



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

BUREAU FOR REFUGEE PROGRAMS  
FAX MESSAGE COVER SHEET  
Fax Telephone: (202) 663-1061

DATE: 4/7/94

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING PAGES TO:

Name: Mrs Tho

Office: FVPPA

Fax Telephone: (703) 8204-0394

THIS MESSAGE IS FROM:

Name: Larry Noyes

Office: RP/A/O

Telephone: (202) 663-1657

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET:

THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST *	<input type="checkbox"/>
* Warning: Anyone using the Fax to send action items MUST ensure that all clearances have been received.	
DATE DUE:	<input type="text"/>
FOR CLEARANCE:	<input type="checkbox"/>
FOR INFORMATION ONLY:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

NOTES:

Terry Rusch has asked me to arrange a meeting on your behalf with INS, VLC, and HA, as you have requested.

Our conference room here in SA-1, Columbia Plaza is available for such a meeting at 3:30 pm on Wednesday, April 13.

Please call me at (202) 663-1657 to confirm this meeting time. Thank you!

*Larry Noyes*



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

BUREAU FOR REFUGEE PROGRAMS  
FAX MESSAGE COVER SHEET  
Fax Telephone: (202) 663-1061

DATE: 8/12/94

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING PAGES TO:

Name: Mrs. Tho

Office: FUPPA

Fax Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

THIS MESSAGE IS FROM:

Name: Larry Noyes

Office: PRM/A/O

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET:

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MUST ensure that all clearances have been received.

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FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

NOTES:

As promised

Please distribute this to your  
colleagues in the association.

Thank you!

Larry



## United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

THE ORDERLY DEPARTURE PROGRAMRevised Procedures for Requesting  
ODP Case Status Information

As part of its ongoing efforts to provide more efficient visa services to the general public and to allow posts overseas to make better use of diminishing consular resources, the Department of State opened the National Visa Center (NVC), in Portsmouth, New Hampshire in June of this year. The NVC is now the central repository for all approved immigrant visa petitions that are not yet "current," that is to say, not yet eligible for interview by a consular officer at one of our embassies or consulates abroad. The non-current petitions on file at the NVC include those previously kept on file at the Orderly Departure Program (ODP) office in Bangkok for Vietnamese beneficiaries. Only when an immigrant visa petition for a Vietnamese beneficiary becomes current will it be forwarded to the ODP office at Embassy Bangkok for further processing and adjudication.

Therefore, the Department of State wishes to announce the following revised procedures for members of Congressional offices and the general public who wish to obtain case status information on ODP immigrant visa and refugee applications:

- 1) For ODP IMMIGRANT VISA Cases: Contact the NATIONAL VISA CENTER AT (603) 334-0700 (public) or (603) 334-0828 (Congressional only) from 8-5pm, Monday-Friday. Congressional offices can contact the NVC via fax at (603) 334-0791. If a written response is requested, Congressional offices should send a written request to: National Visa Center, 32 Rochester Avenue, Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03801.
- 2) For ODP REFUGEE Cases: Contact the ODP office in Bangkok at 011-662-286-1639 or 011-662-286-7306 from 7-4pm Bangkok time, Monday-Friday. (Please note that Bangkok is 12 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time and 11 hours ahead of Eastern Daylight Time.) Congressional offices can contact ODP via fax at 011-662-287-2337. Congressional fax requests should contain the applicant's name, date of birth, and IV number.

The Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) at the Department of State will continue to provide general information concerning ODP policy and programs to Congressional offices and the general public. General ODP inquiries should be directed to the PRM Office of Overseas Admissions at (202) 663-1045 from 9-5pm (EST), Monday through Friday. However, all callers requesting specific refugee case status information will be referred to ODP Bangkok.

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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

BUREAU FOR REFUGEE PROGRAMS

FAX MESSAGE COVER SHEET

Fax Telephone: (202) 663-1061

To: Mr. Dins  
Fax 522-7173

DATE: 8/12/94

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING PAGES TO:

Name: Mrs. Tho

Office: FUPPA

Fax Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

THIS MESSAGE IS FROM:

Name: Larry Noyes

Office: PRM/A/O

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET:

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\* Warning: Anyone using the Fax to send action items  
MUST ensure that all clearances have been received.

DATE DUE: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR CLEARANCE:

FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

NOTES:

As promised

Please distribute this to your  
colleagues in the association.

Thank you!

Larry

BUREAU OF POPULATION, REFUGEES, AND MIGRATION  
Department of State

TO: LENNY GLICKMAN  
HHS/ORR Legislative Affairs  
401-5487

FROM: Pam Lewis  
Congressional Liaison PRM

Attached are 1) FY 1995 Refugee Admissions PD; 2) copy of the transmittal letter being sent to relevant House and Senate Judiciary Committee members; 3) copies of Fish/McCollum and Brooks letters on the Consultations. Next week I will begin to talk to the Committees about a date for the hearing -- sometime after the elections. Have a nice holiday.

Regards,  
Pam

Pat,  
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 1, 1994

9422634

Presidential Determination  
No. 95-1

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE

SUBJECT: Determination of FY 1995 Refugee Admissions  
Numbers and Authorizations of In-Country  
Refugee Status Pursuant to Sections 207  
and 101(a)(42), respectively, of the  
Immigration and Nationality Act and  
Determination Pursuant to Section 2(b)(2)  
of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act,  
as Amended

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by Wang, MK

In accordance with Section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act ("the Act") (8 U.S.C. 1157), as amended and after appropriate consultation with the Congress, I hereby make the following determinations and authorize the following actions:

The admission of up to 112,000 refugees to the United States during FY 1995 is justified by humanitarian concerns or is otherwise in the national interest; provided, however, that this number shall be understood as including persons admitted to the United States during FY 1995 with Federal refugee resettlement assistance under the Amerasian immigrant admissions program, as provided below.

