



# 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 \* Fax: (703) 204-0394

## Hội Đồng Quản Trị Board of Directors

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

## Ban Chấp Hành T.U. Executive Board

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

## Cố Vấn Đoàn Advisory Committee

HIỆP LOWMAN  
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN  
TRẦN KIM DUNG

AGENDA FOR MEETING WITH  
THE HONORABLE PRISCILLA CLAPP,  
SENIOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
AND THE HONORABLE BRUNSON MCKINLEY,  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TO DISCUSS ISSUES CONCERNING  
VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS

January 24, 1992

## INTRODUCTION

On behalf of Vietnamese political prisoners, we wish first to thank you for the efforts provided by the U.S. Government in our struggle to obtain the release and resettlement of Vietnamese political prisoners. Thanks to your assistance, most have now been released from re-education camps and tens of thousands have been allowed to resettle in third countries, particularly in the U.S. However, not all political prisoners have been freed by the Vietnamese authorities and their departure have encountered a number of obstacles. A list of the issues and our suggestions are detailed below.

## RELEASE OF VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS

According to our own information, about one hundred former civilian and military officials of the Republic of South Vietnam remain imprisoned seventeen years after the end of the war. We would therefore be very grateful for the continued intervention of the U.S. Government on Vietnam to:

- i) obtain their release preferably before the lunar New Year, Tet (February 4, 1992) which, for the Vietnamese, is the most important celebration and the occasion for family reunion; and

- ii) allow their immediate departure from Vietnam along with their close relatives. Also, the 15 prisoners released on September 2, 1991 should be given the same priority to leave for resettlement in third countries.

#### THE ORDERLY DEPARTURE PROGRAM

We appreciate the decision by the U.S. Government to allow unlimited resettlement of all former Vietnamese political prisoners who wish to emigrate to the U.S. As well, in an interview with the Youth Magazine (Bao Tuoi Tre) in Vietnam last November, Ms. Ellen Goff, ODP Director, has proposed that the processing for departure proceed according to ODP priority list of names and not by those provided by the Vietnamese Government. We welcome this suggestion and support it fully. We do, however, have queries on a number of issues as well as suggestions regarding other problems related to the departure program.

#### Queries regarding ODP

- 1) Last October, the U.S and Vietnamese governments have agreed to give priority to the resettlement of about 5000 political prisoners who have relatives who are U.S. citizens (List No. 1). How many of the 5,000 have been interviewed and issued exit permits?
- 2) Could you confirm that relatives of former political prisoners who have already been processed and cleared for resettlement in the U.S. be allowed to proceed although the prisoners have since passed away?
- 3) In the same line, could you confirm that relatives of former war heroes such as General Pham van Phu who killed themselves at the fall of South Vietnam be given priority under the ODP?
- 4) We understand that the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) decide on the acceptance or rejection of applications by former political detainees for resettlement in the U.S. Could you let us know the processing procedures and criteria?

Suggestions regarding ODP

- 5) Allow those prisoners who have spent extensive time in re-education camps but do not have relatives who are U.S. citizens the same priority as the 5,000 referred to above. We allude to the 480 released in September 1987 and the 1,500 released in February 1988;
- 6) Provide assistance to those prisoners who cannot afford the various fees required before they can be issued exit visas;
- 7) Accept for resettlement relatives of former political prisoners who meet the ODP conditions for resettlement but have since died; and
- 8) ( Accept for resettlement former political detainees who were captured before 1975 and count time spent in jail before 1975 towards the three years required by ODP for priority eligibility;
- 9) Reduce from three to two years the time of incarceration required before the political prisoners are eligible for resettlement under the ODP;
- 10) Allow those prisoners who have already been accepted to the U.S. under family reunion to qualify for benefits given political prisoners;
- 11) Allow married children of prisoners to emigrate to the U.S. as immigrants or parolees. This would provide for complete reunification of political prisoners and their close relatives after long separation;
- 12) Allow relatives of prisoners who qualify to accompany them to the U.S. but are currently in refugee camps in Southeast Asia to proceed directly to the U.S. and inform Joint Volunteer Agencies and U.S. Embassies of that decision.

Suggestions Regarding Welcoming of Former Political Detainees

- 13) Provide political prisoners with language, on-the-job, and skill training as well as job placement (due to their advanced age, it is extremely difficult for them to get a job even after training);
- 14) Provide prisoners who came as immigrants with health care coverage in case their sponsors do not have proper coverage; and
- 15) Improve welcoming of political prisoners by voluntary agencies by:
  - . distributing to the former detainees in Bangkok or Ho Chi Minh City an orientation package with details of emergency contact telephone numbers and persons in the recipient cities (including those applicable after office hours); and
  - . closely monitoring flight arrivals so that prisoners are met at airports.



file

# 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 \* Fax: (703) 204-0394

### Hội Đồng Quản Trị Board of Directors

KHỨC MINH THO  
NGUYỄN QUỲNH GIAO  
NGUYỄN VĂN GIỚI  
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN  
HIỆP LOWMAN  
TRƯƠNG THỊ LANG ANH  
TRẦN KIM DUNG  
NGUYỄN THỊ KHIÊN

