



HOI GIA-DINH TU-NHAN CHINH-TRI VIETNAM
FAMILIES OF VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 5435, Arlington, VA 22205-0635

Tel: (703) 560-0058 - FAX: (703) 204-0394

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: April 29, 1995

TO : Ms. Phyllis Coven
Director
Office of International Affairs
INS.

FAX #: 202-633-1068

FROM: Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association

NO. OF PAGES include cover sheet: 03

SUBJECT: "Thank you letter"



HOI GIA-DINH TU-NHAN CHINH-TRI VIETNAM
FAMILIES OF VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 5435, Arlington, VA 22205-0635

Tel: (703) 560-0058 - FAX: (703) 204-0394

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: April 25, 1995

TO : Dinah PoKempner

FAX #: 202-371-0124

FROM: Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association

NO. OF PAGES include cover sheet: 04

SUBJECT: Letter of Phyllis Coven, Director of International
Affairs, INS.

"For your information"

Thank you very much for your help.

Khuc Minh Tho



U.S. Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

425 Eye Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20536

CO 100/8.3

APR 11 1995

Mrs. Khuc Minh Tho
Families of Vietnamese Political
Prisoners Association
P.O. Box 5435
Arlington, Virginia 22205-0635

Dear Mrs. Tho:

Thank you for your February 24 letter reporting on your meeting in California with resettled former political prisoners and their family members. I appreciate the ideas you expressed in your letter and during our earlier meeting.

As promised when we met, I am forwarding to you a copy of the guidance we sent to Daniel Solis, our district director in Bangkok regarding humanitarian exceptions for certain adult sons and daughters of former re-education camp detainees. Mr. Solis has assured me that all of the immigration officers involved in the Orderly Departure Program fully understand that there may be some compelling cases and that the guidance will be implemented with a generous spirit.

I understand that Kathleen Thompson of my staff has had several conversations with you on this issue and would be pleased to discuss any thoughts you may have on the guidance. Thank you again for sharing your views.

Sincerely,

Phyllis A. Coven
Director
International Affairs

Enclosure

Memorandum



Subject Humanitarian Exceptions for Sons and Daughters of Former Re-Education Camp Detainees	Date
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To Daniel Solis
District Director
Bangkok, Thailand

From International
Affairs

I recently met with Mrs. Khuc Minh Tho and other representatives of the Vietnamese-American community to hear their concerns about the recent interagency decision regarding eligibility for interview in the Orderly Departure Program (ODP).

As you are well aware, effective February 1, adult sons and daughters of former re-education camp detainees (re-eds) are no longer proposed for interview. The policy change recognized that there may be individual cases in which significant humanitarian reasons warrant including an adult son or daughter in a re-ed case. I wish to encourage generosity in considering such requests.

I appreciate the interests that are served by the policy change--detering fraud and achieving consistency in refugee processing programs. At the same time, I am sympathetic to Mrs. Tho's arguments that the resettlement of aging former prisoners might be more successful and self-sufficiency might be more quickly achieved if their children were to accompany them to the United States. To balance these two perspectives, I want to ensure that all officers interviewing re-ed cases give careful and sympathetic consideration to requests for humanitarian exception.

Mrs. Tho has been advised that any such requests may be raised by the principal refugee applicant at the time of the INS eligibility interview. The merits of the requests, of course, must be decided on a case-by-case basis. We would anticipate that deserving cases may include, for example, those in which an unmarried adult son or daughter, if not included, would be the only remaining family member in Vietnam, cases in which a family member has a physical or mental disability that could not receive appropriate care if the family were to be divided, and other cases in which unusual hardship would result were an adult son or daughter left behind.

I understand that when the interviewing officer finds an individual case has merit, the adult son or daughter can be "added-on" to the case with the issuance of a Letter of Introduction (LOI) to the Vietnamese authorities and that the son or daughter can be expeditiously invited for interview.

Page 2
Daniel Solis

Please keep me informed of your progress under the new interview eligibility criteria and advise me if additional guidance is needed on considering requests for humanitarian exception.

