



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

P.O. BOX 5435, ARLINGTON VA 22205-0635
TELEPHONE: 703-998-7850

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DƯƠNG MỸ LINH SOLAND, Esq.

September 5, 1986

Richard D. English
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Refugee Admissions
Bureau for Refugee Programs
United States Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. English:

In response to your communication to me dated July 7, 1986 you requested that I send you documents one one or two cases representative of the requests for the Orderly Departure Program for surviving family members of political prisoners in Vietnam who have died.

This information was forwarded to you; however, we inadvertently did not send the translation. I received a note from your office requesting the English translations, which I have enclosed.

Should you have any questions and/or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Khuc Minh Tho
President

KMT/lrh
Enclosures



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

July 7, 1986

Khuc Minh Tho
P.O. Box 5435
Arlington, VA 22205-0635

Dear Mrs. Tho:

Mr. Purcell has asked me to reply to your letter of May 28, inquiring whether surviving family members of political prisoners in Vietnam who have died could be included in the Orderly Departure Program. I would appreciate it if you would send me documents on one or two representative cases together with information on any persecution the family members may have suffered after the death of the prisoner.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Richard D. English

Richard D. English
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Refugee Admissions
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 DUONG MY LINH SOLAND
 MRS LE VAN HUNG

May 28th, 1986

Mr. James N. Purcell, Jr.
 Director
 Bureau for Refugee Programs
 U.S. Department of State
 Washington, D.C.

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 Deputy Treasurer

Dear Mr. Purcell:

Once again we turn to you with a troubling problem, as outlined in several letters we have received recently.

These letters have been on behalf of the immediate families of former political prisoners who either died in re-education camps, in Viet Nam following their release, or while attempting escape. If they were alive, they and their immediate families would be eligible for admission to the United States. Because they are dead, however, their immediate families enjoy no such eligibility through Orderly Departure Program.

It would be hard to think of any people who have suffered persecution more under the communists than these families. They have been separated from their imprisoned husbands and fathers, and have suffered the ultimate sorrow and loss, being separated by death from their loved ones. Moreover, as close relatives of political prisoners, they continue to suffer persecution and deprivation.

We strongly urge a re-examination of U.S. policy with respect to admission of this group. We would be happy to assist in making our information and case files available, to assist in any way possible.

Thank you for your many instances of past help and your interest in this new and difficult problem.

Sincerely,

Khuc Minh Tho (Mrs.)
 President

Cố Vấn Đoàn
Advisory Committee

DUONG MY LINH SOLAND ESQ



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September 8th, 1986

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HUYỀN KIM CHI
DUONG MỸ LINH SOLAND
MRS LÊ VĂN HÙNG

Mr. Javier P. Decuellar
Secretary General
United Nations
S-3800 United Nations
New York, NY 10017

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HUYỀN KIM CHI

Dear Mr. Decuellar:

I am writing on behalf of my organization to remind you of the thousands of political prisoners being held illegally by the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and to urge you to use your good offices to help redress this cruel situation.

More than 11 years have passed since our loved ones were seized by the SRV, and without charge or trial, sent off to "reeducation" camps. Those, they have been kept, on minimal rations, in hard labor and harsh treatment. They have been denied medical treatment; many have died and many others are sick or badly debilitated.

Although the SRV is a member of the United Nations, in the case of these prisoners it is clearly in violation of human rights provisions of the United Nations' Charter. At a very minimum, we would hope that the SRV might release the very elderly and sick prisoners.

Mr. Secretary, we earnestly plead for your help, and that of the General Assembly, in considering the plight of these, our loved ones, with whom we and thousands of our fellow-countrymen scattered throughout the world hope to be reunited one day.

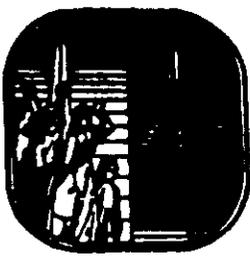
Thank you for your understanding and assistance.

Sincerely,

Khuc Minh Tho (Mrs.)
 President

Cố Vấn Đoàn
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DUONG MỸ LINH SOLAND ESQ



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September 4, 1986

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DƯƠNG MỸ-LINH SOLAND, Esq

Ms. Carol P. Hecklinger
 Director
 Office of Refugee Admissions
 and Processing
 Bureau for Refugee Programs
 United States Department of State
 Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Ms. Hecklinger:

We would like to take this opportunity to inform you of the **2nd Anniversary** of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association's newsletter. We are anxiously looking forward to the publication of this newsletter and the information it will impart to our many readers.