The 110,000 funded admissions shall be allocated among refugees of special humanitarian concern to the United States as described in the documentation presented to the Congress during the consultations that preceded this determination and in accordance with the following regional allocations; provided, however, that the number allocated to the East Asia region shall include persons admitted to the United States during FY 1995 with Federal refugee resettlement assistance under Section 584 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs Appropriations Act of 1988, as contained in Section 101(e) of Public Law 100-202 (Amerasian immigrants and their family members); provided further that the number allocated to the former Soviet Union shall include persons admitted who were nationals of the former Soviet Union, or in the case of



for the purpose of admission to the United States within their countries of nationality or habitual residence:

- a. Persons in Vietnam
- b. Persons in Cuba
- c. Persons in Haiti
- d. Persons in the former Soviet Union

You are authorized and directed to report this Determination to the Congress immediately and to publish it in the Federal Register.

William J. Clinton

cc: The Attorney General  
The Secretary of Health and Human Services



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Fish:

I am pleased to provide you a copy of Presidential Determination No. 95-1, dated October 1, 1994 entitled "Determination of FY 1995 Refugee Admissions Numbers and Authorizations of In-Country Refugee Status Pursuant to Section 207 and 101(a)(42), Respectively, of the Immigration and Nationality Act, and Determination Pursuant to Section 2(b)(2) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act, as Amended". The Department of State has taken steps to have this Determination published in the Federal Register.

The administration greatly appreciates the special consideration and bipartisan cooperation received from your office and the Committee during this year's consultations process. We of course remain available to participate in a hearing on refugee issues to be scheduled at the convenience of the Committee. In addition, we look forward to working with you to address the issues raised during the consultations and in your follow-up letter and to continuing the productive relationship we have enjoyed in advancing the important U.S. national interest in assisting refugees worldwide.

Sincerely,

Wendy R. Sherman  
Assistant Secretary  
Legislative Affairs

Enclosure:  
As stated.

The Honorable  
Hamilton Fish,  
Committee on the Judiciary,  
House of Representatives.

SEN. BY: 00000  
MEMBERS  
JACK BROOKS, TEXAS, CHAIRMAN  
DON EDWARDS, CALIFORNIA  
JOHN CONYERS, JR., MICHIGAN  
ROBERT L. MADDALA, KENTUCKY  
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ONE HUNDRED THIRD CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-8218

MINORITY MEMBERS  
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BOB SHULTS, SOUTH CAROLINA  
BOB GOODLATTE, VIRGINIA

MAJORITY—228-228  
MINORITY—228-228

September 29, 1994

The Honorable William J. Clinton  
The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

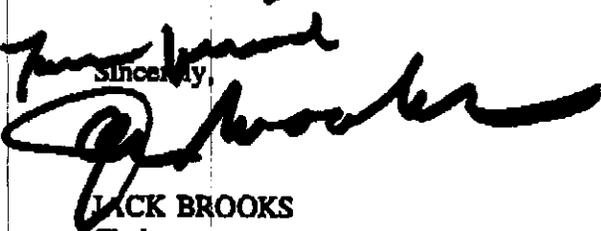
I am writing regarding the consultative process mandated by the Refugee Act of 1980 with respect to your proposed refugee admissions ceilings and allocations for fiscal year 1995. On September 29, 1994, Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott attended the consultation with the Committee on the Judiciary.

As you know, section 207 of the Refugee Act requires the President to consult with Congress before determining the number and allocation of refugees to be admitted during the next fiscal year. As I have expressed before, I would hope that future consultations can be held at a much earlier date in the fiscal year, in order to ensure that Congress has an adequate opportunity, including a public hearing, to review and analyze the proposal.

I appreciate the Administration's recognition that the admission of thousands of refugees requires sufficient Federal funding for resettlement. I expect that your efforts this year to obtain refugee funding in an amount that will maintain the current period of eligibility for refugee assistance will avoid shifting cost burdens from the Federal government to state and local governments, which are already straining to provide adequate assistance to refugee populations.

I thank Mr. Talbott and the other officials from the Departments of State, Justice and Health and Human Services for their participation in the consultation process.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,  
  
JACK BROOKS  
Chairman



We note that the proposed refugee admissions report was prepared in advance of the recent developments in Haiti. Specifically, we note that the proposed ceiling for Latin America and the Caribbean was doubled from the initial ceiling for FY 1994 of 4,000 to reflect the increased number of Haitian refugees anticipated in FY 1995 (although we realize that the 4,000 ceiling was increased through reallocations as developments occurred during FY 1994). Given the imminent restoration of democracy in Haiti, we question whether such an increase in the ceiling for Latin America and the Caribbean is still warranted. Similarly, we question whether Haiti should remain a Priority One Group of Special Concern for FY 1995 as part of the Priority One Refugee Processing Priorities.

Further, we note that the FY 1994 Africa ceiling was 7,000 and that the actual anticipated number of admitted refugees is 6,000. In light of the continuing uncertainty of the situation in Rwanda and the seemingly growing unrest in Somalia, we raise the question as to whether additional numbers may be needed for refugee admission from that region before the end of FY 1995.

Additionally, we express our concern over the substantial reduction in the number of INS interviewers in Moscow. The reduction from seven a few months ago to four in the immediate future adversely affects our interviewing capacity and compromises the essential humanitarian work of identifying individuals and families qualified for resettlement in the United States. In spite of the democratic changes we have witnessed in the former Soviet Union, given the long history of anti-Semitism in that country, we cannot say with any assurance that Jews there will not experience a resurgence of anti-Semitic activity. Accordingly, we believe that any winding down of the refugee program in the former Soviet Union is premature.

Finally, we express our concern that the consultative meeting on refugee admissions was scheduled for September 29, one day before the end of the present fiscal year and one day before you are statutorily mandated to determine the refugee admission level for FY 1995. We also note that, by statute, the information to be forwarded to us during this consultative process is to be provided, to the extent possible, at least two weeks in advance of the consultation. We ask that next year's consultation be scheduled earlier in the fiscal year and that the proposed refugee admissions report be forwarded to the consultative Members well in advance of that meeting so that they will have ample time to prepare for the consultative meeting.

As strong supporters of our refugee program, we believe the United States must continue to provide leadership in offering refuge to persecuted people. We are pleased to have had this opportunity to offer our views to the Acting Secretary of State in an effort to join you in providing that leadership.

