

DOUG BEREUTER
1ST DISTRICT, NEBRASKA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

December 9, 1996

COMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
VICE CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEES
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
CHAIRMAN
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
POLICY AND TRADE

COMMITTEE ON BANKING
AND FINANCIAL SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEES:
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY
OPPORTUNITY
VICE CHAIRMAN
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
AND CONSUMER CREDIT

Mr. Vinh An Ninh
937 A St
Lincoln, NE 68502-1126

Dear Mr. Ninh:

Thank you for visiting my District Congressional Office last week regarding your concerns about the Immigration and Naturalization Service's (INS) decision to deny entry of your adult children to the United States. I understand that you believe that under the McCain provision that was included in the Foreign Operations bill that your adult children are entitled to come to the United States.

A member of my staff contacted Ms. Pamela Lewis with the Office of Refugee Assistance at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, DC regarding your situation. Ms. Lewis advised my staff member that the date you interviewed for refugee status is the key element that determines whether or not your children qualify under the McCain provision. The McCain provision provides that unmarried, adult children of former reeducation camp internees may come to the United States if the internee was interviewed and given refugee status AFTER April 1, 1995. In other words, if you were interviewed and approved for refugee status before April 1, 1995, your children would not be eligible to come to the United States under this provision.

Therefore, in order to continue investigating this situation in your behalf, I need to know the date on which you interviewed and the date on which were you given refugee status to enter the United States. It would also be helpful to know if any of your adult children attended the interview with you.

Thank you again for contacting my office as I am always pleased to be of service to my constituents whenever possible. In the meantime, please contact Heidi Kaschke in my Lincoln district office with the additional information I requested.

Best wishes,

DOUG BEREUTER
Member of Congress

DB/hk

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

October 30, 1996

COMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
VICE CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEES
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
CHAIRMAN
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
POLICY AND TRADE

COMMITTEE ON BANKING
AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEES
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY
OPPORTUNITY
VICE CHAIRMAN

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
AND CONSUMER CREDIT

Mr. Vinh An Ninh
937 A Street
Lincoln, NE 68502

Dear Mr. Ninh:

Thank you for contacting my office regarding your questions about the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). I understand from your letter that you are a refugee, you have had a stroke and you would like to bring your children from Vietnam to the United States under the Orderly Departure Program (ODP) but you are not able to pay the fee to have your case reopened.

You might be interested to know that the omnibus appropriations act for fiscal year 1997 (H.R. 3610), which included the Foreign Operations appropriations bill, contained language drafted by Senator John McCain (R-AZ) that expands eligibility for the ODP to adult children of reeducation camp prisoners. I voted in favor of this important omnibus appropriations measure, which was adopted by Congress and signed into law by President Clinton on September 30, 1996.

I would be happy to contact the INS and the American embassy in Thailand in your behalf; however, I need to know the names and birth dates of all your children. Additionally, I need to know where in Vietnam they reside, and I need to know what paperwork, if any, has been filed with the INS or with the embassy. If you have filed petitions with the INS, I need the receipt numbers that were assigned. Receipt numbers begin with the letters LIN, followed by a ten digit number.

Regarding your question about sources to assist you with paying the \$110.00 fee to have your case reopened, I suggest that you might want to contact Mr. Nhuong Dinh Quang, President of the Vietnamese Ex-Political Prisoners Mutual Assistance Association of Nebraska. The association's address is 4101 North 23rd Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68521.

Thank you again for contacting my office as I am always pleased to be of service to my constituents whenever possible. If you have additional comments or questions, please write to me again or contact Heidi Kaschke in my Lincoln district office at (402) 438-1598.

Best wishes,

DOUG BEREUTER
Member of Congress

DB/hk