

HỘI GIA ĐÌNH TÙ NHÂN CHÍNH TRỊ VIỆT NAM

FAMILIES OF VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS ASSOCIATION

KHÚC MINH THỎ
PRESIDENT
TRỊNH NGỌC DUNG
SECRETARY GENERAL

7813 Marthas Lane
Falls Church, VA 22043

(703) 560-0058

(202) 245-0979

September 10, 1984

The Editor
The Washington Post
1150 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 30071

Dear Editor:

We, the families of the political prisoners still in Vietnam's "reeducation camps", would like to thank you for your lead editorial in Wednesday 9/5 Washington Post "An American Obligation". Your article calling attention to the fate of our husbands, fathers, sons, who nearly 10 years after the end of the war still languish in so-called "reeducation camps" is deeply appreciated. Those of us who write to you today are more fortunate than many other prisoners' wives whose husbands have died in captivity from work exhaustion, starvation, untreated diseases, beatings and moral torture, loneliness, consuming despair insanity and suicide.

Our husbands, sons, and fathers had served in the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces and Government until 1975. Nine years of communist intensive and punitive brainwashing and reforms could not cleanse their minds of the democratic ideals deemable by the Vietnam communist government, which will not release them into their Marxist society for fear they may contaminate other people and join the growing opposition to the government. The Vietnam communist government has detained them, may be, for life in those high death rate concentration camps and exploited their labor until they die.

They believe that if our relatives had committed any crime according to the communist regime, their time in prison, nine years, should be sufficient to satisfy the communist regime's desire for payment. The Vietnam government should make good its claim of leniency and release them.

Prison and reeducation camps inmates are people from all walks of life, Western educated intellectuals, educators, writers and who are of different religious such as Catholic, Buddhist, Cao-Dai and Hoa-Hao, priests, members of the nationalist parties, and even those who are the dissidents of the communists. Still, the largest group, and the one singled out for harshest punishment, is made up with officers and high ranking officials of the former South Vietnam regime before 1975.

The Vietnamese government labels our POW relatives "criminals". Their only "crimes" were service in the South Vietnamese armed forces who fought to defend democracy in South Vietnam with the collaboration and assistance from the U.S. Our husbands, sons have staked their lives and liberties with the American presence. In April 1975, they remained and fought to the last moment with their troops instead of running away and leaving Vietnam as deserters. This was the reason they were left behind and find themselves today in a "reeducation camp". From their prisons in N. Vietnam, they have sent repeated pleas to President REAGAN and other friends in the U.S. State Department. Their families, and their colleagues, have written countless letters, and requested for any assistance in trying to win their release. Human right groups have spoken up in our behalf.

We were very hopeful when in a CBS interview in 1982, foreign minister Nguyen Co Thach stated that he would release the prisoners if the U.S. would take them. Premier Pham Van Dong repeated the same offer in an interview with NEWSWEEK in May 84. We realize that the major stumbling block lies with the Vietnamese government which insists on the U.S. agreeing to a blanket admission of all "reeducation camp" inmates, and their refusal to provide the International Red Cross with a list of the prisoners to be released and for the purpose of immigration into the U.S.A.

We appreciate to your reminding the American Administration of the moral obligation the U.S. owes the VN prisoners. We are grateful to the Congressmen, among them, Rep. Stephen Solarz, for reminding the President of the plight of those unfortunate persons. We thank the U.S. State Department, and Secretary George Shultz for their patience and compassion in working out the new proposal to be presented to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam regarding the release our prisoners and permit them to join their families who have been living in the U.S. We shall need a great deal of patience and compassion during the months ahead in this task of dealing with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on this humane issue and we are confident that you will always stand by us.

Sincerely Yours,



KHUC MINH THO
President

HỘI GIA ĐÌNH TÙ NHÂN CHÍNH TRỊ VIỆT NAM

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September 12, 1984

Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Lieu
Chairman of the Board of Directors
MAA Consortium
5555 Columbia Pike (Suite D)
Arlington, VA 22204

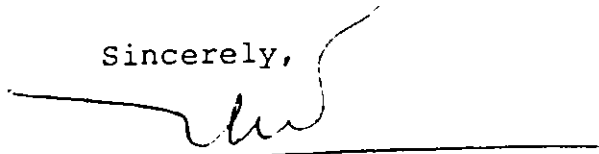
Dear Mr. Lieu:

Our newly formed association composed of parents, wives, children and friends of the current and former political prisoners in Vietnam, since 1975. During the past several years, we have met to share information as well as to promote the movement for the release of those prisoners. Thanks to countless efforts of the American public and especially the Vietnamese communities, the Reagan Administration has recently proposed to the Congress to admit thousands of Vietnamese political prisoners and their families to resettle in the U.S. if the Vietnamese government agree to free them.

During the past several weeks, we have received requests from the Vietnamese to serve as the clearinghouse and the center for information and referrals. We feel that we have the opportunities to outreach and support those who need help. We wish the Consortium helps us to reach the communities. We would like to ask your permission to use the Consortium office to conduct meeting during your office non-working hours as well as mailing address for this humanitarian effort. We assure you that if permission is granted, we will limit our activities to the minimum level.

