

DOS, CAL, IRAC, FVPPA's Meeting. September 15, 1992

Minutes.

FVPPA presented a two-and-a half pages of concerns gathered from its members, community based organizations, service providers and leaders in the community regarding DOS plans to send the detainees to Bataan, Philippines.

Ann Morgan: FPPs previously had been exempted from pre-arrival training because the center was fully occupied by the Amerasians. But now, the number of Amerasians has gone down, and there is room for FPPs. Furthermore, based on the two surveys done by the Center for Applied Linguistics, Bureau for Refugee Programs understands more about FPPs, also based on letters BRP received asking why not offer this training to FPP. There were always different points of view. Some said "yes", it is better for them to go there, while, others said "no" they should go directly to the US. That is also the reason why BRP talked to FPPs, MAAs and others to see how they feel about it. Based on based on CAL's two surveys, Ambassador Lyman decided to do a pilot program, for a selected group, with a limited number -- free cases -- only. Then BRP will do a vigorous assessment. It may be continue or drop the program by this time of next year. It is only a pilot program.

In answering questions raised by FVPPA and IRAC that when this program will start, BRP said probably in January or March, 1993. It is now pending an OK from the Philippines. The decision has been made for the "Best Interest of the FPPs".

FVPPA asked how does BRP separate free cases from family reunification cases, and how "free cases" are defined? For example, those who have friends, or whom camarade in arms sponsor, are they considered free case or family reunifications?

BRP: They will be given a choice at the interview whether they want to join friends or families; otherwise, they can be free cases if they did not join any of the relatives or friends here. After the interview and medical check-up, those who do not want to join friends, relatives, can go directly to Bataan, instead of waiting in Viet Nam for their document to go to Bangkok to get assurances. Normally, it will take 2-3 months. They can go to the Philippines to study and the assurance process will be done while they are there, so they will not lose any time. "This is the only difference".

FVPPA and IRAC: What percentage of free cases are there among the FPPs caseload? BRP: based on statistics, it is about 25%, or from 400 to 500 of the 2,000 per month.

FVPPA: How long is the training and what is in it? BRP FPPs will study 6 to 8 hours a day for 12 weeks - ELS and Cultural Orientation, taught by qualified teachers. A program like this will be four or five times expensive if it is conducted in the US.

FVPPA: They should be treated the same. They should not be singled out as free cases since they have the same needs, and they have been handicapped by having no ties in the US. They face all kinds of problem before they get through with the interview in Viet Nam. Now they have another hurdle. They want to get on with their new lives; they have no time to adjust to the Philippines, and readjust when they come here. We have every type of training in the US.

BRP: No, we have heard that the waiting list for ESL is months. The decision is made! Are you willing to be an advisor to the curriculum development committee. Maybe you can help build a suitable curriculum for the FPPs.

There are five staff from the Bataan who will be here visiting five sites, to meet with detainees and states and service providers to find out about FPPs needs.

FVPPA: We will have to consult with our people and get back to you at a later date.

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2

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Agenda issues concerning
Former Pol. Pris (Free cases)
to training in Philippines.
meeting on Sept. 15. 92



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

August 21, 1992

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Ms. Ann Morgan
RP/TR-SA1
Bureau for Refugee Programs
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Ms. Morgan:

We are writing to you on behalf of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association. It has just been brought to our attention that the Department of State will institute a training program for the Vietnamese political prisoners, especially for only the "free cases" (involving those political prisoners who do not have families and/or relatives in the United States), and send them to the Philippines for an approximate 3 month training period.

We have thoroughly enjoyed a very close working relationship with the Bureau for Refugee Programs and the Department of State. We have appreciated the support and encouragement received from the Department of State in their understanding of our long separation from our loved ones.

It is our hope that the new training program will be successful and truly assist the political prisoners as they begin the new transition towards freedom and experience an opportunity to rebuild a new life in a free land.

However, on behalf of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association's membership in the United States, Vietnam and around the world, we would like to request a meeting with you to discuss the issues and logistics of this program as well as to convey to you the concerns and desires expressed by the political prisoners who will be involved.

We would prefer to have a meeting after September 3, 1992; preferably on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon, if possible.