Sincerely,

  
HAMILTON FISH, JR.  
Ranking Minority Member  
Committee on the Judiciary

  
BILL MCCLELLAN  
Ranking Minority Member  
Subcommittee on International Law,  
Immigration, and Refugees

## A PUBLIC WARNING

On Tuesday, July 26 all former political prisoners will be invited to attend a reception on Capitol Hill to commemorate the anniversary of the H.O. program initiated by the U.S. Government. This reception will be organized by Mrs. Khuc Minh Tho, the recipient of funds from the State Department to convene in Washington former political prisoners who are settled in the U. S. through the H.O. program. This will be done in collaboration with Mr. Le Xuan Khoa who is working with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to implement the refugee forced repatriation program. The keynote speaker at the reception will be Senator John McCain.

In fact, the above reception serves as propaganda maneuvers by Mr. McCain and the State Department to show that H.O. political prisoners support the U.S. Government's normalization of diplomatic relations and lifting of trade embargo with the communist regime in Hanoi because the latter has made "progress in human rights".

Any former political prisoner or fellow-countryman who plans to attend this reception should be aware of its sinister motives and altogether, we should loudly voice our opinion as follows:

1. The release of political prisoners from re-education camps and their emigration through the H.O. program is only the first step. It cannot be considered a valid reason for normalizing diplomatic relations with the Hanoi regime. Many Vietnamese are still arrested and detained in prisons just because they advocate democracy, human rights and freedom of religion.

2. Indeed, former political prisoners should be able to live in freedom, express their opinions freely and work for democracy in their own country. Allowing former political prisoners to leave VN through the H.O. program to become political refugees abroad is but a communist maneuver to get rid of an opposition faction so they can consolidate their dictatorial regime.

3. Before normalizing diplomatic relations with VN and granting her the "most-favored" status, the U.S. Government should demand that the communist clique in Hanoi allow true democracy, human rights, freedom of religion and expression to prevail in VN.

4. Many former political prisoners and their families now living in refugee camps are being forced to return to Vietnam. We must request that no refugee be forced to repatriate until all political prisoners are released so they can live freely in their own country and until human rights are restored to all citizens and ethnic minorities in Vietnam.

DRAFT TECHNICAL ANNEX.  
TO THE AGREEMENT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE SPECIAL RELEASED REEDUCATION CENTER  
DETAINEEES RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM

In order to carry out the agreement signed on between the United States and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam concerning the Special Released Reeducation Center Detainees Resettlement Program, the two governments agree to the following:

1. The two sides will continue discussions to determine the estimated number of persons who may qualify for the program.

2. Periodically each government will make a list of applicants eligible to be processed for resettlement in the United States under this program. The governments will prepare the lists on a non-discriminatory basis. Vietnam takes note that the United States maintains that priority be given to persons and their families, who have Letters of Introduction from the United States, based on length of detention in reeducation centers or on immediate eligibility for U.S. immigrant visas. The United States takes note that Vietnam stresses that lists should be prepared on the basis of non-discrimination. The Joint Working Group will consider the lists and prepare a joint list for expeditious processing under this program. The Working Group will state reasons why persons from either government's list are excluded from the joint list in order to avoid backlogs in the program.

3. Every effort will be made to agree upon a first group for processing in October 1989. The number of groups in each year and the number of persons in each group will be agreed upon by the Joint Working Group. The initial goal will be to interview

for resettlement under this program 3,000 persons by the end of 1989. This program will be in addition to existing ODP and Amerasian resettlement programs. It will increase gradually as the number of persons resettled under the Amerasian program decreases and the capacity of this program to process persons develops.

4. Persons approved by the Joint Working Group for resettlement processing will be interviewed in Vietnam by U.S. consular or immigration officials by the simplest and speediest procedure.

5. Cases approved for resettlement in the United States under U.S. laws and regulations will be medically examined and transported out of Vietnam under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Committee for Migration (ICM).

6. Transportation and medical costs for resettlement will be paid by ICM under arrangements to be worked out between ICM and the United States. The United States will compensate the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for processing expenses under this program on a mutually agreed upon basis similar to the system used for the Amerasian resettlement program.

7. Any other details of implementation of this program not described in this Technical Annex to the Agreement on the Implementation of the Special Released Reeducation Center Detainees Resettlement Program will be decided by the Joint Working Group established under the above-mentioned agreement.

8. The United States declares that the program in any fiscal year will be subject to availability of funds and authorization under U.S. law. Vietnam notes this declaration and holds that the implementation of this program will be in keeping with the availability of such funds and with such authorization.

## JOINT STATEMENT

Representatives of the United States and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at a meeting in Hanoi July 27-29, 1989, announced that they hope to commence by October 1989 a program for the resettlement in the United States of released reeducation center detainees and their close family members who wish to emigrate to the United States. The Vietnamese delegation was led by Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs Vu Khoan. The U.S. delegation was led by Senior Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Robert L. Fuysoth, Acting Director of the Bureau for Refugee Programs.

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the United States of America, in order to resolve one of the issues of mutual concern to the two countries and consistent with their humanitarian policies and with the commitments undertaken in the Declaration and the Comprehensive Plan of Action adopted by the United Nations International Conference on Indochinese Refugees, will -- in addition to existing programs -- allow those released reeducation center detainees who were closely associated with the United States or its allies and who wish to do so to emigrate, together with their close relatives, to the United States.

The United States delegation declared that released reeducation center detainees coming to the United States would be subject to all U.S. laws, including those affecting the activities of U.S. residents towards other countries. The U.S. delegation reaffirmed that the United States has not encouraged nor does it have any intention of encouraging or using released detainees to engage in any illegal activities hostile or harmful to Vietnam -- and is opposed to any such activities -- and that the United States will accept these persons solely for humanitarian reasons and not for

any hostile actions against Vietnam. The Vietnamese delegation also reaffirmed that Vietnam has not and will not encourage or use released detainees to engage in illegal actions hostile or harmful to the United States.

The two sides drew up a draft agreement which included a technical annex, and agreed to establish a joint working group to coordinate implementation of the program. The two sides agreed that the program would be in addition to the existing American and Orderly Departure Programs.

The two sides expressed great satisfaction with the results achieved and expressed hope that the first group of 3,000 persons for resettlement in the United States under this agreement will depart Vietnam before the end of the year after processing is completed.

