



LISTEN UP!

Central Bucks Detachment
P.O. Box 1372
Doylestown, PA 18901

Meets 7:30 P.M. 2nd Wednesday of Month
American Legion Post 210
315 North Street
Doylestown, Pa.

"ONCE A MARINE - ALWAYS A MARINE"
COMMANDANT - BUDD PEARCE

EDITOR - BOB SCHAFFER

VOL. 7 NO. 2

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1994

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JANUARY MEETING

Ten members were present including all officers except the Paymaster.

Past Commandant, Frank Yohe, was present and recognized.

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as outlined in the Newsletter.

A notice was received from Paul Seton, Penna. Dept. Adj., that his area code has been changed to 610 from 215.

The Dept. of Penna. will present Leadership School at Indiantown Gap for one day only, on April 30, 1994. Anyone interested in attending should contact Budd Pearce for specific details.

a check was received from Genuardi Markets for register tapes that were turned in. These are easy bucks to obtain for our treasury. Please collect as many as you can from family and friends and turn them in to Budd Pearce or Jim Marckstein.

SICKBAY

Marlin Miller's wife had knee surgery and is recovering very nicely at home. Now it's Marlin's turn to wait on her for a change. Jim Marckstein's sister passed away on December 20

SR. VICE - DON GEE

Don has items for sale at each meeting from the "Locker Box". Also, he has the necessary forms for the special Marine Corps license plates and for ordering whatever you need to complete your uniform.

VAVS

Nothing new to report at this meeting. Don Gee will undoubtedly have some items of interest at the February meeting.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Mike Waldron reported on the clean-up detail which be held on January 29, 1994 at 0900. NOTE: DUE TO THE WEATHER THE JANUARY DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED TO FEBRUARY 19, 1994 (0900). Anyone wishing to have breakfast first should meet at Okies Restaurant, in Furlong, Pa. at 0800.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Mike Waldron would like to find out how many members would be interested in a trip to Eighth & I to view the Evening Parade, this summer. a suggestion was made that possibly this could be coordinated with a trip that is planned by the Young Marines for the summer, in Washington, D.C.. This can be discussed at a later meeting.

Mike Waldron announced that he had recovered his missing cannon from the Birthday Ball and everyone is happy.

NEWSLETTER

There was a discussion concerning information for the newsletter. A motion was made and passed that the deadline for any articles or newsworthy items must be submitted to Bob Schaffer by the 25th of each month.

OLD BUSINESS

The Judge Advocate reported that according to Article 1005 of the State By-Laws, there should be no disrespect by "words" when the Bible is open during the meeting.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

At the State Convention this summer, the Detachment Delegate will make two suggestions for consideration:

1. Is it possible to increase the cash prize amounts on the Car Raffle tickets?
2. When Marine Corps League Medals and Ribbons are awarded, wouldn't it be better to issue the miniature medal along with the ribbon rather than the full size which the recipient could purchase if they so desired.

MARINE OF THE YEAR

Commandant Budd Pearce presented the 1994 Marine of the Year Award to DON GEE. This is a well deserved honor for Don who has given many hours of time and toil to the Detachment, the Marine Corps League and the Marine Corps itself. Congratulations, Don, you certainly have earned this honor.

There is no doubt that the inclement weather and poor driving conditions had an effect on our attendance at the meeting, which is perfectly understandable. We will anticipate that things will return to normal real soon.

THE NEXT REGULAR DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE 9 FEBRUARY 94 (1930) AT THE AMERICAN LEGION HOME ON NORTH STREET IN DOYLESTOWN, PA.



From The Desk Of BUDD PEARCE, Commandant
Central Bucks Detachment, Marine Corps League

Marines,

As you know, one of the main objectives of the Marine Corps League is to help Marines and Former Marines in need. Well, our detachment officers became aware of a fellow Marine that is in dire straits. This is a Marine that served his country and his corps in Viet Nam and was discharged with a medical discharge. He has a wife and 3 children and his house burned down. He is now located in the Doylestown area and wants to become one of our members. He is in need of permanent housing, clothing and, of course, money. If you have the ability to help in any of these areas it would be appreciated. The kids need clothes in sizes to fit a 3 yr old boy, a 4 yr old girl and an 8 yr old boy. He is about 6 ft tall and weighs about 170-180 lbs and his wife is a bit over 5 ft and weighs around 130-140 lbs. Both of them need some clothes also. I found some boots for two of the kids and Bill Plant was looking for boots for the rest of the family when I spoke to him last. I took a vote among the elected officers and they all agreed to donate \$100 to this Marine to assist in feeding his family. If there is any question on this donation, feel free to ask me about it at the February meeting on 9 February. If you have any items that you wish to donate, please call me as soon as possible or bring them to the meeting. I believe that this Marine will be at the meeting in February, with the intention of becoming one of us. Please make it out to this meeting if possible as I really like to have as many members as possible attend our swearing in ceremonies.

