

27 Feb 1989

Dear THO:

Thanks for the copy of your special 1988 newsletter of FVPPA. It was very interesting and contained some info I had heard about but had never seen in writing. Particularly, the payment of Travels by sponsor's existing VN thru INS. With your permission I would like to use this info in SMA's next newsletter.

I was interested in your Q + A particularly Q3 Pg5. For the past 40+ yrs I have been working on a case where the Principal was a DR in NYAF. He trained at Army Hospital in Fort Bragg. For some reason ODP could not verify his U.S. training. Finally, I was able to obtain papers confirming the DR. U.S. training which I forwarded to ODP. After the fall of Saigon the DR was put in re-ed camp along with his brother-in-law also a DR. The DR who trained in the U.S. wife was a graduate dentist with her own office but the VNG will not allow her to practice. Her husband was sick in re-ed and they didn't want him to die in camp so they released him from camp and sent him to Hospital then he was released and sent home. He died shortly thereafter. His wife filed for LOI using her husband's Criteria. Beardsley said she could not use her husband benefits. See his letter of 11 Aug, 1988 attached. I wrote to Ricki Gold and asked for clarification and a copy of the law or policy that established this requirement. I have not received a reply. I understand Tom Doubleday has my letter. Now I wrote to the wife in VN and asked her to provide documentation (Dr. report if possible) of her husband health prior to entering Re-Ed & his treatment in Re-Ed

and treatment received in Hospital. She provided this info which I have sent to Ricki Gold & ODP. Still no response.

I have received info on a man who while in re-ed talked against the VNA. He was taken to a arena nearby and shot. In another case a wife wrote that she had not heard from her husband in re-ed camp & had not been able to visit. She finally got money to visit the camp only to be taken to his grave within the camp.

* Here you heard of the service the VNA set-up last year in conjunction with the office that issues E.P. I am enclosing a letter dated Jan 21 1989 from a good friend. Her father was a DR, she has a sister (nurse) in France. I send all my mail to France & it is sent to VNA and hand delivered. Although my friend say the price is much less than before - I have received letters asking for money to pay the fee. Just another way of slowing down the processing of E.P. I have advised Ricki Gold.

I am also including a couple of pages from Indo China Chronology with some interesting info. see pg 31 SRV Public Welfare Duty.

Remember when I stayed at your house I was gathering info on the CBA crash. Well finally on 20 May 89 SMT will dedicate a Memorial to ALL those killed in the crash. I just received a book FOR CHILDREN CANNOT WAIT by Sister Susan (Carol) McDonald S.L. 2 nurse at

The New Haven Nursery who put a lot of the Orphans on the CSA. The book tells of the life in the Orphanages, mentions names of individuals who helped in the orphanages has pictures of orphans CSA & of some who survived & arrived in the U.S. The book is in English, French & German.

One of your boys told me that his Aunt & sister helped put orphans on the CSA. He told me her name but I have misplaced it, I wanted to see if it was mentioned in the book.

Have you received any news on your husband?

Please excuse my rambling. Keep up the good work & stay in touch

Your Friend
Cazwell J. Page

Cazwell J. Page
Singing Oaks
P. O. Box 181
Wexford, PA 15090

Ph 412-936-1697

X They talk of speeding processing of ODP gases up then they start this procedure to slow it down



Embassy of the United States of America
Bangkok, Thailand

August 11, 1988

Cazwell J. Page
Singing Oaks
P.O. Box 181
Wexford, PA 15090

Dear Mr. Page:

This is in response to your letters of December 15, 1987 and March 8, 1988 concerning a number of the U.S. Orderly Departure Program (ODP) cases. Following are our answers to your questions regarding these cases.

IV-234228: The applicants on this file are Nguyen Thi Truyen, Vu Thi Kim Van, Vu Minh Tan, Vu Chinh Dung and Vu Thi Kim Nga.

IV-81247: Per your request, we are sending you a copy of the file worksheet listing the applicants' names.

IV-46411: In 1986 we sent a Letter of Introduction (LOI) to Nguyen Van Binh in Vietnam. Per your request, we are sending you a copy of the LOI.

IV-83327: We have reviewed the case and are sending an LOI to you to forward to Tu Van Hoa and family in Vietnam. They should present the LOI to the security office in the area where they live, in conjunction with their applications for emigration, as a preliminary step to an eventual interview for the United States ODP.

The Affidavit of Relationship (AOR) which we earlier requested from Duong Dinh Nga is no longer needed as he is not Tu Van Hoa's close relative.

IV-56799:

We have reviewed the case and are sending you an LOI to forward to Nguyen Huu Ngan and family in Vietnam for their use in applying to the Vietnamese authorities for emigration.

IV-97097:

On July 7, 1988, we sent a questionnaire to Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong in Vietnam to complete and return to us. Once we receive it, we will be able to determine what actions to be taken regarding this case.

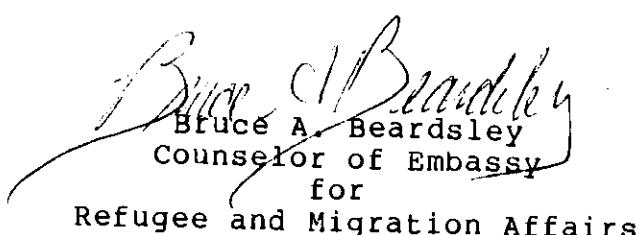
IV-113757:

This case includes Lai Thi Qui, her children, her parents and her sister. It is being processed on the basis of the Affidavit of Relationship (AOR) filed by Pham Van Trinh, Lai Thi Qui's uncle in the U.S. Unfortunately, we are unable to process this case on the basis of Lai Thi Qui's late husband's training in the U.S. ODP policy does not allow relatives to derive benefits from deceased family members unless it can be proven that their death came as a result of their association with the U.S., for example in re-education camp.

Please note that we have no record of Le Thanh Danh (DOB: September 25, 1946).

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely,


Bruce A. Beardsley
Counselor of Embassy
for
Refugee and Migration Affairs

January 21, 1989

Dear Mr. Page,

Due to the strike of the French Post Office's personnel which lasted for more than 2 months, mail to and from France was delayed and I didn't receive your letter of Nov. 30th until 2 days ago. Thank you for writing to me. Nghi also complained that she did not receive my letters. In her letter of Dec. 16 which she sent along with yours, she indicated that 2 weeks earlier she had mailed your Xmas cards to me but so far I haven't received them. Only hope they won't be lost.

I have handed your letters to Messrs. Minh, Ngan and Muu. I'll deliver your letter to Mr. Nhat later because I'll have to look on the map to see where his sheet is located. The name of the street is new and is not familiar to me.

I checked with the local security office late Dec. to see if they had forwarded my application for Exit Permit to the other office yet but they haven't. I'll check with them again after Tet. The Security Office of the 1st District is the one that keeps those applications the longest. Before they used to keep them for 5, 6 months before they processed them to the other office. So I think mine will also have to wait that long. Moreover, there are tens of thousands of 1982, 1983, 1984 application files stacked up at the Nguyen Du office waiting for processing of Exit Permits, and they have to be through with those cases before they start working on the 1988 ones.

The UN authorities have set up a service to help process the applications for Exit Permits. This service works in coordination with the offices in charge of issuing Exit Permits. Anyone who wants to have his/her papers processed for Exit Permit has to sign an agreement with this office and pay a charge. But compared with the amount of gold you had to bribe before in order to speed up the process for Exit Permit, their charge is much lower. This service started working last Sept. and so far has only taken care of the 1982, 1983 and 1984 applications. They only accept to help those cases who have the "Exit Promise" of the country they apply to go. Since too many people have approached this service

for help you will have to wait for 10 or 12 months before you can obtain your Exit Permit. First you have to apply for signing the agreement; they then give you an appointment and from the day you apply till the day you are able to sign the agreement it will be a lapse of 5, 6 months. Then from the day you sign the agreement till the day you get the Exit Permit it will be a lapse of another 5, 6 months. So, it won't go faster but you have to go through this Service and pay them, otherwise your application file will be at the bottom of their desk and won't be processed for Exit Permit. In a word, if this is just a way of the UN authorities to get money from those who want to go. So I think, when my turn comes, I'll also have to go through this Service in order to have the Exit Permit. This Service also accepts those cases who were rejected provided that they have the Enby Promise of the country they apply to go. When I dropped by Iugen's house the last time to give her your letter she was ~~out~~ teaching. So I gave the letter to her daughter. Then a few weeks later she came to my house; she looked all right. She said she was busy teaching all mornings of the week and also taught a few nights in her area. She told me she had cancelled her daughter's wedding and had moved to another place since the house's owner ~~was~~ as wanted to have the house back to sell it. The house her family moved to is also located in the District Gobap District and is a rented one. She also showed me how to get to her new house. Mr. Page, I really don't understand the true story of Iugen's house. All I know is that she didn't have the house built as she indicated when she ~~came~~ came to me asking for help. & that more than a year ago, she dropped by my house and in tears complained that the house's owner was asking the house back and her family had to move out by the end of the month. She said she had got a piece of land and asked me if I could financially help her so that she could have a thatch house built. Then a few months later she came complaining that she was having problem with the land owner because they

wanted the piece of land back. They would refund her. Then some months later she came saying that her family had moved to another house which was located deeper in the alley. She showed me how to get to her new house and I did drop by twice. I didn't want to ask her the true story of her house's problem since I knew she wouldn't tell me the truth. Mr. Page, in your letter you mentioned about Vinh and Bich. Who ~~are~~ are they? Is Bich Duyen's daughter? Mr. Page, I don't agree with the way Duyen behaves to you. She takes too much advantage of your kindness. She is nice but maybe because of her poverty she is not quite honest and tells lies in order to get help.

I don't think the area Duyen lives is shown on the ~~map~~ map since it is in an alley of Nguyen Kiem street. The last time Duyen dropped by my house which was a few weeks ago she said she had applied to sign the agreement with the Service in Dec. and was given an appointment for signing in June this year.

Business men, producers, manufacturers have complained about high taxes, unlogical taxes and duplication of taxes. Some manufacturers complained that after selling their products and paying all the taxes they couldn't afford to buy raw materials to again produce the items. Some of them feared if this continued they would go bankrupt. Home made products worth of millions of đồng have been stacked up in the warehouses because they cannot be sold. One of the reasons is that these goods cannot compete with the imported ones because of the poor quality. Most of the manufacturers only care for the quantity, not the quality. As a result the quality of their products has been going down. Another reason is that they can't get the good raw material for their products.