Phyllis Coven
Director



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P.O. BOX 5435, Arlington, VA 22205-0635

Tel: (703) 560-0058 - FAX: (703) 204-0394

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: April 17, 1995

TO : Vu Quoc Thuy

FAX #: 206-438-8379

FROM: Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association

NO. OF PAGES include cover sheet: 04

SUBJECT: Thỏ của INS về việc con trên 21 tuổi.

Nhỏ anh chuyển cho các anh em bên đó.

Mến,

Thỏ (703) 358-5154

hiện có thư xin anh gửi từ
ở số nào buổi chiều đó 4:30 pm
giờ trên máy, vì sau 4:30 giờ
rảnh rồi liền - hoặc từ ở nhà
(703) 560-0058

Bản chứng

Fax

chủ SS



HOI GIA-DINH TU-NHAN CHINH-TRI VIETNAM
FAMILIES OF VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 5435, Arlington, VA 22205-0635
Tel: (703) 560-0058 - FAX: (703) 204-0394

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: April 17, 1995

TO : Lê Phát Đức

FAX #: 713-438-9816

FROM: Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association

NO. OF PAGES include cover sheet: 04

SUBJECT: Thỏ của INS về việc con trên 21 tuổi.

Tôi sẽ gửi bạn copies xuống cho anh bằng mail
để rõ hơn bạn Fax.

Xin cảm ơn anh nhiều và cho tôi thăm
các anh ở Houston.

Mến,

Thỏ

Transmit Confirmation Report

No.	:	003		
Receiver	:		705 696	5501
Transmitter	:	HHUC MINH-THO		FXPPA
Date	:	Apr 19 95		5:57
Time	:	02:37		
Mode	:	Norm		
Pages	:	04		
Result	:	OK		

Transmit Confirmation Report

No.	:	004		
Receiver	:		712 839	2607
Transmitter	:	PHUC MINH-THO	7	FVFFA
Date	:	Apr 19.95		6:13
Time	:	02:33		
Mode	:	Norm		
Pages	:	04		
Result	:	OK		

Transmit Control - 1.20 Report

No. :
Receiver : C-1000S WHEAT-1.510L
Transmitter : C-1000S WHEAT-1.510L
Date : 21.85 13:49
Time :
Mode :
Pages :
Result :



HOI GIA-DINH TU-NHAN CHINH-TRI VIETNAM
FAMILIES OF VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 5435, Arlington, VA 22205-0635

Tel: (703) 560-0058 - FAX: (703) 204-0394

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: April 19, 1995

TO : Việt Dzũng
Đại Little Saigon

FAX #:

FROM: Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association

NO. OF PAGES include cover sheet: 04

SUBJECT: Thở của INS về việc định cư của con tù nhân
trên 21 tuổi.

Việt Dzũng,

Tata nhờ Dzũng nếu có thể được xin Đại phổ biến
cho các gia đình tù nhân được biết để họ bớt lo lắng.
Xin cho Hội chuyển lời cảm ơn, Đại Little Saigon vì
Đại được nhiều người nghe nhất.

Tata cảm ơn Dzũng nhiều.

Tata Thở



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FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: April 21, 1995

TO : Mr. Chu Ba Anh

FAX #: 425-1099

FROM: Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association

NO. OF PAGES include cover sheet: 04

SUBJECT: Thở của INS về việc định cư của tu nhân trên
21 tuổi.

Kính Anh Bà,

Nhờ anh Bà nếu có thể được xin vui lòng phổ biến
đến các gia đình của TNCT được biết để họ được yên tâm.

Cám ơn anh nhiều, cho tôi kính lời thăm chị Bà.

