



Fairfax
RP- State - 5824
Washington, DC
20520



DEC 27 1990

Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners
A2202

P.O. Box 5435
Arlington, Va.
22205-0635

Dear Friends

福 Happy Holidays
賀 Meilleurs Voeux
新 Felices Fiestas
禧 Tozgyabraro

And may 1991 bring
about the freedom of
all the prisoners in
Vietnam & America,
many thanks and love.
Sincerely,

Robert Fournell



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

KHÚC MINH THƠ
NGUYỄN THỊ HẠNH
NGUYỄN QUỲNH GIAO
NGUYỄN VĂN GIỚI
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN
HIỆP LOWMAN
TRẦN KIM DUNG
TRẦN THỊ PHƯƠNG

August 27, 1990

Ban Chấp Hành T.Ư.
Executive Board

KHÚC MINH THƠ
President
NGUYỄN QUỲNH GIAO
1st Vice-President
TRẦN KIM DUNG
2nd Vice-President
NGUYỄN VĂN GIỚI
Secretary General
TRẦN THỊ PHƯƠNG
Deputy Secretary
JYỄN THỊ HẠNH
Treasurer

Cố Vấn Đoàn
Advisory Committee

HIỆP LOWMAN
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN

Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Funseth
4625 North 41st Street
Arlington, Virginia 22207

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Funseth:

On behalf of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association we would like to extend to you an invitation to join with us for an evening of fun and relaxation.

We will host a Picnic at my home, 7813 Marthas Lane, Falls Church, Virginia on **Sunday, September 9, 1990 at 3:30 p.m.** At that time we would like to take the opportunity to introduce you to the Former Political Prisoners Association Chapter of Washington, D.C. and the metropolitan area.

It is our anticipation that along with former re-education center detainees and their families this event will host approximately 100 people. As plans are now underway for this restful event we are very hopeful that you will be able to join with us during that time.

If you have any questions and/or concerns, please feel free to contact me at **560-0058**. The dress for this event will be casual and the atmosphere will be restful, relaxing and peaceful. In addition, we know that the food will be superb!

Looking forward to seeing both of you.

Sincerely,

Khuc Minh Tho
President

KMT/lrh



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

KHÚC MINH THƠ
NGUYỄN THỊ HẠNH
NGUYỄN QUỲNH GIAO
NGUYỄN VĂN GIỚI
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN
HIỆP LOWMAN
TRẦN KIM DUNG
TRẦN THỊ PHƯƠNG

Ban Chấp Hành T.Ư.
Executive Board

KHÚC MINH THƠ
President
NGUYỄN QUỲNH GIAO
1st Vice-President
TRẦN KIM DUNG
2nd Vice-President
NGUYỄN VĂN GIỚI
Secretary General
TRẦN THỊ PHƯƠNG
Deputy Secretary
NGUYỄN THỊ HẠNH
Treasurer

Cố Vấn Đoàn
Advisory Committee

HIỆP LOWMAN
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN

August 3, 1990

The Honorable Robert L. Funseth
Senior Deputy Assistant Secretary
Bureau for Refugee Programs
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Funseth:

On behalf of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association, the many invited guests and friends at the Annual Awards Dinner and Cultural Show, and our special guests, the newly arrived political prisoners, we would like to say a very special "thank you".

As our Keynote Speaker for this event you did a superb job. We are still receiving complimentary remarks about your moving and inspiring overall presentation of the events, conditions and emotions centered around this humanitarian issue. We all anxiously look forward to travelling down the "Road of Hope" together; for we feel that together....united as one...we will find the strength to endure and experience both sorrow and joy — both sadness and happiness, and thus, we cannot, and will not fail.

In you we have found the hope and strength we need to continue our struggle, and we are grateful to number you as one of our friends...moreso, as a member of our family. You have, through your efforts, brought many more friends into the fold to help support us, and comfort us, and encourage us, and for this we are most grateful.

We look forward to our long and continued relationship with you and members of your staff. Should you ever need our services or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Again, our most sincere thanks for such eloquent remarks that were from the heart, and sincerely received by all in attendance.

Sincerely,


Khuc Minh Tho
President

KMT/lrh

SORROW AND JOY

Experiencing the Effort to Free and Resettle
the Vietnamese Reeducation Center Detainees

Address by

ROBERT FUNSETH

Senior Deputy Assistant Secretary of State
Bureau for Refugee Programs
Department of State

at the

Annual Awards Dinner of the

FAMILIES OF VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS ASSOCIATION

Arlington, Virginia

July 28, 1990

SORROW AND JOY

Introduction

Once again we come together to share another meal -- to break bread together in that most spiritual and symbolic experience of sharing in the human family -- to a dinner once more arranged by this magnificent humanitarian organization dedicated to the reunification and well-being of all the "Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners."

This year we come together to commemorate the first anniversary of the signing in Hanoi on July 30, 1989 of the agreement between the United States and Vietnam entitled, "The Special Released Reeducation Center Detainees Resettlement Program."

The successful conclusion of these negotiations culminated an eight-year American effort to reach an agreement with Vietnam to permit persons released from Vietnamese reeducation centers to emigrate on a voluntary basis to the United States.

'Hope and Challenge'

At last year's dinner, I had just only returned a few days earlier from Hanoi and reported to you on the successful negotiations. I still remember the warm welcome I received from you at the Washington airport after the long flight home from Vietnam. I called my remarks on that memorable evening: "Hope and Challenge." The hope was manifested in achieving the agreement itself. The challenge, was not only successfully to bring about the implementation of the agreement but also to help the prisoners and their families rebuild their lives in their new American homeland.

The Archbishop's Joys and Sorrows

As I reflected on what I might say to you this evening, my thoughts turned to my recent deeply moving meetings and conversations in Rome just three weeks ago with Archbishop Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan. Like many of you, he endured and survived long years of imprisonment in Vietnam.

He told me about the book he composed during his years in prison -- a book which he characterizes as an "Epistle in Captivity" -- and which is entitled, "The Road of Hope."

In the foreword to this book, Archbishop Nguyen Van Thuan begins the experience of his life with these words:

"I have travelled along life's road, where I have experienced both joys and sorrows..."

The road we have travelled together over the past nine years, has not only been a road of "hope and challenge" but it has been and is also a road in which we experience both "sorrow and joy."

Sorrow

The sorrow we have experienced and continue to feel was poignantly portrayed to me in a letter I received two years ago from a young Vietnamese woman. She lives here in our midst -- and was separated from her father as a young girl in 1975, when he was imprisoned -- like so many of you -- by the victorious communists at the end of the Vietnamese war. Her mother, sister and she fled from Vietnam. Her father remains in the prison of a reeducation center in Vietnam.

She wrote me:

"I miss my Dad very much. So does my family. I can not even remember what my Dad looks like because he was taken from me when I was only ten years old. I know you will understand: children without their father are just like a house without a roof."