Our organization and myself send to the Board our heartfelt appreciation.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Khuc Minh Tho

cc:- Afghan Board Members
- Cambodian Board Members
- Laotian Board Members

HỘI GIA ĐÌNH TỬ NHÂN CHÍNH TRỊ VIỆT NAM

FAMILIES OF VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS ASSOCIATION

5555 COLUMBIA PIKE SUITE D
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September 15, 1984

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The Honorable George P Shultz
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW, Washington D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association, I would like to express our deep gratitude for your initiative and efforts in seeking for the release of the Vietnamese political prisoners. The Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners' Association of which I am the president, is composed of members who are close relatives of the vietnamese political prisoners still detained in concentration camps in Vietnam since 1975. As has been well documented, our relatives were imprisoned because of, either their close association with the U.S. government during the Vietnam war, or their participation in the former vietnamese government and armed forces before 1975.

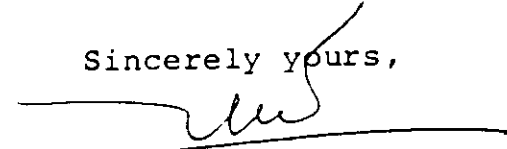
Since 1977, a support group of wives and family members of these political prisoners has been calling for their release. One of the main goals of the association is to compile a list of these vietnamese political prisoners. To date, the official list has been reached about five hundreds names. The association is also active in providing emotional support to those who share the same plight. Our officers and myself have assisted numerous families in filing applications for immigration for their relatives. Food and clothing parcels have been sent to Vietnam or to be forwarded to the prisoners whenever possible. We have made contacts and solicited the support of the U.S. government, Members of Congress, the United Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees, Amnesty International and the International Red Cross.

With the recent events, Hanoi's offer to release from 10,000 to 15,000 political prisoners, and the U.S. confirmation to grant assylum to 10,000 of them in the United States, we feel confident that our goal can be reached and encouraged to continue our efforts. It proves to us that our husbands, sons, fathers, grand-fathers, uncles, nephews and friends are not forgotten by the outside world. For the first time in 10 years we are optimistic about the future of our loved ones, and the possibility of our family reunification.

Our association, a non-profit organization incorporated in the state of Virginia has recruited many members who, not only share the common goal of working for the release of the vietnamese political prisoners, but are also professionals in various services such as legal, immigration, social and resettlement services. The vietnamese community and its natural networks, community organizations have overwhelmingly supported our organization. With our capability, our devotion and our tract record, our association endeavors to be a clearinghouse for the political prisoners and their families during the next two years, and to ensure their family reunification. Whenever needed, our organization can provide voluntary services to the U.S. and international authorities in the process of negotiations for the release of the prisoners. We are also planning with different mutual assistance associations and voluntary agencies to assist these refugees and immigrants with an effective adjustment program, both cultural and social, in the U.S.

In closing, I would like again to thank you for your past and future support for the Vietnamese political prisoners and their family members' lives. As the wife of a political prisoner, my husband was a colonel in the former armed forces of Vietnam, and has been detained in a re-education camp in Ha Nam Ninh province since the fall of Saigon in 1975, I am confident that our efforts for this mutual cause will be rewarded. The Vietnamese people join me in praying for the early succes of this humanitarian task.

Sincerely yours,



Khuc Minh Tho
President



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September 24, 1984

Mrs. Kate Wenner
Producer "20/20"
ABC News
157 Columbus Avenue
New York, NY 10023

Dear Mrs. Wenner:

Attached herewith a map and list of "reeducation" camps where the political prisoners have been detained. We try to identify them as possible as we can.

Hope that this information is useful to you. Have a great trip and don't forget the families who are waiting to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Kim D. Cook
for Mrs. Khuc Minh Tho

REEDUCATION CAMPS IN VIETNAM

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CHARACTERISTICS</u>
A. <u>NORTH VIETNAM</u>	
1. HA NAM NINH (PHU LY)	Held mostly high ranking military officers and civil servants
2. SON LA	Held high ranking officers such as generals, colonels,
3. NGHE AN	Held mid level officers such as majors, Lieutenant Colonels
4. BINH DIEN	Held mostly Police officers, Military Security officers
<u>CENTRAL VIET NAM</u>	
1. AN DIEM	Held approx. 4,000 prisoners, mostly low ranking officers
2. TAN CANH (Central highland)	Held officers and other civil servants
<u>SOUTH VIET NAM</u>	
1. HAM TAN	Held those prisoners who are transferred from the North prior to release
2. A-30	Held officers
3. MOC HOA	Held officers and boat escapees



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TELEPHONE NO. (703) 379-7111

Date: September 24, 1984

The Honorable George P. Shultz
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Shultz:

Thank you very much for your letter of September 19 and the text of your testimony on the President's 1985 proposals for refugee admissions. We who represent the families of Vietnamese political prisoners are impressed with the interest and concern the President and you have expressed on our relatives now held in "reeducation" camps.

We would like to assist your efforts in every way possible. Our Association is preparing a list of relatives and friends who are known to be political prisoners. Our list includes the names of the camps where they are imprisoned and the names and addresses of the concerned families and friends in the United States. We offer this list to you. We believe it may prove useful in your discussions of how to accelerate and arrange the departure and resettlement of the political prisoners.

Our list is being drawn from letters flooding in to our Association from all over the nation. We have contacted resettled Vietnamese through Vietnamese and American Associations, news media, letters to the Vietnamese communities

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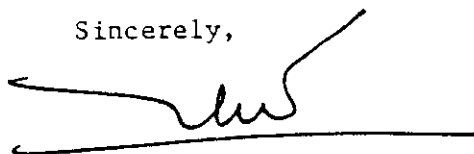
and our extensive grapevine. We are using existing communication network to tell relatives and friends how to apply to bring their husbands, sons, brothers, sisters, and relatives under the Orderly Departure Program.

