



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

Hội Đồng Quản Trị Board of Directors

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PROPOSALS TO EXPEDITE THE RESETTLEMENT OF FORMER VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS

Following the release of political prisoners at the Lunar New Year, the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association believes that additional steps need to be taken to hasten their reunification with relatives currently residing in the United States and other countries. Consequently, it proposes the following measures for your consideration:

FOR THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM:

1. That for the recently released political prisoners, the requirement that they must wait for a full year (confinement period -- quan che) before becoming eligible to apply for resettlement abroad be lifted by the Vietnamese authorities;
2. That the Vietnamese authorities consider applications to emigrate by former political prisoners as special cases and remove the requirement that they must be sponsored by a spouse, children or parents. It is proposed that sponsorship by other relatives and friends will be sufficient. We are assured by the U.S. Government that such former political prisoners would also be received for resettlement;
3. That a special program similar to that of the Amerasian children be established to expedite the processing of the recently released re-education camp prisoners for resettlement in countries of their choice, notwithstanding the fact whether or not they have relatives currently residing in these countries; and
4. That this special program will continue to operate to help process requests by political prisoners, either already released or to be released at a future date, for reunification with their relatives and settlement in the U.S. and other countries.

2.

FOR THE UNITED STATES:

1. Continue to press Vietnam to release all political prisoners;
2. Assure that, if these political prisoners are allowed to emigrate, adequate budget and resettlement number are available to take care of this increased requirement;
3. Simplify the procedures for issuing Letters of Introduction (LOI) by removing the requirement that sponsors must be in possession of the I-171 form; assure that LOIs are issued to any of the recently released political prisoners who do not have such a letter as soon as the names of these political prisoners can be identified;
4. Allow political prisoners who have siblings in other countries to apply for resettlement in the United States if they so decide; sponsorship for siblings is generally a complex and lengthy process in most other countries;
5. Be prepared to establish a bilateral program with Vietnam to process the political prisoners if necessary and required by the Vietnamese authorities; and
6. Intervene on behalf of the political prisoners to facilitate their admission for resettlement to other countries of their choice.

February 29, 1988

April 24th, 1988

The Honorable Larry Pressler
United States Senate
SR-411
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Pressler:

We have been informed by your staff that representatives of the Vietnamese government have raised with them the concerns that former Vietnamese political prisoners may be involved in movements aiming at undermining the communist regime's control of South Vietnam. This argument has been advanced to justify the reluctance of the government in Hanoi to allow the emigration of former political prisoners.

While we, at the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association, cannot make any guarantee that former political prisoners will not be involved in such activities once they are resettled abroad, two important facts are worth highlighting. After thirteen years of imprisonment, the heart-felt desire of Vietnamese political prisoners is to be reunified with their families in a free and democratic environment. Besides, most Vietnamese political prisoners are of an advanced age and feeble health and clearly do not represent any threat to the government in Vietnam.

We would appreciate your communicating these views to representatives of the Vietnamese government, urging them to release all political prisoners and allow them to emigrate to the U.S. or other countries of their choice.

Once again, allow me, on behalf of the Vietnamese political prisoners, to convey to you our most sincere appreciation for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Khuc Minh Tho (Mrs.)
President

HỘI CỰU TÙ NHÂN CHÍNH TRỊ VIỆT NAM

Association of former Vietnamese political prisoners

1536 West San Carlos Street

San Jose, CA 95128

Tel: (408) 249-2146

San Jose, 20 tháng 04¹⁹ 88

ĐÀO VĂN BÌNH

Chủ tịch ban chấp hành

Hội Cửu tù nhân chính trị Việt nam

BÀ KHÚC MINH THỎ

Chủ tịch

Hội Gia đình tù nhân chính trị Việt nam.

Thưa Bà,

Chúng tôi đã nhận được thiệp mời tham dự Buổi Tiếp tân do quý hội tổ chức tại :

DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING

Room 538

April 27 th, 1988

6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Vì qua bạn rộn với chiến dịch Tiêu Diệt Kinh Tài Cộng sản đang được phát động rầm rộ tại San Jose chúng tôi rất tiếc không thể tham dự buổi tiếp tân nói trên. Tuy nhiên chúng tôi đã để cử Chiến hữu NGUYỄN VĂN QUÝ se đại diện

Hội Cửu tù nhân Chính Trị Việt nam tham dự buổi tiếp tân.

Kính chúc quý hội gặt hái được nhiều thành quả tốt đẹp.

Kính chào doan ket

ĐÀO VĂN BÌNH

Bản sao kinh gửi: Chiến hữu Chủ tịch Khu Hội
WA. DC & Virginia

" Đè' kinh mời tham dự "

BIEU NGU

1. HANOI, RELEASE ALL "POLITICAL" PRISONERS

2. ORDERLY "DEPARTURE" FOR "RELEASED" "POLITICAL" PRISONERS

3. WE PLEDGE TO SPONSOR ALL "POLITICAL" PRISONERS

FAMILIES OF VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS ASSOCIATION

WELCOME TO OUR RECEPTION

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

CHAO MUNG QUAN KHACH

WELCOME TO OUR RECEPTION



HỘI GIA ĐÌNH TÙ NHÂN CHÍNH TRỊ VIỆT NAM

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Cố Vấn Đoàn Advisory Committee

HIẾP LOWMAN
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN

It was with great honor that we acknowledge your presence at the reception organized in commemoration of Vietnamese political prisoners on April 27, 1988. We are deeply grateful for your unwavering support which has been instrumental for all our successes achieved until the present time.

It is with great hope that we are looking toward the future. Members of the Vietnamese community are longing for the time when all political prisoners are released and reunited with their families. With your strong support we are convinced that by this time next year we will be able to welcome the first group of recently released political prisoners whose names have been submitted to you. Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact me.

With my sincere thanks, I remain.

Sincerely,

Khuc Minh Tho
President



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Cố Vấn Đoàn Advisory Committee

HIẾP LOWMAN
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN

The Honorable Dave Durenberger
United States Senate
SR-154
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Durenberger:

This April will mark the thirteenth anniversary of the fall of Saigon to Communist rule; a rule marked by continued human rights violations and major economic failure.

