

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 19, 1996

Harold -- Ickes

Follow-up on land mines discussion at 8:15 meeting yesterday:

- Letters from Vietnam Veterans of America and U.S. Roman Catholic Bishops. I have heard Mary McGrory is going to make reference to these in her Sunday column, and I have thus forwarded them with a note to that effect to the President;
- The earlier open letter to POTUS from Generals Schwarzkopf, Galvin, Jones, et al.

One other note -- I heard yesterday that Tim Connolly, the principal Deputy Assistant Secretary at DOD who was quoted in the March 17, 1996 Raymond Bonner piece in the NYT saying that land mines should be banned, has been fired. I can't vouch for this information, and, even if it is true, it may well have nothing to do with his comments to Ray Bonner. But I thought you might want to know.

  
Todd



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA FOUNDATION  
2001 "S" STREET, N.W.  
SUITE 740  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009

President Bill Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C.

April 16, 1996

Dear Mr. President,

We understand that your administration is considering a proposal that would implement a US ban on antipersonnel landmines sometime after the end of this decade. As the coordinator of both the US and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines – and the sponsor of the full page New York Times letter signed by fifteen senior retired military officers in favor of a ban – I want to make it clear to you that such a proposal would be strongly opposed by Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation.

Our goal is to ban antipersonnel landmines now. We have been working to do so for a number of years, and we will continue our efforts to make certain that such a ban goes into effect. While we welcome any US move to ban these terrible weapons, postponing the effective date of doing so would represent a retreat in US leadership on this critically important and urgent issue.

A number of our nation's allies (Australia, Canada, Belgium, and many others) have already announced a ban on antipersonnel landmines effective immediately. Just today, Germany announced that it will immediately ban the production, transfer and use of antipersonnel landmines. An announcement by you, now, that our nation is unwilling to take a similar step would place the United States on the same side of this issue as Russia and China. This would be a tragic failure of US leadership.

Mr. President, I want to assure you that if you enact an immediate ban, we will make certain that you are given the full credit that you deserve for showing such leadership. We have spent a great deal of time gaining the support of senior retired military officers (including Generals Schwarzkopf, Jones, Moore, Gard, Galvin, Emerson – and others who have called us with their support) for such a position. We, and they, will stand behind you – literally and figuratively – when you announce such a ban.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R O Muller', written over a horizontal line.

Robert O. Muller  
President  
Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation



**Department of Social Development and World Peace**

3211 4th Street N.E. Washington, DC 20017-1194 FAX (202) 541-3339 E-Mail (SDWP@AOL.COM)



April 17, 1996

The Honorable Anthony Lake  
National Security Advisor  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Lake:

Once again, I write to you on behalf of the U.S. Roman Catholic Bishops on land mines. A few weeks ago, you met with a group of Catholic leaders on the vital issue of banning these indiscriminate and deadly weapons. We welcomed the serious and positive tone of that meeting and the subsequent announcement of the Pentagon review of military policy in this area. I enclose a copy of the letter our Bishops' Conference sent to Secretary Perry applauding the review and offering our perspectives on this topic.

I write now to express our hopes and concerns about the important choices now facing the Administration. Given the deep convictions of the Catholic community in the United States and around the world, we hope the Administration will offer strong, unmistakable and convincing leadership in the effort to ban anti-personnel land mines. The United States should move quickly and unambiguously to ban the production, sale and use of anti-personnel land mines. A decision to ban land mines at some date beyond this decade fails to reflect adequately the moral urgency and human stakes in the continued use of land mines. Now is the time to provide leadership in the essential effort to ban these indiscriminate and terrible weapons. To postpone into the next century a U.S. ban on land mines could hurt the cause we share and reduce the credibility of the U.S. in the global struggle to ban land mines. A number of our allies have already banned these weapons. Significant U. S. military leaders have publicly urged a ban. The Congress has adopted a moratorium on strong bi-partisan vote. Now is not the time for delay, but for strong and clear leadership.

We urge the Administration to act boldly on this vital moral and human question. We will not relax our intense and ongoing efforts to ban these indiscriminate weapons. We stand ready to support strong U.S. leadership to end the use and rid the world of these terrible weapons—not in some distant future, but before we begin a new century. With strong leadership and moral

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(202) 541-3

urgency, our nation can approach the millennium with a commitment that anti-personnel land mines will not maim and kill children, scar the earth and threaten our military forces. This requires U.S. action now, not in the next century. We ask you to convey our strong convictions on this issue to the President as he makes these important choices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Daniel P. Reilly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D".

Most Reverend Daniel P. Reilly  
Bishop of Worcester  
Chairman, International Policy Committee

# An Open Letter to President Clinton

Dear Mr. President,

We understand that you have announced a United States goal of the eventual elimination of antipersonnel landmines. We take this to mean that you support a permanent and total international ban on the production, stockpiling, sale and use of this weapon.