It is with that thought in mind that we would like for you to respond with information regarding the following issues:

1. Is it true that ODP opens a section particularly dealing with Vietnamese political prisoners?
2. The SRV now requires all applicants who apply for an exit permit to submit form I-171 and a Letter of Introduction. As we all well know, in order to get an I-171 one must be a) U.S. citizen; or b) a direct kin or relationship. And the majority of our political prisoners do not have close relatives in the United States.
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Ms. Carol P. Hecklinger, Director
Office of Refugee Admissions and
Processing

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September 4, 1986

5. In 1984, President Reagan announced that he would admit 10,000 political to the United States under a special category. What can we do to help them get admitted and at the same time fulfill the SRN's requirements?
6. Can ODP advise those who have applied on the status of their application or provide them a short description form telling them why they cannot have IV numbers so that they will not apply for exit permits with SRV; because when one applies, one may take a chance of losing their food ration, jobs and living quarters.

Also, could you please provide us with ODP processing guidelines that will assist us in aiding persons needing to complete important documents.

As stated earlier, in many instances we have learned from the people at home that the ODP interviewers are back at the VN. In the meantime, here we have heard on the contrary, that there is nobody there to interview. Thus, any reliable information you can provide on this issue would be greatly appreciated.

We look forward to corresponding with you and thank you in advance for your kindness and consideration of our requests. The Department's assistance that has been rendered to this group of unfortunate human beings is very important to us and we can understand how difficult it is to deal with SRV.

Sincerely,



(Mrs.) Khuc Minh Tho
President

KMI/lrh

THE ORDERLY DEPARTURE PROGRAM IN 1985

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

6 December 1984

New U.S. interviewer begins work with UNHCR delegation in Ho Chi Minh City, bringing U.S. interviewing team to five. This allows a minimum of three, and usually four, interviewers to work in Viet Nam at all times.

17 April 1985

Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Hanoi issues note to UNHCR in Viet Nam for transmittal to U.S. authorities expressing their displeasure with backlog of individuals who had already been interviewed by U.S. program but not yet rejected or approved for entry to U.S. SRV officials cite this backlog at 17,000 persons. Vietnamese authorities also say there is a backlog in Viet Nam of 35-40,000 persons who have been issued Exit Permits but are awaiting interview by U.S./UNHCR delegation.

23 April 1985

Vietnamese Embassy in Bangkok fails to issue entry visa for additional interviewer scheduled by U.S. to join the U.S. team in Viet Nam.

Mid-August 1985

Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Hanoi issues notes to Australian and Canadian missions in Viet Nam and to UNHCR (for U.S. representatives) that in nearly-identical wording state continuing displeasure with persistent backlogs of interviewed but not yet approved/rejected cases by all three countries. The U.S. is informed that visas will not be issued for even replacement interviewers until the U.S. makes a "show of good faith" regarding ODP; the other two countries are informed that they will have to reduce their backlogs before more interviews will be scheduled.

Vietnamese authorities in Ho Chi Minh City informally state that SRV has decided to "slow the delivery" of exit permits until the U.S. backlog is reduced.

October 1985

Geneva meeting between SRV and U.S. authorities and UNHCR takes place. U.S. states that it considers the large majority of those who have departed under ODP to be "SRV cases", and that it intends to make principal of reciprocity of cases presented for interview "stick" during the coming year; otherwise, the U.S. will significantly decrease ODP admissions.

Congress & Administration set FY86 admissions ceilings that mandate a 15% cut in refugees admitted under ODP.

Three U.S. interviewers depart Ho Chi Minh City as scheduled (two on contract completion, one on maternity leave).

November 1985

Two interviewers continue work in Viet Nam.

December 1985

Vietnamese authorities state that due to persistent backlog problem, no new cases will be presented for interview by U.S. after 31 December 1985. Request interviewers to return to Viet Nam after the holidays for discussions and office work regarding ODP.

Early January 1986

U.S. interviewers are told that will be expelled from Viet Nam effective 16 January 1986. Last interviewer departs on this date.