Robberies, drug addicts, alcoholism, prostitution etc... have been increasing alarmingly. There is a gang of youngsters who practice robbery by cutting the hands and arms of the bende riders before they rob their vehicles. About 20 persons have been the

victims of such a robbery, also, gangs of teen age boys hang around the schools and if they see any school child having any thing worth of money they will come and rob it. There is a center to treat the drug addicts but it does not bring much result. Drugs are clandestinely sold right in the center and once the drug addicts are released from this institution most of them will again get themselves involved in drugs.

People in the Buyen Hai district (a district along the border of the Saigon river) have been starving because of the loss of their crop. Salted water got into their rice fields and killed the rice plants. A lot of rice has been sent to this district for famine relief. Before it also happened once or twice that the rice crop in this locality was lost but the inhabitants did not starve because they could catch shrimp and fish in the river for their living. Now the authorities of the collective farms there have monopolized this source of income and the people have not had any means for their living. 3 or 4 months ago it happened in a province in the delta - that hundreds of tons of rice turned out to be poison and caused deaths to some of the people there. The reason was that the rice was carelessly stored in a warehouse which had been used to keep the insecticide. Disregarding the warning of the Health Service, the Food Service sold out some of the rice. People who ate that poisonous rice were killed.

It was good to hear that every body in your family was all right. I hope your wife's knee and hip will soon be healed.

Well I must close for now and write to Ughi. Hope this letter will reach you soon. With best wishes to you, Sue and Marc, hoping to hear from you again.

Yours sincerely,
Det

P.S. Mr. Mink said that their children have moved often. So I did not ask him for their address. I have not at all heard from Hung since he came to the U.S.

SMA's 14th REUNION

SMA will hold its 14th reunion 19, 20, 21 May 1989 at the Dayton (Ohio) Marnott. Sat. 20 May will be a busy day at 10 AM our annual business meeting, at 2 PM a Memorial Service and at 7 PM our Banquet.

At 2 PM on 20 May SMA will hold a memorial service in Memorial Park at Wright-Patterson AFB to HONOR ALL the persons who were killed in the CSA crash 4 April 1975. Our memorial will be a Oak Tree with stone and inscribed plaque. No names will be inscribed. A program is being developed listing the names of all those killed i.e. U.S. civilians, A.F. personnel and Third World Nationals. Our speakers will be Gen. Hansen, C.G. AFLC and M.G's Murray and Smith. We will also have a HONOR GUARD, FIRING Party, Taps and Possibly a fly over.

Details will be included in our next two news letter. It is expected banquet cost will be in the neighborhood of \$25. You may make hotel reservations for the reunion by calling the Hotel's Reservation Department 800-228-9290. Singles \$50 Doubles \$66. Make sure you tell the reservation clerk that you are with the Saigon Mission Association.

We would appreciate it if you would pass the word to former DAO employees and all others who might be interested.

Anyone interested in helping to defray expenses of the Memorial can send their contribution marked SMA-Memorial Fund to Ed. Rudzinski, 1 Commander Drive Hampton, VA 23666

A good speaker has been obtained for the banquet.

Won't you join us in honoring those who gave their life in a humanitarian cause.

CAB

Budget for 1987 (Đ425.778 billion revenue, 14.937 expenditure). (Radio Hanoi Dec. 27, FBIS-EAS 88-249).

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SRV Criminal Procedure Code. Directive of CM Chm. Đô Mười on implementation of the Law on Criminal Procedures, which is to be put into effect on Jan. 1, 1989. (Radio Hanoi Oct. 22, FBIS-EAS 88-208).

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Heng Samrin. Text of speech delivered by KPRP Gen. Sec. Heng Samrin to the PRK Army Congress on Oct. 29 in Phnom Penh, summarizing army's achievements and outlining future tasks. (Radio Phnom Penh Oct. 29, FBIS-EAS 88-211).

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Nguyen Van Linh. A speech delivered by the VCP Gen. Secretary on youth education, delivered before the "Third National Conference of Good Cadres in Charge of the Ho Chi Minh Vanguard Teenager Unit" (HCMTVU), held in Hanoi Nov. 13, was broadcast by Hanoi Nov. 14, FBIS-EAS 88-221. In an interview in Hanoi with correspondent Roland Leroy Linh discusses prospects for economic reform in Vietnam and Vietnam's position regarding Kampuchea. Published in L'Humanite (of the French Communist Party) Oct. 28, FBIS-EAS 88-218.

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Lao Reform. The LPRP Gen. Sec. Kaysone Phomvihan's five part article, "Renovation and Development", a lengthy statement on where Laos has been and where it is going, was carried by Radio Vientiane Dec. 9, 10, 11 (FBIS-EAS 88-243/250).

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SRV Public Welfare Duty. The regulations on "labor duty for public welfare" were promulgated Nov. 21 by the SRV Council of State. All citizens are expected to work up to ten days a year gratis on road building, water conservancy and similar state projects (which sounds suspiciously like 19th century corvee labor). (Radio Hanoi Nov. 22, JPRS-SEA 88-048).

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Vietnam Journals. The Indochina Archive has received a collection of back issues of Hanoi academic journals (five titles, about 50 copies) dated the 1980's which may be consulted at the Archive. The titles: Ngôn Ngữ Học (Linguistics), Văn Hóa Dân Gian (Folklore); Khảo Cố Học (Archaeology); Xã Hội Học (Sociological Review), Vietnam Social Sciences (in English).

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Tee-shirts. An extraordinarily large selection of Vietnam War tee-shirts is available for about \$11 each from Sin Loi productions, 11001 N. Main St., Gainsville, FL 32601.

Policy Papers. The quarter was the season for gratuitous advance advice from think tanks and others as to what the incoming Bush administration should do or not do about Vietnam, the Kampuchean war and the problems of Indochinese countries in general:

* "Recommendations for the New Administration on United States Policy Toward Indochina." From Dick Clark and the Indochina Policy Forum of the Aspen Institute. The work of a fairly large number of academics, government people and others who are more or less centrist in their political views (with a few left of center thrown in). As a group they appear to be a bit more credulous about what is possible with respect to improved U.S.-Vietnamese relations than is justified by the current disarray on the Hanoi leadership scene. In time they may prove to be correct, but as with the prayer of the author awaiting word from his prospective publishers: "How Long, Oh Lord, How Long?" Address: The Aspen Institute, Wye Center, P.O. Box 222, Queenstown, MD 21658.

* "Peace in Indochina and Stability in Southeast Asia." A white paper issued by the National United Front for the Liberation of Vietnam. This major emigre organization argues that the First Principle of the future U.S. relations/policies with Hanoi should be domestic Vietnam improvement, that is the test question should always be: will this improve the economic condition and expand the rights and freedoms of the Vietnamese people? Address: NUFRONLIV, P.O. Box 7826, San Jose, CA 95150.

* Unfilled Hopes: The Humanitarian Parole/Immigrant Visa Program for Border Cambodians" by the U.S. Committee for Refugees. A well balanced and thoughtful analysis of the refugee/immigrant problem, which is bad and is going to get worse before it gets better. With recommendations. Address: 1025 Vermont Ave., N.W., Suite 920, Washington, D.C. 20005. Tel.: 202-347-3507.

* "Coping With Gorbachev's Soviet Union" by Stephen Sestanovich, et al, Center for Strategic and International Studies (Washington, D.C.). Four essays on what the advent of Mikhail Gorbachev means to future U.S. foreign policy in general (with applications to Asia/Indochina). Address: 1800 K Street, N.W., Suite 400, Washington, D.C. 20006. Tel.: 202-887-0200.

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Vietnam Gear Wanted. The U.S. Marine Corps museum (in the Washington, D.C. Navy Yard) is looking for memorabilia — Corps and other — from the Vietnam War. Those with items to donate should write: Miss Jennifer Gooding, Registrar, Marine Corps Museum, Building 58, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C. 20374-0580.

Address: 1629 K St., N.W., 7th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20006.

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N.E.D. The National Endowment for Democracy (Chairman John Richardson) is a federally funded foundation with the mixed ambience of trade union and chamber of commerce. It is dedicated to defending and if possible expanding democracy (i.e. pluralistic, equalitarian self-determined governance) worldwide. It has an annual budget of \$18 million, a staff of 20, and runs a large number of programs in the U.S. and abroad (many in Latin America). It also has a modest Vietnam program, assisting Que Me, a magazine of the Paris based Free Trade Union Institute (\$35,000); also Doan Van Toai's Institute for Democracy in Vietnam (\$40,000) which is headquartered in Washington. The Foundation's annual report is available from its headquarters at 1101 15th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

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BIOGRAPHIC NOTES

* Nguyễn Văn Linh. The VCP's secretary general was reported (mid-December) undergoing medical treatment in Ho Chi Minh City, possibly is seriously ill. (Kyodo Dec. 13, FBIS-EAS 88-239; FEER Dec. 29).

* Trần Xuân Bach. The new and little known Hanoi Politburo member becomes a leading contender for the Party secretary-general post if and when Nguyễn Văn Linh leaves (as it is rumored he will, due to poor health), according to foreign press speculation. Bach is regarded as a reformer acceptable to the conservatives. He has long been associated with Lê Đức Tho and his brothers. (FEER Jan. 5, 1989).

* François Xavier Nguyễn Văn Thuân. The Roman Catholic Archbishop Co-Adjutor (dep. archbishop) of Saigon, incarcerated for 13 years, has been released from prison without trial according to Radio Vatican (Nov. 30). Hanoi officials insist the bishop, 60, was being re-educated not imprisoned. (Reuters Dec. 1; San Francisco Examiner Dec. 1, Asiaweek Dec. 16).

* PAVN Lt. Gen. Vũ Lang (aka Đỗ Đức Liễn) of the SRV Min. of Defense died in a Moscow hospital Oct. 22. Lang was wartime commander of MR 3 in the early 1970's, held various military education posts since the war. (Radio Hanoi Nov. 1, FBIS-EAS 88-215).

* ARVN Lt. Gen. Nguyễn Vĩnh Nghi. After 13 years in a re-education camp, the still defiant former infantry commander is interviewed by a foreign journalist. He says most of his incarceration was in the North, that he remains unpersuaded about communism and waits only for

permission to emigrate to the U.S. (John Schidlovsky in The Baltimore Sun Nov. 30).

* Võ Quý. The dean of biology at the University of Hanoi and authority on reforestation is honored by the World Wide Fund for Nature for his conservation work in Indochina. Quý receives a gold medal from Britain's Prince Philip in Hong Kong ceremonies. Quý heads an organization in Vietnam that planted 500 million saplings in 1988. (Asiaweek Nov. 18).

* Nguyễn Ngọc. The editor of Vietnam's major cultural magazine, Văn Nghệ is fired (early December) for challenging the Party's authority to determine the contents of his magazine, according to western press reports. The action is seen as a blow to the intellectual openness promised by the reformers in Hanoi. (Murray Hiebert in FEER Jan. 1, 1989).

