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NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 1, 1993

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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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NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, THEY CLEARLY HAVE ANSWERS TO THESE CASES, AS IT WAS THEIR OWN PICTURES OF OUR MEN THAT APPEARED IN THEIR NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES. WE MUST NOT REWARD VIETNAM FOR THEIR NON-ANSWERS WITH A \$140 MILLION DOLLAR BRIDGE LOAN.

IT APPEARS TO ME THAT TWO COUNTRIES THAT WILL BENEFIT FROM THE LOAN ARE JAPAN AND FRANCE. THEIR COMPANIES ARE READY TO DO WORK ON VIETNAM'S INFRASTRUCTURE AS SOON AS MONEY IS AVAILABLE TO PAY FOR THESE PROJECTS. THE UNITED STATES IS THE LARGEST CONTRIBUTOR TO THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND AND WE MAINTAIN A TRADE EMBARGO ON VIETNAM THAT COMES UP FOR RENEWAL IN SEPTEMBER. THE APPROVAL OF THE BRIDGE LOAN BY THE IMF WILL ONLY HELP OUR BUSINESS COMPETITORS, NOT OUR OWN COMPANIES. THIS IS ONE MORE REASON NOT TO APPROVE THE LOAN.

WHAT ABOUT VIETNAM'S RECORD ON HUMAN RIGHTS? IT IS PITIFUL!! WE MUST NOT WASTE OUR LEVERAGE WITHOUT DEMANDING DEMOCRACY FOR 70 MILLION VIETNAMESE PEOPLE WHO HAVE TRULY SUFFERED FOR SO MANY YEARS. IF THE COMMUNIST VIETNAMESE WANT THE BENEFIT FROM HARD WORKING AMERICAN TAXPAYER'S DOLLARS, THEY MUST DEMONSTRATE THAT THEY IT UNDERSTAND AND VALUE THIS CONNECTION BY RESPECTING BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENDING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THEIR OWN CITIZENS BASED ON THEIR PAST ASSOCIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES. MR. PRESIDENT, ACCORDING TO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND ASIA WATCH, VIETNAM IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST OPPRESSIVE REGIMES. IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR, THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CLOSED ITS OFFICE IN HANOI BECAUSE ITS REPRESENTATIVES WERE NOT PERMITTED ACCESS TO POLITICAL PRISONERS.

IN 1975, COMMUNIST NORTH VIETNAMESE TOLD THE WORLD AS THEY MARCHED INTO SAIGON, THAT THEY WERE LIBERATING VIETNAM, BUT THE FACTS ARE, THAT UNDER THE RULE OF THE COMMUNIST NORTH VIETNAMESE, VIETNAM HAS BECOME ONE OF THE MOST OPPRESSED AS WELL AS ONE OF THE POOREST COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD! BECAUSE OF THESE DEPLORABLE CONDITIONS, MORE THAN ONE MILLION VIETNAMESE HAVE CHOSEN TO LEAVE THEIR COUNTRY TO ESCAPE THE COMMUNIST RULE. THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE LOVE THEIR HOMELAND, AS THEY DID NOT LEAVE THEIR COUNTRY DURING THE FAMINE IN 1945 WHICH CAUSED ONE MILLION DEATHS FROM STARVATION, OR DURING THE 30 YEARS OF BITTER WARFARE THAT FOLLOWED.

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, THE COMMUNISTS NOW HAVE DRIVEN THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE FROM THEIR HOMELAND, FACING DANGER AND DEATH ON THE HIGH SEAS AND POSSIBLE MISTREATMENT IN REFUGEE CAMPS. MOST REFUGEES WOULD RATHER STAY IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS UNDER THE MOST DIFFICULT CONDITIONS THAN TO BE REPATRIATED TO VIETNAM. THESE GLARING FACTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES. WE CAN NOT REWARD SUCH CLEAR VIOLATIONS OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS BY ALLOWING THE LOAN TO VIETNAM. WE OWE IT TO THE MORE THAN 58,000 AMERICANS THAT FOUGHT AND DIED FOR THOSE RIGHTS.

WE SHOULD DENY VIETNAM ANY AID, CREDIT, OR BRIDGE LOANS FOR A MINIMUM OF ANOTHER YEAR TO ENSURE THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT AND GROWTH OF A DEMOCRATIC PARLIAMENTARY PROCESS IN CAMBODIA, FREE OF ASSASSINATION AND SABOTAGE AIMED AT NON-COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERS, CAN TRULY BE ESTABLISHED. IT IS VITAL FOR OUR INTERESTS THAT WE MAKE SURE THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE NOT JUST WAITING FOR THE ROADS AND PATHS TO DRY OUT AFTER THE RAINY SEASON, SO THEIR OPPRESSIVE WAR MACHINES CAN ONCE AGAIN ROLL. WE CAN NOT REWARD VIETNAM'S INTERFERENCE AND LIKELY AGGRESSION WITH A \$140 MILLION DOLLAR BRIDGE LOAN.

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