18 APR 1985

BỘ NGOẠI GIAO
NƯỚC CỘNG HÒA XÃ HỘI CHỦ NGHĨA
VIỆT NAM

Số: 961/LS-DT

Vụ Lãnh sự Bộ Ngoại giao nước Cộng hòa Xã hội chủ nghĩa Việt Nam xin kính chào Cơ quan Đại diện Cao ủy Liên hợp quốc về người tị nạn tại Việt Nam và xin trân trọng thông báo ý kiến của Tổ Công tác Việt Nam đối với một số ý kiến mà phía Mỹ đề nghị như sau :

- Hiện nay còn tồn đọng khoảng 17.000 người (bao gồm hơn 13.000 người thuộc diện ODP và hơn 3.000 người thuộc diện con lai) đã được phía Mỹ phỏng vấn, nhưng chưa nhận nhập cảnh. Đề nghị phía Mỹ phải nhận số người này, trả lời rõ những trường hợp nào cho và không cho nhập cảnh;

- Đối với diện di theo ODP, mỗi tháng phía Mỹ phải nhận 1200 người đến 1300 người và có thể lấy trong số người tồn đọng đã được phỏng vấn.

- Về con lai Mỹ, đây là vấn đề thuộc về quan hệ giữa hai nước, Mỹ phải bàn với Việt Nam để giải quyết. Trước mắt Mỹ phải nhận số 3000 con lai và thân nhân để phỏng vấn, ai không được chấp nhận thì trả lời cho biết để họ yên tâm làm ăn sinh sống. Đề nghị phía Mỹ đơn giản thủ tục phỏng vấn con lai để đạt ít nhất 500 con lai đi mỗi tháng.

Nhân dịp này, Vụ Lãnh sự Bộ Ngoại giao xin gửi tới Cơ quan Đại diện lời chào trân trọng.

Hà Nội, ngày 17 tháng 4 năm 1985

Kính gửi : Cơ quan Đại diện
Cao ủy Liên hợp quốc
về người tị nạn
tại HÀ NỘI





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Cố Vấn Đoàn
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DUONG MỸ-LINH SOLAND, Esq.

September 4, 1986

Mr. & Mrs. Murphy
920 South 26th Place
Arlington, Virginia 22204

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Murphy:

On behalf of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation and gratitude for your generous contribution of a sofa and chair.

These items were given to two children of Vietnamese political prisoners and their names are Nguyen Sinh and Nguyen Ninh. Their father was a Vietnamese Political Prisoner who died in the re-education camp.

They currently reside at 871 South Greenbrier Street, Apt. #4 in Arlington, Virginia.

Again on behalf of our Association and these two brothers we wish to say a special thank-you for your contribution.

If we can ever be of service to either of you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Khuc Minh Tho
President

KMT/lrh



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Cố Vấn Đoàn
Advisory Committee

DUONG MỸ-LINH SOLAND, Esq

September 4, 1986

Ms. Rosalind B. Smith
Director
Migration and Refugee Services
200 N. Glebe Road
Arlington, Virginia 22203

Dear Ms. Smith:

On behalf of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association I would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to you and Cathy Reid, Sponsorship Coordinator for so expeditiously getting the IV Number for Ngo Duc Duyet.

We would again implore your services in securing the IV numbers for two other cases:

- 1) Dang Ngoc Bich - DOB: 11/7/29
- 2) Nguyen Phuoc Loc - DOB: 2/24/31

We wish to thank you in advance for your consideration of this additional request and look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Should you have any questions and/or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Khuc Minh Tho

KMP/lrh



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September 5, 1986

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September 4, 1986

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Sincerely,



(Mrs.) Khuc Minh Tho
President

KMT/lrh



CURRENT ORDERLY DEPARTURE PROGRAM PROCESSING

The Orderly Departure Program (ODP), operating under auspices of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, has brought nearly 50,000 people to the United States from Vietnam. The program's success has attracted a very large number of applications. Only a limited number of refugees may enter the U.S. under the program each year. A much larger number of immigrants can be accepted annually.

The U.S. ODP Office will, therefore, issue Letters of Introduction (LOI's) to applicants seeking family reunification only if they have received "Visas 93" approval or qualify for immigration visa issuance on the basis of petitions with current or near-current priority dates. "Near-current" would be those with dates likely to be current in roughly one year. Immigrant visa petitions (INS Form I-130) or, in the case of a spouse or child of a refugee in the United States, "Visas 93" applications (INS Form I-730) may be obtained from and filed with the local office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

Sponsoring relatives in the United States may continue to send Affidavits of Relationship and other documents to the U.S. ODP Office in Bangkok to serve as the foundation for a future immigrant visa file. However, LOI's will not be issued until an immigrant visa petition has in fact been filed and the date of the petition is close to current.