* Võ Nguyên Giáp. The former PAVN Commander, now in charge of the SRV campaign to enlarge and train the country's corps of scientists and technicians, presides at a conference (Oct. 3 in Hanoi) over the application of science and technology to agriculture. (Radio Hanoi Oct. 3, FBIS-EAS 88-194).

* Đỗ Mười. A short new official biography of the SRV's recently named prime minister appears in the August Vietnam Courier. Additional details on Do Muoi's thinking is the interview by Peter Seidlitz in the Nov. 29 issue of Handelsblatt (Dusseldorf) (FBIS-EAS 88-232).

* Mai Văn Hanh. The resistance movement leader who infiltrated Vietnam from France and was captured in 1984, was granted a pardon and allowed to join his family in Paris. Hanh was sentenced to death on Dec. 18, 1984, later commuted to life imprisonment following appeal by the French government. (VNA Dec. 24, FBIS-EAS 88-249).

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Khmer Refugees - The Khmer Rouge accelerated its relocation of Khmer civilians from Thai refugee camps to staging areas near the Kampuchea border — out of sight of U.N., Red Cross and other relief agency observers. Some 15,000 (of 58,000 Khmer Rouge refugees) have been moved since June. Between 5,000 and 9,000 from O-Trao camp were moved to camps near the O'Bok pass region in northern Kampuchea. Nearly 60,000 refugees are now located in Khmer Rouge satellite villages and military camps. The relocations are interpreted as Khmer Rouge preparations for the final departure of PAVN troops. (The New York Times [Steven Erlanger] Nov. 13, 20, Dec. 11; FEER [Murray Hiebert] Dec. 1; Neue Zürcher Zeitung [Friedemann Bartu], San Francisco Examiner, Dec. 25; VONADK Nov. 29, FBIS-EAS 88-231).

VIETNAM YEARE

The following information on Vietnam is reprinted from The World Fact Book 1988, by the Central Intelligence Agency, published by the U.S. National Technical Information Service, 1988:

GEOGRAPHY

Total area: 329,560 km, land area: 325,360

Comparative area: slightly larger than New Mexico.

Land Boundaries: 3,818 km total; Cambodia 982 km, China 1,281 km, Laos 1,555 km

Coastline: 3,444 km (excluding islands)

Maritime claims:

Contiguous zone: 24 nautical miles

Continental shelf: edge of continental margin or 200 nautical miles

Extended economic zone: 200 nautical miles

Territorial sea: 12 nautical miles

Disputes: three sections of the boundary with Cambodia are in dispute; occupied Cambodia on Dec. 25, 1978; sporadic border clashes with China; involved in a complex dispute over the Spratly Islands with China, Malaysia, Philippines, and Taiwan; maritime boundary dispute with China in the Gulf of Tonkin; Paracel Islands occupied by China but claimed by Vietnam and Taiwan

Climate: tropical in the south; monsoonal in the north with hot, rainy season (mid-May to mid-September) and warm, dry season (mid-October to mid-March)

Terrain: low, flat delta in south and north; central highlands; hilly mountainous in far north and northwest

Natural resources: phosphates, coal, manganese, bauxite, apatite, chromate, possible offshore oil deposits, forests

Land use: 22% arable land; 2% permanent crops; 1% meadows and pastures; 40% forest and woodland; 35% other; includes 5% irrigated

Environment: occasional typhoons (May to January) with extensive flooding

PEOPLE

Population: 65,185,278 (July 1988), average annual growth rate 2.48%

Ethnic divisions: 85-90% predominantly Vietnamese, 3% Chinese; ethnic minorities include Muong, Thai, Hmong, Khmer, Man, Cham; other mountain tribes

Religion: Buddhist, Confucian, Taoist, Roman Catholic, Cao Dai, Hoa Hao, Islamic, Protestant

Language: Vietnamese (official), French, Chinese, English, Khmer, tribal languages (Mon-Khmer and Malayo-Polynesian)

Infant mortality rate: 61/1,000 (1984)

Life expectancy: 62 men, 66 women

Literacy: 78%

Labor force: 31.9 million, not including military (1986)

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GOVERNMENT

Long-form name: Socialist Republic of Vietnam; abbreviated SRV

Type: Communist state

Capital: Hanoi

Administrative divisions: 37 provinces (tinh), 3 municipalities* — An Giang, Bac Thai, Ben Tre, Binh Tri Thien, Cao Bang, Cuu Long, Dac Lac, Dong Nai, Dong Thap, Gia-Lai-Cong Tum, Ha Bac, Hai Hung, Hai Phong*, Ha Nam Ninh, Ha Noi*, Ha Son Binh, Ha Tuyen, Hau Giang, Hoang Lien Son, Ho Chi Minh*, Kien Giang, Lai Chau, Lam Dong, Lang Son, Long An, Minh Hai, Nghe Tinh, Nghia Binh, Phu Khanh, Quang Nam-Da Nang, Quang Ninh, Song Be, Son La, Tay Ninh, Thai Binh, Thanh Hoa, Thuan Hai, Tien Giang, Vinh Phu, Vung Tau-Con Dao

Independence: Sept. 2, 1945 (from France)

Constitution: Dec. 18, 1980

Legal system: based on Communist legal theory and French civil law system

National holiday: Sept. 2

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Branches: unicameral legislature (national Assembly); highest authority of the land is technically the Council of State, whose chairman serves as the country's President; Council of Ministers oversees implementation of party policies — chairman is equivalent of premier

Leaders: Nguyen Van Linh Secretary General of the Communist Party (since Dec. 1986); Do Muoi, Prime Minister (since June 1988); Vo Chi Cong, President (since June 1987)

Suffrage: universal over age 18

Elections: pro forma elections held for national and local assemblies; last election for the 496 deputies to the National Assembly held on April 19, 1987, the third election since Vietnam was unified under Communist rule in 1975

Political party and leader: Vietnam Communist Party (VCP), Nguyen Van Linh

Communists: nearly 2 million

Member of: ADB, CMEA, Columbo Plan, ESCAP, FAO, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, IDA, IAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, INTELSAT, IRC, ITU, Mekong Committee, NAM, UN, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UPU, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

* * * *

ECONOMY

GNP: \$12.4 billion, \$200 per capita (1986 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices): 700.0% (1986)

Agriculture: rice, rubber, fruits and vegetables; some corn, manioc, sugarcane; major food imports — wheat, corn, dairy products

Fishing: catch 539,000 metric tons (1984)

Industries: food processing, textiles, machine building, mining, cement, chemical fertilizer, glass, tires, oil

Shortages: foodgrains, petroleum, capital goods and machinery, fertilizer, insecticides, spare parts, raw materials

Electricity: 2,024,000 kW capacity; 5,500 million kWh produced, 85 kWh per capita (1987)

Exports: \$785 million (1986); agricultural and handicraft products, coal, minerals, ores

Imports: \$1,590 million (1986); petroleum, steel products, railroad equipment, chemicals, medicines, raw cotton, fertilizer, grain

Trade partners: exports — USSR, Eastern Europe, Japan, Singapore; imports — USSR, Eastern Europe, Japan, Singapore

Monetary conversion rate: official rate 368 dong=US\$1 (Dec. 1987) (note: official rate changed Nov. 17, 1988 to 2,600 dong=US\$1; see Vietnam Chronology of this issue)

Fiscal year: calendar year

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COMMUNICATIONS

Railroads: 2,943 km total; 2,371 1.000-meter gauge, 130 km standard gauge, 230 km dual gauge

Highways: about 85,000 km total; 9,400 km bituminous, 48,700 km gravel or improved earth, 26,900 km unimproved earth

Pipelines: 150 km, refined products

Inland waterways: about 17,702 km navigable; more than 5,149 km navigable at all times by vessels up to 1.8 meters draft

Ports: 9 major, 23 minor

Civil air: controlled by military

Airfields: 100 total, 100 usable; 50 with permanent-surface runways; 10 with runways 2,440-3,659 m; 20 with runways 1,220-2,439 m

Telecommunications: 35,000 telephones in Ho Chi Minh City (1984); 16 AM, 1 FM, 2 TV stations; 2,300,000 TV sets; 6,000,000 receiver sets; at least 2 satellite ground stations

* * * * *

DEFENSE FORCES

Branches: Army, Navy, Air Force

Military manpower: males 15-49, 15,476,000; 9,869,000 fit for military service; 745,000 reach military age (17) annually

Military budget: 40-50% of central government budget (1987 est.)

31 Oct 86

Dear Tho:

Hope this finds you and your family in the best of health. Everyone ok here. That is at this moment about 5 months ago Mac fell broke his leg & damaged knee cap (anterior). Sue visited Norfolk 1st of Oct. got something in her eye - rubbed it & got eye scratch. Had to go to doctor, he wouldn't let her drive home for three weeks.

I am sending you copy of latest SMA newsletter and two articles in French I received from a friend Huyoh Quang Chi. I can't read but would like to know what they say so I could include in next newsletter. From the pictures I assume some of it deals with the VNG making France consolidate and or remove all of the French cemeteries from VN. In '83 the VNG destroyed the French cemetery near downtown Saigon & the French Gov't has paid a large sum of money to get the

new flower remains from the large cemetery out by TSN.
(2,500 vnd per box) Can you get Vietnamese Christmas cards? 1500
or 5.00 per dozen plus how much - how many per box etc?

When Sue was in VA she bought me a desk Flag set American Flag & Poly/MIA Flag. Have you seen them or do you know who has them. Would like to get some more. Sue got at Langley Air Base air show but doesn't think LAFB was selling them.

I got a letter from GIOI - said he was working
I got a good friend in VN son & daughter

accepted to enter the U.S. They escaped VN by Boat + got to Indonesia. They are now in the Philippines, studying English + U.S. culture. In fact the girl is teaching English. They want me to Sponsor them. Do you know anything about sponsorship requirement. Do you have to earn so much - have enough room etc.

Tell everyone hello -

Your Friend
az Dage

SENTEURS DE LA TERRE
SOMBRE

Le général de Gaulle a préparé un
message à l'attention de ceux à recevoir
les 26 000 soldats français
tombés au combat. Des corps
épuisés, épuisés, n'ont pas pu être
enterrés dans les deux dernières

INDOCHINE

Retour de l'enfer

**La France rapatrie vingt-six mille de ses soldats
tombés en Indochine.
Morts pour préserver le pays du gouлаг.
Les survivants témoignent.**

RETURN FROM HELL (Retour de l'enfer)

Roissy, Friday, 10 Oct. 6 A.M.