We view such a ban as not only humane, but also militarily responsible.

The rationale for opposing antipersonnel landmines is that they are in a category similar to poison gas; they are hard to control and often have unintended harmful consequences (sometimes even for those who employ them). In addition, they are insidious in that their indiscriminate effects persist long after hostilities have ceased, continuing to cause casualties among innocent people, especially farmers and children.

We understand that there are 100 million landmines deployed in the world. Their presence makes normal life impossible in scores of nations. It will take decades of slow, dangerous and painstaking work to remove these mines. The cost in dollars and human lives will be immense. Seventy people will be killed or maimed today, 500 this week, more than 2,000 this month, and more than 26,000 this year, because of landmines.

Given the wide range of weaponry available to military forces today, antipersonnel landmines are not essential. Thus, banning them would not undermine the military effectiveness or safety of our forces, nor those of other nations.

The proposed ban on antipersonnel landmines does not affect antitank mines, nor does it ban such normally command-detonated weapons as Claymore "mines," leaving unimpaired the use of those undeniably militarily useful weapons.

Nor is the ban on antipersonnel landmines a slippery slope that would open the way to efforts to ban additional categories of weapons, since these mines are unique in their indiscriminate, harmful residual potential.

We agree with and endorse these views, and conclude that you as Commander-in-Chief could responsibly take the lead in efforts to achieve a total and permanent international ban on the production, stockpiling, sale and use of antipersonnel landmines. We strongly urge that you do so.

General David Jones (USAF, ret.)  
former Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

General John R. Galvin (US Army, ret.)  
former Supreme Allied Commander, Europe

General H. Norman Schwarzkopf (US Army, ret.)  
Commander, Operation Desert Storm

General William G. Y. Tuttle, Jr. (US Army, ret.)  
former Commander, US Army Materiel Command

General Volney F. Warner (US Army, ret.)  
former Commanding General, US Readiness Command

General Frederick F. Woerner, Jr. (US Army, ret.)  
former Commander-in-Chief, US Southern Command

Lieutenant General James Abrahamson (USAF, ret.)  
former Director, Strategic Defense Initiative Office

Lieutenant General Henry E. Emerson (US Army, ret.)  
former Commander, XVIII Airborne Corps

Lieutenant General Robert G. Gard, Jr. (US Army, ret.)  
former President, National Defense University  
President, Monterey Institute of International Studies

Lieutenant General James F. Hollingsworth (US Army, ret.)  
former I Corps (ROK/US Group)

Lieutenant General Harold G. Moore, Jr. (US Army, ret.)  
former Commanding General, 7th Infantry Division

Lieutenant General Dave R. Palmer (US Army, ret.)  
former Commandant, US Military Academy, West Point

Lieutenant General DeWitt C. Smith, Jr. (US Army, ret.)  
former Commandant, US Army War College

Vice Admiral Jack Shanahan (USN, ret.)  
former Commander, US Second Fleet

Brigadier General Douglas Kinnard (US Army, ret.)  
former Chief of Military History, US Army

This message is brought to you by  
**Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation**  
2001 S Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009

4/19/96

TO NSC FOR REPLY.

STAFF SECRETARY

Rm:

Please file in Staff Secretary's  
chron for 4/19/96.

C. Cleveland

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

From: Peg Clark  
Associate Director of Presidential  
Personnel

Date: 4/15/96

To: Nancy Herrick

- |                                                         |                                                         |                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> For your signature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Rewrite-text                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Please return call   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for my signature | <input type="checkbox"/> Rewrite-not enough information | <input type="checkbox"/> As you requested     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For President's signature      | <input type="checkbox"/> For your action                | <input type="checkbox"/> For your information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reply directly-copy to me      | <input type="checkbox"/> For your approval              | <input type="checkbox"/> Please file          |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Call me on this                | <input type="checkbox"/> To West Wing, ASAP             | <input type="checkbox"/> For Resumix          |

Remarks:

Nancy,  
Governor Walters  
wanted me to pass this  
fax along to you for  
the President... for whatever  
appropriate route it should  
take. Thanks.

Action Date:

From Nancy Herrick

Yes \_\_\_\_\_  
no \_\_\_\_\_

yes or  
no what?