The Senior Vice, Don Gee and I attended the 2nd Quarter meeting held in Grantville on 22 January. The outcome of the meeting will be discussed fully in February. We gathered some handouts while we were there and copies will be available for you at our regular meeting. I also took part in a meeting concerning the rifle match and the pistol match and all information I have will also be available at the meeting. If you are interested in being on the pistol or rifle team this year, I suggest that you make every effort to attend the meeting on 9 February. There are some changes from last year's rules on the pistol match and a few rifle match rules that will be more strictly enforced this year.

Don't forget that the new deadline for the newsletter is the 25th of each month. If your copy is not in Bob Schaffer's hand by the 25th, it will not get into the newsletter. If you have some stuff you would like to get in, but have no way of getting it to Bob, call me and I will try to make arrangements to pick it up from you. Our newsletter has won us a lot of awards and prestige in the League, and I would like to keep our record going, so please get your information, cartoons, news items, etc. to Bob on time! Putting together an award winning newsletter is not a simple task. We all share in the glory when our newsletter or scrapbook win awards, let's all share a little of the work too!

Bill Plant is working on getting the ok for us to hold a car wash sometime in March. We will need people to help out on this project, so don't be shy about being a volunteer! Information will be available at the February meeting and a sign-up sheet will be on the side table. Please think about helping us out so we don't have to resort to raffle tickets all the time to raise money. If we can make something from the car wash we will be doing a bigger fund raiser later in the spring. We may do the flea market idea or possibly a casino night. These plans are in the forming stages as I write this letter and information on them will be forthcoming. Speaking of fund raisers and raffle tickets...how are your car raffle tickets moving? Do you need more? If you do need more, or have sold yours and have the money for them, please see Tony Kimes immediately! Tony says he has some left so SELL, SELL, SELL!!! I understand that as of next year the grand prize will be a larger sum of money. This is only scuttlebutt at this time so don't get mad at me if it isn't true.

I would like to put together a Spring Fling Picnic for sometime in May or June. I have not spoken to anyone about this yet, but I would like to hear if the membership thinks it is a good idea, please let me know what you think. Also, do you think it is a good idea to open the picnic to members of the other service organizations in the Doylestown area? I feel that we should open it in order to build stronger bonds between the groups and show our support of all the veterans and their families that belong to these organizations. Maybe we can tie it in with our flea market somehow? Let me know.

I don't have anything else to report right now, but I just thought of something I don't hit on enough. As each of you know, we collect Genuardi tapes to boost our funds. We make pretty good money from doing this and we don't have to do much work for it. The only work involved is to gather these tapes and bring them to a meeting. If by chance you are one of our members that finds it difficult to get to a meeting, but you have some tapes, call me at 343-5609 and I will come get them from you.

At the February meeting we will be selecting a nominating committee for the election of officers. The election will be held in March and installation in April. If you wish to run for an office, or if you have someone in mind that you would like to nominate for an office, please make it to the next couple of meetings. Your wishes and wants only count if you are there to vote! I don't know if I will be nominated for the office of Commandant again this year, but if I am I would very much like to remain Commandant for at least another year.

That's all for now...see you on 9 February!

Semper Fi,

Budd Pearce

MARINE CORPS TRIVIA QUIZ















1. How many types of wounds are there?
2. Which cleaning agent is used to remove the quartermaster from the brass belt tip and buckle?
3. When entering a vehicle with an officer, who should enter first?
4. What does a silver star on the Marine Battle Color represent?
5. How many numbers are needed in grid coordinates to locate a point to the nearest 100 meters?

Answers in Next Month's Issue



ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S QUIZ

1. The belt loops represent the seven seas.
2. Private Charles Robert Francis, who was born in Doylestown in May 1875, won the Medal of Honor "during the battle near Tientsin, China, 21 June 1900" when he "distinguished himself by meritorious conduct."
3. The three types of bleeding are (1) arterial, (2) venous, and (3) capillary.
4. There are three holidays which rate 21-gun salutes: Washington's Birthday, Independence Day, and Memorial Day.
5. The three main effects of a nuclear explosion are (1) blast, (2) heat, and (3) radiation.