The regular flight of Air France linking Ho Chi Minh to Paris lands, carrying remains of those who died for France in Indochina — the biggest posthumous operation of repatriation of all time.

26,000 dead belonging to the French expeditionary force will thus go on their last flight. At the rate of 700 per week, 7000 will leave the cemetery at Tan Son Nhut, the airport of former Saigon. And 18,000 from the cemetery at Ba Huyen, near Hanoi, by next year.

In the airplane this Friday, accompanying the first contingent, were Messrs. Georges Fontes, secretary of state for veterans affairs and Didier Bariani, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, who conducted the negotiations with the Vietnamese. Also, the doctor general Paul Grauwin, hero of the battle of Dien Bien Phu who speaks fluent Vietnamese, and Mr. Antoine Pagny, who was very active in the resistance against the Japanese before 1945.

In paying homage before the caskets of the 10 soldiers amid trumpets and drums, Mr. Jacques Chirac kept his solemn pledge "Bring home the forgotten dead from Indochina who were in exile for a long time".

Forgotten and exiled, these lost soldiers died without glory in a "colonial war". But since then History has bathed this insult to their memory. For the communist "liberation" has brought the concentration camps to Vietnam, genocide to Cambodia and pushed two million Indochinese to prefer exile than be subject to oppression, often at the risk of their lives, like the 400,000 boat people who lie under the biggest marine cemetery of the world, the China Sea.

The return of our soldiers is both a repatriation and a rehabilitation. Beyond political ~~miss~~ division, the entire nation remembers and pays tribute. M. Francois Mitterrand would assist at ~~miss~~ the ~~the~~ be celebrated this Saturday at the Church of St. Louis of the Invalid.

The return was made urgent by the degradation of the our military cemeteries in Vietnam. For the communists persecute the living, and they do not let those who fought them to rest in peace.

As per the Geneva Agreement, signed in July of 1954, the army of North Vietnam agreed to receive on their soil a French mission charged with the repatriation of the bodies of slain French soldiers. Until 1960 this mission worked normally with North Vietnam maintaining the cemeteries.

But in 1961 the mission was sent away. Unilaterally, the North Vietnamese began gathering the remains from various cemeteries in Bac Ninh. They insisted on maintenance fees (around 2 millions francs per year) for work they never did. And from time to time they threatened to bulldoze everything if France did not accept their demands.

In 1980, it was necessary to repatriate all the remains to put an end to this situation. The negotiation was headed by Dr. Grauvin and an impasse came last 16 March which was total.

Soon after, the negotiation was again taken energetically by M. Chirac personally. Directed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, an accord was reached last August 1st. A mixed commission, composed of 4 Vietnamese and 4 Frenchmen, was created to oversee the exhumation of the remains, taking charge of putting the remains in containers, sealing and transporting to the airport. The operation was performed by the Vietnamese and paid by the French. Cost: 12.5 million francs (The Vietnamese demand 60 million francs)

As for transport, Air France handled. The remains of the soldiers will be temporarily stored at Marseilles, awaiting construction of facilities at Frejus.

Total cost of the entire operation: 30 million francs.

The repatriated remains are not all French. But all were "dead for France". From 1945 to 1954, 30,827 military men were killed in combat. Among these 3646 North Africans, 1229 Africans, 3752 Legionnaires and 11,810 "indigenes" (Vietnamese, Cambodians, Laotians, Thais, etc.)

But to these victims, we must add 30,000 missing in action. Almost all Vietminh prisoners died in deportation. Of a total of 40,000 prisoners, only 10,000 returned from camps, where the mortality was frightening.

Thus 11,721 French combattants and allies were captured at Dien Bien Phu 7 May 1954. Three months after, at the end of the war, only 3,290 survived.

Latest witness to date, that of Erwan Bergot, who commanded a company of French Foreign Legion parachutists. Captured, he was one of the few escapees of the sinister "Convoy 42" (title of his story published)

700 km by foot to Camp 42, ration of 400 grams per day of bad rice, roughly a third of the Vietminh footsoldier's ration. No medical care, heavy loads to carry. At the end of 3 months, the consequences are terrible: ~~to~~ " 83 died during the march, 237 in camp, 5 after, 325 died out of 400 prisoners. That's efficiency that I never saw before, exclaimed Bergot. Even the Germans at their best did not come up with a similar score in their extermination camps!"

A difference from the Hitlerian camps: this systematic system of the communists to destroy the personality of the french military, to push them to deny themselves, to humiliate themselves, to spy on each other, to denounce their own country. Reeducation which was the ultimate end of the camp system, privations of all sorts was the means. The camps system announced the "new society" that the communists want to construct.

This souvenir, it's also to recall the calvary gone through by our soldiers and to understand the message of the survivors.

"But I know", wrote Erwan Bergot, that there are in the world, - in Vietnam, in Cambodia, in Laos, in Afghanistan, or elsewhere, hundred, thousands of "camp 42". We should not forget."

Return from Hell

France brings back twenty six thousand of its soldiers died in Indochina.

Died to prevent the country from a Couloq. Survivors bear witness.

Friday. 6 o'clock in the morning on October 10 the long Air France flight from Saigon (Ho Chi Minh ville) and Paris has just landed. On it there were six crates, in each of them 120 wooden boxes containing the remains of a soldier who has died for France in Indochina. It is the largest posthumous home coming operation of all times.

Twenty six thousand dead soldiers had thus made their last trip. At the rate of 100 per week seven thousand will leave the cemetery of Tan Son Nhut (aeropost of the former city of Saigon) this year. And eighteen others will leave the cemetery of Ba Huyen, near Hanoi, next year.

On this Friday flight, accompanying the first batch is Mr. Georges Fontenay, ^{Petain's} secretary of state, and Didier Barani, secretary of state, Department of Foreign affairs who has conducted all negotiations with the Vietnamese, and Dr. Paul Gramelin, "expert" from the Veterans administration and especially hero of the Indochina war at of the battle of Dien Bien Phu ("he was a doctor at Dien Bien Phu") he speaks fluent Vietnamese and other languages of the region. All these titles would impress

the authorities in Hanoi. This mission is lead by M. Antoine Pagny who was very active in Indo-china and in the resistance against the Japanese prior to 1945.

In salute in front of 10 coffins of the dead soldiers, Mr. Jacques Chirac had kept his promise to "bring back the forgotten dead of Indo-china in exile for too long".

They were forgotten and exiled by the bad feelings of a certain opinion trend, "lost soldiers", dead without glory in a "colonial war". But since then, history has cleansed their memory of such an insult. For, the communist "liberation" has brought the Gauls to Vietnam, the Cambodian genocide, and has pushed two millions Indo-chinese to prefer exile to oppression, often at the risk of their life, as those 400.000 "boat people" who lay in the largest cemetery of the world, the China sea.

The return of our soldiers is at the same time a healing and rehabilitating process. Going beyond political differences, France remembers and pays tribute together - Mr. François Fillon attended mass at the church of Saint-Louis des Invalides, and a ceremony in the Invalides with the government and leaders of the parliament.

This homecoming operation has been precipitated by the degradation of our military cemeteries in Vietnam. Communists not only persecute the living they also never let those who fought them rest in peace.

According to the Geneva accords, signed in 1954, the people's army of North Vietnam agreed

to allow a French mission in Vietnam to process the repatriation of dead soldiers. This mission was functioning normally until 1960-81 and brought back remains claimed by families and assumed the maintenance of cemeteries.

But in 1961, the mission was asked to leave. Unilaterally, the Vietnamese had collected remains of all other cemeteries and stored them in a large cemetery at Bac Ninh. As time went by, they requested larger and larger sums to maintain this cemetery, which they had not done (about 2 millions francs per year). Periodically, they would threaten to destroy the whole cemetery if France does not yield to their demands.

In 1980, to put a stop to this situation, it became necessary to bring back all the dead soldiers. Negotiations, led by Dr. Gramvosa went well. The change of parliament majority in 1981 brought about other negotiators. The whole issue dragged on. On the eve of March 16 of last year, the stalemate was on.

Soon after, the negotiations were ^{personally} reactivated by Mr. Chirac. Directed by the department of foreign affairs, the accords of ^{Part} August 1st were struck.

A mixed commission of 4 Vietnamese and 4 French has been created to supervise the digging, packing, sealing and transportation of bodies to the airport. These operations were performed by Vietnamese but paid by France. They cost 12.5 million francs. (The Vietnamese requested 60 millions francs)

The transportation has been handled by Air France. All of them had died for France from 1945 to 1954, 30827 soldiers ~~had~~ died in combat. Among them, 3646 North Africans, 1229 Africans, 3752 legionnaires and 11810 "antichomers" (Vietnames, Cambodians, Laotians, Thais etc.)

But to these victims, we have to add 30000 who were lost. Almost all were prisoners of the Vietminh and died in captivity. For, out of a total of 40000 prisoners, only 10000 come back from camps where the rate of mortality is very high.

Their proclamation of victory should be of course divided by two, by four and even more.

Father Ponchard has noticed that, since about a year ^{Phnom Penh has} radical infiltrated incessantly about infiltrated enemies and combats.

Through accounts from refugees we know that small railway ^{incidents and} robbery have taken place almost everywhere. At the end of March, the guerrilla fighters have bombarded the town of Battambang west of lake Tonle Sap with rockets. Unfortunately there were 200 civilian deaths. Two Russian fatalities have also been killed. This time, Khmer rouge, like most partisans and FNRP of Son Sann have cooperated in this operation.

Khmer rouge are the most organized and combative group - Their chief, Ta Mok, the most active, commands 10000 elite soldiers and direct all operations in the northern part of the country around Tonle Sap Lake. His troops launched raids along route no. 6 to Kompung Thom and the northern suburb of Phnom Penh.

Each khmer rouge unit have to launch at least 3 operations. Arms and munitions come from the border: light as well heavy arms such as 120 millimeter mortars and 82 mm. cannons.

Khmer rouge have at their disposal of Chinese trucks and numerous radio sets. They will soon have a radar.

According to Father Ponchard the khmer rouge

headquarter is situated at the Thai border, in the Trast province. Pol Pot is always there with four chinese advisers who had arrived in 1982. China plays a very important role to support, arm and guide the Khmer rouges.

The Khmer rouges have not changed. When they are not ^{particularly} welcomed in a village, they come back in strength and eliminate a certain number of cadres and proceed to control the population.

On the Sihanouk state, there are commanders who have never stopped to fight since 1975. They are stationed on the banks of lake Tonle Sap. Since November 1984, Vietnamese attackers have driven Son Sann's FLNPK army to Thailand. Its general Dien Del, wanted to have an army that was mobile and not confined to camps.