Her sorrow continues and our sorrow will continue as long as she feels that with her father still in a reeducation center prison, she is like a house without a roof.

Her sorrow -- and the sorrow of all the other daughters, sons, mothers, fathers, wives, husbands, sisters, brothers and grandchildren who are separated from one another making them also like houses without roofs -- is also our sorrow.

Joy

And what about our joy?

Our joy is the joy we share with the joy of all the former prisoners and their families who are with us this evening.

Last year they were not here and their absence tempered our rejoicing over the agreement.

By this time next year, we hope many more thousands of them will be in our midst allowing us to rejoice even more.

Since our meeting last year, the United States has submitted 20,000 names of prisoners and their families to the Vietnamese authorities. In two weeks we will submit another U.S. list with another 5,000 names to Vietnam for a total of 25,000 persons we will have requested Vietnam to allow to emigrate to the United States. This will be the sixth U.S. list since I submitted the first list one year ago in Hanoi.

Since the agreement was signed one year ago, we have interviewed 16,000 persons, including 2,003 persons interviewed during this past week in Saigon by U.S. consular and immigration officers. This afternoon, before coming to this dinner, I received confirmation from the ODP Office at the American Embassy in Bangkok that another 4,000 persons will be interviewed in Saigon in August and September. This means that we will have interviewed 20,000 prisoners and their families during the first 12 months of the agreement.

Twelve Thousand!

Since October 1, 1989, more than 5,000 former prisoners, and their families have arrived in the United States. We hope that by September 30, at least 8,000 will have arrived and that when this year ends on December 31st, twelve thousand former prisoners and their families will have arrived in America since the agreement was signed one year ago.

Reflect a moment on the significance of these numbers. From the end of the war in 1975 until September 30, 1989 -- a period of 14 years -- only about 600 former prisoners plus 2,400 of their relatives were allowed to emigrate to the United States -- a total of 3,000 persons in 168 months..

Now in just one year, there will be hopefully nearly three times that number coming -- more than 8,000 persons in only 12 months!

The presence of prisoners at this celebration, representing the 5,000 persons now in America is a measure of the joy we feel.

Last year we could only hope they would be here -- their presence here this evening has miraculously transformed that hope into the happiness that only their reality can bring.

Tonight we are 5,000 times more joyful then we were a year ago. And in December we look forward with great anticipation to being 12,000 times more joyful! What a wonderful Christmas present that will be!

Challenge

At last year's dinner I spoke of the new challenge the Vietnamese American community would face as the former prisoners and their families began to arrive.

I spoke about how they and their families -- both those who accompany them and those with whom they will be reunited with here -- would need all of the help we could provide in the always difficult task of adjusting to a new life in a new land.

I asked each of you to reflect for a moment on your own personal experience as a newcomer in what was then for you a strange land: to remember those who helped you make this difficult adjustment; to remember what it meant to have the support of friends in the community. Or, if you did not unfortunately receive the help you needed, you would have an opportunity to make sure these new emigrants received the help and support you know they need.

The Vietnamese American community met this new challenge by responding with open arms and open hearts.

I have seen for myself here in the Washington area, in Texas, in Southern and Northern California and in Oregon and have received reports from all over the United States of how Vietnamese Americans are trying to make the freed prisoners and their families feel truly at home in America.

Amerasian Appeal

Once more I appeal to you to remember also the Amerasian children and their mothers. Most are now young adults. Many were, as you know, treated as outcasts in Vietnam and too many of them still feel as strangers here in America. Remember they and their families also suffered and emerged out of their war experience with painful and unhealed wounds just as you did.

No Man's Land

You will recall by the winter of 1988 that while we had been successful in obtaining the release of many prisoners from the reeducation centers but we had not been successful in securing Vietnamese agreement to permit these persons to emigrate to the United States. It was not only a time of expectation and hope but also a time of uncertainty and frustration.

During this time I heard the following story from World War I about commitment, steadfastness, loyalty, friendship and love on the battlefield -- fundamental moral principles embodying concepts of responsibility, obligation, discipline and dedication that are essential guideposts along the road we must follow in order to achieve the release of all the prisoners, their reunification with their families and friends and their voluntary resettlement in the United States.

The story is about two soldiers in World War I. One is critically wounded in the "no-man's land" between the trenches of the opposing armies and who can not, because of his wounds, make it back to the safety of his own lines. The other soldier, his best friend, asks their lieutenant for permission

to go out and rescue him. The officer refuses for the very good reason that such a rescue attempt would be extremely dangerous and would probably result in the soldier himself being seriously wounded, if not killed. The soldier, however, waits until his officer's back is turned and climbs out of the trench into the danger and uncertainty of no-man's land and despite heavy gunfire reaches his wounded friend. As he begins to crawl back, dragging his wounded friend behind him, he feels the sharp pain of bullets striking his body. He too is now wounded. He continues painfully crawling, pulling his friend with him, until they finally get back to the safety of their own trench. He falls into it with his wounded friend behind him. When he turns to speak to his friend he sees with horror that his friend is dead.

His lieutenant says with exasperation,
"I told you not to go; your friend is dead and now you are wounded yourself. It wasn't worth it."

But the young, gravely wounded soldier whispers,

"But it was, Sir. He was still alive when I got there, and he said to me:
'Jim, I knew you would come.'"

The friend's name in the first World War was "Jim" but in our time it could just as easily be "Nguyen." In the case of this young soldier, he did what his commanding officer thought at the time was too dangerous because he knew another person -- his friend and his battlefield buddy -- was counting on him. Some might say it was a futile sacrifice because his friend died before they reached safety. But in the end Jim knew he just had to take the chance because he could show his commitment, his steadfastness, his loyalty, his friendship and his love in no other way.

'We Must Not Fail'

Tragically and to our great sorrow many persons have died in reeducation centers or died in Vietnam before we succeeded in obtaining the agreement in Hanoi last year which would have permitted them to join us here.

I want to believe that at least some of them knew before they died that we, like the Jim of the story, were trying to reach them and bring them to safety.

I want to believe that those who are still alive but remain in prison know that we are trying to reach them in the "no-man's land" of a reeducation center and bring them to the freedom that awaits them outside the prison walls.

And I want to believe that those in Vietnam who are now out of prison but are in the "no-man's land" of waiting to obtain an exit permit, know that we are trying to reach them too and bring them to the safety they will find with us here in America.

You and I, whether we are from the Washington area, or from Georgia, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, California, or from any other place, must continue steadfastly to send a message of hope and reassurance to all those who remain in prison or in reeducation centers. "Jim" did not fail his friend in the no-man's land of World War I.

We must not fail our friends and comrades in Vietnam.

The reeducation center prisoners in Vietnam must be ever reassured that we will never give up until they are free and allowed, if they wish, to rejoin their families in America or come here with their families.