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POW/MIA NEWS

Volume II, Number 3

October 1993

Wall Street Journal, May 20 -- **Vietnam: The Unfinished Business**

A former CIA officer for Vietnamese Affairs says that the document that Stephen Morris found in the Russian archives, "seems to confirm a hypothesis" he "had put forward two decades ago, at the time when the document was allegedly being drafted." George Carver states that the document is not only an authentic Russian document but that Gen. Quang, the supposed author of the document, who the Vietnamese claim was not the deputy chief of the PAVN General Staff, did in fact hold the job of dealing with U.S. POWs. Carver urged President Clinton to appoint a commission to determine whether the document is based on an authentic Vietnamese original. Also, Carver urged the U.S. to ask Germany to search the East German archives.

Washington Times, May 20 -- **F-111 Cockpit in Moscow May Have Held U.S.**

MIAs

POW investigators in Moscow recently found the cockpit of a U.S. F-111 bomber shot down over North Vietnam in 1972 that may have carried two missing airmen. Senator Bob Smith said, "This is the first confirmed physical evidence I have seen of part of a U.S. aircraft from Vietnam sent to the Soviet Union" and that he is "deeply troubled" that the cockpit "potentially corresponds with two unaccounted-for Americans." The serial number of the aircraft has not been identified after six months of DIA's investigation of the cockpit. Full identification could not be made because a single digit of the serial number was obscured by a rivet hole. "Our best guess is that the number is either a 3 or an 8," two investigators said. The "3" would correspond to the F-111 flown by Maj. Robert M. Brown and Maj. Robert D. Morrissey, shot down over North Vietnam on Nov. 7, 1972. An "8" would make it the cockpit of the jet flown by Capt. Robert D. Sponeyberger and 1st Lt. William W. Wilson, shot down over North Vietnam on Dec. 12, 1972. Both Sponeyberger and Wilson were taken prisoner and released by Hanoi during Operation Homecoming. However, an intercept declassified by the Pentagon says North Vietnamese troops broadcast a message on Nov. 14, 1972, that a "special team be sent to transport the hulk of a F-111A aircraft that was shot down."

Washington Post, May 27 -- **Vietnamese Defector Cited 500 Additional POWs**

Sen. John Kerry released documents concerning a North Vietnamese defector who told U.S. officials at the height of the Vietnam War that his country held nearly 500 more POWs than it acknowledged. But U.S. officials doubted his story and decided not to reveal the numbers, according to intelligence reports and State Department cables declassified this week.

Washington Times, June 29 -- **Giving up on POWs?**

President Clinton is being urged by his top advisers to end the U.S. opposition to loans to Vietnam by the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund. This could be the first step toward ending the U.S. embargo and abandoning the only leverage America has to force Vietnam to release Maj. Serex and Lt. Mathis from Dong Mang prison. Serex had written his name and an authenticator code in giant letters by trodding down the tall grass in a field near the prison just a year ago. Mathis had written out his pilot authenticator number, "GX2527" in another nearby field. Vietnam has not explained why these two men's name and authenticator code appeared in June 1992 nor where the two men are. Also the Pentagon has been trying for months to find a way of discrediting the secret report found in the Russian archives last January. This report is confirmed by another high-ranking defector, Dr. Dang Tan in 1968 and by a defecting North Vietnamese intelligence officer, Le Ding Trung, in 1979.

Washington Times, July 3 -- **U.S. Yields on IMF Loans to Vietnam**

President Clinton announced that the U.S. will stop opposing international loans to Vietnam. The White House made public a letter from lawmakers urging him to allow international lending because Vietnam had made significant progress in accounting for missing Americans. The letter was signed by 19 Vietnam veterans, including Sen. John Kerry and Sen. John McCain. Clinton has been under pressure from U.S. companies that say the embargo has shut them out of lucrative contracts.

***The Spotlight*, July 5 -- Top Clinton Official Accused of Taking Payoffs From Viets**

A Vietnamese-American businessman has charged that Ron Brown, former chairman of the Democratic National Committee, lobbyist and now Secretary of Commerce, entered into a deal with the government of Vietnam, promising to lobby for lifting sanctions against that Communist country in exchange for payoffs of \$700,000 and a percentage of the income resulting from any deals arising from his efforts.