The past year has been substantial numbers of prisoners released and we rejoice in their freedom, limited as it may be. Others prisoners, however, continue to be held-without charge or trial-and in continued violation of civilized practice.

We will be meeting to honor those still held after these many years. We will also be meeting to urge that the Socialist Republic of Vietnam make good on the repeated announcements of General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh, that, if they desire to leave Vietnam, those prisoners who have been released will be allowed to emigrate.

Thus, once again, the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association, with the sponsorship of numerous other Vietnamese-American organizations, will be holding a reception:

Wednesday, April 27, 1988
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Room # 538
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

We would be greatly honored by your presence at our reception and would be extremely pleased if you felt moved to address a few informal remarks to our assemblage. We hope to see you there.

Sincerely yours,

Khuc Minh Tho (Mrs.)
President.



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NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN

The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Chairman
Subcommittee on Immigration and
Refugee Affairs
United States Senate, SR-315
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kennedy:

This April will mark the thirteenth anniversary of the fall of Saigon to Communist rule; a rule marked by continued human rights violations and major economic failure.

The past year has been substantial numbers of prisoners released and we rejoice in their freedom, limited as it may be. Others prisoners, however, continue to be held-without charge or trial-and in continued violation of civilized practice.

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HIEP LOWMAN
NGUYEN XUAN LAN

The Honorable Robert K. Dornan
United States House of Representatives
301 Cannon House
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Dornan:

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NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN

Mr. Richard Childress
Director Asian Affairs
National Security Council
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

April 11, 1988

Dear Mr. Childress:

This April will mark the thirteenth anniversary of the fall of Saigon to Communist rule; a rule marked by continued human rights violations and major economic failure.

The past year has been substantial numbers of prisoners released and we rejoice in their freedom, limited as it may be. Others prisoners, however, continue to be held-without charge or trial-and in continued violation of civilized practice.

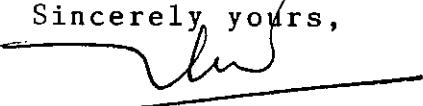
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Mr. Blair Dorminey
2nd Floor - West Wing
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

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HIẾP LOWMAN
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN

Dear Mr. Dorminey:

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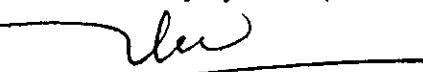
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HIẾP LOWMAN
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN

April 6, 1988

General Vessey
c/o Colonel Movall
OCJCS - POW MIA
Room 2E 857
Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-5000

Dear General Vessey:

On behalf of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association, I am writing to request an appointment with you at your convenience.

I will be accompanied by representatives of various Vietnamese religious organizations in the Washington area and board members of our Association to present our appreciation for what you have achieved for political prisoners in Vietnam. In addition, we would like to take that opportunity to brief you on the situations of the prisoners who were recently released.

On April 27, 1988 at 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. our Association will host a reception, as we did a year ago, in the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 538. The purpose of the reception is to further our efforts in obtaining the release of all political prisoners from the re-education camps and reunification with relatives abroad. We would be greatly honored if you could attend.

Very truly yours,

Khuc Minh Tho (Mrs.)
President

KMT/lrh



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April 27, 1988

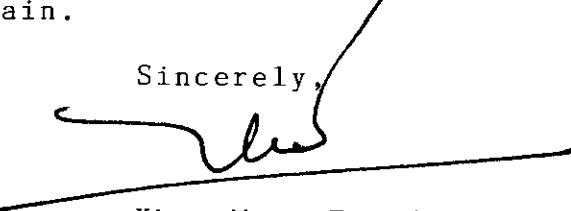
Dear Senator/Congressman:

Enclosed please find a list of Vietnamese political prisoners held for many years in reeducation camps and recently released by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. These are among those who have borne the burden of the war the longest because of their former positions of responsibility in Vietnam and their associations with the United States. They deserve, therefore, to be given priority in rebuilding their lives thirteen years after the end of the war in Vietnam.

We would appreciate it very much if you could use your influence in Congress to grant the persons on the enclosed lists priority in orderly departure from Vietnam and for reunification with their families many of whom are in the United States. Such assistance would help compensate these martyred people for their long suffering and return them to a productive life.

Thanking you for your kind consideration of our request, we remain.

Sincerely,


Khuc Minh Tho (Mrs.)
President

Ladies and Gentlemen :

I am honored to have this opportunity to share with you some personal opinions as a former political prisoner.

Compared with my fellow political prisoners, many of whom have spent some thirteen years in concentration camps, my eight years as a political prisoner seem short. Many have been released but are still being kept in Vietnam without having regained their basic human rights. Others still remain in prison. Unfortunately, despite their contribution in fighting for democracy, they have been virtually forgotten since April 30th, 1975 when the communists took over Vietnam.

It is not necessary for me to dwell on the details of the suffering of the political prisoners; the press having dealt with the issue at great length. I only wish to mention that they have all suffered greatly, physically as well as mentally through hard labor, hunger, sickness, and torture. Also, allow me to make the following comments regarding political prisoners.

Vietnam was a close ally of the U.S. for 30 years in its fight for freedom and democracy. In spite of the fact that South Vietnam has been relegated to the past since the end of the war, a great number of those who fought for the freedom of Vietnam are still suffering under the communist regime. I urge that the free world continue to be concerned about their fate.

The U.S. government has repeatedly declared that all Vietnamese political prisoners will be readily accepted along with their close families to resettle in this country. We have been encouraged and heartened by such a commitment. Unfortunately, the Vietnamese authorities have yet to prove their sincerity in releasing all political prisoners and allowing them to emigrate. We have witnessed the release of about one thousand prisoners at the occasion of the lunar New Year; thousands of others still remain in prison. Furthermore we have not yet seen any indications that the Hanoi government will allow those already released to emigrate.

For the above reasons, I strongly appeal to you to continue the pressure on the Vietnamese authorities to release all political prisoners and allow them to emigrate with their families to the U.S. or other countries of their choice.

