

March 29, 1999

RE: TRAN THE CUONG
(IV# 37079, H32-983)

Ms. Pam Lewis
Orderly Departure Program
Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration
Department of State (SA-1)
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Pam:

Our Association is writing on behalf of Mr. Tran The Cuong (IV# 37079, H32-983), a former political prisoner who was imprisoned for more two and one-half years due to his service in the Air Force (ARVN) during the Vietnam war era.

You will recall that we raised the case of Mr. Tran during our meeting ^{at H.A. #} of November 19, 1998 (please refer to the last paragraph, page 4 of the minutes). ^{#1}
At that meeting, you and Ralph suggested that Mr. Tran write a letter to the ~~Director of ODP~~ explaining how he was unable to explain the details of his persecution at the interview and outlining such persecution in his letter.

*Dislike
Director
INS
in Bangkok
#2*

We shared this advice with Mr. Tran, who did as directed and wrote to ODP on January 9, 1999 (copy enclosed). ^{#2} Please note that in addition to the circumstances of his persecution subsequent to his release from prison on January 24, Mr. Tran provides dates and certificates for his training at the US Air Forces Bases.

To date, Mr. Tran has not received a response from the Director of ODP.

On behalf of Mr. Tran, we ask that you verify the status of his case review with ODP file and determine whether he can be reinterviewed in the near future, given the target date for finishing HO interviews.

Sincerely,

Enclosures: As stated
File Name: CUONG.DOC

Khuc Minh Tho

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Enclosures: As stated

Khuc Minh Tho



HỘI GIA ĐÌNH TÙ NHÂN CHÍNH TRỊ VIỆT NAM
FAMILIES OF VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS ASSOCIATION

Falls Church, Virginia 22043

Telephone: ()

- Fax: ()

E-mail: fvppa@aol.com

HỘI ĐỒNG QUẢN TRỊ
Board of Directors

Date: February 8, 1999

KHUC MINH THO
NGUYỄN QUỲNH GIAO
NGUYỄN VĂN GIỚI
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN
HIỆP LOWMAN
TRƯƠNG THỊ LANG ANH
TRẦN KIM DUNG
NGUYỄN THỊ KHEN

TO: Mr. Eldon Hager, ODP JVAR

FROM: Khuc Minh Tho, FVPPA

SUBJECT: Tran The Cuong (IV # 37079)

BAN CHẤP HÀNH T.Ư.
Executive Board

Thank you for informing me about the status of cases mentioned in our minutes of November 19, 1998 with Pam Lewis, Ralph Foelster, Le Van Ba and Ngoc Dung Trinh.

KHUC MINH THO
President
NGUYỄN QUỲNH GIAO
Vice President
NGUYỄN VĂN GIỚI
Secretary General
TRƯƠNG THỊ LANG ANH
Treasurer
NGUYỄN THỊ KHEN
Deputy Treasurer

Attached please find copies of the letters to INS in Bangkok and FVPPA submitted by Mr. Tran The Cuong on January 9, 1999 and October 10, 1998 respectively.

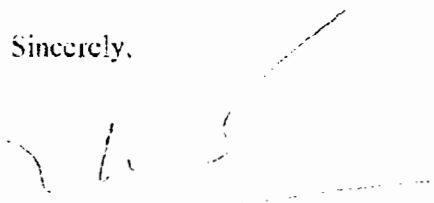
CỔ VẤN ĐOÀN
Advisory Committee

As you are well aware, the Vietnamese Political Prisoner Program will soon end, therefore, we hope that with new evidence provided by Mr. Tran The Cuong, ODP and INS will review his file and give him another chance to present his case for resettlement in the United States.

HIỆP LOWMAN
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN
TRẦN KIM DUNG

I look forward to receiving your prompt attention.

Sincerely,


Khuc Minh Tho
President

Attachment

43 No Trang Long Street
Ward 7 – Binh Thanh District
Ho Chi Minh City – Viet Nam

January 9, 1999

District Director
US Immigration and Naturalization Service
93/1 Wireless Road
Diethelm Tower B, Room 114/1
Bangkok 10330 – Thailand

Re.: Tran The Cuong, Former Vietnamese Political Prisoner (Case No. H32-983)

Dear Sir,

I would like to present my case for your review and consideration as follows.