***Washington Times*, July 14 -- Senator Cites Signs of MIAs; Says Trip Supports Reported Sightings**

Sen. Smith returned from Vietnam with "compelling evidence" that U.S. intelligence officials erred in dismissing reports that Hanoi held American servicemen long after the war ended. The Senator said it has become clear that the U.S. is not going to use all its intelligence capabilities to track down "live sighting" reports. Questioning why "a U.S. Senator, traveling with some news media in a 20-minute period of time" could locate what the DIA could not, Smith said, "It's preposterous, folks, but we found it, and Garwood was absolutely 100 percent right on target."

***Washington Times*, July 20 -- A POW Offer Too Good to Refuse?**

The U.S. must make every effort and utilize fully all its leverage to recover those servicemen who are still alive and remain against their will in Indochina or elsewhere, Ross Perot told family members and activist. The case that there were servicemen left behind was powerfully made by other participants in the news conference. For example: (1) a Vietnamese defector, Le Quang Khai, said that in Hanoi's Foreign Ministry, it was "common knowledge" that all captive Americans were not returned in Operation Homecoming; (2) testimony from former Czech Gen. Jan Sejna, who defected to the U.S., was cited to the effect that a substantial number of U.S. servicemen were secretly transferred from Vietnam to Russia via Czechoslovakia for heinous experiments with chemical, biological, radiological warfare and mind-altering drugs; (3) Michael Bengel, a former POW, reported seeing in the course of his incarceration "upward of a dozen" American POWs who were never returned; (4) Vaughn Taylor, who has long represented Robert Garwood, emphasized that Garwood has consistently reported having seen hundreds of U.S. POWs held against their will by Hanoi; (5) Sen. Robert Smith described his recent trip to Vietnam, accompanied by Robert Garwood. Smith recounted how Garwood's information and other data concerning "live sighting" of U.S. personnel checked out, notwithstanding insistent reports from U.S. intelligence to the contrary; and (6) Perot underscored the news conference by telling about a briefing he received in 1970 from the U.S. Embassy in Thailand about camps in Laos where hundreds of American servicemen were believed held prisoner, but from which only nine returned. There were two conclusions from this meeting: there is compelling evidence that Americans have been and may well still be, held against their will by Vietnam and its allies; and U.S. intelligence has systematically concentrated on debunking such evidence, rather than focusing on how it might be validated.

***Newsday*, August 1 -- The Search For John O'Grady**

Last March, Patricia O'Grady and family visited the area where her father, John O'Grady, was shot down. Journalists who covered the war in Indochina have been drawn to the story of the significant numbers of men missing in that war -- many of whom had been reported as captured -- who to this day have never shown up and are not accounted for. Rather than being an exception to the overall story of American POWs in Vietnam, John O'Grady's case, from all available information, is the rule. During the years since the war, a mass of evidence has emerged that shows Hanoi held on to large numbers of prisoners after the war's end -- and that people at the highest levels in Washington knew this. Radio intercepts, satellite photos, testimony from former high-ranking communist officials in a position to know and other intelligence data establish that: (1) Vietnam moved prisoners to China and the Soviet Union; (2) many prisoners were also kept hidden in Laos and moved around to various sites as labor details; and (3) distress signals, radio messages and other legitimate indications of live prisoners were not pursued by the American intelligence community. Some time before her trip to Vietnam, Patricia was talking about the anguish felt by all MIA families who are still pushing for the truth, "We're not haunted so much by the loss as the lie."

***San Diego Union-Tribune*, August 22 -- Korea POW Tale of Interrogation by Soviets Gains Credence**

The Pentagon believes it has additional evidence supporting a persistent theory that American combat pilots captured during the Korean War were taken to the former Soviet Union. A former Marine Corps corporal who spent 33 months as a POW in North Korea and whose tale of being interrogated by Soviet officers in 1952 was ignored for 40 years. This is the first documented case of a returned American POW who was captured by Soviets in Korea and sent directly to China for interrogation. After realizing that the POW, Nick Flores, was not a pilot, the Soviets returned home to a POW camp in North Korea. Unfortunately, the Marine Corps failed to credit him for the time he spent as a POW and he was denied an honorable discharge when he left the service two

months after he was repatriated by the Koreans on Aug. 20, 1953. However, the record was corrected at a quiet Marine ceremony earlier this month, and now Flores has his honorable discharge.