For those who are free and now in this country, and who may find themselves in a "no-man's land" of discouragement and loneliness, they must know that while we are not threatened by machine gun fire -- we will come out of the trenches of our homes and neighborhoods and offer help whenever and wherever they need it.

We can do no less. They are counting on us just like Jim's friend.

Conclusion

As we go from this celebration dinner, let us also not forget the heartfelt plea and sorrow of the Vietnamese daughter and all Vietnamese daughters:

"Children without their father are just like
a house without a roof."

And let us all remember that a father without his daughter or without his son is also like a house without a roof.

Her sorrow and our sorrow will continue as long as she is separated from her father and as long as there are persons in Vietnam like her father still imprisoned in reeducation centers or persons in Vietnam who have been released from detention but still have not received exit permits allowing them to emigrate.

Remember the words of the dying soldier,

"Jim I knew you would come."

or do I hear a voice saying,

"Nguyen, I knew you would come."

Yes, dear friends, it is true isn't it -- and will forever be true -- that as we travel together down the "Road of Hope," we will experience and must endure both sorrow and joy -- both sadness and happiness.

ANTICIPATED REUNION

Written after hearing Mr. Robert Funseth
in Anaheim, CA, and on behalf of many
of my sisters who are in the same predi-
cament as I.

To My Beloved Husband,
H.H.N.B.

For years I have been waiting
For years tears have blurred my eyes
For years I have been ravaged by separation
For years I pine and yearn after you
 who did not come back.
Far from home, I have my own sadness
One that is hardly lightened by my burdened mind:
O how I share your every up and down
O how I pity myself, a lone bird away from its flock.
Ever since mountains and passes stood between us
I have read prayers for you night after night
Beseeching Heaven and God and Buddha
That they take pity and protect you in a far land
That they give me protection also in a foreign land
So that I can raise our children & face this solitary life.
I pledge my life and loyalty
To singlemindedly raise our children and wait for you
I may run into countless difficulties
I still will take your place to give them guidance
I may suffer rain, winds and storms
I will nonetheless make it into the future
My complexion and colors may even fade
My lovely hair may grow white like frost
And my dark eyes brim with tears
I will not retreat on the rough way ahead.

Day and night I only have a pious heart to show
And pray to God that we be reunited
So that I can live out my life with you
Rebinding a love thread that had been rent apart.

After years of painful suffering
It now seems that Heaven has heard my prayer
Soon we will have our wish fulfilled
Soon we'll have the chance to renew our bond
My jet black eyes will no longer brim with tears
The world will be a sunny place where we can all sing:
"Thanks to Heaven we are now one family
"We will no longer have to endure suffering
"We'll enjoy instead days of bright, cloudless joy
"And full happiness as we are together husband and wife again."

From now on and forever
Our life will blossom under the vast blue sky.

Translated by Nguyen Ngoc Bich



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

KHÚC MINH THO
NGUYỄN THỊ HẠNH
NGUYỄN QUỲNH GIAO
NGUYỄN VĂN GIỚI
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN
HIỆP LOWMAN
TRẦN KIM DUNG
TRẦN THỊ PHƯƠNG

Ban Chấp Hành T.Ư.
Executive Board

KHÚC MINH THO
President
NGUYỄN QUỲNH GIAO
1st Vice-President
TRẦN KIM DUNG
2nd Vice-President
NGUYỄN VĂN GIỚI
Secretary General
TRẦN THỊ PHƯƠNG
Deputy Secretary
NGUYỄN THỊ HẠNH
Treasurer

Cố Vấn Đoàn
Advisory Committee

HIỆP LOWMAN
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN

May 10, 1990

The Honorable Robert L. Funseth
Senior Deputy Assistant Secretary
Bureau for Refugee Programs
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Funseth:

Recognizing that this is a very special day for you, and our thoughts and prayers are with you as you celebrate this day, your birthday, we wish you much happiness and success.

In keeping with the celebration of this special day for you, we have decided that it is only appropriate that we ask you to be our Keynote Speaker for our **Annual Awards Dinner and Cultural Show**. This event will be held at **The Saigon Palace, 5401 Lee Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22207** on **Saturday, July 28, 1990** beginning at **6:30 p.m.** We are anticipating at least 400 guests for this special event.

While we are still only in the planning process your acceptance as our Keynote Speaker will allow us time to plan and prepare the remainder of the program for that day. We will contact you at a later date to provide more details and a schedule of the program for the evening.

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

Sincerely,


(Mrs.) Khuc Minh Tho
President

KMT/lrh

*For Someone
Who Means So Much*

FORGET ME NOT



0

18100 01105

+ 2008 1999-66 +

© AMERICAN GREETINGS.COM

AMERICAN  GREETINGS

May 10, 1990

Dear Mr. Funseth:

Reflected in today
is everything you've become
through living, loving, being...
And all that you are
touches the hearts
and brightens the lives of others

Our love and
appreciation are
sincerely expressed
on this, your
Special day -

Hoping life brings you
as much happiness
as you have brought
to others.

Happy Birthday

Warmest expressions



FVPPA



Happy
Birth Day
Robert L. Furbeth

Best wishes
from your Vietnamese
friends and families
of
V P P A

Federation of ASSA. of P P.
around the U.S.

TỔNG HỘI CỰU TÙ NHÂN CHÍNH TRỊ CÔNG SẢN VIỆT NAM

FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS OF FORMER POLITICAL PRISONERS OF COMMUNIST VIETNAM

2206 Main Street - Houston, Texas 77002
Tel: (713) 655-7069 Beeper: 762-3479

"REGRET" - 'TIEC THUONG'

Presented to The Honorable Robert L. Funseth for his continued support, dedication and commitment to humanity, by the San Jose Chapter of the Federation of Associations of Former Political Prisoners of Communist Vietnam. This presentation was made in San Jose, California on Saturday, March 17, 1990.

BACKGROUND

This photograph has won numerous awards. The most prestigious award was the International Award presented in:

Thailand	-	1967
Taiwan	-	1969
France	-	1971
Germany	-	1972
London	-	1973

The Gold Medal award was presented to the artist, Nguyen Ngoc Hanh, by the Honor Excellent Federation of International Art Photographics.

The artist, Nguyen Ngoc Hanh, was a Vietnamese Re-education Center detainee from 1975 to 1983 (8 years). He took this photograph of the young wife of a soldier of a military post, "Cu Chi", Tay Ninh, Vietnam. The couple had only been married two days when her husband was killed by the Communist.

This photograph was taken in 1966 and the young woman was only 19 years of age.

Dao Van Binh
Chairman
San Jose Chapter

February 10, 1990

Dear Mr. Funseth :

Please find attached that Vietnamese Hymn presented by the choir of Our Lady of Lavang Church when you were in Houston.

You may find that some of the translations improper. That is because some the words carry different meanings and what I took may not be the right one.

Your works for the Vietnamese PWD are very much appreciated. Thank you very much. I wish I could do more to help in this great Cause.