Scarce refugee numbers will be reserved for those cases of special humanitarian concern who cannot qualify for immigrant status. These will be primarily Amerasian children and their accompanying family members and persons of special humanitarian concern to the U.S. (Long-term re-education camp prisoners or those with previous close association, through employment or otherwise, with the U.S. prior to 1975).

The Vietnamese Authorities have not permitted interviews for the U.S. ODP since January 1, 1986. We are working to resolve this problem, but we cannot predict when the Vietnamese will allow interviews to resume. We anticipate that once the interviews do resume the only people interviewed will be:

- A. Beneficiaries of current immigrant visa petitions.
- B. Beneficiaries of approved "Visas 93" applications.
- C. Amerasians and their immediate "families".
- D. Persons of special humanitarian concern to the U.S., as described above.

Currently, most family reunification cases which have already been interviewed and appear complete, but which lack immigrant status, are moving at a very slow rate. The U.S. ODP Office cannot predict when or if this rate will change. If sponsors are eligible to file immigrant visa petitions (Form I-130) and the requisite Affidavit of Support (Form I-134) for their relatives, the U.S. ODP Office strongly urges them to do so.

Office Address:

Orderly Departure Program
Panjabum Building
127 Sathorn Tai Road
Bangkok 10120, Thailand
Tel: 252-5040

APO Address:

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American Embassy - Box 56
APO San Francisco 96346-000.
Cable: JVAODP, BANGKOK
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THỰC HIỆN-RÀNH CỦA CHƯƠNG-TRÌNH RA ĐI CÓ TRẬT-TỰ

Chương-trình Ra Đi Có Trật-tự (ODP) thực hiện dưới sự bảo-trợ của Cao-ủy Ty-Nạn Liên-Hiệp-Quốc, đã đưa gần 50,000 người từ Việt-Nam đến Mỹ. Sự thành-công của chương-trình đã thu hút một số lớn vốn chính-nguyện. Nhưng hằng năm chỉ một số giới-hạn người tị-nạn có thể nhập vào nước Mỹ theo chương-trình này. Số người đi-dân được chấp-thuận hằng năm thì cao hơn.

Ví thế văn-phòng ODP chỉ cấp Thẻ Giới-Thiệu cho những đơn xin hoãn-tự gia-đình khi nào văn-phòng nhận được giấy chấp-thuận nhập-cảnh "Visa 93", hoặc đơn với đủ Điều-kiện được cấp chiếu-khẩn đi-trú căn-cứ trên giấy bảo-lãnh đúng hạn-kỳ ưu-tiên hay gần tới hạn-kỳ ưu-tiên. "Gần tới hạn-kỳ ưu-tiên" là những trường-hợp sẽ tới hạn-kỳ ưu-tiên trong vòng một năm. Số Đi-trú và Nhập-tích địa-phương có sẵn các đơn bảo-lãnh diện đi-dân (mẫu I-130) và đơn "Visa 93" (mẫu I-730 của Sơ Đi-Trú và Nhập-Tích) cho trường-hợp vợ/chồng hay con của người tị-nạn ở Mỹ.

Những thân-nhân bảo-lãnh tại Mỹ vẫn có thể tiếp-tục gửi Tờ-khai Liên-hệ Gia-đình và những giấy tờ hộ-tích đến văn-phòng ODP của Mỹ tại Vọng-Các hầu thiết-lập hồ-sơ đi-dân trong tương-lai. Tuy nhiên, Thẻ Giới-Thiệu sẽ không được cấp phát cho đến khi giấy bảo-lãnh diện đi-dân đã hoàn-tất và gần đến hạn-kỳ ưu-tiên.

Con số người ra đi diện tị-nạn rất ít và chỉ được dành riêng cho những trường-hợp nhân-đạo đặc-biệt khi họ không thể đi theo diện đi-dân. Đó là những trường-hợp ưu-tiên cho con lai Mỹ, kẻ đến là thân-nhân trực thuộc con lai và những người thuộc loại nhân-đạo đặc-biệt của Mỹ (những tử-nhân đi học-tập cải-tạo lâu dài hay như người đã từng cộng-tác gần-gũi với chánh-phủ Mỹ trước năm 1975).