We are prepared to provide, on request, voluntary services to the State Department and international authorities in the process of negotiating the release of the prisoners. We can ensure proper sponsorships of all the political prisoners on our list. We also will work closely with mutual assistance associations and voluntary agencies to help the prisoners adjust socially, culturally and economically to life in the United States during the next few years.

We would very much like to meet you or your representatives to discuss in more detail how we might support your efforts. We believe that our dedicated interest coupled with our ability to mobilize the many and varied skills of the national Vietnamese community provide a valuable compliment to the government's efforts now underway.

We are looking forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mrs. Khuc Minh Tho', written over a horizontal line.

Mrs. Khuc Minh Tho

Enclosure:

List of current and former political prisoners



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LIST OF CURRENT POLITICAL PRISONERS

AS OF: SEPT. 24, 1984

<u>NAME</u> (LAST NAME, MIDDLE NAME, FIRST NAME)	:	<u>NAME</u> (LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME)
1. BUI VAN SAM		26. LE TAN TAI
2. CAO HUU HOA		27. LE VAN THU
3. CAO THONG MINH		28. LUONG TRONG DUC
4. CO QUOC TUAN		29. LUONG TRONG LAC
5. CO TAN HO		30. NGO VAN NGON
6. DAO VAN THUONG		31. NGUYEN ANH TUAN
7. DO CAO PHUOC		32. NGUYEN CAO QUYEN
8. DO CAO THANH		33. NGUYEN CONG ANH KIET
9. DO CHUNG		34. NGUYEN DAC VONG
10. DO DINH VUONG		35. NGUYEN DUC NHUAN
11. DO HUU CANH		36. NGUYEN KHOA DUC
12. DO MANH		37. NGUYEN KHOA NHON
13. DOAN VAN SANH		38. NGUYEN KIM NAM
14. HO NGOC HOI		39. NGUYEN LO
15. HOANG TICH THONG		40. NGUYEN MINH CHAU
16. HOANG VAN BANH		41. NGUYEN NGOC DIEM
17. HUYNH DUY THIEP		42. NGUYEN NGOC LONG
18. HUYNH THAI SON		43. NGUYEN PHU THO
19. HUYNH THI TU		44. NGUYEN PHUOC AN
20. HUYNH VAN CAO		45. NGUYEN QUAN TINH
21. HUYNH VAN DUC		46. NGUYEN QUANG PHUONG
22. HUYNH VAN VIET		47. NGUYEN QUI LONG
23. LE BA BINH		48. NGUYEN TAN GIA
24. LE BA DANG		49. NGUYEN THAI VAN
25. LE DUC NGUC		50. NGUYEN THANH TRI

LIST OF CURRENT POLITICAL PRISONERS

- 2 -

51. NGUYEN TRI TAI
52. NGUYEN VAN BACH
53. NGUYEN VAN HINH
54. NGUYEN VAN KHANH
55. NGUYEN VAN KHANH
56. NGUYEN VAN LAN
57. NGUYEN VAN MUI
58. NGUYEN VAN THUAN
59. NGUYEN VAN TUAN
60. NGUYEN VIET TAN
61. PHAM CHANH DUY
62. PHAM KIM QUY
63. PHAM KIM TAN
64. PHAM KIM TAM
65. TA HOA HUONG
66. TRAN BA
67. TRAN DONG A
68. TRAN QUANG KHOI
69. TRAN QUANG VUONG
70. TRAN VAN MAN
71. TRAN VAN NGHIEM
72. TRAN VAN TUYEN
73. TRAN VINH KIM
74. TRINH VIET THAI
75. VINH BIEU
76. VU NGOC TRUY
77. VU THANH CONG
78. VU XUAN THONG

Total: Seventy eight (78) Current Political Prisoners



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5555 COLUMBIA PIKE SUITE D
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TELEPHONE NO. (703) 379-7111

LIST OF FORMER POLITICAL PRISONERS

AS OF: SEPT. 24, 1984

<u>NAME</u> (LAST NAME, MIDDLE NAME, FIRST NAME)	<u>NAME</u> (LAST NAME, MIDDLE NAME, FIRST NAME)
1a. CAO VAN GIAO	25. NGUYEN DUC CHINH
1. DANG CHU	26. NGUYEN VAN CHAU
2. DANG NGOC DO	27. NGUYEN NGOC DIEM
3. DANG TRONG DZU	28. NGUYEN THI DIEP
4. DANG VAN QUANG	29. NGUYEN VAN HOA
5. DIEP VAN NGAU	30. NGUYEN VAN HOC
6. DO CHUNG	31. NGUYEN VAN HOI
7. DOAN DUC HOANG	32. NGUYEN HUU HIEP
8. DOAN TAN LAI	33. NGUYEN KHOA HUAN
9. DUONG DINH HOA	34. NGUYEN KHOA HUYNH
10. DUONG VAN HOA	35. NGUYEN DINH LIEN
11. HOANG VAN LE	36. NGUYEN HUU LOC
12. HUYNH PHUOC DUNG	37. NGUYEN MINH MAN
13. HUYNH VAN PHUONG	38. NGUYEN CONG MINH
14. LE XUAN HAI	39. NGUYEN HONG MINH
15. LE GIA TAN	40. NGUYEN VAN NGHIA
16. LE DOAN TRUONG	41. NGUYEN VAN NHON
17. LE VAN TAM	42. NGUYEN VAN PHU
18. LE THIEN TAN	43. NGUYEN HUU PHUOC
19. LE XUAN NAM	44. NGUYEN HUU SAM
20. LE DOAN VUONG	45. NGUYEN TAN THANH
21. LE THU PHONG	46. NGUYEN VAN THANH
22. LE TIEN PHUC	47. NGUYEN HUU TIEN
23. LIEU KIM PHAT	48. NGUYEN THANH VAN
24. NGUYEN THI ANH	49. PHAM VAN HAI

LIST OF FORMER POLITICAL PRISONERS ...