Wall Street Journal, Sept 3 -- Commerce's Brown Is Facing Questions On Vietnam Ties

Justice Dept. officials are expected to question Commerce Secretary Brown regarding allegations he sought \$700,000 to represent Vietnam on financial matters. A federal grand jury in Miami, which also has been investigating the allegations, has questioned Nguyen Van Hao, a former Vietnamese government official who allegedly acted as the middleman between Mr. Brown and the Vietnamese government. Binh Ly, a Ft. Lauderdale, FL businessman, has claimed since last winter that Mr. Brown met with representatives of Vietnam first in November and then in December. That was before Mr. Brown took office, but at least one meeting allegedly occurred after he had been nominated.

New York Times, Sept 8 -- Claim of POW Cover-Up Rends Senate Decorum

Senator Bob Smith is drawing unusual criticism from colleagues for publicly accusing 10 senior, but even more obscure, Federal officials of perjury and other crimes. The Senator contends that the 10 were trying to cover up evidence about American missing and perhaps captured in Vietnam. After the trip to Vietnam Sen. Smith returned from last July, he said at a news conference that there now was "very compelling" evidence of live POWs. In a June 29 letter to Attorney General Janet Reno, he accused the 10 officials of crimes aimed at covering up what he considers the government's botched efforts to find the truth. The 10 are Duane Andrews, former Assistant Secretary of Defense (ASD) for Intelligence; Robert DeStatte, a civil servant with DIA; Warren Grey, a senior analyst at DIA; Col. William Jordan, office of ASD for International Security Affairs; Norman Kass, assistant to the ASD for POW/MIA Affairs; Christopher LaFleur, was director of the State Dept. Office for Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia Affairs; Ed Ross, acting deputy ASD for POW/MIA Affairs; Col. Joseph Schlatter, Deputy to Mr. Ross; Robert Sheetz, former chief of the special office for POW/MIA at the DIA; and Charles Trowbridge, Mr. Sheetz's successor, the current chief of the special office.

New York Times, Sept 9 -- Soviet File Feeds Debate On POWs; A Second Document Suggests Hanoi Concealed Number of Captured Americans

A new Russian document suggesting that Vietnam held more American POWs than it acknowledged has been turned over to American authorities in Moscow. The Pentagon has released a translation of an account of a Vietnamese Communist Party meeting held in late 1970 or early 1971, quoting a Vietnamese official as saying Vietnam held 735 "American aviator POW's" although it had only given out the names of 368. The Pentagon, in a statement released Tuesday night, said it could not yet vouch either for the statement's authenticity or its accuracy. The statement did say it "came from the files of the GRU -- Soviet military intelligence." Senator Smith called the document "dramatic and deeply troubling" and dismissed the Pentagon's reservations as "pitiful."

Washington Times, Sept 14 -- Clinton Continues Vietnam Embargo

President Clinton renewed the 18-year-old economic embargo against the communist government of Vietnam, but will allow U.S. firms to participate in development projects. The action allows U.S. businesses to participate in harbor construction, fertilizer production, timber industry revival and other development projects to help rebuild Vietnam.

Washington Times, Sept 16 -- U.S. Has Evidence of POW's Transfer to Soviet Union

Russian officials, and before them officials of the Soviet Union, have consistently denied that any U.S. servicemen were taken from Korea into the former Soviet Union. The U.S. government has obtained credible evidence of an American serviceman being captured in the Korean war and transferred to the Soviet prison system. This new information was presented to Irene Mandra, whose brother, Marine Corps Sgt. Philip Vincent Mandra, was missing and later declared killed in action from an engagement with Chinese infantry in North Korea on Aug. 7, 1952. A retired Colonel of the former Soviet MVD, the internal security agency, told U.S. POW/MIA investigators in an interview last month that he saw Sgt. Mandra in a prison at Magadan, a town in Siberia on the Sea of Okhotsk, west of Kamchatka Peninsula. Col. Vladimir Malinin became known to U.S. officials when he answered a newspaper advertisement soliciting information on American servicemen. Identifying Sgt. Mandra through photographs shown to him by the U.S. investigators, Col. Malinin told officials he saw Mandra at the Magadan prison in 1963 and again in 1966. Initially, the colonel saw Sgt. Mandra walking alone and being kept away from other prisoners, he was told it was because the prisoner was "an American spy." It is the first official admission and known case of a POW being transferred to the Soviet Union from Korea. Until now Washington has maintained there was no credible evidence of such transfers.

