

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ROGER HALL,

Plaintiff,

v.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY,

Defendant.

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) Civil Action No. 98-1319 PLF
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DECLARATION OF JOHN LeBOUTILLIER

I, John LeBoutillier, hereby declare and state:

1. I currently reside in Old Westbury, New York, where I oversee the operations of the Sky Hook II Project, a privately funded group dedicated to recovering living American Prisoners of War held against their will in Southeast Asia. With over 50,000 supporters, the Sky Hook II Project seeks to gather on-the-ground human intelligence throughout Laos and Vietnam and educate the American public about the POW issue.

2. I was elected to the United States Congress from my home district in November, 1980 where I served as the youngest member of the 97th Congress. During my time in office, I served on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and as a member of the House Special POW/MIA Task Force.

3. In 1989, I authored a book, Vietnam Now: A Case for Normalizing Relations with Hanoi that was published by Praeger Publishers. I have written numerous articles on the POW/MIA issue for such publications as *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal* as

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well as books and articles on other topics.

4. My interest in the POW/MIA issue goes back to 1974 when I served as National Finance Chairman for Leo Thoraness, a former POW, during his campaign for the U.S. Senate in South Dakota.

5. Since 1983, I have traveled to Southeast Asia many times, including two trips to Vietnam as the guest of the Hanoi government, to discuss a solution to the POW problem.

6. I am familiar with Roger Hall's efforts to seek access to records about POWs from federal agencies, including this litigation under the Freedom of Information Act that he has ongoing against the CIA.

7. I have personal knowledge of several POW-related incidents where the CIA has had documents that have not been publicly acknowledged or released.

8. From October, 1980 through February, 1981 I was briefed, as a member of the House Special POW/MIA Task Force, on the construction in Laos at Nhom Marrott of a prison camp. We were shown aerial reconnaissance photographs showing the month-by-month progress of this construction project, from the clearing of the jungle in that area to the erection of buildings and guard towers. By February, 1981 the completion of the camp was also confirmed by radio traffic intercepts. Ultimately, a recon team was sent in to scout out whether or not there were any Americans in the camp. No Caucasians were seen; however, there was a building in the middle of the camp, whose inhabitants could not be discerned.

9. Deputy CIA Director Admiral Bobby Inman was involved in these briefings, and I understood that the photographs and intercepts we were shown were CIA documents. To my knowledge, these documents have never been released by the agency.

10. I visited Laos four times in 1981 and 1982 where I met with Laotian officials who confirmed there were live prisoners in their country. They indicated to me that if the United States would give them such things as new hospitals and roads, they would make sure their people looked for and found missing American prisoners of war.

11. I know that ultimately officials of US AID met with Ed Meese and CIA Director Casey and a shipment of \$200,000 of medical supplies was approved as good faith evidence of our intent to work with the Laotian government on these issues. The first shipment was made in December, 1981, but Robert McFarland ordered a halt to the shipments. I know the CIA was involved in both the decision to approve and stop these shipments.

12. I was told that in both Bangkok and Vientiane all live sighting reports that came into the embassy went directly to the CIA Station Chief.

13. A United Nations Official Verner Blatter was in Laos in 1981 on a helicopter trip of irrigation projects. The Governor General of the province was escorting him when they looked down and saw Caucasian men working on a road under armed guards. Blatter asked the Governor General to explain, and he stated that the men were American prisoners left over from the War. Blatter reported this to an embassy in Bangkok, and the story was reported to the CIA. Although Blatter was instructed not to discuss the matter, the episode was confirmed to me by U.S. Charge D'Affaires to Laos, Leo Moser.


14. While I was in Congress and for several years later, I had various meetings with CIA Director Casey on the POW/MIA issue. My last meeting with him was in 1985 when I took with me the wife of a prisoner of war who had been shot down in 1967. To my knowledge, no

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reports of these meetings have ever been made public by the CIA.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Executed this 28 day of August, 1998.


John LeBoutillier