50. PHAM HUNG
51. PHAM HOAI NAM
52. PHAM VAN NHIEU
53. PHAM VAN THANH
54. PHAM CONG TRUNG
55. PHAM MANH TUAN
56. PHAM THUONG VAN
57. PHUNG QUOC TUONG
58. QUACH VAN TUONG
59. TA HOA HIEP
60. THAI VAN HAI
61. THAN TRONG HOA
62. TRAN BA
63. TRAN BAO
64. TRAN VAN CONG
65. TRAN DINH DANG
66. TRAN TAN MAN
67. TRUONG MINH CUONG
68. TRUONG THI QUE
69. VO VAN PHAT

Total: Seventy (70) Former Political Prisoners

REEDUCATION CAMPS IN VIETNAM

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CHARACTERISTICS</u>
A. <u>NORTH VIETNAM</u>	
1. HA NAM NINH (PHU LY)	Held mostly high ranking military officers and civil servants
2. SON LA	Held high ranking officers such as generals, colonels,
3. NGHE AN	Held mid level officers such as majors, Lieutenant Colonels
4. BINH DIEN	Held mostly Police officers, Military Security officers
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Ngày 15 tháng 9 năm 1984

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Kính Gởi Ông Chủ Tịch
Liên Hội các Hội Đoàn Việt Nam
Vùng Hoa Thịnh Đốn

Thưa Ông Chủ Tịch,

Hội Gia Đình Tù Nhân Chính Trị Việt Nam đã được thành lập từ năm 1977 tại vùng Virginia, Hoa Kỳ. Tuy chưa được ban trường mạnh mẽ và công khai vì tài chánh và nhân sự còn eo hẹp, Hội chúng tôi vẫn điều hành một cách dặc lực, tận tình cho việc thực hiện mục đích nhân đạo của Hội, và gặt hái được một số thành quả tốt đẹp.

Hội đã thầu nhận được một số lớn hội viên có thân nhân đã và đang bị cầm tù tại Việt Nam sau biên cô thang từ năm 1975 vì lý do bị buộc tội là thuộc chế độ cũ, và Hội đã thành lập một danh sách các tù nhân chính trị này. Trong mấy năm qua, Hội vẫn kiên nhẫn kêu gọi và đề don với Liên Hiệp Quốc, Phủ Cao Ủy Tỵ Nạn Liên Hiệp Quốc, Hội Hồng Thập Tự Quốc Tế, Hội Ân Xá Quốc Tế, Quốc Hội cùng như chính phủ Hoa Kỳ, yêu cầu những cơ quan này can thiệp với chính quyền Việt Nam để các tù nhân này sớm được phong thích, và được cứu xét ưu tiên về việc họ cùng thân nhân nạp don xin rời Việt Nam để được đoàn tụ với gia đình tại Hoa Kỳ trong Chương Trình Ra Di Trật Tù (Orderly Departure Program) của chính phủ Hoa Kỳ.

Trong những ngày gần đây, các tin tức quốc tế, Hoa Kỳ, cho biết rằng Quốc Hội và Chính Phủ Hoa Kỳ cùng Liên Hiệp Quốc đang mạnh mẽ xúc tiến các thủ tục để điều đình với chính quyền Việt Nam về vấn đề phong thích các tù nhân chính trị hiện đang bị giam cầm trong các khám dưỡng cũng như các trại cải tạo từ năm 1975.

Một trong những diễn-tiến rất quan-trọng về vấn-đề này là sự tuyên-bố của Tổng-Trưởng Ngoại-Giao Hoa-Kỳ ngày 11 tháng 9 năm 1984 tại Quốc-Hội xác-nhận trách-nhiệm của Hoa-Kỳ đối với tù-nhân chính-trị Việt-Nam. Ông Tổng-Trưởng Ngoại-Giao còn nhìn-nhận rằng cho đến nay, chính-phủ Hoa-Kỳ đã chệnh-mạn việc binh-vực quyền-lôi và đòi tra tù-đo cho những nạn-nhân này. Để hạn gán sự lo-dang đo, chính-phủ Hoa-Kỳ chính-thức công-nhận những tù nhân này sẽ được hưởng ưu-tiên trong Chương-Trình Ra Đi Trật-Tu (Orderly Departure Program). Chính-Phủ Hoa-Kỳ đồng-thời cũng kêu gọi Hà-Nội chung-minh thiện-chi trong việc hua hẹn tra tù-đo cho các tù nhân này. Trong ban điều-trấn tại Quốc-Hội, Ông Tổng-Trưởng nhón danh Chính-Phủ Hoa-Kỳ xin Quốc-hội chấp-thuận kế-hoạch nhận 10.000 tù nhân chính-trị và gia-đình định-cụ tại Hoa-Kỳ trong hai tài-khoá 1985 và 1986. Những đề-nghị của Chính-Phủ Hoa-Kỳ sẽ được đưa ra trong cuộc thương-thuyết với đại-diện Chính-quyền Việt-Nam tại Geneve vào tháng 10 sắp tới hay tại Đại Hội-Dồng Khoang-đại Liên-Hiệp-Quốc trong tháng 10 này.