Since the end of 1985, the FLNPK admit that another tactic should be used: guerrilla warfare.

General Dien Del has been informed.

There are now Soviet residents in Phnom Penh. Most of them are technicians, some teach at the Khmer-Soviet institute, others are in charge of communications and road maintenance. Some others play an important role in the logistic and technical services of the Vietnamese army.

Father Ponchard emphasizes that relations between Vietnamese and Soviets are not warm. Vietnamese soldiers are frustrated about their dependency on Moscow. When Russians arrive at a reception organized by a Cambodian official, Vietnamese would

right away in anger.

Father Ponchaud found that the comment of a Cambodian refugee seems appropriate. He said: "Cambodia is like a truck. Yesterday, the driver was Pol Pot. Today, it's Heng Samrin. But red is always the color of the truck."

Gilles Hervoz.

CAMBODGE

Le mur de Hanoi

**Pour asservir un peuple,
les communistes ne connaissent
qu'une méthode : construire un mur.**

the wall of Hanoi

To dominate a people. The communists only know one method: builds a wall.

In Cambodia the Vietnamese build a "wall" along the Thai border. To prevent refugees from breaking to Bangkok and to deprive anti-Vietnamese fighters of supplies.

As early as Sept. 9th, 85 our "Orientation map" mentioned the existence of such a project called "SB 1785". The "wall" will be completed in 1990. It has already cost the lives of 50 000 Cambodian civilians.

With his crew cut and sportive manner, Father François Ponchard, looks 10 years younger than his actual age of 46 years old. He belongs to the "Missions étrangères de Paris" and is one of the most ~~informed~~ knowledgeable men about Cambodia, this has therefore led to his expulsion from Cambodia in May 1975. A year later, in Feb 76, ^{Pol Pot} it was him who revealed to the world the ^{Pol Pot} concentrative society and its genocide.

As early as 1973, we, missionaries, knew in detail what was happening in regions controlled by the Khmers rouges but nobody believed us. This incredibility has ceased only in 1978 with the return of the French communist party: when the Vietnamese communists supported by the Soviets clashed with Pol Pot partisans.

In July and August of last year, Father Ponchard was able to meet with numerous Cambodian refugees in Thailand. For the "Valeurs actuelles" he established the following ~~the~~ situation in Cambodia.

- the "wall": he explains, ~~is~~ above all a deforested zone of more than 100 meters wide, followed by an elevated road of 15 meters wide used as a strategic route by Vietnamese tanks and trucks. Next to this there is a trench of 20 to 40 meters ~~wide~~, a high wall of bamboo and finally several lines of barbed wires among which undetectable little Soviet mines have been planted. More deadly than the American antipersonnel mines, they ~~can~~ shear off limbs and cut in the flesh.

- All this is however of relative ~~efficacy~~. To blow up the mines one can send the water buffalos. And then to ~~the~~ secure passage of the "wall" one can bribe cambodian guards.

Sometimes by the thousands, men and women, all the active population of Cambodia had participated ~~in~~ in those endeavors. A second wave had started in April. It has cost 50.000 lives, most of the time victims of mines planted by Khmers rouges, Khmers resistant fighters, Thais and Vietnamese.

Other workers return to die in their villages, victim of plasmodium falciparum, a deadly forest malaria.

- These human losses had created a strong resentment again the government. The "wall" has

3/

disrupted
dis social and economic life. Many ricefields are left uncultivated because of lack of manpower, all peasants have left or had to be drafted to fight at the border.

In Bangkok, the Americans have estimated the Vietnamese contingent to be around 140000. They attribute certain power to anti-Vietnamese ~~forces~~ ^{troops} fighters based in Thailand: 30000 to 39000 Khmers rouge, whose ^{actual} ~~act~~ head is Pol Pot, 9000 to 14000 partisans of ^{Son Sann's} ~~the~~ National Liberation Front of the Khmer people (FLNPK) & 6000 to 10000 members of the National Army of Prince Sihanouk (ANS).

those of the Sihanouks and partisans and especially Son Sann's tend to overstate substantially. ~~Part~~ However, the resistance in Cambodia is a reality, and is becoming stronger and stronger and is spreading everywhere.

Thus, 11721 French and Allied troops were captured at Dien Bien Phu on May 7th 1954. Three months later, at the end of the war, when ^{the time} it came to release the prisoners only 3290 had survived.

The most recent witness account was from Erwan Bergot who ^{was} the commanding officer of the 'Compagnie de mortiers lourds parachutistes de la Légion étrangère'. Captured, he was one of the rare survivor of sinister "convoy 42" which he had chosen as the title for his book (published by 'Presse de la Cité') ~~several hundred 700 km~~. Having to walk 700 km to join camp 42 with only 400 grams ^{daily} of poor quality rice, only a third of a ration ~~reserved~~ for a 'Rao Da' (Vietnamese soldier), with no medical care and ~~oppressive~~ forced labor, consequences were terrible after 3 months when the liberation came:

"83 deaths during the march, 237 at the camp and 5 afterwards. 325 deads over a total of 400 prisoners. This is efficacy!" exclaimed Bergot. Even the most efficient Germans did not reach this score in their extermination camps!

There was ~~however~~ after all a difference with Hitler camps: The communists' systematic will to destroy the personality of French soldiers, to push them to repudiate ~~themselves~~ ^{and} to humiliate themselves, to denounce one another and see their country through ^{through} denunciation which is the goal of the camp system, based ^{all sorts of} ^{in order to} ~~on~~ to ~~build~~ the new society.

the communists

that ~~communists~~ want to build.
To remember, is ~~also~~ to ~~remind~~ ourselves of
suffering of our soldiers and understand the
message of ~~survivors~~ ^{the} survivors. For, the Vietnamese
Genocide has been experimented on them first in
1950 by the political cadres before being
implemented to the general Vietnamese popula-
tion after 1954.

~~It~~ is those survivors who are the
first to bear witness to the ~~Geno~~ Vietnamese
Genocide through numerous affective accounts
like "I would & I wish I could ~~ever~~ cry out
~~like~~ those who came back from Nazi camps"
"No more of that, Never," wrote Erwan
Bergot. But I know, and we know that
everywhere in the world, in Vietnam, in
Cambodia, in Laos, in Afghanistan or elsewhere,
there are hundreds & thousands of "camps
42". We should not forget.

April 1985
2-85



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FOUNDED BY THE LAST AMERICANS TO LEAVE SOUTH VIETNAM

REUNION ANNOUNCEMENT - 10th ANNIVERSAY

This, our TENTH Annual Reunion, is open to all Saigon Mission Association members, their guests, and to those who served or supported our cause (all agencies, armed forces and contractors). It is the wish of the committee that this reunion will be a most enjoyable and memorable occasion. We urge all members to make a concentrated effort to join us to meet and reminisce with friends and former coworkers.

The reunion is scheduled for the weekend of April 26, 27, and 28. A block of rooms have been reserved for Friday and Saturday the 26th and 27th at the Holiday Inn, Greenbelt, Maryland. It will serve as our Headquarters and is located on Greenbelt Road, Route 193 East, behind the Greenway Shopping Center, at the intersection of Route I-95 and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, Route 295). Reservations can be made through any Holiday Inn, mention you will be with SMA, or made directly at the Greenbelt Holiday Inn by calling 1-800-238-8000. All major credit cards are accepted. Price for a single or double room is \$49.00. Greenbelt is very convenient to reach, whether you are driving, flying (or walking). If you arriving by plane, I suggest you use the Baltimore-Washington International Airport as there is bus service available to a location in Greenbelt, across from the Greenway Shopping Center, for a small charge of \$6.00. Someone on the committee will provide transportation from this location to the hotel, on call. You will be able to reach us after noon on Friday by calling the Inn, 982-7000, in the Hospitality Suite or Room 706, the registration room.

For those arriving on Friday, the afternoon and evening will be spent registering and just socializing. As you will note in the Holiday Inn Fact Sheet, they have a nice restaurant and lounge located in the building for your convenience. There are also several very fine restaurants located in the Shopping Center along with many small stores for those who might be interested in shopping.

Saturday's program will consist of the annual General Membership Meeting at 11:00 A.M. in Room 706, accompanied by a no-host luncheon in the meeting room. The agenda will include the election of officers for 1985-86 and for the first time we have a nominating committee who will present a slate of nominees for your consideration. Another item to be discussed will be how often should we hold our reunions, i.e., every year, 2 years or 5 years. After the meeting, the afternoon is open.

Saturday evening we will move to the Officers Club at Fort Meade. For those of you who are not aware or do not remember, the Fort Meade Officers Club was the site of our first reunion. From the Holiday Inn, the Club is located eight miles North on the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, Route 295, and then two miles East on Route 198 (Laurel) to the Officers Club on the right side of the road (Route 198 runs through the center of the Fort). Cash bar will be from 6:00 to 7:00 P.M. The drinks are very reasonably priced at .90¢ for wine, \$1.20 for bar drinks and bottled beer.

The buffet dinner will be served at 7:00 P.M. which includes:

Seven item Salad Bar
Steamship Round of Beef (carded tableside)
Breast of Chicken Normandy
Baked Stuffed Flounder with Sauce Imperial
Rice Pilaf, au gratin
Buttered Parsley Potatoes
French Cut Green Beans Amandine
Assorted Rolls and Whipped Butter
Choice of Assorted desserts
Coffee and Tea

Our featured speaker for the evening will be MG John E. Murray (Ret.). I'm sure you won't want to miss hearing his remarks. The banquet room will holdup to 150 people for a sitdown dinner so let's plan to fill it to capacity on the TENTH.

Music for your dancing pleasure will be provided by John Sluggo who is an outstanding Disc Jockey in this area. "Sluggo" will play music of any era you like upon request until 1:00 A.M.

Sunday's departure will be at your leisure but check out time is twelve Noon. The incoming and outgoing Executive Boards will meet jointly at a time and place to be announced.

One final note regarding the reunion registration and hospitality. The Hospitality Suite will be open from Noon on Friday until Noon on Sunday (except during the Banquet). The reunion committee will have mixes, snacks, ice, glassware, etc., available but you are requested to BYOB. Your name can be placed on your bottle and donations will be accepted to help defray some of the reunion expenses.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our "Big Number Ten". We need YOU, YOU, and YOU to make this reunion a success.

PLEASE PASS THIS ANNOUNCEMENT ALONG



7200 Hanover Drive • Greenbelt, Maryland 20770 • (301) 982-7000

FACT SHEET

LOCATION: At the junction of I-95 (Capital Beltway) and Baltimore-Washington Parkway. From I-95 exit #22A onto the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and exit at Greenbelt/College Park (exit MD #193). Hotel is located adjacent to the Greenway Shopping Center.