Ms. Ann Morgan
RP/TR-SA1
Bureau for Refugee Programs
Department of State
Page Two
August 21, 1992

Members of our delegation who have been identified to attend the meeting include:

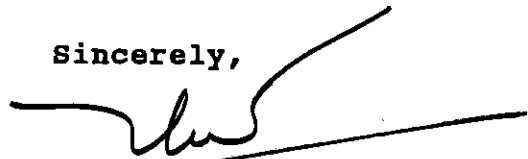
Dr. Le Xuan Khoa
President of IRAC

Ms. Trinh Ngoc Dung
Mrs. Khuc Minh Tho
Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners
Association

We would appreciate your consideration and response to this request as soon as possible.

Should you have any questions and/or concerns please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Khu' or similar, written over a horizontal line.

(Mrs.) Khuc Minh Tho
President

SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT

Name (PA): LE VAN TINH Number in Family: 4 Ref. REED

Sponsor: Khuc Minh Tho Telephone Number: 703-358-5154(O)
703-560-0058(H)

Address: 7813 Marthas Lane, Falls Church, VA, 22043

Employer: Arlington County Mental Helth Center

Contact #1: _____ Contact #2: _____

We are happy that you have agreed to assist in the sponsorship of refugees in the United States under the Refugee Resettlement Program.

MRS/USCC/ARLINGTON
(Resettlement Office)

has nothing to do with the selection for resettlement of refugees or with the time when they might arrive.

We will contact you as soon as we receive any information from our New York office. We will also notify you when we receive arrival information.

I agree to assist the refugee(s) as much as possible. Specifically, I agree to:

1. Keep MRS/USCC/ARLINGTON informed of my home and work telephone number
(resettlement office) and let them know when I plan to leave _____ for more than a
(location) few days. Yes X No _____
2. Pick up the refugees at their point of arrival. Yes X No _____
3. Provide housing for _____ week(s) after arrival. Yes X No _____
4. Provide household goods. Yes X No _____
5. Provide food for _____ week(s) after arrival. Yes X No _____
6. Provide clothing. Yes X No _____
7. Provide transportation to agencies providing the following services:
Social Security, School Registrtion, Health Screening, English Classes,
and Employment Services. I will complete the necessary forms at their
offices or at any other agency's involved in resettlement.
Yes X No _____
8. Help find employment and encourage them to avoid the use of welfare.
Yes X No _____

9. Cooperate with the Case Manager in the development and implementation of a resettlement plan. Yes X No _____
10. Describe in detail the plans that have been made to assist the refugees with: (include \$ amount and/or # of weeks provided)

amt./# of wks provided

Housing:

Food:

Utilities:

Household Goods:

Health Care:

Transportation:

Clothing:

Education:

Employment:

Other:

If at any time I feel that I will be unable to perform these duties, I will make arrangements to discuss the matter with the Case Manager.

Sponsor's signature: _____

Date: August 29, 1992

Case Manager's Signature: _____

Date: _____



Center for
Applied
Linguistics

February 15, 1992

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for agreeing to participate in our survey. Attached is a copy of the questionnaire. We are sending it to you prior to the interview so that you will have time to prepare.

The survey explores the pre-arrival training needs of Vietnamese former political prisoners (FPPs) and their family members. As you may know, in the past FPPs and their families have entered the U.S. directly from Vietnam without attending the pre-arrival language and cultural orientation program in Southeast Asia. The FPP population was exempted from this training due to a lack of space at the Philippine Refugee Processing Center. Anticipating that space will become available soon, the Department of State has asked the Center for Applied Linguistics to undertake a survey to assess the desirability of offering pre-arrival training specifically designed for FPPs and their family members.

You will notice that there are three sections to the questionnaire. The first section asks about the needs of FPPs, their spouses, and their children. The second section asks about the desirability of pre-arrival training for future groups of FPPs. The third section asks for suggestions regarding the content of a training program for FPPs. If there are any questions you feel you can not answer, you may inform the interviewer at the time of the interview.

The interview will be conducted by telephone and will last approximately 30 minutes. The results of our survey will be reported to the Department of State. Your responses will be kept confidential and only used as a source of statistics.

Thank you once again for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Margo Pfleger and Donald Ranard', followed by a horizontal line.