Spotlight, Sept 20 -- Supreme Court to Hear POW Issue

In what will be a landmark case, Michigan Attorney General Frank Kelly is filing suit in the Supreme Court accusing the U.S. Government, in particular the Department of Defense and the nation's intelligence agencies, with failure to account for Michigan's 72 POW/MIAs still missing and unaccounted for from the Southeast Asian war. The state's action is being taken as allowed by Article 3, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution, which allows a state to by-pass lower federal courts in bringing actions against the federal government. The action by the attorney general was precipitated by a concurrent resolution unanimously passed by the Michigan Legislature and introduced by State Rep. Alan Cropsey. The Resolution also calls for "the sister forty-nine states of the United States of America...to join in this action on behalf of their state and the citizens of their state who are being held in captivity in Southeast Asia." Anyone interested in using Michigan resolution HCR 185 as a model for legislation in their own state can contact Rep. Alan Cropsey's office to request a copy by calling Carla at (517)373-1778.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Sept 27 -- U.S. Confronts Moscow with POW Evidence

The U.S. government (USG) has confronted Moscow for the first time with evidence that hundreds of U.S. Korean War POWs were secretly moved to the Soviet Union, imprisoned and never returned. The evidence was spelled out to Russian officials in Moscow last month by the State Department in a USG report entitled "The Transfer of U.S. Korean War POWs to the Soviet Union." The 77-page report gives no specific figure, but the analysis seems to indicate that it is fewer than 600. However, it does describe in detail a top-secret program of the KGB to capture American fliers and other U.S. and allied technical specialists in Korea, interrogate them, and then transfer them into Stalin's notorious gulags in Siberia and other parts of the Soviet Union. Just last year, the USG said it had no evidence of such transfers, but Washington has known since the end of the war that evidence of such transfers existed.

Washington Times, Sept 29 -- Discrediting Me: Media Politics and POWs in Vietnam

Excerpt from "The 1205 Document" in *National Interest* (Fall 1993): "The attempt to discredit the Russian document by the bureaucracy was given a valuable assistance by major media outlets, through the active partisanship of several key journalists. The *New York Times* broke the story on April 12, but that was the last of the straight news reporting by either the *New York Times* or the *Washington Post*." Thomas Lippman of the *Washington Post*, Steven Holmes of the *New York Times*, Neil Sheehan of the *New Yorker*, and Nayan Chanda of the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, were criticized for their brand of advocacy journalism, dubious attributions and sources, and poor fact-checking and analysis.

New York Times, Oct 4 -- Businessman Details Case Involving Commerce Chief

The story of Ly Thanh Binh, a Vietnamese-American businessman, got a flood of new publicity last week when Mr. Brown seemed to contradict statements put out earlier by his aides saying that Mr. Brown "didn't recall meeting with this man," referring to Binh's associate Nguyen Van Hao. Now Mr. Brown acknowledged last week that he had in fact met three times with Mr. Hao, once before his selection as Commerce Secretary and twice thereafter. Mr. Binh's story got another modest boost last week when the authorities said they had found evidence that suggested the Vietnamese were preparing to establish a bank account in Singapore. The \$700,000 and other economic concessions were to be placed in a bank account controlled by a friend of Mr. Brown's, Marc Ashton.

Washington Times, Oct 13 -- Brown Allegations Lead to Hill Request for Papers, Answers

Rep. William F. Clinger (R-PA), ranking GOP member of the Committee on Government Operations, submitted a list of written questions and documents he wants as part of a panel reviewing allegations that Mr. Brown sought a \$700,000 payoff to help persuade U.S. authorities to lift a trade embargo against Vietnam. The FBI and a federal grand jury in Miami are conducting an investigation as well. Brown had also supposedly asked for an exclusive contract with the Vietnamese and personally asked that the cash be deposited for him through Singapore in an offshore bank. Rep. Clinger has asked Mr. Brown to provide: (1) documents showing Commerce's contributions to the administration's position on U.S. trade policy in Vietnam; (2) copies of all visitor and telephone logs for Brown and copies of logs for Commerce drivers and chauffeurs; (3) copies of all electronic mail traffic, faxes, computer network messages and telegrams at Commerce relating to U.S. trade policy with Vietnam; and (4) copies of any documentation that would show that Brown had recused himself from all matters pertaining to Vietnam.

Newsweek, Oct 18 -- A Brown Account in Singapore?

The FBI has determined that Vietnamese officials opened an account at a Singapore bank that agents believe was intended for payments to the Commerce secretary. FBI officials don't know if the account is in Brown's name, or even if he knew about it. Brown says he never solicited or received any money from Vietnam. But money need not have changed hands to violate the Hobbs Act -- the most expansive federal corruption statute.

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