Mến,

Thở

Memorandum



Subject Humanitarian Exceptions for
Sons and Daughters of Former
Re-Education Camp Detainees

Date

To Daniel Solis
District Director
Bangkok, Thailand

From International
Affairs

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U.S. Department of Justice

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CO 100/8.3

APR 11 1995

Mrs. Khuc Minh Tho
Families of Vietnamese Political
Prisoners Association
P.O. Box 5435
Arlington, Virginia 22205-0635

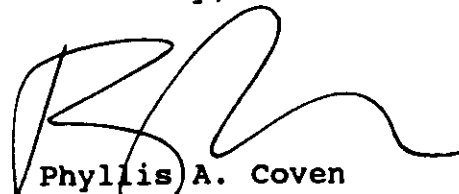
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Phyllis A. Coven
Director
International Affairs

Enclosure

Page 2

Daniel Solis

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Phyllis Coven
Director



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FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: April 19, 1995

TO : Nguyen H^âu

FAX #: 714-893-3654

FROM: Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association

NO. OF PAGES include cover sheet: 04

SUBJECT: Th^đ của INS về vi^ệc đ^ình c^ủ của con t^ũ n^hân
trên 21 tu^ổi.

"For your information"



U.S. Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

425 Eye Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20536

CO 100/8.3

APR 11 1995

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Prisoners Association
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International Affairs

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Memorandum



Subject Humanitarian Exceptions for Sons and Daughters of Former Re-Education Camp Detainees	Date
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To Daniel Solis
District Director
Bangkok, Thailand

From International
Affairs

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Daniel Solis

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Phyllis Coven
Director



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FAMILIES OF VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 5435, ARLINGTON, VA. 22205-0635

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Hội Đồng Quản Trị
Board of Directors

April 28, 1995

KHÚC MINH THƠ
NGUYỄN QUỲNH GIAO
NGUYỄN VĂN GIỚI
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN
HIỆP LOWMAN
TRƯƠNG THỊ LANG ANH
TRẦN KIM DUNG
NGUYỄN THỊ KHEN

Ms. Phyllis Coven
Director

Office of International Affairs
Immigration and Naturalization Services
Department of Justice
425 Eye Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20536

Ban Chấp Hành T.Ư.
Executive Board

Dear Ms. Coven:

KHÚC MINH THƠ
President
NGUYỄN QUỲNH GIAO
Vice President
NGUYỄN VĂN GIỚI
Secretary General
TRƯƠNG THỊ LANG ANH
Treasurer
NGUYỄN THỊ KHEN
Deputy Treasurer

Cố Vấn Đoàn
Advisory Committee

HIỆP LOWMAN
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN
TRẦN KIM DUNG

On behalf of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association we would like to thank you for your letter of April 11, 1995 in which you included your guidance to the Bangkok INS Field Office regarding making humanitarian exceptions for certain cases involving the unmarried sons/daughters over the age of 21 who were to be excluded from the family cases of the former re-education camp detainees.

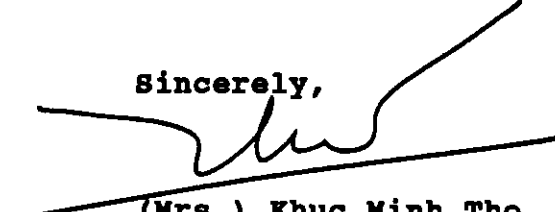
In the past weeks we have learned that ODP interviewing officers in Bangkok have approved the applications of some of the unmarried sons/daughters over the age of 21 to accompany those cases of their former political prisoners' parents. Your letter and the guidance you provided to Mr. Daniel Solis in Bangkok demonstrates that your office has given full consideration to the humanitarian concerns for the unmarried sons and daughters who have compelling reasons to accompany their parents to the United States. Information that we have received from the field office underscores that your staff in Bangkok is implementing your guidance with a generous spirit.

We appreciate your suggestion that we discuss with Ms. Kathleen Thompson any thoughts that we may have on this guidance, which we would be glad to convey, as well as to share our concerns regarding the Vietnamese community and our members in the United States and Vietnam.

- Page Two -

Again, on behalf of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association and other representatives of the Vietnamese-American community, we thank you for your expedient attention to our concerns. Your guidance of sympathetic consideration and generosity is evidence of your heartfelt understanding of the hardships the re-education detainees and their families have endured since the end of the war.