Hanoi, July 29, 1969

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Department of State

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ACTION RP-18

EMIGRATE, TOGETHER WITH THEIR CLOSE RELATIVES, TO THE UNITED STATES.

INFO	LOG-09	ADS-08	AIO-08	INS-07	SS-08	OIC-02	CIAO-08
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	L-03	FRAD-01	IRSE-09	CAF-08	INSE-08	PA-02	CCO-08
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DEPT FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY EAGLEBUGER, UNDER SECRETARY SELIN, AMBASSADOR LAFONTANT AND SPOKESPERSON FROM FUNSETH ALSO FOR RP, CAP, PA

DEPT PLEASE PASS NSC AND USIA

PARIS PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

BRUSSELS FOR USEC

FOR REFUGEE OFFICERS AND INS

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PREF, VN

SUBJECT: U.S.-VIETNAMESE DRAFT AGREEMENT ON REEDUCATION CENTER DETAINEES: JOINT STATEMENT

1. FOLLOWING IS THE U.S.-VIETNAMESE JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED IN HANOI ON JULY 30, 1979.

2. BEGIN TEXT: REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AT A MEETING IN HANOI JULY 27 - 29, 1979 ANNOUNCED THAT THEY HOPE TO COMMENCE BY OCTOBER 1979 A PROGRAM FOR THE RESETTLEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES OF RELEASED REEDUCATION CENTER DETAINEES AND THEIR CLOSE FAMILY MEMBERS WHO WISH TO EMIGRATE TO THE UNITED STATES. THE VIETNAMESE DELEGATION WAS LED BY ASSISTANT MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PHU KHOAN. THE U.S. DELEGATION WAS LED BY SENIOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE, ROBERT L. FUNSETH, ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU FOR REFUGEE PROGRAMS.

THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IN ORDER TO RESOLVE ONE OF THE ISSUES OF MUTUAL CONCERN TO THE TWO COUNTRIES AND CONSISTENT WITH THEIR HUMANITARIAN POLICIES AND WITH THE COMMITMENTS UNDERTAKEN IN THE DECLARATION AND THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION ADOPTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDOCHINESE REFUGEES, WILL - IN ADDITION TO EXISTING PROGRAMS - ALLOW THOSE RELEASED REEDUCATION CENTER DETAINEES WHO WERE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED STATES OR ITS ALLIES AND WHO WISH TO DO SO TO

THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION DECLARED THAT RELEASED REEDUCATION CENTER DETAINEES COMING TO THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE SUBJECT TO ALL U.S. LAWS, INCLUDING THOSE AFFECTING THE ACTIVITIES OF U.S. RESIDENTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. THE U.S. DELEGATION REAFFIRMED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT ENCOURAGED NOR DOES IT HAVE ANY INTENTION OF ENCOURAGING OR USING RELEASED DETAINEES TO ENGAGE IN ANY ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES HOSTILE OR HARMFUL TO VIETNAM -- AND IS OPPOSED TO ANY SUCH ACTIVITIES -- AND THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL ACCEPT THESE PERSONS SOLELY FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS AND NOT FOR ANY HOSTILE ACTIONS AGAINST VIETNAM. THE VIETNAMESE DELEGATION ALSO REAFFIRMED THAT VIETNAM HAS NOT AND WILL NOT ENCOURAGE OR USE RELEASED DETAINEES TO ENGAGE IN ILLEGAL ACTIONS HOSTILE OR HARMFUL TO THE UNITED STATES.

THE TWO SIDES DREW UP A DRAFT AGREEMENT WHICH INCLUDED A TECHNICAL ANNEX, AND AGREED TO ESTABLISH A JOINT WORKING GROUP TO COORDINATE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM. THE TWO SIDES AGREED THAT THE PROGRAM WOULD BE IN ADDITION TO THE EXISTING AMERASIAN AND ORDERLY DEPARTURE PROGRAMS.

THE TWO SIDES EXPRESSED GREAT SATISFACTION WITH THE RESULTS ACHIEVED AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE FIRST GROUP OF 3,000 PERSONS FOR RESETTLEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES UNDER THIS AGREEMENT WILL DEPART VIETNAM BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR AFTER PROCESSING IS COMPLETED. END TEXT. O'DONOHUE

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Department of State

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ACTION RP-10

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INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-07	EUR-00	SS-00	OIC-07
	CIAE-00	DOOE-00	N-01	NSC-01	IO-10	NSCE-00	NSAE-00
	HA-03	L-03	IRSE-00	EAP-00	INSE-00	PA-02	VO-06
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FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS AND NOT FOR ANY HOSTILE ACTIONS AGAINST VIETNAM. THE VIETNAMESE DELEGATION ALSO REAFFIRMED THAT VIETNAM HAS NOT AND WILL NOT ENCOURAGE OR USE RELEASED DETAINEES TO ENGAGE IN ILLEGAL ACTIONS HOSTILE OR HARMFUL TO THE UNITED STATES.

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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY BOMBA  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
AMEMBASSY BEIJING

UNCLAS BANGKOK 38892

E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: PEF, VN  
SUBJECT: U.S.-VIETNAMESE DRAFT AGREEMENT ON REEDUCATION  
CENTER DETAINEES: JOINT STATEMENT

REF: A) BANGKOK 38486 B) BANGKOK 38692

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE U.S.-VIETNAMESE JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED IN HANOI ON JULY 30, 1989 ON NEGOTIATIONS REPORTED REFTEL B. (THIS MESSAGE REPEATS TO ADDITIONAL ADDRESSEES TEXT TRANSMITTED REF A.)

2. BEGIN TEXT: REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AT A MEETING IN HANOI JULY 27 - 29, 1989 ANNOUNCED THAT THEY HOPE TO COMMENCE BY OCTOBER 1989 A PROGRAM FOR THE RESETTLEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES OF RELEASED REEDUCATION CENTER DETAINEES AND THEIR CLOSE FAMILY MEMBERS WHO WISH TO EMIGRATE TO THE UNITED STATES. THE VIETNAMESE DELEGATION WAS LED BY ASSISTANT MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS VU KHOAN. THE U.S. DELEGATION WAS LED BY SENIOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE, ROBERT L. FURSETH, ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU FOR REFUGEE PROGRAMS.

THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IN ORDER TO RESOLVE ONE OF THE ISSUES OF MUTUAL CONCERN TO THE TWO COUNTRIES AND CONSISTENT WITH THEIR HUMANITARIAN POLICIES AND WITH THE COMMITMENTS UNDERTAKEN IN THE DECLARATION AND THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION ADOPTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDOCHINESE REFUGEES, WILL - IN ADDITION TO EXISTING PROGRAMS - ALLOW THOSE RELEASED REEDUCATION CENTER DETAINEES WHO WERE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED STATES OR ITS ALLIES AND WHO WISH TO DO SO TO EMIGRATE, TOGETHER WITH THEIR CLOSE RELATIVES, TO THE UNITED STATES.

THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION DECLARED THAT RELEASED REEDUCATION CENTER DETAINEES COMING TO THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE SUBJECT TO ALL U.S. LAWS, INCLUDING THOSE AFFECTING THE ACTIVITIES OF U.S. RESIDENTS TOWARDS OTHER COUNTRIES. THE U.S. DELEGATION REAFFIRMED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT ENCOURAGED NOR DOES IT HAVE ANY INTENTION OF ENCOURAGING OR USING RELEASED DETAINEES TO ENGAGE IN ANY ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES HOSTILE OR HARMFUL TO VIETNAM -- AND IS OPPOSED TO ANY SUCH ACTIVITIES -- AND THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL ACCEPT THESE PERSONS SOLELY

UNCLASSIFIED

Press Guidance (Released in Geneva 1500 local)

SUBJECT: U.S.-VIETNAMESE MEETING IN GENEVA - AGREEMENT ON RESUMING TALKS ON REEDUCATION CENTER DETAINEES

Q. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE U.S.-VIETNAMESE MEETING IN GENEVA?

A. Senior Deputy Assistant Secretary Robert Funseth (RP) and Deputy Assistant Secretary David Lambertson (EAP), met with Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach in Geneva June 14.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss the resumption of negotiations on the emigration to the U.S. of reeducation center detainees and their families. It was agreed that those negotiations, suspended by Vietnam in August of last year, would resume next month at a date and place to be determined.

The U.S. welcomes the Vietnamese decision to resume discussions on this important humanitarian issue.

In his statement at the Indochinese Conference on Indochinese Refugees on June 13, Lawrence Eagleburger, the Deputy Secretary of State declared:

"The world looks to Vietnam to provide full opportunity for resettlement to those who have been detained in reeducation camps. Nothing the Socialist Republic of Vietnam could do in this area would be more favorably received by the United States and the international community. In 1984 President Reagan affirmed the commitment of the American people to welcome with open arms prisoners, and their families, from reeducation camps. Today I reaffirm that commitment on behalf of President Bush. And I call upon Vietnam to resume negotiations with the United States, looking toward the day when this large group of excluded persons will be allowed to emigrate. Only then will the Orderly Departure Program become a true alternative to clandestine departure."

In addition, the two sides exchanged views on the Cambodian situation. The U.S. side stressed that there must be a negotiated comprehensive settlement of the conflict as the best means of ensuring a durable peace, and that Prince Sihanouk must be permitted to play a central role in any transition government which is agreed upon. We also emphasized the importance of effective international guarantees.

(IF ASKED)

Q. WAS THE POW/MIA ISSUE DISCUSSED? IF NOT, WHY NOT?

A. We expressed at the outset of the meeting our hope that SRV cooperation with us on this issue would continue, and be expanded. We are encouraged by recent progress on this important humanitarian concern, but believe it can and must be further strengthened. We did not discuss that issue in detail in this meeting, however, in keeping with our general practice of dealing with it as a separate and humanitarian issue.

Q. WHY HAS THACH DECIDED TO RESUME TALKS ON REEDUCATION PRISONERS?

A. I would prefer not to speculate. I would reiterate, however, that we are pleased with this decision and intend to follow up in the near future.

Q. ISN'T IT UNUSUAL TO DISCUSS CAMBODIA WITH THACH? HAS THIS BEEN DONE BEFORE?

A. We believe that, in view of the negotiating process now underway on Cambodia, it was important to take this opportunity to inform Thach directly of the U.S. position. We have not discussed this issue with Thach in the past.

Q. WAS LETHAL AID TO THE NCR DISCUSSED?

A. We made clear our strong support for Sihanouk and the NCR, and our belief that he should have a leading role in any transitional government which emerges.

## BACKGROUND

### Re-education Center Detainees

- o For many years we have pressed the SRV to permit the release and resettlement of those having been imprisoned in reeducation centers because of their service to the U.S. or the former South Vietnamese regime.
- o In September 1984, Secretary Shultz, in statements before the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, announced on behalf of President Reagan a U.S. initiative to resettle reeducation center detainees.
- o In July, 1988, the first bilateral negotiations on resettlement of detainees was held in Hanoi. At this meeting, the U.S. delegation, headed by Senior Deputy Assistant Secretary Robert L. Funseth, urged the Vietnamese authorities to release those remaining in reeducation centers and to allow them, along with former detainees, to resettle abroad.
- o The Vietnamese side reaffirmed its policy that released detainees and their close family members would be permitted to resettle abroad.
- o The two delegations reached an agreement in principle but agreed that additional exchanges of views would be required before a final agreement could be reached.
- o The U.S. delegation presented two lists of former detainees and urged the Vietnamese authorities to begin processing with these lists--one including former detainees with close family members in the U.S. and the other comprising the first tranche of a list of former detainees on whom we have approved files.
- o On August 3, 1988, the Vietnamese authorities announced that they were suspending negotiations on resettlement of detainees.
- o On June 13, Deputy Secretary Eagleburger reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to resettle these reeducation center detainees.