May God bless you and your family. Please pray for us.

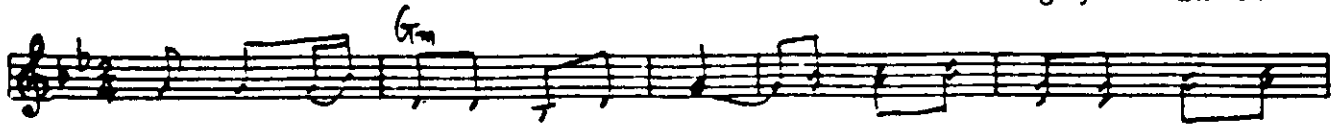
Respectfully yours,



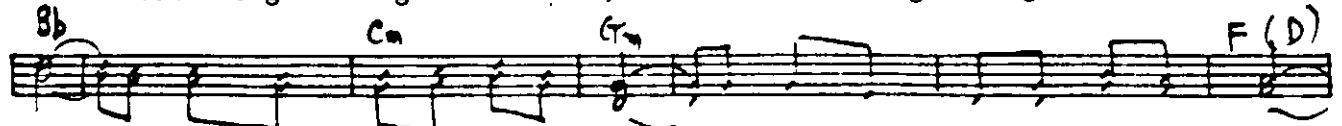
JC Do-nguyen Chuong
7823 Salge Drive
Houston, Texas 77040

DÂNG TIỀN

Nguyen Van Trinh



Con không có gì làm vất vả sinh con không có gì làm chiến hiên



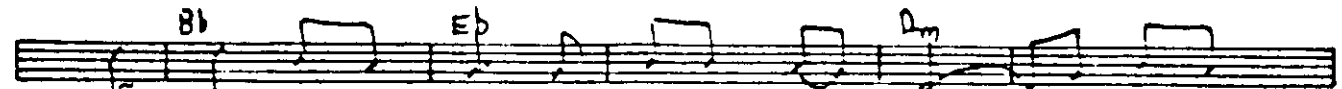
tê Bao khi chiều về con ước ao lòng Bao khi chiều về con đến bên cha



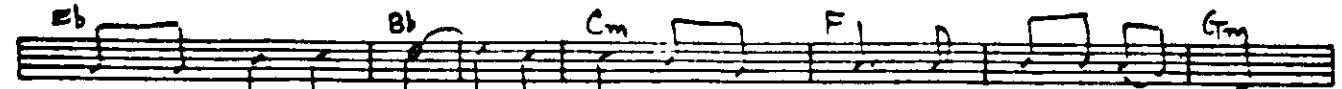
Nữ Con đến bên cha với làn da khô Nam Con đến bên cha bàn tay chai cứng



Nữ Con dâng lên cha một ngày phục vụ Chung Con dâng lên cha một ngày con yêu



1. Mỗi sáng con thức dậy. Con sẽ bước vào đời đem sức lao
2. nãng quái giữa trưa hè. Ôi nắng giữa cảnh đồng đốt cháy xác



công dụng xây thế giới Xin dâng một ngày thôi đem sức để yêu người
thân làm chiến hiên tể Bao nhiêu giọt mồ hôi tuôn chảy khắp trên người



con tạo, tình thương thành lễ hiên dâng.
Thanh tâm hồn con thành lễ tiên dâng.



THE HYMN OF THE OFFERTORY - DÂNG HIẾN
Nguyen Van Trinh

* This hymn was composed by a priest in forced labor camp (re-education camp) in Vietnam as he came home after a day of labor pondering on what to offer to the Lord his God

Con không có gì làm vật hy sinh
Con không có gì làm chiên hiến tế
Bao khi chiều về con ước ao lòng
Bao khi chiều về con đến bên Cha
Con đến bên Cha với làn da khô
Con đến bên Cha bần tay chai cứng
Con dâng lên Cha một ngày phục vụ
Con dâng lên Cha một ngày con yêu

Nothing do I have for my offering
Nothing do I have for my sacrifice
Every sunset I wish in my heart
Every evening I come by you Father
I come to you with a "dried" skin
I come to you with my callous hands
I offer you a day of service
I offer you a day that I loved

I. Mỗi sáng con thức dậy,
Con sẽ bước vào đời
Dem sức lao công xây dựng thế giới
Xin dâng một ngày thời đem sức
để yêu người, con tao tình thương
làm lễ hiến dâng

Every morning when I get up
Going into another day of my life
I labor to build the world. Let me
offer you a day that I spend my
strengths to love people that I
build up Love as my Offering Gift

II. Nắng quái giữa trưa hè.
Ôi nắng giữa cánh đồng
đốt cháy xác thân làm chiên hiến tế
Bao nhiêu giọt mồ hôi tuôn chảy
khắp trên người thanh tẩy hồn con
làm lễ Hiến Dâng

The burning sun at mid-day in summer.
The sun on the rice field burning off
my body to make it a sacrificing lamb
Uncounted drops of sweat running down
all over my body clean up my soul to
make it up an Offering Sacrifice

Houston, February 10, 1990
J.C. Do-Nguyen Chuong

TỔNG HỘI CỰ TÙ NHÂN CHÍNH TRỊ CỘNG SẢN VIỆT NAM

FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS OF FORMER POLITICAL PRISONERS OF COMMUNIST VIETNAM

2206 Main Street - Houston, Texas 77002
Tel: (713) 655-7059 Beeper: 762-3479

November 28, 1989

The Honorable Robert L. Funseth
Senior Deputy Assistant Secretary
Bureau for Refugee Programs
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Funseth:

This is to advise you that we are eagerly awaiting your arrival in Houston, and to also provide you with the name of your host. The representative of our organization who will lead a welcome delegation is Mr. Pham Quoc Dzung. The host and delegation will welcome you at your arrival at the Houston Airport on December 2, 1989 at 12:30 p.m.

Mr. Dzung will be our representative assigned to assist you during your visit with us in Houston. Should you have any questions and/or concerns prior to your departure, please feel free to contact Mr. Dzung. His telephone numbers are: (713) 561-6395 (Home); (713) 799-5566 (Office). He may also be reached by his Beeper Number 762-3479.

We are hopeful that you will have a pleasant flight and a delightful stay in our city. Preparations are being made to assist you in any manner you deem necessary and to assure you of a pleasant and beneficial visit.