Margo Pfleger and Donald Ranard
Project Directors

3-16-92

**Survey of Pre-Arrival Training Needs
of
Vietnamese Former Political Prisoners and Their Families**

Service Provider Respondent Form

Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed. A staff member from the Center for Applied Linguistics will be calling you soon to ask for your responses to the questions on this form. We are sending you the questionnaire in advance of the telephone interview so that you will have a chance to reflect on what you would like to say. We are interested in your experiences and your views on the items covered in this questionnaire.

Background Information

- A. What is your position in your agency? _____
- B. What is the nature of your agency's involvement with FPP* families?

Please answer Questions C through E if you work at the local level.

- C. At what point(s) in the FPP family resettlement process are services provided by your organization?
- D. Approximate number of FPP families served since October, 1989 _____
- E. Approximate percentage of FPP families in relation to total refugee/immigrant caseload ___%

*former political prisoners

SP Respondent Form- page 2

Section I: The Needs of FPPs and Their Families

Please base your answers to the questions in this section on your knowledge of FPP families and resettlement programs with which you come into contact. Your answers will help us understand the needs of FPPs and their families when they first arrive in the U.S. It will also help us understand how well service providers believe those needs are currently being met.

1. What are FPPs' and their families' greatest needs when they first arrive in the U.S.?

		FPPs' Children (Beyond high school age)
FPPs	FPPs' Spouses	

2. Currently, most FPP families receive a 6-hour orientation to the U.S. at the Suan Phlu transit center in Bangkok, Thailand. Very few FPP families receive training at the PRPC in the Philippines. The following question relates only to FPP families who were processed through the Suan Phlu transit center, not the PRPC.

Based on your observations of Suan Phlu FPP families when they first arrive in the U.S., how well are they prepared for initial resettlement?

		FPPs' Children (Beyond high school age)
FPPs	FPPs' Spouses	
___ uncertain	___ uncertain	___ uncertain
___ not at all	___ not at all	___ not at all
___ not well	___ not well	___ not well
___ "so-so"	___ "so-so"	___ "so-so"
___ well	___ well	___ well
___ very well	___ very well	___ very well

___ I'm not sure which families went through Suan Phlu and which went through the PRPC.
almost no

3. Would you explain your answer?

		FPPs' Children (Beyond high school age)
FPPs	FPPs' Spouses	

SP - Respondent Form - page 3

Section I (cont.)

Questions 4 through 13 concern how FPPs' and their families' needs are being met when they first arrive in the U.S. If you work at the local level, please respond in terms of your community. If you work at the state level, please respond in terms of your state as a whole. If you work at the national level, please respond from a national perspective. If you don't have enough information to respond, please check "uncertain."

4. To what extent are FPPs' and their families' orientation needs being met when they first arrive in the U.S.?

FPPs	FPPs' Spouses	FPPs' Children (Beyond high school age)
<input type="checkbox"/> uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> not at all	<input type="checkbox"/> not at all	<input type="checkbox"/> not at all
<input type="checkbox"/> not well	<input type="checkbox"/> not well	<input type="checkbox"/> not well
<input type="checkbox"/> "so-so"	<input type="checkbox"/> "so-so"	<input type="checkbox"/> "so-so"
<input type="checkbox"/> well	<input type="checkbox"/> well	<input type="checkbox"/> well
<input type="checkbox"/> very well	<input type="checkbox"/> very well	<input type="checkbox"/> very well

5. Would you explain your answer?

FPPs	FPPs' Spouses	FPPs' Children (Beyond high school age)

6. To what extent are FPPs' and their families' ESL needs being met during their first six months in the U.S.?

FPPs	FPPs' Spouses	FPPs' Children (Beyond high school age)
<input type="checkbox"/> uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> not at all	<input type="checkbox"/> not at all	<input type="checkbox"/> not at all
<input type="checkbox"/> not well	<input type="checkbox"/> not well	<input type="checkbox"/> not well
<input type="checkbox"/> "so-so"	<input type="checkbox"/> "so-so"	<input type="checkbox"/> "so-so"
<input type="checkbox"/> well	<input type="checkbox"/> well	<input type="checkbox"/> well
<input type="checkbox"/> very well	<input type="checkbox"/> very well	<input type="checkbox"/> very well

7. Would you explain your answer?

FPPs	FPPs' Spouses	FPPs' Children (Beyond high school age)

SP - Respondent Form - page 4

Section I (cont.)

8. To what extent are FPPs' and their families' skills training or other educational needs being met during their first six months in the U.S.?