Draft: USDEL:RLFunseth/DLambertson  
Clear: DepSec Eagleburger



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

TALKING POINTS FOR MEETING WITH  
FAMILIES OF VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS ASSOCIATION

Wednesday, April 20, 1994  
3:30pm

I. FORMER RE-EDUCATION CAMP DETAINEE SUB-PROGRAM

- On March 31 the Vietnamese Government presented lists HO-43 and HO-44 to ODP with 2,000 cases and 8,633 names.
- We have notified the Vietnamese Government that these will be the final lists under the HO subprogram.
- In the coming months we intend to implement direct registration of former re-education camp detainees who for some reason have never been registered. This new procedure will preclude the need for any more lists.
- Direct registration will last until September 30, 1994 to ensure a smooth conclusion to this humanitarian program.
- It is our intention to no longer accept new HO applications (as well as refugee applications from former US Government and private company employees) after September 30, 1994.

II. REVISIONS TO FILE CREATION CRITERIA

- Since the start of the HO program in 1989, ODP has proposed for interview (PFI) only the cases of applicants detained for three or more years.
- However, files have been created for persons with only one to three years of re-education, in expectation that they might be considered in the future once the three-plus year re-ed cases were completed.
- Such large-scale Southeast Asian refugee admissions programs are the product of a war which ended nearly 20 years ago and must be brought to closure.
- It will not be possible to propose for interview those cases involving detainees with less than three years detention, due to the enormous increase in the size of the active caseload that would result, and because many of these are unlikely to qualify for refugee status even if presented to INS.

- Effective immediately, ODP will create (open) a file only upon submission by the applicant of any of the following items:
  - \* Documentary evidence of at least three years of detention in a re-education camp because of association with U.S. policies and programs prior to 1975, or a spousal relationship to a detainee who died as a result of or during detention;
  - \* An approved I-730 refugee relative petition or a visas 93 cable (indicating that INS has approved the I-730);
  - \* Documentary evidence of 5 years employment with the USG or U.S. business/foundation; or
  - \* A claim of Amerasian ethnicity.

Note: An exception will be made under ODP's "1-plus-1" policy, under which one year of re-ed detention, in combination with either one year of US Government or private U.S. company employment, and/or U.S.-sponsored training will serve as eligibility for interview.

- In order to end the uncertainty for persons with cases which do not meet interview criteria and to allow them to get on with their lives, re-ed cases with less than three years detention are now to be retired.
- A letter, along with any original documents, will be sent to each principal applicant, expressing appreciation for the applicant's interest in ODP, but stating that no further action on their case is anticipated.

### III. TRANSITION TO NORMAL IV PROCESSING

- The lifting of the trade embargo allows the Department and ODP to focus on the standardization of immigrant visa processing of Vietnamese. With unlimited remittances from U.S. sponsors to applicants in Vietnam now possible, applicants can now make their own travel arrangements to depart Vietnam.
  
- As part of its ongoing efforts to standardize its IV operations, ODP intends to implement the following changes in the near to mid-term future:
  - \* Collect visa and medical fees directly from the applicants, rather than through IOM as is now the case.
  - \* Mail all correspondence directly to the applicant in Vietnam rather than to the U.S. sponsor.
  - \* Shift the timing of the medical exam from after the visa interview to beforehand, in accordance with standard immigrant visa practice.
  - \* Have approved applicants book their own departures from Vietnam.
  - \* Eliminate the list system for all immigrant visa cases.
  
- These changes will help standardize ODP operations in accordance with normal IV operations used worldwide by the U.S. Government.



*Embassy of the United States of America*

**Bangkok, Thailand**

**Press Release  
US Orderly Departure Program  
June 1994**

*Summary*

The US Orderly Departure Program (ODP) has announced a September 30, 1994 deadline for new refugee applicants to register directly with the ODP office in Bangkok. The ODP family reunification sub-program is not affected by this deadline. Amerasian applicants must also register directly with ODP instead of with local government offices as before.

*Refugee Registration Deadline*

The deadline applies only to persons applying for resettlement as refugees in the U.S. who are former re-education center detainees, their widows, or former employees of the U.S. government or U.S. private companies. Applicants whose names are included on lists H-01 through H-44 must not reapply. Their applications will be processed as before. Applicants who are not registered on Lists H-01 through H-44 or have not received correspondence from ODP regarding their case, must register again under the new guidelines. Qualified applicants who register under the new system will be called to interview according to ODP's established procedures. Only people who meet the following criteria qualify for the refugee program:

1. **Persons detained in a re-education center after April 30, 1975 due to close association with programs and policies of the U.S. government, and who:**
  - spent at least three years in a re-education center, or are the widow of a former re-education center detainee who died in re-education or as a result of time spent in re-education
  - spent at least one year in a re-education center and received training outside of Vietnam under U.S. government auspices, or were employed by the U.S. government or U.S. private companies.
2. **Persons with five or more years of pre-1975 employment with the U.S. government or U.S. private companies.**

Persons who meet this criteria and wish to apply for resettlement in the US must send a letter to ODP in Bangkok. The letter must include the applicant's full name, date and place of birth and current address. Also the name, place and date of birth of the applicant's spouse and any natural or officially adopted children. If the applicant has a spouse or child who is a U.S. citizen, the name, date of birth, date of naturalization and home address of that person should also be provided. If any family member has a pending ODP application, the IV number should be noted. All applications should include documentation to support the refugee claim. Such documentation may include: a copy of any re-education camp release certificates showing arrest and release dates, documentation which shows the reason for incarceration; copies of any certificates of training received outside of Vietnam under US government auspices, awards received from the U.S. government and any documentation to verify pre-1975 employment.

***No Deadline for Family Reunification Program***

The family reunification program is not affected by the refugee registration deadline. Applicants for immigration who are the beneficiaries of petitions filed by their U.S. relatives will continue to be processed like immigrants from any other country. ODP will continue to process applicants who appear on the lists prepared by the SRV Working Group on ODP, or for whom ODP has received an approved immigrant visa petition from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

As of January 3, 1994 ODP stopped scheduling expedited interviews for single brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens and spouses and children of U.S. legal permanent residents. Previously, these and certain other applicants were routinely granted public interest parole for entry to the U.S. By June 30, 1994 ODP will complete adjudication of those cases. Now these applicants will be interviewed when their petitions become current, in accordance with worldwide U.S. immigration guidelines.