Sincerely,

Huynh Cong Anh
Chairman

HCA/lrh



Huynh Cong Anh

**A HUMANITARIAN ENDEAVOR:
EMIGRATION FROM VIETNAM**

Statement of Robert L. Funseth
Senior Deputy Assistant Secretary
Bureau for Refugee Programs
Department of State

before the

Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs
and the
Subcommittee on International Economic Policy and Trade
Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives

November 17, 1989

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**EMBARGOED BEFORE DELIVERY
2:00 P.M. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1989**

INTRODUCTION

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Since our last opportunity to discuss U.S. refugee policies and programs in East Asia with this Subcommittee, we have witnessed and participated in two historic events: (1) the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA) as a framework for international policy on refugees and asylum seekers in the region by the International Conference on Indochinese Refugees (ICIR) in Geneva, Switzerland on June 14, 1989 and (2) the successful conclusion of an agreement in Hanoi on July 30, 1989 between the United States and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to inaugurate a special program for the resettlement in the United States of released reeducation center detainees and their close family members who wish to emigrate to the United States.

I will first provide an assessment on the present state of the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan of Action. I will then review progress in the implementation of the reeducation center detainee resettlement program and other components of emigration from Vietnam through the Orderly Departure Program (ODP).

THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION (CPA)

The International Conference in Geneva established a Steering Committee to follow implementation of the CPA components. At its third meeting on October 16-17, progress was reported by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in all areas, as follows:

Orderly Departure Program.

In supporting the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan of Action, Vietnam agreed that the Orderly Departure Program should be accelerated and expanded and that all persons eligible under third-country migration programs, Amerasians, and former reeducation center detainees would have full access to this program.

I am pleased to report that Vietnam has cooperated by issuing a significantly larger number of exit permits doubling the number of persons departing Vietnam under the ODP from 1988 to 1989: 39,082 in 1989 as compared to 19,068 in 1988. Of the 1989 total there were 26,281 persons departing for the United States and 12,801 for all other countries. UNHCR reports that there may be as many as 80,000 Vietnamese who will be permitted to depart Vietnam legally for all destinations over the next year. Continued efforts by Vietnam are needed, however, to ensure that sufficient capacity will exist for transportation and medical examinations.

First Asylum.

I am pleased to report that Thailand, Hong Kong, Japan, the Philippines, and Indonesia have respected the one aspect of the CPA which has been, and remains, the most critical element of the agreement -- granting asylum seekers permission to land and pursue their claims for refugee status. While Malaysia has, according to UNHCR, granted first asylum to an additional 18,000 persons in 1989 -- increasing its first asylum population from 12,000 in 1988 to more than 20,000 in 1989 -- regretfully UNHCR has also reported that since May of this year, Malaysia has not permitted at least 40 boatloads of Vietnamese asylum-seekers to land, redirecting them instead to Indonesia, and that, tragically, some deaths have resulted. The United States has vigorously protested these actions, both here and in Kuala Lumpur. I am pleased to report, however, that to date Indonesia has offered asylum to all such boats which made it to Indonesian territory.

Screening Programs.

All first asylum countries participating in the CPA have, with the cooperation of UNHCR, implemented screening programs for new arrivals. In advance of the screening programs, the UNHCR also conducted training programs throughout the region for national officials who are now conducting the screenings. Other countries which have begun screening programs since the ICIR in June 1989 have not announced any results. UNHCR is counseling new arrivals on how to present their claims to refugee status under the screening procedures and assisting in appeals. It should be noted that Singapore has, unfortunately, not agreed to participate in any screening process for asylum seekers disembarking in its territory. Since June 1988 Hong Kong began screening new arrivals and by November 10, 1989 has screened 5,973 people 453 of whom have been adjudicated as refugees. 3,544 people have been screened through final appeal and 246 people originally denied have been overturned on appeal.

Rescue-at-Sea.

The United States is disappointed that CPA procedures are still not yet in effect for asylum seekers rescued at sea. First asylum countries have stated they are unwilling to accept such cases for screening under the CPA unless they can be provided a date when all screened-out persons will be repatriated to Vietnam. Many countries in the region will not permit rescued cases to disembark unless they receive a guarantee of resettlement. The United States is currently providing resettlement guarantees for the majority of rescue cases. We will continue to do all we can to ensure that ship captains have every incentive to continue rescuing boat people in distress at sea. We want to avoid a return to the earlier situation when many refugee boats in distress were not rescued resulting in tragic consequences.

Voluntary Repatriation.

According to reports from Hong Kong, the number of persons who had returned to Vietnam voluntarily from Hong Kong had reached 507 by November 10, 1989 and approximately 1,300 more were in some stage of processing for return. There have also been small numbers of volunteers in other countries in the region as screening and counseling programs are instituted. Volunteers for repatriation in Hong Kong have increased to over 300 per month and show indications of further expansion.

In its report to the October 16-17 Steering Committee meeting, the UNHCR concluded that

"voluntary repatriation for asylum seekers and non-refugees remains a viable option...It remains confident, on the basis of the experience recently gained in Hong Kong, that further significant progress can be achieved in the weeks to come towards this goal."

The UNHCR has reported that its officials in Vietnam have been able personally to visit 40 per cent of the 250 persons who had voluntarily returned to Vietnam under UNHCR auspices prior to the end of September. This rate should improve markedly with the assignment of another UNHCR officer in Hanoi to monitor repatriations. Thus far, the UNHCR has declared it is satisfied that Vietnam is meeting its CPA responsibilities not to penalize any returnee for having left Vietnam clandestinely, and to channel the assistance provided through the UNHCR to the returnees. We believe strongly that the voluntary repatriation efforts under the CPA should be significantly strengthened to help relieve the pressures on the first asylum nations.

Resettlement.

The CPA calls for the resettlement within a three-year period of all Vietnamese who arrived before the agreed cutoff date. By June 30, 1989 this population is estimated at approximately 46,000. There is a multilateral plan to resettle half of the total in the first year of implementation, and to date, international resettlement is ahead of schedule. The United States committed itself to resettle 40 per cent of the total, or approximately 18,500 people; and total pledges by the international community exceed the total pre-cutoff date population. (In this regard, it should be noted that the 46,000 figure for the target population is a significant reduction from the pre-Conference population (55,000) against which UNHCR received some 57,600 pledges.)

The CPA also calls for the resettlement of all new arrivals who are determined by the screening procedures to be *bona fide* refugees. The United States has announced its intention to resettle up to 50 percent of such persons. Although other countries have not made specific commitments, many have stated that the balance of their pledges which are not needed for the pre-cutoff date caseload will be applied to qualifying new arrivals. To date, because screening programs are only just beginning in most countries, there has not been sufficient experience to evaluate this aspect of resettlement.

Unaccompanied Minors.

We are also disappointed there has also been little progress to date on unaccompanied minors. The Steering Committee has endorsed a plan to create special committees in all countries of first asylum which will determine, on an individual case basis, the solution which is in the best interest of each minor. At the Steering Committee Meeting in October, the United States urged that these committees, which will include representatives of the host government, UNHCR and non-governmental organizations, be organized without further delay in each country throughout the region.

Summary.

