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U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

NEWS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER



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NO BRIDGE LOANS FOR VIETNAM

MR. PRESIDENT, ON JULY 12TH, THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF) IS SCHEDULED TO VOTE ON ROUGHLY \$140 MILLION IN BRIDGE LOANS THAT WILL ALLOW THE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT IN VIETNAM TO CLEAN UP ITS ARREARAGES TO THE IMF.

SHOULD THESE LOANS GO THROUGH, THE PRACTICAL EFFECT WOULD BE TO REESTABLISH VIETNAM AS A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY. FURTHERMORE, THIS ACTION WOULD LIKELY CLEAR THE WAY FOR BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN ASSISTANCE FROM THE WORLD BANK, IMF, SOME WESTERN GOVERNMENTS, AND OTHER SOURCES BEING PROVIDED TO VIETNAM FOR ITS INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT.

ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS, PRESIDENT CLINTON'S SENIOR ADVISORS ARE URGING APPROVAL OF THIS BRIDGE LOAN. THE IMF LOANS CAN ONLY BE APPROVED IF THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION ACQUIESCES OR GIVES ITS ACTIVE, OPEN SUPPORT. HOW CAN PRESIDENT CLINTON GO ALONG WITH THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL REHABILITATION OF VIETNAM AT THIS TIME, UNDER THE EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES? NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, THIS IS NOT THE RIGHT TIME TO ALLOW THIS BRIDGE LOAN!

THE REASONS ARE MANY, BUT I WILL MENTION ONLY A FEW OF THE MOST COMPELLING. FIRST OF ALL OUR POW/MIA PROBLEM WITH VIETNAM HAS EXISTED FOR OVER 20 YEARS AND MUST BE CLEARED UP ONCE AND FOR ALL. FAMILIES HAVE SUFFERED FOR ALL THIS TIME, NOT KNOWING WHAT THE FACTS WERE ABOUT THEIR SONS, THEIR HUSBANDS, THEIR FATHERS, THEIR BROTHERS, OR THEIR NEPHEWS. CERTAINLY, UNTIL WE RECEIVE THOSE ANSWERS FROM VIETNAM, IT'S NOT TIME TO DISCUSS NORMALIZATION OR COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM AT ALL. TO DO SO WOULD BE A SLAP IN THE FACE TO THE THOUSANDS OF FAMILY MEMBERS THAT HAVE WAITED AT LEAST 20 YEARS FOR ANSWERS.

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS MAINTAINED FOR YEARS THAT THE ANSWERS LIE IN HANOI. SO, NO BRIDGE LOANS UNTIL WE GET ANSWERS AND I DO NOT MEAN A FEW THAT DRIBBLE OUT, LIKE WE SEEM TO GET WHENEVER A CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION GOES TO HANOI. ANSWERS TO CAROL HRDLICKA IN CONWAY SPRINGS, KANSAS, AS TO WHAT HAPPENED TO HER HUSBAND, COLONEL DAVE HRDLICKA, WHO WAS SHOT DOWN OVER LAOS MAY 18, 1965, AND WHOSE PICTURE APPEARED IN PRAVDA AS WELL AS VIETNAMESE NEWSPAPERS IN 1966. ANSWERS TO MARY HALL IN ALTOONA, KANSAS, AS TO WHAT HAPPENED TO HER HUSBAND, TECHNICAL SERGEANT WILLIS R. HALL AT LIMA SITE 85 OVER-RUN MARCH 11, 1968. ANSWERS TO JANE DUKE GAYLOR IN EL DORADO, KANSAS, AS TO WHAT HAPPENED TO HER SON, CHARLES DUKE, A CIVILIAN TECHNICIAN MISSING FROM PLEIKU, VIETNAM, SINCE MAY 30, 1970, AND ANSWERS FOR ALL OTHER FAMILIES IN KANSAS AND THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE UNITED STATES.

CAN IT TRULY BE THAT DIFFICULT TO PROVIDE ANSWERS 20 YEARS AFTER THE WAR ENDED? THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN TRYING TO GET ANSWERS SINCE FEBRUARY, 1973, WHEN DR. HENRY KISSINGER DURING HIS VISIT TO HANOI, PRESENTED NUMEROUS FOLDERS CONTAINING PICTURES AND NEWS ARTICLES OF U.S. POW/MIA'S THAT HAD APPEARED IN COMMUNIST NEWSPAPERS IN VIETNAM, LAOS, RUSSIA AND OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. MORE RECENTLY, GENERAL JOHN VESSEY HAS ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS PRESENTED THE VIETNAMESE WITH HIS DISCREPANCY LIST CONTAINING 135 NAMES.

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