SPECIAL FEATURES: 208 luxurious rooms, acres of parking, seasonal pool, conference and boardrooms, gift shop, ice machines on each floor, same day valet service, cribs, rollaways, state of the art fire detection system, on premise laundry facility, audio visual and meeting needs, room service, shopping center and numerous restaurants, spa membership adjacent, children under 18 stay free in same room, senior citizen discount.

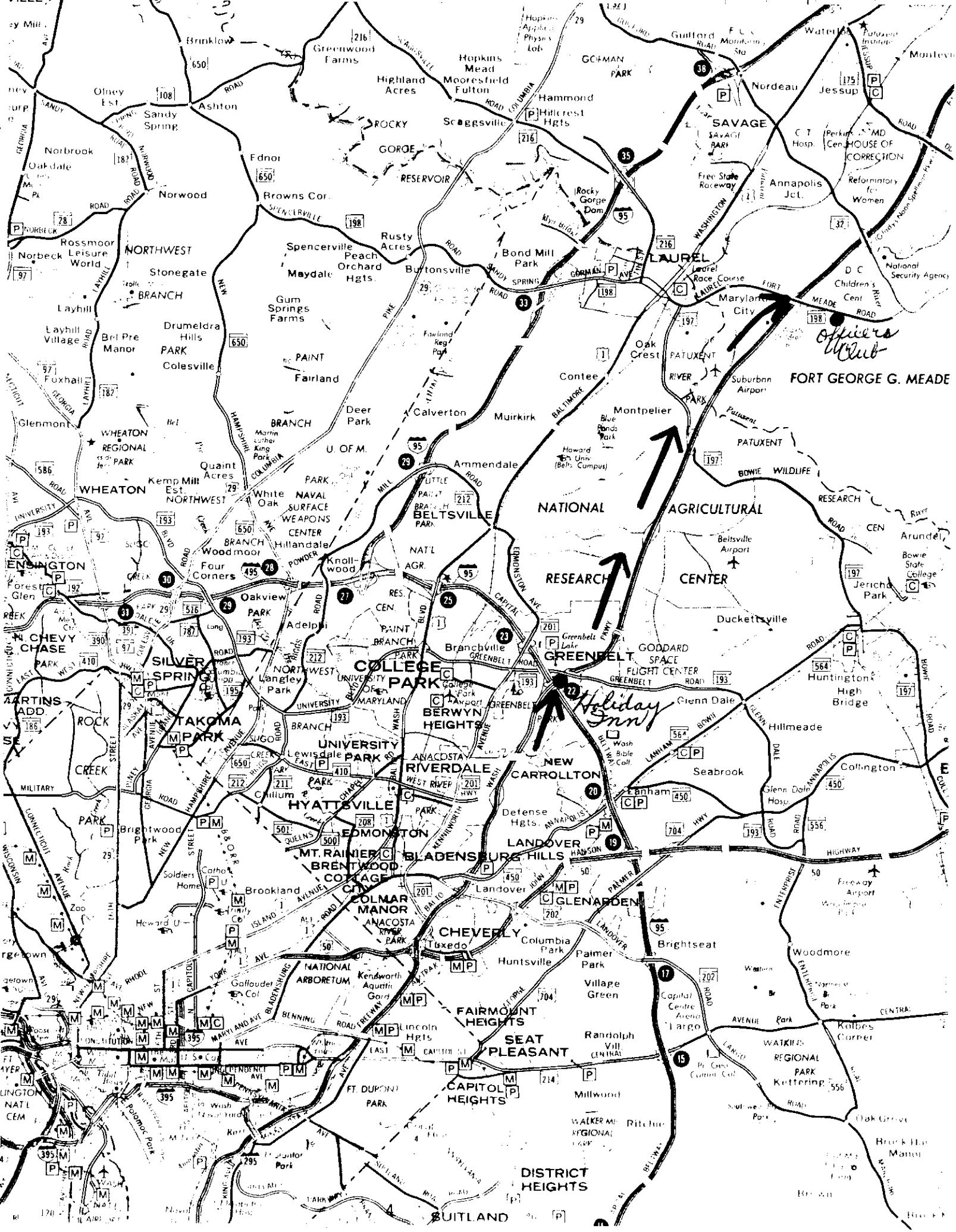
GUEST ROOMS: Comfortable oversize beds, designer decorated rooms, king leisure rooms, spacious elegant suites, handicap accessable rooms. All rooms are equipped with new solid state color television (free HBO®), AM/FM radios, individual temperature controls and direct dial telephones.

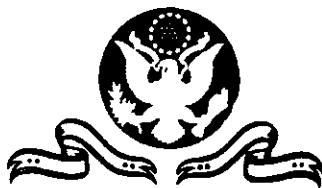
DINING: Fine American dining in our 210 seat restaurant, Celebrations.

ENTERTAINMENT: Dancing nightly in our lounge.

LEISURE: Capital Centre (sports, entertainment complex) Greenbelt National Park, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, University of Maryland, Wild World Water Park, Laurel and Bowie Race Tracks, 30 minutes to Baltimore's Inner Harbor, 25 minutes to historic Annapolis, 11 miles to the White House.

CREDIT CARDS: American Express, VISA, Master Card, Diner's Club, Carte Blanche or Choice.





RESERVATION FORM

TENTH Annual Reunion Banquet
The Saigon Mission Association, Inc.

FORT MEADE OFFICERS CLUB

Ft. Meade, MD

Saturday, April 27, 1985

6:00 P.M.

COST: \$20.00 per person with reservation; \$22.00 without reservation

NAME (s) : _____

All reservations must be paid for in advance. Make checks payable to Saigon Mission Association and mail to LOIS W. TODD, 8015 Mandan Road, #103, Greenbelt, MD 20770. Phone numbers: 301-474-5717 (home) or 202-269-2112 (office).

A check in the amount of \$_____ is attached. Tickets may be picked up at the Holiday Inn, Hospitality Suite or at the Banquet.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/DUES RENEWAL

ELIGIBILITY: Open to US citizens and foreign nationals who directly served or supported the US Mission in the Republic of Vietnam. Service may have been in-country, or from without, such as from outside command (PACOM), or a neighboring country (USAHAC); in-country contractors are also eligible.

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP \$10 Per year LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$100
ASSOCIATE \$5 Per year

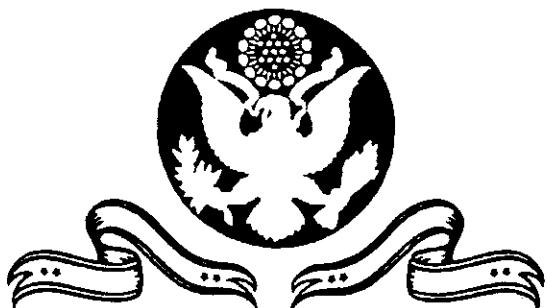
NAME

(Please print)

ADDRESS

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
(Required)

FORWARD TO: SMA Treasurer, 1 Commander Dr., Hampton, VA 23666



THE SAIGON MISSION ASSOCIATION, INC.
1 Commander Drive
Hampton, Virginia 23666

LOIS W. TODD
8015 MANDAN RD, #103
GREENBELT MD 20770

07-31-85

FOUNDED BY THE LAST AMERICANS TO LEAVE SOUTH VIETNAM

1985 ANNUAL MEETING
The Saigon Mission Association, Inc.
April 27, 1985

ABSENTEE BALLOT/PROXY DESIGNATION

1. I nominate for the office indicated the individual shown. In so doing, I am declaring that I have obtained the individual's permission to enter his/her name in nomination, with an affirmation of a willingness to serve if elected. The individuals printed on this proxy vote are duly nominated by the SMA Nominating Committee and meet the rules of the organization.

President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0 Ken Bowerman	81
	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 Russell Shaw	9
	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 <u>CAZ PAGE</u>	19
<hr/>		
Vice President	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 Robert Bennett	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 F. M. VanAusdal	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0 <u>CAZ PAGE</u>	
<hr/>		
Operations Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 J. Paul Lackey	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0 <u>F. M. VanAusdal</u>	
<hr/>		
Administrative Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 Barbara Rudzinski	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	
<hr/>		
Treasurer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0 Edward Rudzinski	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	
<hr/>		

2. I hereby appoint, with power of substitution, to vote for me as if I were present at the 1985 Annual Meeting to be held on April 27, 1985, in Greenbelt, Maryland, the following individual whose name is checked below, with all powers I would possess if present. (VOTE FOR ONE ONLY)

0 Jack Goldberg	0 Cazwell Page
0 J. Paul Lackey	0 Barbara Rudzinski
0 Edward Rudzinski	0 E. F. Pelosky
0 William W. Watkins	0 Harold Segerson
0	(name), a member in good standing whom I expect to be present at the 1985 Annual Meeting to represent me.

3. I suggest that the 1986 Annual Meeting and Reunion be held at _____ . I prefer the date of _____ .

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

SPECIAL NOTICE: This ballot becomes invalid April 26, 1985.

Printed name and address: _____

Fold, affix postage, and mail to the address on the reverse.

Return address:

The Saigon Mission Association, Inc.
Teller of Elections
1 Commander Drive
Hampton, VA 23666

1 July 1985

Dear Tho:

I received the News Bulletins (2) with your note today. I was not aware of your organization even though I have been fairly active in the ODP. I have helped over 50 Vietnamese process their files by obtaining verification of their training in the U.S. and verification of their employment with the USG, USA Agencies and U.S. Contractors. At the present time I have about 10 files to forward to ODP - several having been recently released from re-education camps. I have a large number of letters asking me to find out why they have not received replies from ODP. I am aware that ODP mail is being short-circuited and not been received by the individuals.

Apparently ODP is aware that their mail is not being received. Recently I received a letter from ODP asking me to forward a letter requesting additional to a Vietnamese man. The following note was in the letter, "Please forward the enclosed letter requesting additional info to -- -- to ensure that it reaches him." Letters I received with new files lists enclosures (I.Ds, pictures, marriage certificates etc. In 2 majority of cases the I.D's & pictures are missing. I wonder if the sender slipped-up or if the NAG is removing them. I receive mail from VN in 18 to 20 days, but my mail has been taking from 3 to 5 months to reach its destination. I am waiting for a L.O.I.

for the brother-in-law of a good friend of mine. The man lives in My Tho and spent 9 yrs 7 mos in re-education camps. He was a LTC in ARVN. I have processed papers for a former Minister of Justice Le Van Thu.

I have written Giai but have not heard from him recently. I don't believe he has had a chance to receive my last letter.