Trong bầu không-khí phản-khởi đầy hy-vọng do, Hội Gia-Đình Tù Nhân Chính-Trị Việt-Nam hết sức vui-mừng nhận thấy hoạt-động của Hội đã đạt được kết-qua và Hội nguyên sẽ đón mọi nỗ-lực để có-vo, ủng-hò và tiếp tay cho công-tác nhân-đạo cao-cả của Quốc-Hội, Chính-Phủ Hoa-Kỳ và Liên-Hiệp-Quốc. Hội Gia-Đình Tù Nhân Chính-Trị Việt-Nam đã viết thư kêu gọi sự giúp-đo và cam ƠN lòng nhiệt-thành của Ông Tổng-Trưởng Ngoại-Giao Hoa-Kỳ quý Vị Dân-Biểu và Thượng Nghị-Sĩ Hoa-Kỳ, Ông Cao-Uy Ty-Nạn Liên-Hiệp-Quốc, cùng các Cơ-quan Thông-tin và Bao-chi Mỹ và Việt-Nam tại hải-ngoại.

Vì tình-cách khẩn-trương của vấn-đề này, Hội Gia-Đình Tù Nhân Chính-Trị Việt-Nam chúng tôi khẩn-thiết kêu gọi sự công-tác của quý Vị Chu-Tích và Hội-Viên để hỗ-hào các đóng-bao có thân-nhân là tù nhân chính-trị nên cấp-tốc gọi tên tuổi các người này với đầy-đu chi-tiết lý-lich về trụ-so của Hội ngo hầu chúng tôi sớm hoàn-thành một danh-sách đầy-đu để kịp thời dao đạt tới các giới tham-quyền uoc-nguyên chính đàng của gia-đinh

và thân-nhân tù nhân chính-trị Việt-Nam. Chúng tôi cũng thành-khẩn kêu gọi sự hỗ-trợ của quý Vị để sớm đạt được kết-quả mong muốn của tất cả đồng-bào chúng ta và được thấy bà con ruột thịt và bạn-bè thân-hữu của mình được trở về đoàn-tu cùng những người thân yêu đuổi mai ác gia-dinh sau 10 năm trong cảnh lao tù.

Xin chân-thành cảm ơn quý Vị.

Mọi thư-tù liên-lạc xin quý Vị gởi về địa-chỉ sau đây:

HỘI GIA-DÌNH TÙ NHÂN CHÍNH-TRỊ VIỆT-NAM
5555 Columbia Pike, Suite D
Arlington, VA. 22204

Kính thư,

Bà KHUC MINH THỎ
Chủ-Tịch.

Điện-thoại : (703) 560-0058 (Tu-Gia)
(703) 558-2245 (Số)

7813 Marthas Lane
Falls Church, Virginia 22043
September 18, 1984

Mr. Don Torrance
CBS - Channel 9 Television
4001 Brandywine Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Mr. Torrance:

I would like to take this opportunity to expressly thank you, Cynthia Barber (sound person) and Hal Hoiland (cameraman) for the thoughtful interview you conducted with me regarding our loved ones still in Vietnam.

You entered my home in a loving and caring manner and appeared genuinely interested in our plight and the future of thousands of Vietnamese who, until now, have been without much hope of a promise for freedom and unity with their families.

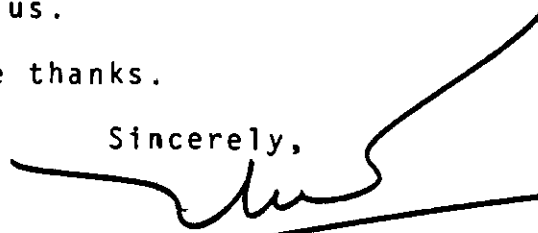
Though the language barrier existed I feel that there were stronger bonds that united us in order to present to the public a truly human interest story that needed to be heard. Thanks for allowing us the opportunity to say it.

I trust that should you need to contact me for any reason that you will not hesitate to do so. I hope that because of your feature story we will be able to realize progress in the release of our loved ones...and for your help we will never forget you.

Looking forward to the great day of celebration of unity with our families with a special recognition of the assistance you provided us.

Again, our sincere thanks.

Sincerely,



Khuc Minh Tho

KMT/

U.S., Vietnam To Hold Talks On Prisoners

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Exiles Tell of Stark Life in Vietnam Prisons

By **BARBARA CROSSETTE**

Special to The New York Times

BANGKOK, Thailand, Sept. 15 — He

had washed up, a boat person, on a Thai beach.

The man was interviewed the day after Secretary of State George P.

harm to his family still in Vietnam, refugee officials have been able to draw a composite picture of life in Vietnamese political prisons. The former

New York Times

Sept 16, 1974

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1984

Resettlement of 455,000 in U.S. Viewed as Success

«There's a particular approach to

THE WASHINGTON POST SEPTEMBER 17, 1984

'An American Obligation'

On behalf of the freedom of expression

A18

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1984

The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

An Obligation Accepted

Hanoi Says U.S. Must Take All Prisoners ^{Washington Post, Sep. 15 '69}

U.S. to Grant Asylum To Vietnam Prisoners

By Lena H. Sun
Washington Post Staff Writer

set aside as a separate category for
the Amerasian children and political

MORE VIETNAMESE TO GET PERMISSION TO ENTER THE U.S.

SHULTZ ANNOUNCES MOVE

**American Soldiers' Offspring
and Political Prisoners Are
Included Under Policy**

The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1984

An American Obligation

Monday, September 3, 1984

THE WASHINGTON POST

U.S. to Test Vietnam's Offer to Send Prisoners Here

By John M. Goshko
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Reagan administration is preparing

nothing will come of it, that Vietnam is engaged in a propaganda exercise to counteract the damage caused to its image by the

these people go, it's not the United States that will be standing in the way."

