Asia since 1987, do you have any knowledge of those trips?

24 A. No, I do not.

25 Q. Do you have any knowledge of matters that were

1 discussed during any of those trips?

2 A. No, I do not.

3 Q. Do you have any knowledge of who went with Mr.
4 Perot; I mean, any details about the trips that you've not
5 read in the press?

6 A. No, I do not.

7 Q. Have you discussed any of those trips with Mr.
8 McKillop?

9 A. No, I have not.

10 Q. Have you discussed any of these recent trips with
11 Mr. Perot?

12 A. No, I have not.

13 MR. KRAVITZ: Let's go off the record for a moment.

14 (Discussion off the record.)

15 BY MR. KRAVITZ:

16 Q. Mr. Martin, we have come to the end of our prepared
17 questions for you. On behalf of the Senators, I want to tell
18 you that we really appreciate your willingness to meet with us
19 this morning. We appreciate your sharing with us all the
20 information that you have provided.

21 I want to ask you a couple of summary questions.
22 One is again whether there's anything that you've said to us
23 at any point during the deposition that you'd like to add to
24 or change or amend in any way?

25 A. I don't recall anything. Once I see a transcript, I

1 might find some things that I need to change. If I do, I will
2 so inform.

3 Q. Okay. Thank you.

4 The only other question I had for you was, in light
5 of the questioning that I've given you this morning, is there
6 any other information that you think is relevant to any of the
7 issues that we're interested in that you have and that one of
8 my questions has failed to elicit?

9 Is there anything out there you think we should know
10 or any questions that I should have asked you and didn't ask
11 you?

12 A. I don't think of any other questions, but I would
13 like to say a couple of things.

14 I've had the good fortune to be involved in a lot of
15 projects and be exposed to a lot of projects as a functioning
16 newsman for about 30 years.

17 At no time did I come close to being involved in
18 anything that was as gratifying, that was as rewarding, that
19 was as well motivated, that was as honorably approached and
20 discharged as this project was, that I had the good fortune to
21 be involved in.

22 There is no reward that can match having a man come
23 up to you that had spent 7 years in solitary confinement and
24 shake your hand and say, "Thank you for what you did. You
25 didn't know it at the time, but in 1969 I was taken out of

1 legions, after having been in them for 4 years," things of
2 that nature.

3 There's nothing as rewarding. Take it a step
4 further. The man that bankrolled this voluntarily, when he
5 became involved in the fall of '69, I realize today that he is
6 involved in politics. I'm not talking about the politics of
7 today, but let me tell you about the man of '69 and this
8 project and my involvement with him.

9 I don't know of a person that is more honorable,
10 more American, more apple pie in every day of his life than
11 this man has been.

12 This project is just an example of his concern for
13 other people, his sensitivity to other people. There was
14 nothing for him to gain out of this. A lot of the people that
15 we talked with, some of them would say, "What's his ulterior
16 motive here?" He had no ulterior motive; he wanted to help.

17 It probably -- probably -- was the greatest 3 years
18 of my life, and I've had some great years.

19 But being involved in this project with that man was
20 probably my most enjoyable years in life so far.

21 Anything I can do to help this Committee shed the
22 proper light on a problem that has needed attention for 20
23 years, I stand ready to do.

24 Q. Thank you very much.

25 MR. KRAVITZ: Mr. Bryant, are there any questions

1 that you wanted to ask or anything you wanted to add to the
2 record before we conclude?

3 MR. BRYANT: No, I have no questions. I would
4 appreciate again that you advise me if the Committee wants Mr.
5 Martin to testify before it at some future time and also
6 whether you discover any restrictions at all on the use by Mr.
7 Martin or by me of his testimony.

8 MR. KRAVITZ: Okay. Obviously, we'll also let you
9 know when we receive the transcript.

10 Thank you very much.

11 (Whereupon, at 1:14 p.m. the taking of the instant
12 deposition was concluded.)

13

14

MURPHY MARTIN

15

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this _____ day

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of _____, 19____.

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My Commission expires: _____.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2
3 I hereby certify that the transcript contained
4 herein is a full and accurate transcript of the notes taken
5 by me at the deposition of THOMAS E. MEURER conducted by the
6 Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs, on June 24, 1992, in
7 Dallas, Texas, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

8 DATED this 27th day of June 1992.
9



Betty Morgan

Betty Morgan, Reporter