Sincerely,



(Mrs.) Khuc Minh Tho
President



HOI GIA-DINH TU-NHAN CHINH-TRI VIETNAM
FAMILIES OF VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 5435, Arlington, VA 22205-0635
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FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: April 29, 1995

TO : Nguyễn Hữu

FAX #:

FROM: Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association

NO. OF PAGES include cover sheet: 04

SUBJECT: Thờ của INS về việc con trên 21 tuổi của TNCT.

"For your information"

Mên,
Khúc Minh Thở



HỘI GIA-ĐÌNH TÙ NHÂN CHÍNH-TRỊ VIỆT-NAM

FAMILIES OF VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS ASSOCIATION

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Hội Đồng Quản Trị Board of Directors

KHÚC MINH THƠ
NGUYỄN QUỲNH GIAO
NGUYỄN VĂN GIỚI
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN
HIỆP LOWMAN
TRƯƠNG THỊ LANG ANH
TRẦN KIM DUNG
NGUYỄN THỊ KHEN

Ban Chấp Hành T.Ư. Executive Board

KHÚC MINH THƠ
President
NGUYỄN QUỲNH GIAO
Vice President
NGUYỄN VĂN GIỚI
Secretary General
TRƯƠNG THỊ LANG ANH
Treasurer
NGUYỄN THỊ KHEN
Deputy Treasurer

Cố Vấn Đoàn Advisory Committee

HIỆP LOWMAN
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN
TRẦN KIM DUNG

April 5, 1995

The Honorable John McCain
United States Senate
SR-111
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McCain:

I am writing to update you on developments concerning the status of unmarried sons/daughters over the age of 21 who were to be excluded from the cases of their parents who were former political prisoners. You will recall that the Department of State announced late last year that the unmarried sons/daughters would no longer be eligible effective February 1, 1995.

In light of the unwavering humanitarian interest and genuine concern for the welfare of the political prisoners that you have exemplified and articulated for many years, I again seek your advice. I have recently been informed that ODP interviewing officers have approved approximately 10 cases of unmarried sons/daughters over the age of 21 as part of the cases of the political prisoners.

While I welcome this news and implore the trend continues, I must tell you that we have not yet been informed of the criteria and application mechanism that will be used by ODP to consider the claims for exceptional hardship by unmarried sons/daughters so that they can be interviewed with the political prisoners. We strongly believe that this information must be known in advance so that the unmarried sons and daughters over the age of 21 can present the foundation for their hardship, suffering and persecution to ODP prior to the interview.

- Page Two -

In addition, I would like to alert you to another issue of concern. You will recall that the new policy, which supposedly went into effect February 1, 1995, was announced by the State Department to the Vietnamese government in early December 1994. Unfortunately, we heard of numerous over-21 unmarried sons/daughters who were summarily excluded from eligibility with the cases of the political prisoners prior to the effective date of the policy. We suspect that the Department of State instructed ODP to implement the new exclusionary policy in the field prior to the February 1, 1995 effective date and prior to notifying interested parties. I feel that this is contrary to the tradition of American administrative procedure and sorely disadvantages a group of applicants who waited decades for their turn in the ODP queue.

I believe and would strongly urge that those cases that were adversely affected by the premature implementation of the policy be given another interview by ODP. I would greatly appreciate your assistance in bringing this matter to the attention of the Bureau for Population, Migration and Refugees (PRM) at the Department of State. In addition, I would appreciate your assistance in providing us with the criteria and application mechanism that will be implemented for the exceptional hardship cases of unmarried sons/daughters over 21 years of age.

In a letter from Ms. Theresa L. Rusch, dated November 17, 1995, she stated that "We are pleased to advise that barring unforeseen circumstances INS should be able to complete interviews of the remaining caseload by September, 1995". That only gives us approximately five (5) remaining months in which to actively pursue and ensure that these cases are prepared and meet the criteria for consideration.

Again, I wish to thank you for your unfailing support to our organization in protecting the interests of the former political prisoners in Vietnam.

Sincerely,



(Mrs.) Khuo Minh Tho