FPPs	FPPs' Spouses	FPPs' Children (Beyond high school age)
<input type="checkbox"/> uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> not at all	<input type="checkbox"/> not at all	<input type="checkbox"/> not at all
<input type="checkbox"/> not well	<input type="checkbox"/> not well	<input type="checkbox"/> not well
<input type="checkbox"/> "so-so"	<input type="checkbox"/> "so-so"	<input type="checkbox"/> "so-so"
<input type="checkbox"/> well	<input type="checkbox"/> well	<input type="checkbox"/> well
<input type="checkbox"/> very well	<input type="checkbox"/> very well	<input type="checkbox"/> very well

9. Would you explain your answer?

FPPs	FPPs' Spouses	FPPs' Children (Beyond high school age)

10. To what extent are FPPs' and their families' emotional/psychological needs being met during their first six months in the U.S.?

FPPs	FPPs' Spouses	FPPs' Children (Beyond high school age)
<input type="checkbox"/> uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> not at all	<input type="checkbox"/> not at all	<input type="checkbox"/> not at all
<input type="checkbox"/> not well	<input type="checkbox"/> not well	<input type="checkbox"/> not well
<input type="checkbox"/> "so-so"	<input type="checkbox"/> "so-so"	<input type="checkbox"/> "so-so"
<input type="checkbox"/> well	<input type="checkbox"/> well	<input type="checkbox"/> well
<input type="checkbox"/> very well	<input type="checkbox"/> very well	<input type="checkbox"/> very well

11. Would you explain your answer?

FPPs	FPPs' Spouses	FPPs' Children (Beyond high school age)

SP - Respondent Form - page 5

Section I (cont.)

12. To what extent are FPPs' and their families' medical needs being met during their first six months in the U.S.?

FPPs	FPPs' Spouses	FPPs' Children (Beyond high school age)
<input type="checkbox"/> uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> not at all	<input type="checkbox"/> not at all	<input type="checkbox"/> not at all
<input type="checkbox"/> not well	<input type="checkbox"/> not well	<input type="checkbox"/> not well
<input type="checkbox"/> "so-so"	<input type="checkbox"/> "so-so"	<input type="checkbox"/> "so-so"
<input type="checkbox"/> well	<input type="checkbox"/> well	<input type="checkbox"/> well
<input type="checkbox"/> very well	<input type="checkbox"/> very well	<input type="checkbox"/> very well

13. Would you explain your answer?

FPPs	FPPs' Spouses	FPPs' Children (Beyond high school age)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Section II: Desirability of Pre-arrival Training for FPPs and Their Families

The purpose of this section is to find out your opinion on the desirability of pre-arrival training for FPPs and their family members. If such a program for FPPs and their families were implemented, it would take place at the Philippine Refugee Processing Center (PRPC) and would be designed with FPPs' and their families' backgrounds and needs in mind. The length of the training would be determined on the basis of feedback from FPPs and service providers.

14. Overall, how desirable do you think a pre-arrival training program at the PRPC designed specifically for FPPs and their families would be?

1	2	3	4	5
undesirable	somewhat undesirable	I'm not sure	somewhat desirable	desirable

15. Why?

SP - Respondent Form - page 6**Section III: Training**

This section is included in the questionnaire so that, in the event that pre-arrival training for FPPs and their families is determined to be desirable, program planners will have some preliminary ideas about what to include and how to structure it.

16. If a training program were implemented for FPPs and their families, what would you recommend it include?

FPPs	FPPs' Spouses	FPPs' Children	
		School age	Beyond high school age

17. Do you have any recommendations regarding the length of time FPPs and their families should spend in pre-arrival training?
18. In the beginning, not all FPP families would be able to receive training. As people in the PRPC depart for the U.S., space would gradually become available for FPPs and their families. During this phase-in period, some FPP families would receive training while others would not. Either the entire family would receive training at the PRPC before going to the U.S., or the entire family would depart directly for the U.S. without training. Families would not be split.

Can you identify any factors which make pre-arrival training more important for some FPP families than for other FPP families?

Yes ____ No ____ If "yes," what are they?

19. What else would you recommend program planners consider?

Conclusion

20. Do you have any other suggestions or comments about anything we have discussed in this interview?

Thank you for participating in this study!