It is with great hope that I look forward to a very near future where you will join all of us in the Vietnamese community in welcoming these heroes to their new homes in the free world.

Thank you for your attention.

April 27, 1988
NGUYEN VAN GIOI
Ex- Lt Colonel
National Police Forces
Republic of Vietnam

write finis to such ventures in the future.

ces: VNA and Radio Hanoi, KPL Nov. 27,

son Nov. 30, FBIS-EAS-87-229-235; Radio

Oct. 3 - Washington press reports say the U.S.

quide Nov. 22; Jeannette Dea, New York, 11/22/1988 to be continued

9 Mar 88

Dear Tho:

While reading the Oct-Dec 87 copy of Indo-China Chronology I noticed the enclosed article. Possibly you are already aware of it. I would like to get a copy - do you have any idea how much it cost. I wonder if they will publish the list of political prisoners who were released around 1st of year.

SMA is holding its 10th reunion in San Francisco April 8-May 88 at the California Hotel. Do you have any up-to-date on Political Prisoners that I can use at our reunion.

Your Friend
Cazwell Page
P.O. Box 181
Westford, PA 15090

MAR 10 1983

United States Senate

MEMORANDUM

March 7

Ba Tho Men:

I enjoyed our lunch today very much.

The room for the reception (April 28) is Rm. 538 Dirksen Senate Office Building.

You will need to contact the Senate caterer to make arrangements. He is Mr. Anastasios Tass Hatjukiriakos (tel. 224-2363).

I thought you might also enjoy the enclosed letter.

Sincerely,

Michael

Thank you letter
to Senators Kennedy +
Pell.

Reception 4/28/88
May 3/1/88

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 7, 1988

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In September 1984 and in subsequent years, you testified that the United States would accept the "re-education camp" prisoners held in grim conditions since the fall of Vietnam and Laos. We welcomed your statement, which responded to reported "offers" by the Vietnamese that they would release the prisoners if the United States would take them. After you said we would, the Vietnamese government backed off and failed to make good on their publicized offer. Now at long last the Vietnamese have announced that virtually all the remaining re-education camp prisoners have been released, leaving fewer than 200 still in detention.

The families of these men in the U.S. are relieved that their loved ones at long last have been freed from prison. But they are concerned that no special initiatives are being made to expedite their movement from Vietnam. We are informed that the prisoners have been released to their home regions in Vietnam, but with no immediate access to the Orderly Departure Program. In addition to their families, there is concern about these men from former U.S. military and civilian officers who served with them in Southeast Asia.

We believe now is the time for you to renew the offer that you made four years ago -- to make clear in whatever appropriate manner that the former re-education camp prisoners should be assisted in coming to the U.S. with their families through the ODP program. You may be assured that we are prepared to assist in this humanitarian task in any way possible.

Sincerely,



Edward M. Kennedy
Chairman
Subcommittee on Immigration
and Refugee Affairs

Claiborne Pell
Chairman
Committee on Foreign
Relations



U.S. Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

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

CO 212.28-C

JAN 21 1988

Mr. Nguyen Kim Phung
6655 Kennedy Lane
Falls Church, VA 22042

Dear Mr. Nguyen:

Thank you for your letter with enclosures, requesting a grant of the Attorney General's parole authority on behalf of Jacqueline, Kim Anh, Kim Phuong and Kim Sa Giang. You are requesting that your family be allowed to enter the United States without visas. They are natives and citizens of France.

Use of the Attorney General's parole authority is discretionary and is limited by law to include only those requests that are based upon emergent conditions or those which are strictly in the public interest. Although the facts presented are certainly unfortunate, it cannot be established that they constitute circumstances which would place them in either of the above categories.

This Service is most sympathetic to the situation that exists; however, we are unable to grant this request. We regret that our response is not consistent with your wishes, and hope that you find this reply responsive to your inquiry.

Sincerely,

Delia B. Combs
Assistant Commissioner
Refugee, Asylum and Parole

GOOD EVENING SENATORS, CONGRESSMEN, HONORED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

ON BEHALF OF THE FAMILIES OF VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS ASSOCIATION I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR JOINING US THIS EVENING AS WE MARK A TRAGIC ANNIVERSARY. ON APRIL 30, 1975, SOUTH VIETNAM FELL TO THE COMMUNISTS. SOON AFTER THAT, MANY OF OUR LOVED ONES REPORTED FOR WHAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE POLITICAL REEDUCATION.

NOW, TWELVE YEARS LATER, MANY THOUSANDS ARE STILL HELD IN PRISON. DURING THOSE TWELVE YEARS MANY HAVE DIED FROM DISEASE, OVERWORK AND MALNUTRITION. THOSE WHO REMAIN ARE WEAK, OLD AND NO LONGER A DANGER TO THE GOVERNMENT. SURELY THEY, AND THEIR FAMILIES, HAVE SUFFERED ENOUGH AND IT IS TIME TO SET THEM FREE. FOR THEIR FAMILIES, EACH DAY IS A PAINFUL MEMORY AS WE WAIT FOR A REUNION WITH OUR LOVED ONES.

WE IN THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE INITIATIVE OF PRESIDENT REAGAN IN OFFERING TO RESETTLE THE PRISONERS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN THE UNITED STATES. WE ALSO REQUEST THE LEADERS OF THE NATIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS, ALL INTERNATIONAL PRESS AND BROADCASTING AGENCIES, AND THE LEADERS OF VARIOUS RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS, TO HELP OUR ASSOCIATION TO URGE THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT TO FREE THE PRISONERS.

.....

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
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(202) 225-5031

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**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515**

April 22, 1988

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

Dear Mrs. Khuc:

Thank you for your letter regarding the reception this coming Wednesday night. I regret that because of prior commitments on that night that I will be unable to attend. However, I did want to share with you the report of the congressional delegation which recently visited Hanoi. I hope this information will be of interest to you.

Sincerely,


GILLESPIE V. MONTGOMERY
Member of Congress

GVM:ac
Enclosure

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV
WEST VIRGINIA

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 20, 1988

Dear Mrs. Tho,

Senator Rockefeller regrets that due to a previously scheduled commitment, he will be unable to attend the reception on April 27, 1988. Thank you for your kind invitation.