He confirmed a report yesterday by The New York Times that the administration is

for Far East affairs, to Roger F. Winter, director of the United States Committee for Refugees. In it, Wolfowitz said:

"I personally feel that there is almost no

New York Times

—NEW YORK, SUNDAY,

U.S. SAID TO WEIGH OFFER TO RECEIVE HANOI PRISONERS

Move Termed Near on Asylum

Sunday 9/2/84

214

U.S. SAID TO NEAR AN OFFER TO HANOI

Continued From Page 1

Mr. Reagan urging that the United States "seize the initiative" and "send clear signal to Vietnam that the United States is genuinely interested in freedom for those political prisoners" by allocating 10,000 places for them and their families.

International
New York City

THREE
LOS ANGELES 1-4
W-1,000,000
S-1,250,000

JUL-13-64

Unfinished Business in Vietnam

Why Not Accept Our Friends From Reeducation Camps?

By ROGER P. WINTER

The Boston Advertiser, May 1962. Copyright secured by Roger P. Winter. All rights reserved.

Fewer 'Boat People,' Says U.N. Official N.Y Times

Vietnam Refugees Effort 'a Success'

A 18

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1984

The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

An Obligation Accepted

RECEIVED

A22 FRIDAY, MAY 1, 1987

MAY 15 1987

THE WASHINGTON

The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Hanoi's Broken Promise

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 16, 1984

Dear Mr. Tho:

I have been asked to reply to your September 15 letter to the President which outlined the nature of your association and expressed its willingness to assist Vietnamese political prisoners should they be released by the government in Hanoi and be allowed to emigrate.

You will have received a letter from the Secretary of State expressing this government's determination to assist in their departure from Vietnam. The President's initiative on their behalf is evidence to you that Vietnam's political prisoners have not been forgotten by the United States.

I am sending a copy of your letter to the Department of State's Bureau of Refugee Programs so that the officials directly involved with the Orderly Departure Program from Vietnam can be aware of your association's purposes and the role it is willing to play in the reception of liberated political prisoners.

Please accept my best wishes for the success of your organization and our joint success in obtaining the freedom of those still suffering in prison camps for their part in a noble effort.

Sincerely,



Linas Kojelis
Associate Director
Office of Public Liaison

Mr. Khuc Minh Tho
President
Families of Vietnamese Political
Prisoners Association
5555 Columbia Pike
Suite D
Arlington, VA 22204

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

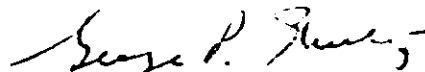
September 19, 1984

Dear Mrs. Tho:

I appreciate your writing me regarding the unfortunate people still being held in "reeducation" camps in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. You have no doubt seen the news reports of my September 12 Congressional testimony on this subject, but perhaps you would be interested in the full text of my statement which I have enclosed.

As you can see, we share the same concerns about these unfortunate victims. The United States has every intention of assisting the departure from Vietnam of the political prisoners still being held in the camps. If the authorities in Hanoi are really serious about allowing them to leave in an orderly way, I am sure we will be able to arrive at a mutually acceptable process. I know that after nine years you and the other members of your association are justifiably frustrated and impatient for results, but I can assure you that this government is ready to do its part for those who have suffered so much for their support for the cause of freedom in Vietnam.

Sincerely,



George P. Shultz

Enclosure:
Congressional Testimony

Mrs. Khuc Minh Tho,
President,
Families of Vietnamese Political
Prisoners Association,
7813 Marthas Lane,
Falls Church, Virginia.

Secretary Shultz

Proposed Refugee Admissions for FY 1985

September 11, 1984



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 11, 1984.

Thank you for the invitation to testify on the President's 1985 refugee admissions proposals.

The Congress has—in the Refugee Act of 1980—stated that the U.S. resettlement program is intended for refugees of "special humanitarian concern to the United States," in accordance with a determination made by the President after appropriate consultation.

After most careful study and reflection, the President proposes a regional refugee admissions ceiling of 70,000 for FY 1985, a small reduction from the FY 1984 level.

Within this overall ceiling of 70,000, the President is proposing a new, separate ceiling for admissions under the UN High Commissioner for Refugees' Orderly Departure Program (ODP) from Vietnam and some adjustments in geographic ceilings.

I am here, representing the President, to consult with the Congress about our 1985 admissions program. We are here today not only to present this proposal for your consideration but also to answer your questions and receive your views.

We hope the 1985 admissions program will receive the same broad bipartisan support that it has enjoyed in past years.

The proposed admissions ceilings for FY 1985 are:

- 50,000 for East Asia, including 10,000 for a separate Orderly Departure Program in Vietnam;
- 9,000 for Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union;
- 5,000 for the Near East and South Asia;
- 3,000 for Africa; and
- 3,000 for Latin America and the Caribbean, for a total of 70,000 worldwide.

In addition, the President is announcing two new initiatives aimed at resolving pressing refugee problems in Southeast Asia:

First, the United States will accept for admission all Asian-American children and their qualifying family members presently in Vietnam—hopefully over the next 3 years. Because of their undisputed ties to our country, these children and family members are of particular humanitarian concern to the United States.

Second, the United States is proposing a distinct program within the UNHCR's Orderly Departure Program from Vietnam for the resettlement of political prisoners currently and previously confined in the "re-education camp" prisons in Vietnam and their qualifying family members.

Various spokesmen for the communist regime in Vietnam have claimed they would be willing to release all of these political prisoners for resettlement.

ment. But despite 2 years of efforts to arrange for their departure under the UNHCR's Orderly Departure Program, the Vietnamese have released for resettlement only a handful of these persecuted people.