Mr. Chairman, the position of the United States at the Steering Committee meeting in Geneva in October was that while parts of the CPA framework were holding up very well, there were other elements which still needed and which could and should be addressed individually in order to strengthen the whole. It is unrealistic to expect that any one element of the CPA will necessarily progress faster than all others. We believe that balanced, steady progress in all areas of the CPA should ensure respect for the interests of each of the participating parties who agreed to its implementation in Geneva last June. There are areas where much remains to be done. In addition to those cited earlier, we also called attention to the need for additional funding and staff for UNHCR and the development of a credible information program inside Vietnam about the orderly departure program.

On the question of repatriation, the position of the United States is that, in accordance with the CPA, every effort must be made to encourage the voluntary return of persons determined not to be refugees and that voluntary repatriation should be more vigorously and effectively pursued, especially in Hong Kong.

However, the Steering Committee in October adjourned without consensus on measures to deal with such persons -- the so-called screened-out. The majority of participants at the meeting thought that some specific, future date should be set, after which involuntary repatriation to Vietnam of the screened-out would begin. The British colony of Hong Kong is experiencing a sharp increase in arrivals even in the off-season, and there is concern now expressed in Southeast Asian countries about whether the provisions of the CPA for the return of those found not to be refugees will take place in a time frame acceptable to them. For these reasons, first asylum countries pressed for agreement in Geneva on a precise timetable for commencing mandatory return of the screened-out to Vietnam. As a consequence, disagreement over this issue threatens not only to slow or stall progress in other elements of the CPA, but the very fabric of the CPA itself.

The unresolved issue of the timing of the return of the screened-out to Vietnam has been referred to capitals for consideration.

The United States is concerned that some involuntary repatriation of screened out may be attempted in the coming months, with or without Steering Committee consensus. Moreover, we are concerned that the lack of consensus on this issue may encourage other first asylum countries to begin to push off boats carrying asylum seekers. We are now studying carefully all of the implications of the lack of consensus about when the repatriation to Vietnam of persons found not to be refugees should begin.

RESETTLEMENT OF RELEASED REEDUCATION CENTER DETAINEES

The successful conclusion of an agreement in Hanoi on July 30 on the resettlement in the United States of released reeducation center detainees and their family members was the culmination of an intensive seven-year U.S. diplomatic effort to obtain the release of these persons and agreement to permit their emigration to the United States.

Former reeducation center detainees are those Vietnamese who were closely associated with the United States during our involvement in Vietnam. These are the persons who have suffered the most for their identification with us. Many of these former detainees have endured the separation from their immediate families since 1975.

Mr. Chairman, on the occasion of this public hearing, I wish to express my appreciation to you for your steadfast support and personal encouragement during these long years of negotiations as well as to members of this Subcommittee and the Congress who have also consistently supported our efforts to achieve this agreement.

In concluding this agreement, the United States and Vietnam expressed great satisfaction with the results achieved and declared that they:

"...in order to resolve one of the issues of mutual concern to the two countries and consistent with their humanitarian policies and with the commitments undertaken in the Declaration and the Comprehensive Plan of Action adopted by the United Nations International Conference on Indochinese Refugees, will -- in addition to existing programs -- allow those released reeducation center detainees who were closely associated with the United States or its allies and who wish to do so to emigrate, together with their close relatives, to the United States."

(I am providing for the record a copy of the text of the Agreement and the Joint Communique issued in Hanoi on July 30. The text of the Agreement has already been forwarded to the Congress in accordance with the Case Act.)

At the conclusion of the negotiations in July, I presented to the Vietnamese delegation a list of 3,500 persons consisting of former reeducation center detainees (and their families) who were all beneficiaries of U.S. immigrant visa petitions. Since then, at the first meeting of the Joint U.S.-Vietnamese Working Group in September, the U.S. presented a second list containing 5,000 names of additional detainees (and their families) who had at least 10 years of reeducation experience. Future lists will include those with progressively less time spent in detention.

In total, approximately 8,500 names have been presented by the United States for resettlement under this program. Vietnam, for its part, and in accordance with the Agreement, also prepared and presented a list of 3,115 detainees and family members. Most of the names on the Vietnamese list had been issued Letters of Introduction (LOI's) by the United States, or met U.S. criteria for LOI issuance and had been detained at least three years in Vietnamese reeducation centers.

I am pleased to report that U.S. consular and immigration officers from the Orderly Departure Program (ODP) office of the American Embassy in Bangkok interviewed 1,144 former detainees and their families during the initial interview trip in October in Ho Chi Minh City. Interviews for 1,131 more were scheduled to conclude yesterday, November 16.

We hope to interview an additional 1,000 by the end of the year, and to maintain at least this monthly average throughout FY 1990. With the average post-interview processing time taken into account, and with detainees and families proceeding directly to the United States, we hope that we may be able to admit approximately 7,000 persons under this program by September 30, 1989, barring recurrence of technical difficulties which have restricted ODP departures in the past (transportation and medical examinations, for example).

During the negotiations in Hanoi in July, I also requested, on behalf of the United States, that Vietnam release all remaining persons detained in reeducation centers, including writers and religious leaders. I urged that these persons, once released, should be allowed, if they wish, to emigrate to any country which will accept them. I also requested that the basic civil rights of former reeducation detainees and their families be fully restored, including the lifting of any existing discrimination against these persons, including for example, any restrictions on food rations, or education and employment opportunities. I reiterated this request at my most recent bilateral meeting October 17, with representatives of Vietnam in Geneva.

To help prepare for the resettlement of the reeducation center detainees, we have convened a joint public/private task force to help in the resettlement of former reeducation center detainees. Meetings have been held in Washington and in Anaheim, California. I am particularly pleased to report that the Vietnamese community -- largely under the leadership of its own associations and the resettlement voluntary agencies -- is prepared to step forward to welcome these long-suffering people, extending to them in a spirit of friendship and good neighborliness the kind of assistance and personal support that no government program can provide.

Other Meetings In Hanoi.

In addition to the Agreement, two other meetings were held in Hanoi last July: the first concerns the Vietnamese Red Cross and the second expanding the ODP.

Vietnamese Red Cross.

The Vietnamese Red Cross accepted our proposal to receive a second consignment of gift packages for detainees still in Vietnamese reeducation centers directly from their relatives in the United States with the assistance of the American Red Cross. During this meeting, which took place at the offices of the Vietnamese Red Cross on July 26, officials of that organization also briefed us on their newly created tracing service which is assisting overseas Vietnamese in locating their relatives in Vietnam with whom they have lost contact since the war. This tracing service was created with the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross. They said they would be pleased to receive any requests for this tracing service from Vietnamese in the United States.

Expanding Orderly Departures.

The second separate meeting I had in Hanoi held July 28 with the Director of Immigration of the Ministry of Interior. During this meeting, we discussed ways to promote the Comprehensive Plan of Action adopted last month in Geneva at the U.N. International Conference and to discourage clandestine departures by boat by significantly expanding the ODP.