Sincerely,

Pamela S. Emory

Pamela S. Emory
Staff Assistant

Mrs. Khuc Minh Tho, President
Families of Vietnamese Political
Prisoners Association
Post Office Box 5435
Arlington, Virginia 22205-0635

PAUL SIMON
ILLINOIS

COMMITTEES:
LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES
JUDICIARY
FOREIGN RELATIONS
BUDGET

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 19, 1988

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

Dear Mrs. Tho:

Thank you for inviting Senator Simon to the reception hosted by the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association on April 27, 1988. He is pleased and honored by your invitation.

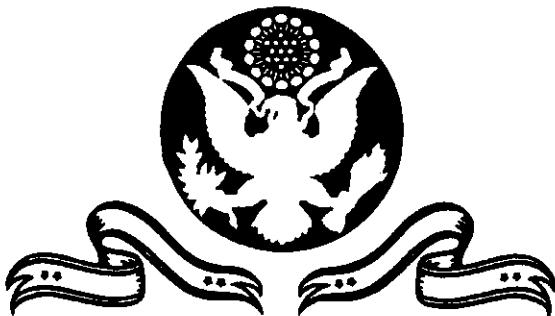
Unfortunately, prior commitments make it impossible for the Senator to be with you at that time. He has asked that I convey to you his sincere regrets and his very best wishes for a successful event.

Again, many thanks for your kind invitation.

Sincerely,



Kathleen A. Crowell
Special Assistant for Appointments



THE SAIGON MISSION
ASSOCIATION

1 Commander Drive
Hampton, VA 23666

15 Apr. 88

Dear Tho:

Thanks for the invitation to your reception on April 27, 1988. Unfortunately I will not be able to attend as on April 28 I am leaving for San Francisco and The Saigon Mission Association's 13th reunion.

Much success to your organization in their endeavor to honor those still being held in Vietnam and to seek a speedy release.

Please forward me any info you have or generate at your reception and I will include in SMA's next newsletter.

Keep up the good work and continued success

Sincerely
Lynell Page
President
Saigon Mission Association
P.O. Box 181
Weyford, PA 15090

I regret that I will not
be able to attend the reception
on April 27, 1988

Thank you for inviting me.

Sincerely
Pauline Stern
(Traveler And Society)

30 - H. 87

Dirksen Senate
Office Building

THE SADNESS
IN THE PICTURES
IS SO INTENSE,
MY EARNEST CONCERN
AND PRAYERS

HELP WIN FREEDOM FOR VIETNAMESE REEDUCATION CAMP POLITICAL PRISONERS

On March 28, 1987, friends and relatives of Dr. Nguyen Duy Xuan who died in Nam Ha reeducation camp in N. Vietnam held a memorial service for him at the Ky Vien Pagoda in Washington, D.C. Born in 1924 in O-Mon in the Mekong Delta of S. Vietnam, Dr. Xuan studied in England and earned his doctorate degree in Economics from Cambridge University. He served in various capacities in the Government of South Vietnam. From 1966 to April 1975, he was President of Can-Tho University. On April 14 to April 30, 1975, he was appointed Minister of Culture and Youth in the last South Vietnam Cabinet, which lasted only 16 days before its fall to Communism in April 1975.

Then, what were considered quite respectable activities for a Vietnamese man during the U.S. backed democracy in South Vietnam turned into unnamed "war crimes" after the Communist takeover of South Vietnam. Along with thousands of other officers and officials of the vanquished regime, Dr. Xuan was interned in reeducation camps in North Vietnam since the summer of 1975 until he died sometime in December 1986 in the Nam Ha reeducation camp in North Vietnam. Like dozens of "reeducation camps" established by the Vietnamese Communist to keep its former opponents, the Nam Ha reeducation camp is a reform-labor-concentration camp where thousands of inmates have died of hunger, diseases, execution and work exhaustion during the past decade. They are POW's in the truest sense, since they have been imprisoned because they once have served in a vanquished government. Dr. Xuan died sometime in December 1986; but the news of his death did not get to his family until late February. His wife and children live in France. His cousin, Mr. Nguyen Thanh Nghiep, lives in D.C. and brought the news to the Vietnamese community in the U.S. Dr. Xuan's students, friends and relatives gathered that evening, March 24th, to eulogize and mourn their friend.

My own husband, former Col. Nguyen Van Be, is still a prisoner in the same Nam Ha reeducation camp where Dr. Xuan died. As I sat in the pagoda listening to the eulogy, tears welled in my eyes, a lump in my throat and the dreaded question in my mind: What about my husband? Would he last until we win his amnesty, or like Dr. Xuan, will amnesty, if it ever comes - be too late for him? And what about the husbands, fathers, sons of those sitting next to me in the pew?

Since 1980, along with other family members of Vietnamese reeducation prisoners, we have formed the Association of Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners. We have relentlessly worked to win their release and the permission for them to emigrate to the USA and Europe to be reunited with their families. We did not entertain many hopes, but, even if we finished our lives without seeing our husbands again, we shall die in peace knowing that we have tried.

In 1981, nineteen South Vietnamese generals and Colonels imprisoned in Ha Tay reeducation camp smuggled out a letter addressed to President Reagan, seeking help. Unfortunately, the key to their freedom lies in Hanoi, not in Washington.

Then, in 1982, quite unexpectedly, came a ray of hope. In an interview with CBS, Vietnam's Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach stated that his Government was willing to release the reeducation prisoners if the U.S. was ready to "take them all." In an interview with Newsweek in May 1984, Premier Pham Van Dong repeated the same offer. Hopes flared up like flashbombs in the dark skies of the families' endless waiting, especially in August 1984 when Secretary of State, George Shultz presented to Congress a plan to permit the entry of 10,000 reeducation prisoners and their families to the U.S. Everyone expected the high ranking Vietnamese officials would follow through on their promise to permit the prisoners to leave Vietnam. But now, nearly three years

years later, our relatives still remain in the reeducation camps.

