



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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AGENDA FOR MEETING WITH MR. RICHARD SOLOMON, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT TO DISCUSS ISSUES CONCERNING POLITICAL PRISONERS

January 9, 1991

1. If, in the future, discussions are undertaken on normalization of relations with Vietnam, we request that one of the conditions be the immediate release and freedom to emigrate for all political prisoners. In addition, the human rights of those who choose to remain in Vietnam must be respected by the Vietnamese government.
2. The Association urges the Department to follow-up on the promise made by Mr. Nguyen Co Thach, Minister of Foreign Affairs for Vietnam, in his presentation in October 1990 in which he promised to release all political prisoners detained. We are requesting that his promise be honored in conjunction with the upcoming celebration of the Vietnamese New Year ("Tet"), which is February 15, 1991.
3. It has been brought to our attention that the Vietnamese government recently re-arrested many former political prisoners. We feel the need to bring this matter to the attention of the U.S. State Department because all released prisoners who are still in Vietnam, and their families in Vietnam and the United States, are very concerned about this act being committed by the current regime.
4. If normalization is established with Vietnam, will there be any effects on the political prisoners program? If so, what are they anticipated to be and how will they impact on the program and the situation of former political prisoners and their families in Southeast Asian camps?

5. We would like to request that the Department call on the support of other governments to join in pressing for the release of the political prisoners before "Tet" (February 15, 1991).

6. What is the quota that has been established for detainees arriving in 1991 and 1992?



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ASSISTANT SECRETARY, U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT, TO
DISCUSS ISSUES CONCERNING POLITICAL PRISONERS;
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1. Request the immediate release and immigration of all political prisoners as one of the conditions in the discussions about normalization with Vietnam.
2. Raise the question if the normalization is established, will there be any effects on the political prisoners program? If yes, what are they?
3. Request the State Department to restate the promise by Mr. Nguyen Co Thach that to release all political prisoners still detained by Vietnamese "tet", February 15, 1991.
4. Bring attention to the U.S. State Department that the Vietnamese government recently rearrested many former political prisoners. All released prisoners who are still in Vietnam and their families in Vietnam and the U.S. are very concerned about this act of the current regime.



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Questions and Answers

1. Q. What is your opinion about normalization?

A. from my and my association point of view, anything that brings about freedom and prosperities for Vietnam and Vietnamese people is always welcome. However, in order to achieve that the current Vietnamese government must 1) change its method of governing, from suppressive communism to democracy; from single party system to multi party system; 2) allow its citizens to have freedoms, and 3) change its economic policy where the people is allowed to improve its economic conditions.

2. Q. Do you trust what Bui Tin said?

A. We the Vietnamese, after many years experience with the communists, always said never trust what the communists said but only believe in what the communists did.

Statement at the beginning of the meeting.

In the discussion about the normalization with Vietnam, we the association would like to request the State Department to include three main conditions concerning the political prisoners for the discussions:

1. immediately release of all political prisoners.
2. promptly permit released political prisoners to migrate to countries of their choice.
3. respect human rights of those who choose to remain in Vietnam.

In addition we would like you to raise the following questions:

1. If normalization has been established, what are the effects of this event on the political prisoners program?
2. press the Vietnamese government to honor Mr. Nguyen co Thach promise to release all political prisoners by Vietnamese tet, and
3. our and political prisoners' concerns that the Vietnamese government recently rearrested political prisoners who were released earlier.



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5. We would like to request that the Department call on the support of other governments to join in pressing for the release of the political prisoners before Tet (February 15, 1991).

- 6. What is the quota that has been established for detainees arriving in 1991 and 1992?**

- 7. The members of our Association would like clarification on the priority given to the former prisoners in the ODP program.**



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6.- The Association is concerned that the priority given to the former prisoners in the ODP is made meaningless of the program. Instead those imprisoned longest may come almost last.



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WITH MR. RICHARD SOLOMON

AND MR. ROBERT FUNSETH

JANUARY 9, 1991

- President : Mrs. Khuc Minh Tho
- Secretary :
General : Mr. Nguyen Van Gioi
- Advisor : Mrs. Hiep Lowman



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