



HỘI GIA ĐÌNH TÙ NHÂN CHÍNH TRỊ VIỆT NAM

FAMILIES OF VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 5435, ARLINGTON, VA 22205-0635
TELEPHONE: 703-560-0058

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August 13, 1987

Senator Edward M. Kennedy
Chairman
Subcommittee on Immigration and
Refugee Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

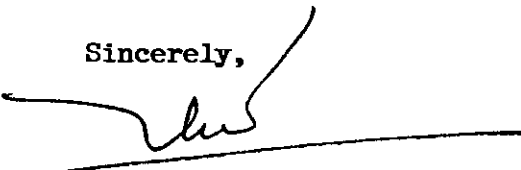
Dear Senator Kennedy:

Once again on behalf of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association we wish to say a very special thanks to you and Senators Dole and Pell for the sponsorship of your Senate Resolution #205. In addition, your letter of July 27, 1987 to General John W. Vessey attested to your genuine concern and interest in the humanitarian issues that remain in the aftermath of the Vietnam war; and in the plight of our loved ones in particular.

We hope that your continued support and concern will make a very strong statement and impact on everyone with an interest in this issue. We firmly believe that progress will be made and we will eventually be reunited with our loved ones.

Again, our sincere thanks and prayers for your continued caring and support of our endeavors.

Sincerely,


Khuc Minh Tho
President



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August 13, 1987

Senator Claiborne Pell
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510


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Sincerely,


Khuc Minh Tho
President

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 27, 1987

General John W. Vessey
U.S. Army (Ret.)
Room 2E865
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-5000

Dear General Vessey:

We are pleased to learn you are leaving tomorrow to meet with representatives of the Government of Vietnam, and they have agreed to discuss with you, the issue of our missing-in-action personnel as well as other humanitarian issues that remain in the aftermath of the Vietnam war.

We hope your mission will be a success, not only in obtaining a further accounting of our MIA's, but in laying the basis for progress on other humanitarian problems. Although these other issues are not, and should not, be connected to the MIA issue, we obviously believe, as you and others in the Administration do, that progress in one humanitarian area may contribute to progress in others.

In particular, we are concerned over the continuing plight of the so-called "re-education camp" political prisoners who continue to be detained in Vietnam some 13 years after the war ended. Many of the prisoners, as you know, are held because of their past association with programs and policies of the former government of the Republic of Vietnam supported by the U.S. government. Their number is now estimated at 6,000, the remainder of much larger numbers originally detained.

Between 1982 and 1984 the Vietnamese government repeatedly offered to release these prisoners if the United States would take them. In September 1984 the Secretary of State in testimony to the Congress gave such a commitment. We understand that remains our policy and we are confident it continues to have Congressional support.

Some of us recently introduced legislation in the Senate (S. Con. Res. 54) that called on the President to send a special presidential representative to resolve these humanitarian issues with Vietnam, and we welcome your designation for this important mission. In addition, the Senate on May 1 unanimously approved a resolution (S. Res. 205) calling particular attention to the

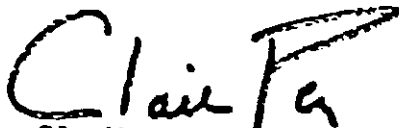
General John W. Vessey
July 27, 1987
Page Two

plight of the "re-education camp" political prisoners and urging that they be released and permitted to be resettled abroad with their family members. Copies of both resolutions and the accompanying discussion are enclosed for your information.

We are also concerned over the need to sustain progress that has been achieved recently in getting the Orderly Departure Agreement resumed -- which contributes immeasurably in assisting the reunification of Vietnamese families divided for many years. Again, while this is not the focus of your current mission, we believe the Vietnamese should be encouraged and supported in the new initiatives they have been willing to undertake in this area, and to build upon them.

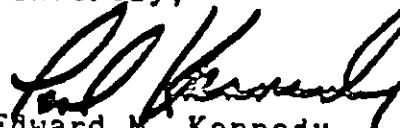
Again, we wish you well in your humanitarian mission and simply wanted to let you know of the strong, bipartisan support that exists in the Senate in addressing these issues -- as reflected in the passage and cosponsorship of the enclosed resolutions.

With best wishes,



Claiborne Pell
Chairman
Committee on Foreign
Relations

Sincerely,



Edward M. Kennedy
Chairman
Subcommittee on Immigration
and Refugee Affairs

Enclosure