In that meeting, I again noted that the United States has available for Vietnam an annual quota of 20,000 immigrant visas for admission to the United States of close relatives of Vietnamese already residing here -- in addition to an unlimited number of visas for immediate relatives. I urged Vietnam to expand issuance of exit permits to those persons eligible for U.S. immigrant visas so that the full quota of 20,000 per year may be approached for each of the next five years. I observed that admission to the United States of 100,000 immigrants from Vietnam over the next five years would encourage more Vietnamese to seek this route of emigration, rather than clandestine departures by boat, and would contribute to the success of the Comprehensive Plan of Action. (Copies of the statements issued in Hanoi at the conclusion of these two meetings are also submitted for the record.)

THE REGULAR ODP SUBPROGRAM

To restate briefly, the Orderly Departure Program is composed of three main subprograms: the regular subprogram, the Amerasian subprogram, and the Reeducation Center Detainee subprogram which I have just described. Under each of these, some applicants will be admitted to the United States as immigrants, some as refugees, and some as parolees. The effective utilization of this mix of statutory authorities is necessary if we are to achieve -- under the special circumstances still present in Vietnam -- our goal of an expanding and humane ODP which will be perceived as a viable alternative to clandestine and dangerous departures .

The regular subprogram is the largest single subprogram under the ODP, with the vast majority of persons processed as immigrants. Vietnam ranks fifth in the world in the number of U.S. immigrant petitions filed on behalf of its citizens. At the beginning of 1989, there were over 120,000 active preference immigrant visa petitions on file for Vietnamese, nearly all of whom will be processed as immigrants under the ODP.

Currently, ODP officers interview 3,000 applicants under the regular subprogram each month in Ho Chi Minh City, in addition to 1,500 Amerasian applicants and 1,000 reeducation applicants, for a total of 5,500 per month.

Most of the regular program cases interviewed each month are approved as beneficiaries of immigrant visa petitions. On the average in 1989, 20-25 per cent of those interviewed under the regular subprogram were approved as refugees. Because of the Administration's commitment to encourage regular emigration and to discourage dangerous and clandestine boat departures from Vietnam, the Attorney General in February 1989 extended an offer of parole to those persons who are members of a family headed by a person already approved for admission, and who do not themselves qualify on the basis of a current immigrant visa petition or who were found by the INS ineligible for admission as a refugee. The overwhelming majority of parolees completes processing -- including obtaining an affidavit of support and prepayment of travel costs -- at the same rate as immigrants under the ODP. Approximately 20-25 per cent of applicants in the regular subprogram who are interviewed each month are offered parole. 770 parolees from Vietnam entered the United States in FY 1989.

Mr. Chairman, the welcomed expansion of the Orderly Departure Program is largely due to the great increase in the regular subprogram -- primarily family reunification cases. In FY 1988, we reunited approximately 7,400 Vietnamese with their families in the United States. Last fiscal year, we nearly doubled that figure, reaching 13,700, and in FY 1990, we estimate that as many as 28,000 Vietnamese may be able to come to the United States under this program. This number represents a mixture of immigrants, refugees, and parolees, and is in addition, of course, to the Amerasian and reeducation center detainee programs.

We are pleased that, in response to our repeated requests, an increasing number of applicants who have received U.S. Letters of Introduction (LOI's) are now being presented for interview by Vietnam. At present, 38 per cent or about 26,000 names of LOI holders appear on one of the 18 Vietnamese lists submitted for the regular ODP, and we expect to interview most if not all of these people this fiscal year.

THE AMERASIAN SUBPROGRAM

The other program under the ODP is that for Amerasians -- those persons fathered by Americans in Vietnam before the U.S. involvement there ended in 1975. The resettlement of Amerasians in the United States has also long been a high humanitarian priority, as underscored by the Presidential initiative announced in 1984. Until the bilateral agreement reached in 1986, however, Amerasian resettlement was a question of hundreds rather than the thousands per year who now are being resettled in the United States. When the Amerasian legislation became effective in 1988, these minors began to be processed as immigrants to the United States.

Several programs have been developed for the particular needs of Amerasians: counseling programs at the Refugee Processing Center in the Philippines have been increased and the English language and orientation program for young adults focuses on the special needs of this age group in the United States. The resettlement community in the United States has responded to the special needs of these young adults by cooperating with the Department of State and the Department of Health and Human Services to establish "cluster sites" so that Amerasians moving to this country are located in communities prepared to help them and to maintain peer groups for support as they learn how to adapt to their new homeland. In FY 1988, 1,350 Amerasians and their family members arrived in the United States and last year, over 9,700 began new lives here. Our planning figure for FY 1990 is 15,000. The program will remain at a high level until we have resettled this group which has such a special tie to the United States.

Mr. Chairman, this is a broad outline of how the United States and Vietnam have been cooperating multilaterally and bilaterally to resolve important humanitarian issues of mutual interest and concern.

We hope that 1989 will be seen as an historic year when our two governments were able to reach important agreements and understandings about the orderly emigration to the United States of Vietnamese of special humanitarian concern to us.

We now look forward to the successful realization in 1990 of the ambitious goals set forth in these joint humanitarian undertakings.



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

KHÚC MINH THƠ
NGUYỄN THỊ HẠNH
NGUYỄN QUỲNH GIAO
NGUYỄN VĂN GIỚI
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN
HIẾP LOWMAN
TRẦN KIM DUNG
TRẦN THỊ PHƯƠNG

Ban Chấp Hành T.U.
Executive Board

KHÚC MINH THƠ
President
NGUYỄN QUỲNH GIAO
1st Vice-President
TRẦN KIM DUNG
2nd Vice-President
NGUYỄN VĂN GIỚI
Secretary General
TRẦN THỊ PHƯƠNG
Deputy Secretary
YÊN THỊ HẠNH
Treasurer

Cố Vấn Đoàn
Advisory Committee

HIẾP LOWMAN
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN

August 10, 1989

The Honorable Robert L. Funseth
Senior Deputy Assistant Secretary
Bureau for Refugee Programs
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Funseth:

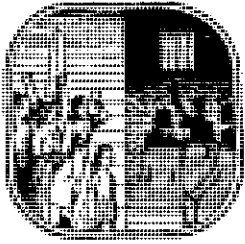
On behalf of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association it gives me a great honor and pleasure to present to you this picture album of photos taken at the Annual Unity/Awards Dinner held on Saturday, August 5, 1989 at the Saigon Palace in Arlington, Virginia.

We hope that this pictorial capture of the event will be reflected on in the many years to come and that it will bring back fond memories of the occasion and the special love and respect that we have for you and all your efforts on our behalf.