Chánh-quyền Việt-Nam bắt-buộc ODP Mỹ ngưng phỏng-vấn từ ngày 1 tháng giêng năm 1986. Chúng tôi đang giải-quyết vấn-đề này, nhưng chúng tôi không thể phỏng-vấn khi nào chánh-quyền Việt-Nam sẽ cho bắt đầu phỏng-vấn lại. Chúng tôi biết rằng khi việc phỏng-vấn được mở lại, chỉ những người sau đây sẽ được phỏng-vấn:

- A. Những người được bảo-lãnh theo diện đi-dân đã tới hạn-kỳ ưu-tiên
- B. Những người được bảo-lãnh có giấy chấp-thuận nhập-cảnh (Visa 93)
- C. Những trẻ em con lai Mỹ và thân-nhân trực-thuộc
- D. Những người thuộc loại nhân-đạo đặc-biệt của Mỹ, như đã nêu trên.

Riêng nay, những trường-hợp hoãn-tự gia-đình sẽ được phỏng-vấn và hồ-sơ coi như hoàn-tất, nhưng không thuộc diện đi-dân, đang được tiên-hành rất chậm. Văn-phòng ODP không thể tiên-đoan nếu hay khi nào tiêu-chuẩn này sẽ thay đổi. Nếu người bảo-lãnh đã hỏi đủ Điều-kiện để làm giấy bảo-lãnh qua diện đi-dân (mẫu I-130) và bảo- trợ tài-chánh (mẫu I-134) cho thân-nhân, văn-phòng ODP tha-thiết yếu-cầu nên làm việc này.

Địa-chỉ văn-phòng:
Orderly Departure Program
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Tel: 252-5040

Địa-chỉ qua bưu-điện Mỹ:
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HỘI GIA ĐÌNH TÙ NHÂN CHÍNH TRỊ VIỆT NAM
FAMILIES OF VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 5435, ARLINGTON VA 22205-0635
TELEPHONE: 703-998-7850

September 8th, 1986

Hội Đồng Quản Trị
Board of Directors

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DUONG MỸ-LINH SOLAND
MRS LÊ VĂN HÙNG

Mr. Javier P. Decuellar
Secretary General
United Nations
S-3800 United Nations
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Decuellar:

I am writing on behalf of my organization to remind you of the thousands of political prisoners being held illegally by the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and to urge you to use your good offices to help redress this cruel situation.

More than 11 years have passed since our loved ones were seized by the SRV, and without charge or trial, sent off to "reeducation" camps. Those, they have been kept, on minimal rations, in hard labor and harsh treatment. They have been denied medical treatment; many have died and many others are sick or badly debilitated.

Although the SRV is a member of the United Nations, in the case of these prisoners it is clearly in violation of human rights provisions of the United Nations' Charter. At a very minimum, we would hope that the SRV might release the very elderly and sick prisoners.

Mr. Secretary, we earnestly plead for your help, and that of the General Assembly, in considering the plight of these, our loved ones, with whom we and thousands of our fellow-countrymen scattered throughout the world hope to be reunited one day.

Thank you for your understanding and assistance.

Sincerely,

Khuc Minh Tho (Mrs.)
President

Ban Chấp Hành T.U.
Executive Board

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Cố Vấn Đoàn
Advisory Committee

DUONG MỸ-LINH SOLAND Esq

Chị Thảo

Kỳ vô số gửi ngay
trước khi đi nghỉ hè sẽ
vở học lớp ngày 16/Sept/86.



HỘI GIA ĐÌNH TÙ NHÂN CHÍNH TRỊ VIỆT NAM
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Cố Vấn Đoàn
Advisory Committee

DUONG MỸ-LINH SOLAND, Esq.

September 4, 1986

Mr. & Mrs. Murphy
920 South 26th Place
Arlington, Virginia 22204

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Murphy:

On behalf of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation and gratitude for your generous contribution of a sofa and chair.

These items were given to two children of Vietnamese political prisoners and their names are Nguyen Sinh and Nguyen Ninh. Their father was a Vietnamese Political Prisoner who died in the re-education camp.

They currently reside at 871 South Greenbrier Street, Apt. #4 in Arlington, Virginia.

Again on behalf of our Association and these two brothers we wish to say a special thank-you for your contribution.

If we can ever be of service to either of you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Khuc Minh Tho
President

KMT/lrh