We do not think that belonging to a vanquished regime is a crime. But even if our relatives have committed "crimes" under the new government's law, we think ten years of imprisonment is enough punishment for those who have sinned. Eleven years of hard labor and deprivation have taken a heavy toll on the health of the inmates. Many are mere walking skeletons when they are released. Many others have died of dysentery, berberi, malaria, tuberculosis, and of sheer despair. While simple soldiers and junior officers have been released, senior officers of the rank of colonels and above have been held since 1975 in reeducation camps.

The U.S. Government has met with Vietnamese officials in Hanoi, in New York City and Geneva to discuss the American POW/MIA accounting. The release and emigration of reeducation prisoners was also discussed. But so far, not one single prisoner has been released from camp and allowed to leave Vietnam under the projected amnesty program.

We do not know the exact reasons why our relatives have not been released as promised by Premier Pham Van Dong in 1984. We have heard reports that Vietnamese authorities fear that once released, the former prisoners would engage in activities hostile to the government of Vietnam. "We don't want to free the men who would come back to fight against us.", Vietnamese government officials were quoted as saying.

We fail to understand the logic of these fears. Over one million Vietnamese refugees have been resettled worldwide since April 1975. We do not see how a few thousands of old and sick reeducation camp prisoners would add or detract to this picture. A strong and powerful Government needs not fear its prisoners. Moreover, a newly arrived refugee has too many worries - food, clothes, jobs, language problems, etc. to even think about politics. Only those who have

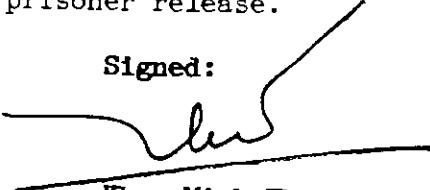
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resettled here long enough and become familiar with this society have the capacity to conduct any significant activities against the Vietnamese Government.

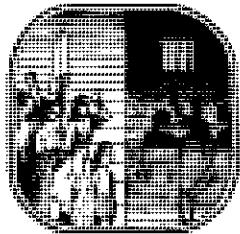
As we all know, thousands of Vietnamese have been allowed to leave the country since the Orderly Departure Program began in 1979.

Letting the reeducation prisoners go would demonstrate to the world that the Vietnamese leaders keep their promises, that the new regime is magnanimous and forgiving, that it feels sufficiently secure not to be concerned about the possible anti-government activities of the opponents it has reformed and reeducated during the past 11 years. The presence of the released prisoners in the U.S. would be living proof of the new Vietnam's spirit of national reconciliation. We hope that the leaders in Hanoi see that the gains far outweigh the risk of a total prisoner release.

Signed:



Khuc Minh Tho
President
Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners
Association



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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April 21, 1988

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FOR FUTHER INFORMATION CALL:

Mrs. Khuc Minh Tho 560-0058 or Mrs. Hiep Lowman 698-7386

Reception Planned

The Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association (FVPFA) will hold a reception on April 27th, at the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Cố Vấn Đoàn Advisory Committee

HIỆP LOWMAN
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN

This is an annual reception to honor those prisoners still being held in Vietnamese prison camps. Its purpose is to urge for their release so that they may be allowed to join their families.

T. V. & BAO CHI

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Alison Krepnick
Consul
Orderly Departure Program.
American Embassy
Box 58
A.P.O. San Francisco 96346
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Ricki Gold
1310 N. OAK St # 306
Arlington, VA. 22209