### Ban Chấp Hành T.Ư. Executive Board

KHỨC MINH THO  
President  
NGUYỄN QUỲNH GIAO  
Vice President  
NGUYỄN VĂN GIỚI  
Secretary General  
TRƯƠNG THỊ LANG ANH  
Treasurer  
NGUYỄN THỊ KHIÊN  
Deputy Treasurer

### Cố Vấn Đoàn Advisory Committee

HIỆP LOWMAN  
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN  
TRẦN KIM DUNG

### AGENDA FOR MEETING WITH THE HONORABLE PRISCILLA CLAPP, SENIOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND THE HONORABLE BRUNSON MCKINLEY, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO DISCUSS ISSUES CONCERNING VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS

January 24, 1992

### INTRODUCTION

On behalf of Vietnamese political prisoners, we wish first to thank you for the efforts provided by the U.S. Government in our struggle to obtain the release and resettlement of Vietnamese political prisoners. Thanks to your assistance, most have now been released from re-education camps and tens of thousands have been allowed to resettle in third countries, particularly in the U.S. However, not all political prisoners have been freed by the Vietnamese authorities and their departure have encountered a number of obstacles. A list of the issues and our suggestions are detailed below.

### RELEASE OF VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS

According to our own information, about one hundred former civilian and military officials of the Republic of South Vietnam remain imprisoned seventeen years after the end of the war. We would therefore be very grateful for the continued intervention of the U.S. Government on Vietnam to:

- i) obtain their release preferably before the lunar New Year, Tet (February 4, 1992) which, for the Vietnamese, is the most important celebration and the occasion for family reunion; and

- ii) allow their immediate departure from Vietnam along with their close relatives. Also, the 15 prisoners released on September 2, 1991 should be given the same priority to leave for resettlement in third countries.

### THE ORDERLY DEPARTURE PROGRAM

We appreciate the decision by the U.S. Government to allow unlimited resettlement of all former Vietnamese political prisoners who wish to emigrate to the U.S. As well, in an interview with the Youth Magazine (Bao Tuoi Tre) in Vietnam last November, Ms. Ellen Goff, ODP Director, has proposed that the processing for departure proceed according to ODP priority list of names and not by those provided by the Vietnamese Government. We welcome this suggestion and support it fully. We do, however, have queries on a number of issues as well as suggestions regarding other problems related to the departure program.

#### Queries regarding ODP

- 1) Last October, the U.S and Vietnamese governments have agreed to give priority to the resettlement of about 5000 political prisoners who have relatives who are U.S. citizens (List No. 1). How many of the 5,000 have been interviewed and issued exit permits?
- 2) Could you confirm that relatives of former political prisoners who have already been processed and cleared for resettlement in the U.S. be allowed to proceed although the prisoners have since passed away?

LÂM THỊ LÂM ĐE<sup>3)</sup>

Wife of 'General  
Phu'

IV# 82834

Loi 7/90 4)

In the same line, could you confirm that relatives of former war heroes such as General Pham van Phu who killed themselves at the fall of South Vietnam be given priority under the ODP?

We understand that the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) decide on the acceptance or rejection of applications by former political detainees for resettlement in the U.S. Could you let us know the processing procedures and criteria?

Suggestions regarding ODP

- 5) Allow those prisoners who have spent extensive time in re-education camps but do not have relatives who are U.S. citizens the same priority as the 5,000 referred to above. We allude to the 480 released in September 1987 and the 1,500 released in February 1988;
- ✓ 6) Provide assistance to those prisoners who cannot afford the various fees required before they can be issued exit visas;
- 7) Accept for resettlement relatives of former political prisoners who meet the ODP conditions for resettlement but have since died; and
- ✓ 8) Accept for resettlement former political detainees who were captured before 1975 and count time spent in jail before 1975 towards the three years required by ODP for priority eligibility;
- 9) Reduce from three to two years the time of incarceration required before the political prisoners are eligible for resettlement under the ODP;
- 10) Allow those prisoners who have already been accepted to the U.S. under family reunion to qualify for benefits given political prisoners;
- ✓ 11) Allow married children of prisoners to emigrate to the U.S. as immigrants or parolees. This would provide for complete reunification of political prisoners and their close relatives after long separation;
- ✓ 12) Allow relatives of prisoners who qualify to accompany them to the U.S. but are currently in refugee camps in Southeast Asia to proceed directly to the U.S. and inform Joint Volunteer Agencies and U.S. Embassies of that decision.

*and di em thoi  
sian die current  
wa Ref states.*

*Diua tring lof  
ua Ba Aup va  
con lai Tran duoc  
Aup EV # 245.901*

Suggestions Regarding Welcoming of Former Political Detainees

- 13) Provide political prisoners with language, on-the-job, and skill training as well as job placement (due to their advanced age, it is extremely difficult for them to get a job even after training);
- 14) Provide prisoners who came as immigrants with health care coverage in case their sponsors do not have proper coverage; and
- 15) Improve welcoming of political prisoners by voluntary agencies by:
  - . distributing to the former detainees in Bangkok or Ho Chi Minh City an orientation package with details of emergency contact telephone numbers and persons in the recipient cities (including those applicable after office hours); and
  - . closely monitoring flight arrivals so that prisoners are met at airports.