This initiative has as its goal the departure from Vietnam of 10,000 of these persons for resettlement in the United States over the next 2 years. These current and former political prisoners are of particular humanitarian concern to the United States.

Success in both of these initiatives will require the goodwill and cooperation of the Vietnamese Government. We hope the Vietnamese will now respond to these new appeals.

Needs of the 8 Million Refugees

There are nearly 8 million refugees in the world today. In response to this tragic situation, the United States and the international community actively seek durable solutions. In order of preference, these solutions are:

- Voluntary repatriation to the refugees' homelands;
- Permanent resettlement in the countries of first asylum; or
- Resettlement in third countries, including the United States.

International refugee assistance programs, for which the United States provides about 30% of the funding, help provide basic care and maintenance for the refugees until one of these solutions can be achieved.

We believe that our proposed admissions program for 1985—coupled with the expected admissions programs of the other resettlement countries—should meet the requirements for resettlement in the coming year. We will continue to work closely with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and with other countries to ensure that the responsibility for resettlement is shared equitably.

This international resettlement effort—along with the planned contributions by the United States and other donor countries for refugee relief abroad—should hopefully meet the basic needs of the world's refugee population.

Accomplishments of the Last 10 Years

Over the last 10 years the U.S. refugee program has compiled an impressive list of accomplishments:

- Since April 1975, we have successfully integrated into American society more than 700,000 Indochinese refugees.

- Since 1980, we have accepted for resettlement over 30,000 people from Vietnam under the UNHCR's Orderly Departure Program, including many Asian-American children and a smaller number of former political prisoners—many of whom might have otherwise been tempted to undertake the dangerous clandestine escape from Vietnam by boat.

- By contributing over \$240 million in relief aid, the United States has played a leading role in averting a serious famine in Kampuchea and in providing life-sustaining assistance to the Khmer people forced to live a precarious existence along the Thai border.

- Our refugee assistance and resettlement programs have been a key element in maintaining regional stability and strengthening the security of our friends in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), as well as other first asylum countries around the world.

- Even as we coped with a vast outpouring of refugees from Indochina, our resettlement programs have continued to give a chance for a new life to thousands of refugees fleeing persecution in the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and Iran.

- Since early 1980, with the UNHCR and the Government of Pakistan, the United States has taken a leading role in providing over \$350 million in food, shelter, and other assistance to approximately 3 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

- International relief efforts, to which the United States has contributed about \$100 million this year, have saved tens of thousands of lives in Africa. In a new international effort resulting from the recent Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa (ICARA II)—held in Geneva this past July—we are working closely with African asylum nations to improve their ability to provide safe and humane asylum to nearly 2 million refugees.

An important measure of the refugee program's priority in our country is this: during a time of budget restraint, both Congress and the Executive have left the refugee program largely uncut—in recognition of the critical needs it addresses and, I believe, of its efficient management.

Rather than dwell on our accomplishments, however, we must press ahead with the urgent tasks before us, for many of the yet unresolved problems are grave.

UNHCR Orderly Departure Program

I would now like to discuss in detail our proposal for a new, separate ceiling for admissions under the UNHCR Orderly Departure Program.

In early 1984, the number of ODP departures from Vietnam for the United States exceeded 1,000 per month for the first time since the program began. Total departures to the United States and other resettlement countries have reached an average of 2,200 per month, and in FY 1984 ODP departures to all countries will exceed the number of boat arrivals for the first time. Despite continuing problems, the UNHCR Orderly Departure Program is working and is increasingly becoming an alternative to hazardous boat escapes from Vietnam.

The reason the President is proposing the establishment of a separate Orderly Departure Program ceiling for FY 1985 is to ensure that a growing ODP is not perceived as reducing the number of refugees admitted to the United States from first asylum countries.

We estimate that this ceiling of 10,000 would permit the departure from Vietnam of some 18,000 refugees and immigrants in FY 1985, some 7,000 of whom would enter the United States as refugees in FY 1986, following completion of language training and cultural orientation at the Philippine Refugee Processing Center in Bataan.

At UNHCR-sponsored meetings in Geneva in October 1982 and October 1983, we urged the Vietnamese to permit an expansion of the Orderly Departure Program. We expect to meet, under UNHCR auspices, with the Vietnamese in Geneva again this October, and will present to them at that time our revised plans for the future expansion of the Orderly Departure Program.

Our revised plans include, first, a basic restructuring of the U.S. program. Rather than having one ODP program into which we combine all groups of particular concern to the United States, we would propose to divide ODP into three separate sub-programs, and to measure mutual performance against specified processing levels and guidelines for each program.

The three sub-programs would be:

The Regular Program, for spouses and children of American citizens, ex-U.S. Government employees, and ethnic minorities of special humanitarian concern;

The Asian-American Program, for Asian-American children and close family members included in the same household as the child; and

The Political Prisoner Program, for current and former political prisoners and specified family members.

For the Regular Program, we would plan to process and move from Vietnam up to 10,000 persons (refugees and immigrants) during 1985. Within the 10,000 level, we would inform the Vietnamese that we would expect them to grant exit visas to a much greater proportion of persons from our special priority lists.

For the other two programs, I have already described the specific new initiatives designed to prompt the processing and movement of these much-abused populations. We would set processing and movement levels for these programs sufficient to launch and maintain steady movements for each group during 1985.

Proposed Admissions Ceilings

I now turn to the proposed admissions ceilings for the geographic regions of the world.