Mrs. Agnes E. Finseth
42 Birchwood Ave. #4
West Seneca, NY 14224

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House of Representatives
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Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank McCloskey
House of Representatives
127 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Stan Parris
House of Representatives
1526 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The honorable Tommy F. Robinson
House of Representatives
1541 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The honorable Gerald B.H. Solomon
House of Representatives
2342 Rayburn HOB
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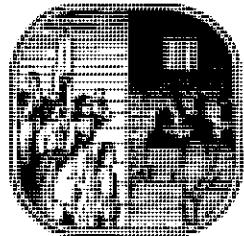
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BAUCUS, Max	(D-MT)	SH-706	4-2651	KASTEN, JR., Robert W.	(R-WI)	SH-110	4-5323
BENTSEN, Lloyd	(D-TX)	SH-703	4-5922	KENNEDY, Edward M.	(D-MA)	SR-315	4-4543
BIDEN, JR., Joseph R.	(D-DE)	SR-489	4-5042	KERREY, Bob	(D-NE)	SD-194	4-6551
BINGAMAN, Jeff	(D-NM)	SH-502	4-5521	KERRY, John F.	(D-MA)	SR-358	4-2742
BOND, Christopher S.	(R-MO)	SR-293	4-5721	KOHL, Herbert	(D-WI)	SH-708	4-5653
BOREN, David L.	(D-OK)	SR-453	4-4721	LAUTENBERG, Frank R.	(D-NJ)	SH-717	4-4744
BOSCHWITZ, Rudy	(R-MN)	SH-506	4-5641	LEAHY, Patrick J.	(D-VT)	SR-433	4-4242
BRADLEY, Bill	(D-NJ)	SH-731	4-3224	LEVIN, Carl M.	(D-MI)	SR-459	4-6221
BREAUX, John	(D-LA)	SH-516	4-4623	LIEBERMAN, Joseph	(D-CT)	SH-123	4-4041
BRYAN, Richard	(D-NY)	SH-302	4-6244	LOTT, Trent	(R-MI)	SH-730	4-6253
BUMPERS, Dale	(D-AR)	SD-229	4-4843	LUGAR, Richard G.	(R-IN)	SH-306	4-4814
BURDICK, Quentin N.	(D-ND)	SH-511	4-2551	MACK, Connie	(R-FL)	SH-902	4-5274
BURNS, Conrad	(R-MT)	SH-825A	4-2644	MATSUNAGA, Spark M.	(D-HI)	SH-109	4-6361
BYRD, Robert C.	(D-WV)	SH-311	4-3954	McCAIN, John	(R-AZ)	SR-111	4-2235
CHAFEE, John H.	(R-RI)	SD-567	4-2921	MCCLURE, James A.	(R-ID)	SH-309	4-2752
COATS, Dan	(R-IN)	SH-524	4-5623	McCONNELL, Mitch	(R-KY)	SR-120	4-2541
COCHRAN, Thad	(R-MI)	SR-326	4-5054	NETZENBAUM, Howard M.	(D-OH)	SR-140	4-2315
COHEN, William S.	(R-ME)	SH-322	4-2523	NIKULSKI, Barbara A.	(D-MD)	SH-320	4-4654
CONRAD, Kent	(D-ND)	SD-361	4-2043	MITCHELL, George J.	(D-ME)	SR-176	4-5344
CRANSTON, Alan	(D-CA)	SH-112	4-3553	MOYNIHAN, Daniel P.	(D-NY)	SR-464	4-4451
D'AMATO, Alfonse M.	(R-NY)	SH-520	4-6542	MURKOWSKI, Frank H.	(R-AK)	SH-709	4-6665
DANFORTH, John C.	(R-MO)	SR-497	4-6154	NICKLES, Don	(R-OK)	SH-713	4-5754
DASCHLE, Thomas A.	(D-SD)	SH-317	4-2321	NUNN, Sam	(D-GA)	SD-303	4-3521
DeCONCINI, Dennis	(D-AZ)	SH-328	4-4521	PACKWOOD, Bob	(R-OR)	SR-259	4-5244
DIXON, Alan J.	(D-IL)	SH-331	4-2854	PELL, Claiborne	(D-RI)	SR-335	4-4642
DODD, Christopher J.	(D-CT)	SR-444	4-2823	PRESSLER, Larry	(R-SD)	SR-411	4-5842
DOLE, Robert	(R-KS)	SH-141	4-6521	PRYOR, David	(D-AR)	SR-264	4-2353
DOMENICI, Pete V.	(R-NM)	SD-434	4-6621	REID, Harry	(D-NV)	SH-702	4-3542
DURENBERGER, Dave	(R-MN)	SR-154	4-3244	RIEGLE, JR., Donald W.	(D-MI)	SD-105	4-4822
EXON, J. James	(D-NE)	SH-330	4-4224	ROBB, Charles	(D-VA)	SH-517	4-4024
FORD, Wendell H.	(D-KY)	SR-173A	4-4343	ROCKEFELLER, IV, John D.	(D-WV)	SH-724	4-6472
FOWLER, JR., Wyche	(D-GA)	SR-204	4-3643	ROTH, JR., William V.	(R-DE)	SH-104	4-2441
GARN, Jake	(R-UT)	SD-505	4-5444	RUDMAN, Warren B.	(R-NH)	SH-530	4-3324
GLENN, John	(D-OH)	SH-503	4-3353	SANFORD, Terry	(D-NC)	SH-716	4-3154
GORE, JR., Albert	(D-TN)	SR-393	4-4944	SARBANES, Paul S.	(D-MD)	SD-332	4-4524
GORTON, Slade	(R-WA)	SH-324	4-3441	SASSER, James R.	(D-TN)	SR-363	4-3344
GRAHAM, Bob	(D-FL)	SD-241	4-3041	SHELBY, Richard C.	(D-AL)	SH-313	4-5744
GRAMM, Phil	(R-TX)	SR-370	4-2934	SIMON, Paul	(D-IL)	SD-462	4-2152
GRASSLEY, Charles E.	(R-IA)	SH-135	4-3744	SIMPSON, Alan K.	(R-WY)	SD-261	4-3424
HARKIN, Tom	(D-IA)	SH-316	4-3254	SPECTER, Arlen	(R-PA)	SH-303	4-4254
HATCH, Orrin G.	(R-UT)	SR-135	4-5251	STEVENS, Ted	(R-AK)	SH-522	4-3004
HATFIELD, Mark O.	(R-OR)	SH-711	4-3753	SYMMS, Steve	(R-ID)	SH-509	4-6142
HEFLIN, Howell T.	(D-AL)	SH-728	4-4124	THURMOND, Strom	(R-SC)	SR-218	4-5972
HEINZ, John	(R-PA)	SR-277	4-6324	WALLOP, Malcolm	(R-WY)	SR-237	4-6441
HELMIS, Jesse	(R-NC)	SD-403	4-6342	WARNER, John W.	(R-VA)	SR-421	4-2023
HOLLINGS, Ernest F.	(D-SC)	SR-125	4-6121	WILSON, Pete	(R-CA)	SH-720	4-3841
HUMPHREY, Gordon J.	(R-NH)	SH-531	4-2841	WIRTH, Timothy E.	(D-CO)	SR-350	4-5852



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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HIẾP LOWMAN
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN

May 5, 1988

Mr. J. Michael Myers
Counsel
Subcommittee on Immigration
and Refugee Affairs
United States Senate
518 Dirksen Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mrs. Myers:

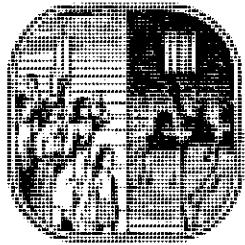
The reception organized on May 27th was a great success. More than one hundred and fifty members of the Vietnamese community were present and we are all heartened by the renewed commitment expressed by the attending congressman and senators.

It is with great hope that we are looking toward the future. We are convinced that with your unwaivering support we will be able to reach our goal of complete release of all political prisoners and their prompt reunification with their families.

I wish to express on behalf of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association our deep gratitude and sincere thanks for your continuing support during all our years of struggle. Your assistance has been invaluable to our achievement.