***Amerasians now register directly with ODP***

Amerasian applicants who have never registered for ODP or whose names did not appear on one of the "AC" lists through list 51-AC must now register directly with ODP. They may send ODP a letter with their name, date of birth, address and the names and dates of birth of their spouses, children, natural mother or foster parents and foster siblings under age 21 who they wish to accompany them. The letter should explain what evidence exists that the applicant is the child of an American citizen and include a close-up photo of the Amerasian's face.

All applications for ODP Amerasian and refugee programs should be sent to:

U.S. Orderly Departure Program  
127 South Sathorn Road  
Yannawa District  
Bangkok 10120  
THAILAND



Embassy of the United States of America

Su Quan Hoa Ky, Bangkok Thai Lan

**Lời Tuyên Bố Phát Cho Các Báo  
Chương Trình Ra Đi Có Trật Tự Của Hoa Kỳ  
Tháng năm 1994**

**Tóm Lược**

Chương trình ODP của Hoa Kỳ trên trọng thông báo rằng 30 tháng 9 năm 1994 là thời hạn cuối cùng dành cho các đương đơn tự nguyện đăng ký trực tiếp với văn phòng ODP tại Bangkok. Chương trình đoàn tụ gia đình không bị ảnh hưởng bởi thời hạn cuối cùng này. Các đương đơn tại Mỹ cũng phải đăng ký trực tiếp với ODP thay vì với các văn phòng địa phương như trước đây.

**Thời Hạn Cuối Cùng Đăng Ký Chương Trình Đoàn Tụ Nam**

Thời hạn cuối cùng chỉ áp dụng cho những người xin định cư ở Hoa Kỳ như những người tự nguyện, đó là những cựu tù nhân bị giam giữ trong trung tâm cải tạo, những góa phụ của họ hoặc những cựu nhân viên chính phủ Mỹ hay các công ty tư nhân Mỹ. Chương Trình ODP của Hoa Kỳ trên trọng thông báo thời hạn cuối cùng đăng ký cho tất cả đương đơn tự nguyện. 30 tháng 9 năm 1994 là ngày cuối để trình với ODP Bangkok, Thai Lan, tất cả những đơn xin tại định cư tại Hoa Kỳ theo chương trình HO dành cho đương đơn được tha từ các trung tâm cải tạo hay cựu nhân viên chính phủ Hoa Kỳ và công ty tư nhân Hoa Kỳ.

Trường hợp những đương đơn có tên trong danh sách H-01 đến H-44 không phải tại đăng ký và sẽ tiến triển như trước đây. Đương đơn chưa đăng ký trên danh sách H-01 đến H-44 hoặc chưa được ODP liên hệ, phải cần đăng ký theo chỉ dẫn mới. Với hệ thống mới, đương đơn hội đủ tiêu chuẩn sẽ được phỏng vấn theo quy chế đã có. Sau đây là tiêu chuẩn của chương trình tự nguyện:

1. Cá nhân học tập tại các trung tâm cải tạo sau ngày 30 tháng 4 năm 1975, vì hậu quả liên hệ chặt chẽ với chương trình và chính sách chính phủ Hoa Kỳ kèm theo điều kiện sau đây:
  - đã học tập ít nhất ba năm ở trung tâm cải tạo, hay là góa phụ của cá nhân qua đời tại trung tâm cải tạo hay qua đời vì hậu quả của sự học tập tại trung tâm cải tạo
  - đã học tập ít nhất một năm ở trung tâm cải tạo, cộng thêm thời gian đào tạo dưới sự bảo trợ của chính phủ Hoa Kỳ, hay đã làm việc với chính phủ Hoa Kỳ hoặc công ty tư nhân Hoa Kỳ.
2. Cá nhân với thời gian làm việc năm năm hay hơn cho chính phủ Hoa Kỳ hoặc công ty tư nhân Hoa Kỳ

Đương đơn mang tiêu chuẩn ghi trên có ý muốn tại định cư tại Hoa Kỳ cần phải gửi thư cho ODP Bangkok. Trong thư, cần ghi, tên họ, ngày và nơi sinh, và địa chỉ hiện tại. Cũng theo, tên họ, ngày và nơi sinh của vợ, con ruột hay con nuôi chính thức. Nếu đương đơn đã có vợ, chồng hay con đã nhập tịch công dân Mỹ, hãy ghi tên họ, ngày sinh, ngày nhập tịch công dân. Nếu trong gia đình có cá nhân là trường hợp tồn tại chưa giải quyết với ODP, hãy ghi số IV. Tất cả đơn xin cần phải bao gồm tài liệu chứng minh sự thành tựu tư cách Tự Nguyện. Những tài liệu có thể bao gồm: một giấy chứng nhận được phong thích từ trung tâm cải tạo ghi chú ngay bắt ngày tha, tài liệu ghi lý do bị giam, chứng chỉ đào tạo ngoài Việt Nam với sự bảo trợ của chính phủ Hoa Kỳ, tặng thưởng do chính phủ Hoa Kỳ và bất cứ tài liệu chứng minh việc làm trước 1975.

### Không có thời hạn cuối cùng cho chương trình đoàn tụ gia đình

Chương trình đoàn tụ gia đình không bị ảnh hưởng bởi thời hạn cuối cùng đăng ký diện tị nạn. Các đương đơn di dân là những người thụ hưởng đơn xin của thân nhân tại Hoa Kỳ sẽ tiếp tục được xử lý như những di dân đến từ bất cứ quốc gia nào. ODP sẽ tiếp tục tiến hành các đương đơn có tên trong danh sách được chuẩn bị bởi tổ công tác ODP của chính phủ Việt Nam hoặc của những người mà ODP đã nhận được đơn xin chiếu khải di dân đã được chấp thuận của Sở Di trú và Nhập tịch Hoa Kỳ.

Tháng 1 năm 1994, ODP đã ngưng xử lý đơn xin nhập tịch những anh chị em còn độ thân của các công dân Mỹ và con cái của các thường trú nhân hợp pháp Hoa Kỳ. Trước đây, những đương đơn này đã được ban cho diện tạm dung vì công lịch đã vào Mỹ. Vào 30 tháng 6 năm 1994, ODP sẽ hoàn tất phán quyết cho những trường hợp này. Hiện tại, các đương đơn sẽ được phong vấn khi đơn xin của họ tới thời hạn, trong sự thỏa thuận với các nguyên tắc chỉ đạo của di trú Hoa Kỳ khắp thế giới.