I was interviewed on September 26, 1994 under the Orderly Departure Program as a Vietnamese Political Prisoner who served less than three years in reeducation camp and received training in the United States. However, my resettlement application was denied. On September 29, 1994, I made an appeal against the denial to the Director of the Orderly Departure Program in Bangkok, Thailand. Since then, I have had no reply.

1/ As stated earlier, during the Vietnam war, I served in the Vietnamese Air Force and had been under the US Military Training Program at the following Air Force Bases (AFB), (copies of some certificates attached as appendix A):

- From July 1962 to August 1963:

- Lackland AFB, Texas
- Moody AFB, Georgia
- Amarillo AFB, Texas
- Craig AFB, Alabama

- From July 1971 to October 1971

- Lowry AFB, Colorado
- Reese AFB, Texas

2/ After the fall of the former Government of the Republic of Vietnam on April 30, 1975, I was sent to the reeducation camp until January 24, 1978. After the release, I did not have the rights to stay in Saigon, my hometown, but I had to move to Dong Thap Province and stay with a distant relative (appendix B)

There, I was confined for over one year (appendix C). Because I could not stand the mistreatment of the local authorities against me, I had to return to Saigon and live illegally with my wife and children at my elder sister's house located at 43 No Trang Long Street, Ward 7, Binh Thanh District, Ho Chi Minh city (appendix D). Furthermore, I did not own any houses while I served in the Air Force. My family stayed in the military bases around the country and only returned to Saigon to visit my parents who lived with my elder sister.

I had been unemployed since then. I earn my living by tutoring English to support my family day by day. My wife is not better than I am. She has not found any jobs since April 1975. We had to sell everything left in our house to survive and bring up our children.

3/ As for my children, things have gone from bad to worse. They had no rights to study at the universities due to the government policy that discriminates against the families of military officers who served in the former government.

At school, they are always called as children of "puppet families", therefore, they are always mistreated, prejudiced and looked down as members of the former regime families. They attend schools as unofficial students, which means they have to pay higher tuition than others do. As a result, my two older children, for lacking of higher education, have to work in the private sector with too meager salaries to support themselves. While the four grown up children have still been unemployed, my youngest daughter has been unable to attend school regularly because we, her parents, can never make both ends meet.

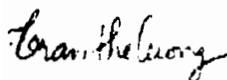
4/ For the time being, we are in danger of being driven out of our house at any time because the house is controlled by the government. This house is not our own property.

The above-mentioned situation has constituted our actual living since April 1975. However, the worst thing is that we have to endure the endless oppressive measures from the government political policy and the draconian laws of the local authorities.

I respectfully request your reconsideration of our hopeless situation so that we will be able to get a chance to resettle in the United States as political refugees.

I would be very grateful if you would inform us of your decision on our case of denial.

Yours faithfully,



Tran The Cuong



HỘI GIA ĐÌNH TÙ NHÂN CHÍNH TRỊ VIỆT NAM
FAMILIES OF VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS ASSOCIATION

- Falls Church, Virginia 22043

Tel:

- Fax:

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Fax Cover Sheet

To : Ralph Foelster

Company: Office of International Affairs, INS

Phone: :

Fax:

From : Khuc Minh Tho

Company : Families of Vietnamese Political
Prisoners Association (FVPPA)

Date : March 4, 1999

Page(s) including
this cover page :

COMMENTS

Dear Ralph:

We want to let you know that Tran The Cuong (H32-983), whose case we raised during our November 19th meeting (minutes Item 8, paragraph 4), has followed the advice of you and Pam. Attached is a copy of his January 9, 1999 letter submitted to INS Bangkok detailing his persecution at the hands of the Vietnamese government after his release from reeducation camp in 1978.

We hope that INS will review this case and give favorable consideration to his refugee application under the HO subprogram. In view of the fact that interviews under this subprogram will end this April, we ask that you expedite the processing of this case.

Thank you so much for your help. Warm Regards.

Khuc Minh Tho

from 8AM to 5PM or fax at