To <sup>NSC</sup> ~~Director~~ for  
Reply? yes \_\_\_\_\_  
no \_\_\_\_\_

**Walters Power International**

6219 Riviera Drive  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112  
Phone (405)843-4778 Fax (405)848-1134

*David Walters*  
*Job*

**FAX TRANSMITTAL SHEET****TO:**

Ms. Peg Clark  
The White House  
(202)456-7831 Phone  
(202)456-2259 Fax

**FROM:**

David Walters  
Date: Monday, April 15, 1996  
Total Number of Pages Including Cover: 4

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**NOTES / COMMENTS:**

Dear Peg:

Hello from Lahore, Pakistan. I made to Baku and Dubai and am on my way to Islamabad, Delhi, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Kuala Lumpur (sp?). I had a rather interesting conversation with the President of Azerbaijan that I thought worthy of a communication to the President. Would you be so kind as to get this into the right channel. I don't have Nancy's fax or I would send it to her.

Thank you.

P.S. I hope I don't get you fired with all my crazy requests. Best wishes.



**WALTERS POWER  
INTERNATIONAL**

April 15, 1996

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

It was good to see you in Oklahoma City. Rhonda and I appreciate your and Hillary's best wishes in respect to my "close call". After Ron's funeral I left Washington to continue the trip that I was to have started with Secretary Brown in Croatia. My first stop was Baku, Azerbaijan.

Although I was in Baku to investigate power generation opportunities what I found in my many conversations with business leaders, officials and citizens was a striking inconsistency in our foreign policy. Like most Americans the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict was unknown to me. I am now convinced that if Americans knew what I, our foreign policy experts and a few lobbyist know that they would insist on a more fair and balanced position by the United States.

I met with President Haydar Aliyev for two hours on Saturday, April 13th. I must say that his independence and strength are impressive. However the level of disappointment on his part with the U.S. was evident. He points out that almost one half of one of the worlds largest oil production consortiums is owned by U.S. firms, that he has routed one of the pipelines from these vast reserves outside of Russian controlled areas at the request of the U.S., that he excluded Iran from the consortium and later excluded the French at the encouragement of the U.S. President Aliyev maintains that he has been a faithful ally to the United States and all he has seen from the U.S. is a continuation of extremely unbalanced treatment of his country compared to Armenia as evidenced by the continued existence of Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act.

His most recent disappointment is that he says Strobe Talbot indicated that the Russian Nuclear Summit would in some way deal with the U.S. / Russian position on the conflict and that he would be consulted prior to the meeting. As of the end of business on April 13 he told me he had heard nothing.

The U.S embassy in Baku tells me that Armenia is second only to Israel in the receipt of per capita U.S. aid. Yet Armenia with the support of 30,000 Russian soldiers has occupied 20 % of Azerbaijan creating 1,000,000 displaced persons, many living a terrible existence. I explained to President Aliyev that it is well known that you do not support Section 907 and that President Bush didn't support Section 907 when he signed the bill.

(Unfortunately President Aliyev didn't realize that President Bush rather than you signed the legislation until I mentioned it).

Mr. President in light of the rapidly increasing U.S. economic interest in Azerbaijan, in light of their historic first challenge to the Soviets in 1989, in light of Azerbaijan's apparent strategic importance to the U.S. for energy reserves, in light of the substantial pressure from Iran and Russian on Azerbaijan to fall in line on everything from relations with Israel to stopping U.S. domination of foreign investment the imbalance in our position between Azerbaijan and Armenia borders on being absurd. This is not of your doing but frankly President Aliyev and Azerbaijan need more of your and your able foreign policy team's attention.

President Aliyev should be invited to come to the U.S. for appropriate meetings including a meeting with you. Properly structured I believe the occasion would result in Azerbaijan demonstrating their strong interest in a peaceful solution to the conflict. President Aliyev did not tell me this but I have reason to believe that it may be possible for President Aliyev to lift the blockade of Armenia as a result of his visit to Washington, at least temporarily. He has already made clear his willingness to establish Nagorno-Karabakh as an autonomous region for the 100,000 Armenians who live there, guarantee its security and establish an access to Armenia in return for the simple withdrawal of forces from the 20% of his country that is today occupied by Armenia so that the 1,000,000 displaced Azeris can return to their homes. I think it is also possible to have as part of the settlement of this conflict an agreement to build one of the pipelines from the Caspian reserves through Armenia bringing prosperity to Armenia and the isolated Azerbaijan enclave of Nakhichevan.

I do not believe that such an action by your administration presents a substantial policy or political risk. The U.S. would have to be prepared to certify and act on the Wilson Amendment for humanitarian aid as President Aliyev cannot politically continue to make concessions without some results. Hopefully the granting of humanitarian aid for 1,000,000 displaced persons would not be perceived as an extreme cost of our contribution to peace in the region.

Mr. President I am a businessman and no longer a politician but I do know when government policy is wrong and when it is right. I believe our governments position in regards to Azerbaijan is wrong. I encourage you to ask your foreign policy team to redouble their efforts to strengthen our relationship with a remarkably strong ally in a very troubled and important region of our globe.

You have my very best wishes and my continuing offer to assist you in any way you ask.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David Walters", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Walters  
President