It gives us great pleasure to present this album to you and hope that it can be shared with family and friends and serve as a token of our deepest affections.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) 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

Hội Đồng Quản Trị
Board of Directors

KHÚC MINH THƠ
NGUYỄN THỊ HẠNH
NGUYỄN QUỲNH GIAO
NGUYỄN VĂN GIỚI
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN
HIỆP LOWMAN
TRẦN KIM DUNG
TRẦN THỊ PHƯƠNG

Ban Chấp Hành T.U.
Executive Board

KHÚC MINH THƠ
President
NGUYỄN QUỲNH GIAO
1st Vice-President
TRẦN KIM DUNG
2nd Vice-President
NGUYỄN VĂN GIỚI
Secretary General
TRẦN THỊ PHƯƠNG
Deputy Secretary
NGUYỄN THỊ HẠNH
Treasurer

Cố Vấn Đoàn
Advisory Committee

HIỆP LOWMAN
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN

August 5, 1989

MR. ROBERT L. FUNSETH

We all feel that a special recognition should be given to Mr. Robert L. Funseth, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in charge of the Bureau for Refugee Programs.

The name Robert L. Funseth has a special ring in the Vietnamese community. It is synonymous with dedication, solicitude and brotherly love. You are well-known and loved by the Vietnamese communities from California to Texas to Washington, D.C.; and by all the re-education camp detainees in Vietnam.

For the past seven years you have spared no time and effort to obtain the release of many Vietnamese political prisoners. Your recent intervention was most successful on their behalf, as the results of your long years of hard work.

Thus, we would like to present this plaque to you, Mr. Funseth, as a token of our deep appreciation to a very special and personal friend.

BACKGROUND

Re-education Center Detainees

- o For many years we have pressed the SRV to permit the release and resettlement of those having been imprisoned in reeducation centers because of their service to the U.S. or the former South Vietnamese regime.
- o In September 1984, Secretary Shultz, in statements before the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, announced on behalf of President Reagan a U.S. initiative to resettle reeducation center detainees.
- o In July, 1988, the first bilateral negotiations on resettlement of detainees was held in Hanoi.
 - + At this meeting, the U.S. delegation, headed by Senior Deputy Assistant Secretary Robert L. Funseth, urged the Vietnamese authorities to release those remaining in reeducation centers and to allow them, along with former detainees, to resettle abroad.
 - + The Vietnamese delegation, headed by Vice Foreign Minister Trau Quang Co, reaffirmed its policy that released detainees and their close family members would be permitted to resettle abroad.
 - + The two delegations reached an agreement in principle but agreed that additional exchanges of views would be required before a final agreement could be reached.
 - + The U.S. delegation presented two lists of former detainees to the Vietnamese delegation and urged Vietnam to begin processing with these lists--one including former detainees with close family members in the U.S. and the other comprising the first section from the list of former detainees on whom the U.S. has approved files.
- o On August 3, 1988, the Vietnamese authorities announced a "temporary suspension" of further negotiations with the U.S. on resettlement of detainees.
- o On June 13, 1989, Deputy Secretary Eagleburger reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to resettle these reeducation center detainees.
- o On June 14, 1989, the U.S. and Vietnam agreed to resume negotiations at a time to be selected during the month of July.

June 14, 1989

Press Release

U.S. WELCOMES PLAN OF ACTION ON INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

The two-day International Conference on Indochinese Refugees in Geneva adopted a Comprehensive Plan of Action proposing a new framework of policies in response to the situation of asylum seekers from Vietnam and Laos.

The United States delegation, led by Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, welcomed the plan. Particularly important to the outcome are the commitments of the countries of Southeast Asia and Hong Kong to continue to offer first asylum and the commitment of Vietnam to expand legal emigration under the Orderly Departure Program. The Conference also heard pledges of resettlement numbers sufficient to resolve the long stayer refugee problem.

At the Conference, the United States pledged to support the CPA, to continue its share of financial support, and to resettle generous numbers of the old and new refugee populations.

The U.S. stated its unalterable opposition to forced repatriation to Vietnam unless and until dramatic improvements occur in that country's economic, political and social life. There has been no compromise in this position at this Conference, despite press reports to the contrary.

P.T.O.

A critical concern of the Conference was the urgent situation in Hong Kong. The Philippines offered to consider hosting a regional refugee transit center for some number of the pre-cut-off date resettlement caseload. The United States expressed a readiness to discuss this or other formulations that fell within the parameters of the CPA.

The Conference adopted the CPA and established a Steering Committee to oversee its implementation during the coming months.

The steering committee will hold its first meeting on June 15, the day following the conference with the U.S. and other major governments participating.



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

May 23, 1989

Hội Đồng Quản Trị
Board of Directors

KHÚC MINH THO
NGUYỄN THỊ HẠNH
NGUYỄN QUỲNH GIAO
NGUYỄN VĂN GIỚI
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN
HIẾP LOWMAN
TRẦN KIM DUNG
TRẦN THỊ PHƯƠNG

Ban Chấp Hành T.Ư.
Executive Board

KHÚC MINH THO
President
NGUYỄN QUỲNH GIAO
1st Vice-President
TRẦN KIM DUNG
2nd Vice-President
NGUYỄN VĂN GIỚI
Secretary General
TRẦN THỊ PHƯƠNG
Deputy Secretary
NGUYỄN THỊ HẠNH
Treasurer

Cố Vấn Đoàn
Advisory Committee

HIẾP LOWMAN
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN

The Honorable Robert L. Funseth
Senior Deputy Assistant Secretary
Bureau for Refugee Programs
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Funseth:

We were glad to hear that you are going to participate in the planning committee preparing for the June 13-14 meeting to be held in Geneva concerning refugee matters. We wish you success in your very important mission.

We would like to call your attention once again to our interest on three particular issues about which we know you have been concerned and have worked for on our behalf. The following issues are:

Screening Vietnamese asylees

- We urge the application of relevant criteria to screen asylees, especially taking into consideration political and religious groups, children from families of political prisoners, and children with U.S. ties, including siblings already resettled in the U.S., as well as in other countries.

Resettlement

- We urge the granting of U.S. resettlement opportunities to former reeducation detainees in first asylum camps.

Use of International Influence

- We urge international concern to put pressure on the SRV to resume technical talks regarding the movement of ex-reeducation camp detainees, and the release of the rest of the political prisoners that are still in prisons.

We know that you are aware of these concerns, but we felt it might be useful to reiterate our concern as you undertake this mission. Thank you and our very best wishes for success.

Sincerely,

Khuc Minh Tho
President

"The light at the end of the tunnel" -- at the ^{Awards} Unity Dinner in VA., after he himself announced the agreement of Resettlement for former ~~Red~~ - center detainees in U.S. MR. Robert L. Fursell, ^{Senior} Deputy ^{Assistant} and his wife received the Plaque Recorded FVAPPA'S Gratitude for his hard and delicate work in the presence of the Coordinating Committee for the Reception of Political Prisoners.

Nguyen Thuan tel. #

(215) 597-8808 (H)
597-1990 (O)

Tran Xuan Quay

(215) 352-8689 (H)
(215) 724-1702 (O)