I also belong to an organization attempting to help Vietnamese. I am sending you several of our recent News letters. My project now is to establish a memorial for the DAO employees who died in the CSA crash April 4, 1975 while assisting in bringing a large number of Vietnamese orphans to the U.S.

I would like to read the letter by "Lap" but unfortunately I am unable to read Vietnamese and the young lady who was doing my translation has moved.

Keep up the good work & keep in touch

Your Friend
Caz Page

30 Sep 85

Dear Tho:

I received your letter of 20 Sep 85 on 25 Sep 85. I will send a copy to our Administrative Officer and ask her to forward any relevant info, to you, that she might receive. I will forward copies of any info that I feel might be useful or interesting to your group. I am sure that we can establish a working relationship.

I have not heard from Gioi since I wrote him over 2 WKS ago. I expect he is busy. Does he still work or is he just attending school.

I am sending you some info, some you may already have but here it is anyway.

1. I just received "Current Policy No 738" - Proposed Refugee Admissions for FY 1986 for the State Dept.

2. A copy of Public Law (PL) 97-359 Oct 22, 1982
Covering American children

3. A copy of Public Law (PL) 96-212 Mar 17, 1980
Refugee Act of 1980 (ODP program).

4. A copy of the Questionnaire w/instr that is used by ODP.

When I first started sending ODP papers to Bangkok they always wrote back and asked to have the Questionnaire. Of course this was time consuming - Mail to VN have the form completed, return to me & then mail to ODP. I ask Mr Colin (then Dir of ODP) to send me several Questionnaires. I kept one copy made several copies and sent to my friends. I told them to

always keep a blank copy - but to repro & give to people they knew who were filing ODP papers. By this method I got several copies spread throughout the Saigon area. At least most of the letter, I get here the Q-completed. If they complete the form accurately and submit all the certificates req'd they will have a complete set of papers. About the only paper most Vietnamese cannot provide is verification of their employment with the USG, its agencies or U.S. Contractors or verification of their training in the U.S. These papers were all destroyed to prevent them from having evidence of their association with the U.S. in their homes.

I just received a letter dated Sep. 2, 85 from Mai Nguyen Huu NGAN he worked at the Vietnamese Army Arsenal, Go Vap where I was stationed. I wrote him 5 May 85 and he rec'd in Aug. He sent me the names of two of his friends, who spent over 9 yrs to re-ed as asked me to send them to the State Dept. At one time they (SD) as me to send them names of anyone I knew who spent time in reed camp and if available the name, location & number of the camp. I am send these two names but I am sending them also to you, your organization may have a special way of handling. I am also writing my friend and asking him to have his friends complete a Q, and submit all required forms.

1. TRAN LY HUNG - LTC - Service No 52/120005

Date of Birth - 1932 - Place of Birth Gia Dinh

Address: A/440 CHON HO - TANG - NHON - PHU
THU DUC - TP. HMC.

Time in Re-ed Camp 9 yrs - 2 mos.

2 TRAN VAN NHUAN - LTC Service No 62 / 117090

Date of Birth 1942 Place of birth Socstrang

Address A/4 CHONHO - TANG - NHON - PHU

Thu Duc - T.P. / HCM.

Time in re-ed 9 yrs 3 mos

Let me know what youendo with the 2 Names.

I hope this finds you and your family in
good health. Keep up the good work

Let me hear from you

4-1/NCI

1- Policy No 738

1- PL. 97-359

1- PL. 96-212

1 Questionnaire /winsthr.

Your Friend
John Page

I am also enclosing some items I have
picked up - they might be amusing

Secretary Shultz

Proposed Refugee Admissions for FY 1986



United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C.

Following is a statement by Secretary Shultz before the Subcommittee on Immigration and Refugee Policy of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Washington, D.C., September 17, 1985.

It is a pleasure to consult with you on the U.S. refugee admissions ceiling for fiscal year (FY) 1986. This annual consultation affords the Administration and the Congress an opportunity to discuss the refugee situation in the world and the humanitarian response to this situation by the United States.

Since the end of the Second World War, the United States has provided haven to literally millions of refugees. They have arrived in waves: first from Eastern Europe; then from Cuba; then, in the 1970s, from the Soviet Union; and, most recently, from the countries of Indochina. All of these countries and regions continue to produce refugees, and the United States accepts more of them than any other resettlement country. We are a nation founded by refugees, and our national life has been reinvigorated throughout our history by recurring waves of refugees. I think it is well that we remember this as we consider the question of how many new refugees we should admit to the United States in the coming fiscal year.

This is the second consecutive year in which I have been privileged to present the President's refugee admissions proposal to the Congress. In doing so, I would again like to thank the members of this committee for their continuing support of the U.S. refugee program—which includes both the admission of

refugees to the United States and the important overseas assistance efforts to which the United States contributes.

Proposed Regional Admissions Ceilings

I turn now to the President's proposal for refugee admissions in FY 1986. The President proposes to establish a ceiling of 70,000 for refugee admissions to the United States in the coming fiscal year. This total will be broken down into 3,000 for refugees from Africa; 40,000 for East Asia first asylum; 8,500 for the Orderly Departure Program (ODP) from Vietnam; 9,500 for refugees from Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union; 3,000 for refugees from Latin America and the Caribbean; and 6,000 for refugees from the Near East and South Asia.

The President is proposing a ceiling of 3,000 for Latin America and the Caribbean in the hope that Cuba will end its suspension of the U.S.-Cuba Migration Agreement of December 1984. If, however, Cuba does not terminate its suspension of the migration agreement, a portion of the numbers will be transferred on a quarterly basis to other regional ceilings to accommodate unforeseen increased admissions needs. If these numbers are not needed elsewhere, they will be allowed to lapse.

As was the case last year, the President wishes to maintain a separate ceiling for admissions under the UNHCR's [UN High Commissioner for Refugees] Orderly Departure Program from Vietnam. This separate ceiling serves two

purposes. It reassures the ASEAN [Association of South East Asian Nations] countries that an expanding ODP will not mean a decrease in resettlement from the first-asylum camps; and it sends a clear signal to Hanoi that the United States is prepared to make good on its offer to accept a large number of Amerasians and "re-education camp" prisoners.

Aside from the uncertainties connected with the Cuban and Vietnamese programs, the proposed regional admissions ceilings should be adequate to provide for refugee resettlement needs during the coming fiscal year.

The United States and the World Refugee Situation

Once again in 1985, the United States has played a major role in responding to urgent refugee needs—both through life-saving assistance overseas and through resettlement in the United States where necessary. Although this consultation is primarily concerned with refugee admissions, I would like to mention briefly the U.S. role in assisting refugees abroad.

The United States continues to provide the largest share of financial support for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees—some 30% of its budget or \$107 million in FY 1985—as well as for other international relief organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross—over \$26 million in this fiscal year. The United States maintains its leading role in support of the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in the Near East—initially providing \$67 million in contributions for this fiscal year and then an additional \$8 million from the President's Emergency Fund to help UNRWA avoid a curtailment of services due to extraordinary budget problems. It is our hope that these international organizations will take an even more active role in providing assistance to refugees in the coming year.

The United States has been deeply involved during the past year in providing emergency assistance to refugees and others suffering from the effects of drought and civil conflict in Africa. The U.S. Government will have contributed almost \$200 million for all aspects of refugee assistance in Africa this fiscal year alone. I would note, in particular, our rapid intervention in Sudan in response to requests for assistance from the UNHCR and the Government of Sudan which contributed to the saving of thousands of refugees' lives.

Other notable developments in the U.S. refugee program during the past year have been:

- The continued expansion of the UNHCR's Orderly Departure Program from Vietnam. Some 14,000 refugees and immigrants will leave Vietnam under this program in FY 1985 for new lives in the United States. Continued expansion of the ODP is essential to our goal of ending—or at least diminishing—the dangerous phenomenon of clandestine flight by sea from Vietnam.
- Through our contributions to the UN Border Relief Operation (UNBRO) and other international relief organizations, we have played a principal role in ensuring that Cambodians forced to flee into Thailand in order to escape Vietnamese armed attacks have been able to maintain some semblance of a normal life.
- Elsewhere in Asia, U.S. contributions to refugee assistance in Pakistan have helped sustain the 2.5 million Afghan refugees there and allowed them to pursue their lives while awaiting the day when they can finally return to their embattled homeland.

• In Central America, the growing vitality of the Duarte government is attested to by the continuing return of Salvadoran refugees to their country from Honduras. The United States applauds this development and will continue to provide assistance, both through international organizations and bilaterally, to help those who return.

• A major achievement of the past year was aborted when Fidel Castro announced the suspension of the U.S.-Cuban Migration Agreement just after the first Cuban ex-political prisoners had arrived in the United States on May 20. The United States is prepared to resume processing of refugees in Havana as soon as Cuba decides to reactivate the migration agreement.

The Indochinese Refugee Situation Today

Our large Indochinese resettlement program is at a transition point. The root cause of the refugee problem in Southeast Asia is clear. The outflow of refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos is a direct result of the imposition of communist oppression on the people of these countries. The United States has responded to this great human tragedy by offering new homes and the chance to live in freedom to hundreds of thousands of Indochinese refugees. The goal of the U.S. refugee program has been to treat these refugees from persecution in as humane a fashion as

possible. I believe that history will pass a favorable judgment on our efforts.

Over the last 10 years some 755,000 refugees have arrived in the United States from Indochina. About 52,000 of the 71,000 total refugee admissions in FY 1984 came from Indochina. The same proportion is expected in FY 1985. Even though current resettlement programs have declined dramatically from high levels of 1980-82, we believe they have been responsive to the true humanitarian needs for the region.

As with any program, however, we must continue to be sensitive to the need to balance refugee resettlement from Southeast Asia with other U.S. interests and concerns. Indochinese refugee resettlement must be balanced against other, regional solutions; balanced as a fair share of an international resettlement effort; balanced in terms of its budgetary implications; balanced in terms of other immigration and domestic policy considerations; and balanced against the need to provide resettlement to deserving refugees from other parts of the world.

To achieve this balance, the United States—working with the UNHCR and other nations—is pursuing measures to address the remaining refugee problems in Southeast Asia. There are two general categories of measures that either have been implemented or are being considered.

• First, increasing emphasis is being placed on international and bilateral measures to reduce the number of persons arriving in first-asylum countries who do not meet refugee criteria. An example of this type of measure is the Lao screening program initiated on July 1, 1985, by the Thai Government. This program, which is being monitored closely by the UNHCR, is designed to identify the true refugees as defined in international law. Essential to the successful operation of this program is agreement by Laos to allow the safe return of those found ineligible for refugee status. We are following the results of this program with great interest.