East Asia. In my statement on July 13 of this year to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers' Conference, I praised the member nations of ASEAN for the vital role they have played in granting first asylum to over 1.3 million Indochinese refugees, who since 1975 have been forced to flee their homes and seek safety. I characterized the entire refugee resettlement process from first asylum to final resettlement as "international cooperation at its finest." Further, I noted that if the process is to continue on the present successful track, we must all continue to shoulder our share of the burden. I pledged that we in the United States will do so and urged others to do so as well.

Our resettlement of over 700,000 refugees from first asylum countries in Southeast Asia, and more recently through the UNHCR Orderly Departure Program, has been a major factor for continuing stability in the region since 1975. The generosity of the American people in receiving these refugees into our society—along with similar efforts by many other countries—has enabled the first asylum countries to leave their doors open and at the same time avoid potentially destructive economic, social, and political pressures.

We should not lose sight of the fact that it is Hanoi's oppressive policies toward its own people and its military occupation of its neighbors that must cease before there can be a lasting solution to the Indochinese refugee crisis. It

is these policies which are the root cause of the continuing exodus of refugees and the unwillingness of the people who fled Vietnam, Kampuchea, and Laos to return to their homes.

The number of Vietnamese boat arrivals in first asylum countries continues to decline for a number of reasons. These reasons include the UNHCR Orderly Departure Program which has provided a safe and legal means of leaving Vietnam; a shortage of boats available to refugees; and reported restrictions by the Vietnamese authorities on clandestine departures. However, there is still a large number of refugees fleeing Vietnam by boat.

Refugee boat arrivals in Southeast Asian countries will equal about 26,000 for FY 1984 compared to about 32,800 arrivals in FY 1983 and 49,000 arrivals in FY 1982.

Resettlement by other countries during the current fiscal year should reach about 38,000, the same as last year. With the United States and other countries continuing at about the same level of resettlement in the coming fiscal year, the total refugee population in Southeast Asian first asylum camps should drop to approximately 116,000 by the end of FY 1985, down from a high of 409,000 at the peak of the Indochinese refugee crisis in 1979, and a significant reduction from the level of 176,000 at the beginning of the current fiscal year.

To lessen the Indochinese refugee burden on Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Hong Kong, the United States has maintained a relatively high rate of resettlement from the region. We believe that admission of 40,000 refugees in FY 1985 is our fair share—a level equal to the number of refugees we expect will be admitted by the rest of the refugee resettlement countries combined. This should encourage other resettlement nations to continue to participate in resettlement from Southeast Asia. Processing by Immigration and Naturalization Service officers has been smooth and efficient during FY 1984, thanks in part to improved casework by the voluntary agency representatives in the field and to the effect of the revised INS refugee processing guidelines issued in August 1983.

Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Despite its international obligation under the Helsinki Accords to allow freer emigration, the Soviet Union continues to prevent Jews and other persecuted minorities from leaving. We have urged the Soviets to honor their agreements and to issue exit permits to those who

wish to leave, and I intend to make this point with Foreign Minister Gromyko when I meet with him at the United Nations. The severe Soviet restriction on Jewish and other emigration regrettably reduces the need again this year for proposing a large refugee admissions ceiling for Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union in FY 1985.

On the other hand, we want to maintain a sufficiently high ceiling to provide for our fair share of the normal outflow of refugees from the countries of Eastern Europe. We estimate that a ceiling of 9,000 admissions should be adequate for this purpose.

Near East and South Asia. The Near East and South Asia region has several major refugee-producing situations, particularly in Afghanistan and Iran. In most cases, the refugees coming from this area are able to find continuing asylum in the region. We estimate that a refugee admissions ceiling of 5,000 will be sufficient to provide for those persons requiring resettlement who are of special concern to the United States, especially persecuted Iranian religious minorities such as the Bahais, and persons from Afghanistan whose positions in former Afghan governments or association with the United States make them particular targets of persecution.

Africa. The generous hospitality of African countries of first asylum and some limited possibilities for voluntary repatriation have mitigated the need for any significant resettlement outside of Africa. However, there remains a relatively small number of African refugees for whom asylum or integration in the region is not feasible. We are proposing a ceiling of 3,000 for Africa to accommodate these special cases.

Latin America and Caribbean. Finally, we are requesting 3,000 admissions for potential refugees from Latin America and the Caribbean who might require resettlement in the United States. This is an increase of 2,000 over FY 1984 and should be adequate to permit the admission of refugees for whom resettlement in the United States is the most appropriate option.

English Language Training and Medical Programs for Refugees

We have dedicated significant time, money, and effort to developing programs to help refugees prepare for their new lives in America.

For example, in 1985 we anticipate further improvements in both the English-as-a-Second-Language and

Kin of Missing Vietnamese in Bid to Learn Their Fate

By NORMAN KEMPSTER, Times Staff Writer *Times*
WASHINGTON

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Monday August 21, 1989

Freed Vietnamese have her to thank

Woman has fought
12 years for release
of political prisoners

By Jeffrey Brody
The Register

assistant Secretary of State, credits Tho with being the guiding light behind the movement to free Vietnamese who were held in communist re-education camps.

"She really is a remarkable woman," Funseth said. "Through all the years, she never gave up."

Funseth felt so strongly about Tho's efforts that he presented her



REGISTER

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 1989

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By Jeffrey Brody and Thanhha Lai
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THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

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EDITORIAL

*"First the blade,
then the ear,
then the full grain
in the ear" ●*

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At the time of the US withdrawal, records or profiles of all resettlers.

T H E O R A N G E C O U N T Y
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Full report - Page 1

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■ VIETNAM

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BANGKOK, Thailand