Sincerely yours,

Khuc Minh Tho



HỘI GIA ĐÌNH TÙ NHÂN CHÍNH TRỊ VIỆT NAM

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HIẾP LOWMAN
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN

May 9, 1988

Mr. Jeffrey Millington
Director EAP-VLC
Department of State
Room 5210
Washington, D.C. 20520

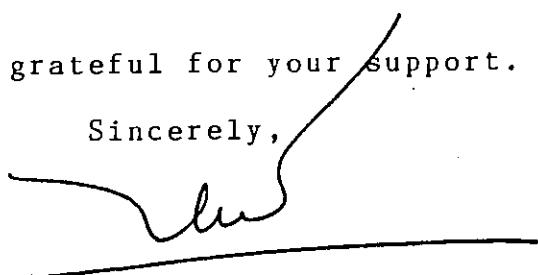
Dear Mr. Millington:

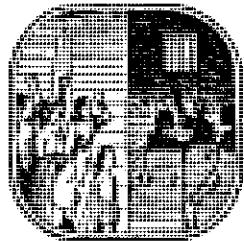
On behalf of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association, I wish to express our deep gratitude for your presence at the reception organized by our Association on April 27, 1988 to commemorate thirteen years of imprisonment of their loved ones.

Your presence lent strength and encouragement to us as we continue to fight to bring pressure on Hanoi to set them free, and for their reunification with their families.

We shall always be grateful for your support.

Sincerely,


Khuc Minh Tho
President



HỘI GIA ĐÌNH TÙ NHÂN CHÍNH TRỊ VIỆT NAM

FAMILIES OF VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS ASSOCIATION

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Cố Vấn Đoàn Advisory Committee

HIẾP LOWMAN
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN

May 9, 1988

Ms. Roberta Newell
EAP-VLC
Department of State
Room 5210
Washington, D.C. 20520

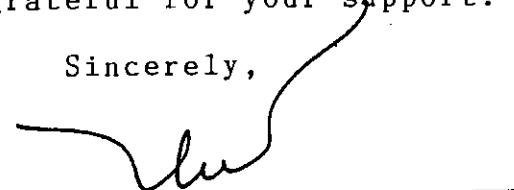
Dear Ms. Newell:

On behalf of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association, I wish to express our deep gratitude for your presence at the reception organized by our Association on April 27, 1988 to commemorate thirteen years of imprisonment of their loved ones.

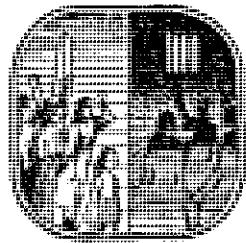
Your presence lent strength and encouragement to us as we continue to fight to bring pressure on Hanoi to set them free, and for their reunification with their families.

We shall always be grateful for your support.

Sincerely,



Khuc Minh Tho
President



HỘI GIA ĐÌNH TÙ NHÂN CHÍNH TRỊ VIỆT NAM

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HIẾP LOWMAN
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN

May 9, 1988

Mr. Thomas P. Doubleday, Jr.
Chief, Southeast Asia Admission Division
Bureau for Refugee Programs
Room 1237
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

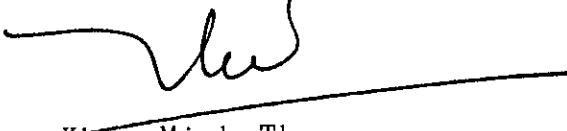
Dear Mr. Doubleday:

On behalf of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association, I wish to express our deep gratitude for your presence at the reception organized by our Association on April 27, 1988 to commemorate thirteen years of imprisonment of their loved ones.

Your presence lent strength and encouragement to us as we continue to fight to bring pressure on Hanoi to set them free, and for their reunification with their families.

We shall always be grateful for your support.

Sincerely,



Khuc Minh Tho
President



HỘI GIA ĐÌNH TÙ NHÂN CHÍNH TRỊ VIỆT NAM

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HIẾP LOWMAN
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN

May 9, 1988

Ms. Susan Lively
RP/RAP/SEA
Department of State
Room 1239-SA1
Washington, D.C. 20520

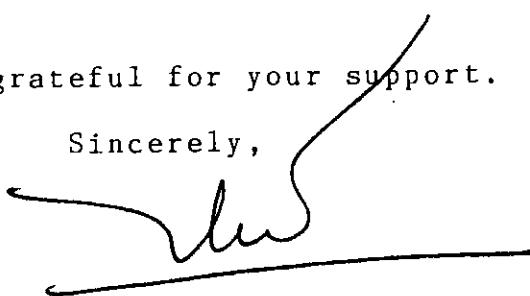
Dear Ms. Lively:

On behalf of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association, I wish to express our deep gratitude for your presence at the reception organized by our Association on April 27, 1988 to commemorate thirteen years of imprisonment of their loved ones.

Your presence lent strength and encouragement to us as we continue to fight to bring pressure on Hanoi to set them free, and for their reunification with their families.

We shall always be grateful for your support.

Sincerely,


Khuc Minh Tho
President



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Advisory Committee

HIẾP LOWMAN
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN

May 9, 1988

Mr. Lionel A. Rosenblatt
Legislative and Intergovernment
Affairs, Room 7251
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Rosenblatt:

On behalf of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association, I wish to express our deep gratitude for your presence at the reception organized by our Association on April 27, 1988 to commemorate thirteen years of imprisonment of their loved ones.

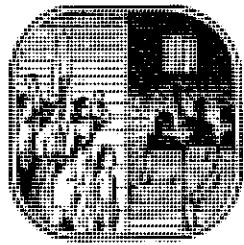
Your presence lent strength and encouragement to us as we continue to fight to bring pressure on Hanoi to set them free, and for their reunification with their families.

We shall always be grateful for your support.

Sincerely,



Khuc Minh Tho
President



HỘI GIA ĐÌNH TÙ NHÂN CHÍNH TRỊ VIỆT NAM
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Advisory Committee

HIẾP LOWMAN
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN

May 9, 1988

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
House of Representatives
130 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

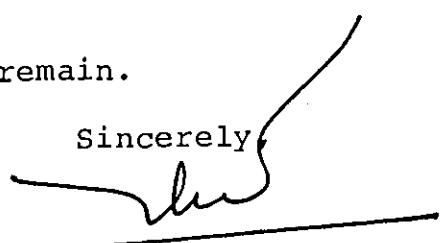
Dear Congressman Wolf:

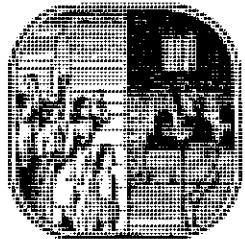
It was with great honor that we acknowledge your presence at the reception organized in commemoration of Vietnamese political prisoners on April 27, 1988. We are deeply grateful for your unwavering support which has been instrumental for all our successes achieved until the present time.