• The second category of measures is aimed specifically at assuring that the U.S. refugee program fits the current situation in the region. Available evidence suggests that people leave the Indochinese countries today for a variety of reasons: to escape persecution, to seek a better standard of living, or to join family members who have previously fled. Our objective is to ensure that the U.S. refugee resettlement program is available exclusively to those who have been persecuted or have a well-founded fear of persecution if returned

to their homelands and who cannot reasonably expect to voluntarily repatriate or resettle to another country. Those who have left their homes primarily for reasons of family reunification should, to the degree possible, use normal immigration programs which have been established for that purpose. In this connection, we will continue to work on improving the availability and use of safe and orderly migration programs from the countries of origin.

In furtherance of this second approach, the relevant agencies have been studying the proper use of departure mechanisms for the future, including the increased use of normal immigration channels for the family reunification segment of the Indochinese resettlement program. Our intention is to take a regional approach to the use of immigration, as well as refugee admissions, and to include all ethnic groups within this approach.

Also, I am commissioning a high-level, independent panel that will be going to Southeast Asia in the near future with a broad mandate to assess the refugee situation and to make recommendations on necessary changes in U.S. policy.

I want to emphasize that, as we review the refugee situation as it exists in Southeast Asia today, we will continue to be guided by our bedrock concern for humanitarian principles. Furthermore, our national refugee policy will continue to be based on thorough consultations with the Congress, with the first-asylum countries in the region, other primary resettlement countries, and the UNHCR.

Nonresettlement Solutions in Southeast Asia

While resettlement remains a necessary means for dealing with the refugee situation in Southeast Asia, other solutions within the region must be pursued more vigorously. Such measures—in particular, the alternative of voluntary repatriation with appropriate safeguards and international monitoring—may require negotiation of agreements by the UNHCR with the states concerned.

UNHCR's Orderly Departure Program from Vietnam

In our consultations with the Congress last September, I announced, on behalf of President Reagan, two special initiatives for expanding the High Commissioner's Orderly Departure Program from Vietnam.

- One of these initiatives called for the admission to the United States of all Amerasian children and close family members from Vietnam over the three fiscal years 1985-87.

- The second initiative called for the resettlement in the United States of political prisoners currently and previously confined in Vietnam's "re-education camp" prisons and their qualifying family members, totaling 10,000 persons over the 2-year period, 1984-86.

The United States presented these two presidential initiatives to the Vietnamese in Geneva last October.

We have had success in nearly doubling the number of Amerasians released by the Vietnamese—almost 4,000 children and family members this year compared to 2,200 in FY 1984—however, the Vietnamese failed to reach our goal of 5,000 for the first year.

We are, however, greatly disappointed that the Vietnamese have not, as yet, responded positively to our proposal for the "re-education camp" prisoners. After the initial presentation, the United States has twice proposed to Vietnam that we meet to continue discussions on this proposal, but so far the Vietnamese have not agreed. In unofficial conversations, Hanoi has indicated that it is backing off from its earlier announced willingness and commitment to allow these people to be resettled in the United States.

I would like to reaffirm again today that the United States is profoundly concerned about the continued imprisonment of these people and that we remain ready and willing to accept them—both former and present prisoners—and their families for resettlement in the United States as soon as the Vietnamese authorities will allow them to leave. This is a purely humanitarian matter and should not be made dependent on the settlement of the political differences that separate our two countries.

Next month, we will be meeting with Vietnamese representatives in Geneva, under UNHCR aegis, to discuss the operation of the Orderly Departure Program. Our goal remains the expansion of this vital international program. We will be seeking agreement by Vietnam to improvements in the operation of the ODP which will enable more Amerasian children and other persons of special humanitarian concern to the United States to leave Vietnam via this safe and humane route. We are prepared—as we were last year—to hold bilateral talks with the Vietnamese on our humanitarian initiative to resettle

the former and present "re-education camp" prisoners.

It is our intention to continue to maximize the use of immigrant visas for family reunification within the ODP, thereby reserving refugee numbers for those who have no alternative but to leave as refugees.

Assistance to Cambodian Border Population in Thailand

The large population of displaced Cambodians living in evacuation camps in Thailand is of intense concern to the United States. I had an opportunity during my visit to Thailand in July to meet and talk with some of these heroic people of Cambodia who have been driven from their homeland by Vietnamese armed attacks on their border encampments. The violence of the latest attacks—occurring over the period from November 1984 through April 1985—was such that the entire border population of over 225,000 people—men, women and children—was driven into Thailand. The Government and people of Thailand and the UN Border Relief Operation have responded magnificently to the plight of these victims of Vietnamese aggression. The United States will continue to provide support to this population and to the people of Thailand whose lives have been disrupted by the impact of Vietnam's attacks.

We and the other resettlement countries support the policy of the Royal Thai Government that the evacuees from the border area should be provided all necessary assistance but that resettlement abroad should not be viewed as the solution to their plight. However, we have decided, subject to Thai Government approval, to initiate a limited program to unite close family members with relatives already in this country, primarily through immigration-type channels. This program will include those eligible for immigrant visas, "visas 93" for spouses and unmarried minor children, and selected use of humanitarian parole for close dependents in the two preceding categories. We recognize this has to be handled very carefully so we don't trigger off an unwarranted set of expectations.

Also of special concern to the United States is a group of Vietnamese who have fled overland to the Thai-Cambodian border and were evacuated into Thailand along with the Cambodian border population. Although the United States has previously accepted some of them for resettlement, approximately 4,500 remain under Red Cross protection at one of the evacuation sites, which also houses much larger numbers

of Khmer border evacuees. Because of our concerns about the unique security problem of this small but especially vulnerable population, we are supporting a Red Cross initiative to obtain agreement to relocate the Vietnamese to a separate and more secure location. As soon as necessary security provisions and international cooperation can be obtained, the United States is prepared to initiate a limited program to resettle those with close family ties to the United States and those of particular humanitarian concern, such as former "re-education camp" inmates.

The United States is greatly concerned about the quality of life in the evacuation camps. We will be working with UNBRO and the Royal Thai Government to upgrade camp conditions and to ensure security for camp inhabitants. In addition, the Administration—and the Congress—are looking at ways that this large Cambodian community can be provided an opportunity for educating its young people so that they can be better prepared for the day when they can return to their homes on the other side of the border. The Royal Thai Government has also expressed an interest in the education of these Cambodian children. In consultation with the Congress, we will be working with the Thai and with various international organizations, and with the Cambodians themselves, to devise a program to respond to this important need. And, certainly, it is something that makes an emotional impact on you, to visit there and sense the determination of those people to govern themselves—to educate their young, getting what help they can—and their determination in the end to return to Cambodia and to their homes; and, certainly, that is the spirit we want to see perpetuated.

Completing Resettlement Processing for Cambodian Refugees

The United States has been in the forefront of the effort to resettle qualified refugees from the population of Cambodians in UNHCR camps in Thailand. The approval rate for Cambodian refugees seeking resettlement in the United States has been over 90%, one of the highest for any group of refugees. Since the beginning of Cambodian resettlement processing in 1975, the United States has taken over 130,000, and other countries have resettled over 60,000. This is a record of which we can all be proud.

Recently, public and congressional interest has been focused on the processing of remaining Cambodian refugees in Thailand for resettlement in

the United States. The Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs held a hearing on July 31 at which this subject received a thorough review. It should be clear to all concerned that the objective of the U.S. refugee program remains the fairest possible consideration of all applicants for refugee admission.

However, where there are indications that a refugee applicant has participated in the persecution of others, he cannot—under U.S. law—be granted refugee status, unless he can prove that he has not participated in such activities. Determining whether or not someone engaged in the persecution of others during the period of Khmer Rouge atrocities in Cambodia is a difficult and time-consuming task. I believe that the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, working closely with the Department of State and the concerned voluntary agency representatives, has reviewed the denied cases in a just and reasonable manner. The established review mechanism, which was formalized last February, remains in place to reconsider denied cases.

Refugee Admissions from Other Regions

Although we extend a strong and helping hand toward the refugees of Southeast Asia, we must not forget the needs of the millions of refugees in other regions of the world. In most cases these refugees do not require third-country resettlement. They are being given long-term asylum in Pakistan, throughout Africa, and in Central America. Our goal and the goal of the High Commissioner for Refugees is to assist these people to maintain themselves until they can return safely to their home countries. A certain number of them will continue to require resettlement in the United States, and we have made provision for their admission to this country in our proposed admissions ceilings for FY 1986.

I would like to note, in particular, the need to address refugee admissions backlogs of East Europeans, Iranians, and Afghans. Our goal in the Near East is to continue to provide resettlement opportunities in the United States for those refugees with close ties to this country and for those of special concern, such as members of the persecuted Iranian religious minorities. We plan to continue to provide resettlement for a fair share of East European refugees, who flee to Western Europe. Hopefully, the proposed ceilings will reduce the waiting time for these applicants.

Despite fluctuations in departure rates in recent months, there does not appear to have been any basic change in the Soviet policy of restricting emigration. As in past years, I will reiterate to the Soviet Foreign Minister when I meet with him later this month that the Soviet Union has an obligation, undertaken when it signed the Helsinki accords, to permit those who wish to join their families abroad to do so.

As already mentioned in the discussion of our contingency plan to transfer unused numbers from the Latin American admissions ceiling to other regions in FY 1986, the United States remains ready to reactivate the U.S.-Cuban Migration Agreement on short notice. When Fidel Castro suspended the agreement in May, some 1,800 ex-political prisoners and accompanying family members had been tentatively approved for refugee status. Our goal is to bring these and other former prisoners to the United States, along with their families. We hope that Castro will soon decide to drop his unilateral suspension of the migration agreement, making possible a continuation of our program for ex-political prisoners in Cuba.

Providing Adequate Funding for the Refugee Program

Refugees are an international responsibility, but traditionally the United States has been the leader in rallying support for assistance to the burgeoning world refugee population. Working through the UNHCR, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and other organizations, the United States has made protection of those fleeing oppression a key component of its foreign policy. By assisting the persecuted we demonstrate our own attachment to the values of freedom and human dignity. It would be a severe blow to these values if, due to well-meant but misguided attempts to save money, the Congress sustained the large cuts in refugee program funding proposed by the House Appropriations Committee in July. These cuts—amounting to \$45 million from an Administration request of \$338 million—when combined with \$9 million in earmarks added by the Congress, would leave insufficient funds to operate a viable, worldwide refugee program.

At the funding level currently being proposed by the House Appropriations Committee, we would have to drastically reduce refugee admissions in FY 1986. A sudden drop from the FY 1985 level of 70,000 admissions would seriously threaten the preservation of first asylum for refugees in Southeast Asia and elsewhere in the world.