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RECEIVED BY
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
JUN 14 AM '84

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COMMITTEE:
APPROPRIATIONS

June 6, 1984

Mr. Joseph E. Connarton
Deputy City Clerk
City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mr. Connarton:

Thank you for writing on behalf of the City Council to express your concern for the 2,489 American servicemen still missing in Southeast Asia. Of this number, 90 are from Massachusetts. Like you, the U.S. government is strongly committed to the fullest possible accounting for these Americans missing in Southeast Asia.

Numerous reports have been received in the past few years, particularly from refugees, of Americans being held against their will in Indochina. Refugees reporting live-sightings are debriefed by government and military specialists. All reports are investigated to the maximum degree. However, the United States has, thus far, been unable to substantiate this information.

You may also be interested to know that last June, Vietnam turned over to the United States the remains of nine individuals. In mid-February a high-ranking Pentagon delegation, headed by Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard L. Armitage, travelled to Vietnam in a renewed attempt to obtain more information about the missing Americans. As a result of these meetings, the Vietnamese agreed to resume their quarterly meetings with American officials, on a technical level, to pursue MIA issues.

A Congressional Task Force in POW/MIA's chaired by Congressman Robert Durnan (R-C.A.) has also been active in efforts to shed some light on the servicemen's whereabouts. This task force has worked closely with the National League of Families of American POW/MIA's to help ensure that national interest on this matter does not falter.

I am a co-sponsor of legislation House Joint Resolution 344, which designates July 20, 1984 as "National POW/MIA Recognition Day." The President signed this legislation into law April 13, 1984.

The United States government has repeatedly impressed on the Vietnamese the importance we attach to the resolution of the POW/MIA issue. Although agreeing publicly that this is a humanitarian issue unconnected with policy considerations, the Vietnamese consistently attempt to link it to questions of their perceived national interest.

Again, thank you for writing. It comforts me to know that there are concerned Americans who still keep American POW/MIA's in mind. You can be certain that

Mr. Joseph E. Connarton

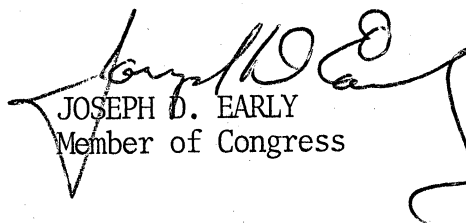
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June 6, 1984

I will monitor the activities of all organizations and federal agencies directly involved in this matter, and will offer any assistance which I feel could be helpful to them.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,



JOSEPH D. EARLY
Member of Congress

JDE:kk

13.

S-458

Comm. from Congressman Joseph D. Early in
acknowledgement & appreciation of reso-
lutions adopted by the City Council Re:
American servicemen still missing in
Southeast Asia.

In City Council,

June 25, 1984

6/25/84
Placed on File