It is with great hope that we are looking toward the future. Members of the Vietnamese community are longing for the time when all political prisoners are released and reunited with their families. With your strong support we are convinced that by this time next year we will be able to welcome the first group of recently released political prisoners whose names have been submitted to you. Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact me.

With my sincere thanks, I remain.

Sincerely,


Khuc Minh Tho
President



HỘI GIA ĐÌNH TÙ NHÂN CHÍNH TRỊ VIỆT NAM

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HIẾP LOWMAN
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN

May 9, 1988

Rev. Ly Cong Thuan
P.O. Box 550
Suitland, MD. 20746

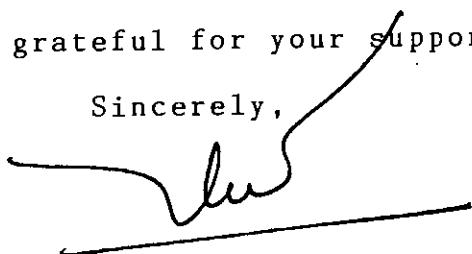
Dear Rev. Ly Cong Thuan:

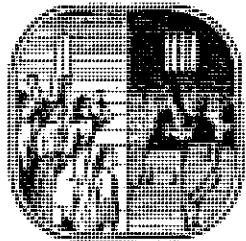
On behalf of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association, I wish to express our deep gratitude for your presence at the reception organized by our Association on April 27, 1988 to commemorate thirteen years of imprisonment of their loved ones.

Your presence lent strength and encouragement to us as we continue to fight to bring pressure on Hanoi to set them free, and for their reunification with their families.

We shall always be grateful for your support.

Sincerely,


Khuc Minh Tho
President



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Vice Secretary
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Treasurer

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HIẾP LOWMAN
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN

May 9, 1988

Rev. Stan Debose, O.S.S.T.
Director
Office of Persecuted Believers
The Trinitarians
8400 Park Heights Avenue
P.O. Box 5719
Baltimore, MD. 21208

Dear Rev. Debose:

On behalf of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association, I wish to express our deep gratitude for your presence at the reception organized by our Association on April 27, 1988 to commemorate thirteen years of imprisonment of their loved ones.

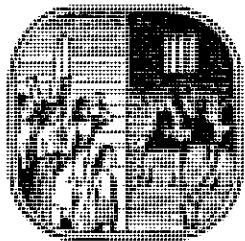
Your presence lent strength and encouragement to us as we continue to fight to bring pressure on Hanoi to set them free, and for their reunification with their families.

We shall always be grateful for your support.

Sincerely,



Khuc Minh Tho
President



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FAMILIES OF VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS ASSOCIATION

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NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN

May 9, 1988

Ms. Lynne Batzli
Legislative Assistant
Senator Rudy Boschwitz
United States Senate
SH-506
Washington, D.C. 20510

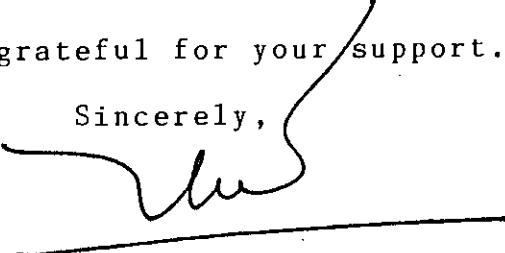
Dear Ms. Batzli:

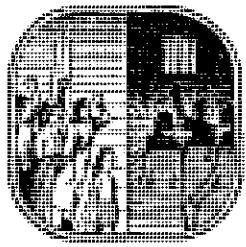
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We shall always be grateful for your support.

Sincerely,


Khuc Minh Tho
President



HỘI GIA ĐÌNH TÙ NHÂN CHÍNH TRỊ VIỆT NAM
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NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN

May 9, 1988

The Honorable Frank McCloskey
House of Representatives
127 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

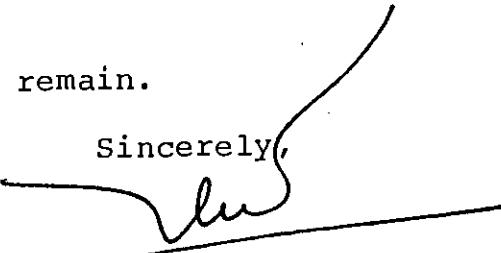
Dear Congressman McCloskey:

It was with great honor that we acknowledge your presence at the reception organized in commemoration of Vietnamese political prisoners on April 27, 1988. We are deeply grateful for your unwavering support which has been instrumental for all our successes achieved until the present time.

It is with great hope that we are looking toward the future. Members of the Vietnamese community are longing for the time when all political prisoners are released and reunited with their families. With your strong support we are convinced that by this time next year we will be able to welcome the first group of recently released political prisoners whose names have been submitted to you. Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact me.

With my sincere thanks, I remain.

Sincerely,



Khuc Minh Tho
President



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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May 9, 1988

Rev. Tran Minh Hai
5701 42nd Avenue
Hyattsville, MD. 20781

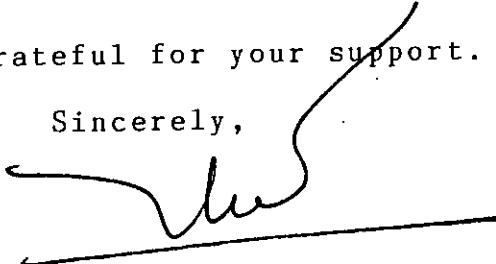
Dear Rev. Tran Minh Hai:

On behalf of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association, I wish to express our deep gratitude for your presence at the reception organized by our Association on April 27, 1988 to commemorate thirteen years of imprisonment of their loved ones.

Your presence lent strength and encouragement to us as we continue to fight to bring pressure on Hanoi to set them free, and for their reunification with their families.

We shall always be grateful for your support.

Sincerely,


Khuc Minh Tho
President