### Con lại hiện đăng ký trực tiếp với ODP

Các đương đơn con lại chưa từng bao giờ đăng ký với ODP hoặc tên chưa bao giờ xuất hiện trên một danh sách "AC" nào cho tới danh sách AC-51 phải đăng ký trực tiếp với ODP. Các em có thể gửi đến ODP một thư với tên của các em, ngày sinh, địa chỉ và tên cũng ngày sinh của vợ/chồng, con gái, mẹ ruột hay cha mẹ nuôi và anh chị em cùng mẹ khác cha dưới 21 tuổi của các em, những người muốn đi theo các em. La thư nên cất nghĩa những chứng cứ hiện có chứng tỏ rằng đương đơn là con của một công dân Hoa Kỳ bao gồm một hình chụp sát mặt của trẻ lại Mỹ.

Tất cả các đơn xin cho chương trình trở lại Mỹ và tị nạn của ODP nên được gửi tới:

US Orderly Departure Program  
127 South Sathorn Road  
Yannawa District Bangkok 10120  
THAILAND



# HỘI GIA-ĐÌNH TÙ NHÂN CHÍNH-TRỊ VIỆT-NAM

FAMILIES OF VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 5435, ARLINGTON, VA. 22205-0635

Telephone: (703) 560-0058 \* Fax: (703) 204-0394

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September 19, 1994

The Honorable Phyllis Oakley  
Senior Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Bureau for Refugees Programs  
Department of State  
Washington, DC. 20520

Dear Ms. Oakley:

On behalf of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association, we would like to take this time to expressly thank the United States Government, and especially the Department of State for your efforts in securing the release of Vietnamese political prisoners. Thus far, more than a hundred thousand prisoners and their families have been afforded an opportunity to experience freedom in this great country. Due to your assistance in the resettlement efforts they have begun to rebuild their lives and allow the healing process to begin as they make the effort to become productive members of this society.

Over the years we have experienced a very pleasant and positive working relationship with your predecessors, the Honorable Robert Funseth and Priscilla Clapp. The exchange of information and dialogues have fostered a line of communication and openness that we look forward to maintaining with you and members of your staff. We would like to set up a meeting with you so that we may get acquainted and to personally thank you. The meeting would afford us an opportunity to address our issues and concerns as they relate to the political prisoners, particularly the deadline of September 30, 1994 for application to the HO program.

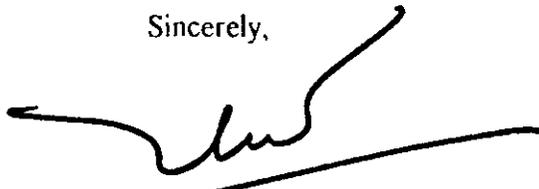
It would be our preference to have members of our delegation to meet with you in the late afternoon, at your earliest convenience. Please feel free to contact me and let us know when your schedule will permit such a meeting.

The Honorable Phyllis Oakley  
Senior Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Bureau for Refugee Programs  
Department of State  
September 19, 1994  
Page 2

In addition, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for sending Mr. William Fleming to our Appreciation Day/Reception at the Senate on July 26, 1994 to help celebrate freedom for the many Vietnamese political prisoners. The affair allowed many of the former political prisoners, and members of their families, to personally thank the many people who have contributed to their freedom and assisted them with resettlement.

Again, our grateful appreciation for your continued support and commitment. We look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely,



---

Mrs. Khuc Minh Tho  
President



# HỘI GIA-ĐÌNH TÙ NHÂN CHÍNH-TRỊ VIỆT-NAM

FAMILIES OF VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 5435, ARLINGTON, VA. 22205-0635

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September 20, 1994

Ms. Theresa L. Rusch  
Director, Office of Admissions  
Bureau for Refugee Programs  
Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Ms. Rusch:

On behalf of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association, I am writing regarding the Revised Procedures for requesting Orderly Departure Program (ODP) Status Information.

We would like to thank you on behalf of our members in the United States, Vietnam and other countries for this information on how to access ODP; however, given some difficulties encountered, we would like to request a review and/or changes to the procedure.

We have experienced numerous problems trying to make telephone connections during the times allotted in the revised procedure. Since we are a non-profit organization, with limited funds, we are finding that this is an added expense that limits our ability to provide assistance to those in need.

In the past, we have had the pleasure and experienced the success of having a liaison in your agency to whom we could make the inquiries and found that the responses were received in a timely and professional manner. We would like to see that liaison position continued. In addition, it would be helpful to have a hotline telephone number included in the procedures that would allow for an extension of the normal hours.

I would also like to point out that the National Visa Center only retains non-current petitions. Therefore, this facility is unable to advise us about the status of current petitions forward to ODP in Bangkok. This creates particular problems for former political prisoner refugees who are eligible for immigrant petitions through family members residing in the United

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Ms. Theresa L. Rusch  
Director, Office of Admissions  
Bureau for Refugee Programs  
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States. These cases cannot be processed via HO lists, and yet they are unable to obtain timely information about their current IV petitions.

We have always viewed the services offered by the Bureau for Refugee Programs to be helpful and feel that these added considerations would serve to enhance the program's effectiveness while serving the needs of those it was designed to assist.

We have tried to use the new procedures but we have encountered many problems. We believe that the high volume and unique circumstances of ODP processing require a full-time liaison position within your office located in Washington, D.C. The timeliness and reliability of information concerning specific cases is critical at this time due to the deadline. This service can reassure members and friends of the Association that the cases of the former political prisoners are in the system in a way understandable by their friends and family in the United States and Vietnam.

Please contact me with any questions and/or concerns you have regarding this request for consideration.

Again, we look forward to a continued working relationship and are willing to offer our assistance should you deem it necessary. Thanking you again for your continued support and commitment to the needs of those served by the Bureau for Refugee Programs.

Sincerely,



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(Mrs.) Khuc Minh Tho  
President