



# HỘI GIA-ĐÌNH TÙ NHÂN CHÍNH-TRỊ VIỆT-NAM

FAMILIES OF VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS ASSOCIATION

P. O BOX 6435, ARLINGTON, VA. 22205-0635

Telephone: (703) 560-0058 • Fax: (703) 204-0394

June 24, 1993

**Hội Đồng Quản Trị**  
**Board of Directors**

KHÚC MINH THO  
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**Executive Board**

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**Advisory Committee**

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TRẦN KIM DUNG

Mr. James Hall  
Director  
Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia (VLC)  
Bureau for East Asian  
and Pacific Affairs  
Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520

*Convention*

Dear Mr. Hall:

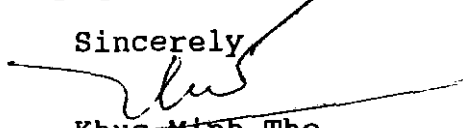
On July 2 - 4, 1993, the Federation of Associations of Former Political Prisoners of Communist Vietnam will host a convention representing more than 18 chapters in the United States and Canada. The convention this year will be held in San Jose, California.

On behalf of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association I am writing to ask if you would be kind enough to formulate a written statement regarding the programs and services of the Department of State that relate to the resettlement efforts for the political prisoners so that this information can be shared with the many political prisoners and family members who will be attending the convention. Your letter, which will be read at the convention, can be sent to me at the above letterhead address.

Your continued support and interest in the endeavors of this organization in assisting the political prisoners is greatly appreciated. I would be more than happy to share with you the program events that transpire at the convention if you so desire.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration of this request. Please contact me if you have any questions and/or condns.

Sincerely

  
Khue Minh Tho  
President



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## Hội Đồng Quản Trị Board of Directors

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NGUYỄN THỊ KHEN

## Ban Chấp Hành T.Ư. Executive Board

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NGUYỄN THỊ KHEN  
Deputy Treasurer

## Cố Vấn Đoàn Advisory Committee

HIỆP LOWMAN  
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN  
TRẦN KIM DUNG

June 27, 1993

Mr. J  
Direct  
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Bureau  
Depart  
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\* - Meeting with VLC  
Winston Lord &

presence if you would give a Remarks at this occasion as our Keynote Speaker in Vietnamese to our audience. Some of our guests will include political prisoners from other states, especially those who were the longest held prisoners who have just arrived in the United States. They will be gathering in this area to prepare planning for our reception on Capital Hill next year.

We are certain that our honored guests, those political prisoners who most recently have arrived, will enjoy the afternoon of food, fun and fellowship that is being planned, and we know that your remarks will be greatly appreciated and applauded.

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

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Khuc Minh Tho  
President



# HỘI GIA-ĐÌNH TÙ NHÂN CHÍNH-TRỊ VIỆT-NAM

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Advisory Committee

HIỆP LOWMAN  
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN  
TRẦN KIM DUNG

June 27, 1993

Mr. James Hall  
Director  
Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia  
Bureau for East Asian and Pacific Affairs  
Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Hall:

It is again an honor and my pleasure to extend to you an invitation to our Annual Freedom Reunion Picnic in celebration of the Anniversary of the Signing of the July 30, 1989 Agreement (Resettlement of Political Prisoners). The picnic will be held on Sunday, July 25, 1993 at 3:00 p.m.

We would like to request the honor of your presence if you would give a Remarks at this occasion as our Keynote Speaker in Vietnamese to our audience. Some of our guests will include political prisoners from other states, especially those who were the longest held prisoners who have just arrived in the United States. They will be gathering in this area to prepare planning for our reception on Capital Hill next year.

We are certain that our honored guests, those political prisoners who most recently have arrived, will enjoy the afternoon of food, fun and fellowship that is being planned, and we know that your remarks will be greatly appreciated and applauded.

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

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 \* Fax: (703) 204-0394

### Hội Đồng Quản Trị Board of Directors

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TRUONG THI LANG ANH  
TRAN KIM DUNG  
NGUYEN THI KHEN

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Secretary General  
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Treasurer  
NGUYEN THI KHEN  
Deputy Treasurer

### Cố Vấn Đoàn Advisory Committee

HIỆP LOWMAN  
NGUYEN XUAN LAN  
TRAN KIM DUNG

June 3, 1993

The Honorable Priscilla Clapp  
Senior Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Bureau for Refugee Programs  
Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Ms. Clapp:

On July 2 - 4, 1993 the Federation of Associations of Former Political Prisoners of Communist Vietnam will host a conference representing more than 18 chapters in the United States and Canada. The conference this year will be held in San Jose, California.

On behalf of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association I am writing to ask if you would be kind enough to formulate a written statement regarding the programs and services of the Department of State that relate to the resettlement efforts for the political prisoners so that this information can be shared with the many political prisoners and family members who will be attending the conference. Your letter, which will be read at the conference, can be sent to me at our Association address or mailed directly to:

Association of Former Vietnamese  
Political Prisoners  
P.O. Box 1808  
San Jose, California 95109

or: FAX (408) 971-4794

The Honorable Priscilla Clapp  
Senior Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Bureau for Refugee Programs  
Department of State  
Page Two  
June 3, 1993

Your continued support and interest in the endeavors of this organization in assisting the political prisoners is greatly appreciated. I would be more than happy to share with you the program events that transpire at the conference if you so desire.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration of this request. Please contact me if you have any questions and/or concerns.

**Sincerely,**

**(Mrs.) Khuc Minh Tho  
President**



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P.O. BOX 5435, ARLINGTON, VA. 22205-0635

Telephone: (703) 560-0058 \* Fax: (703) 204-0394

**Hội Đồng Quản Trị**  
**Board of Directors**

**June 15, 1993**

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

The Honorable Winston Lord  
Assistant Secretary  
Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520

**Ban Chấp Hành T.U.**  
**Executive Board**

Dear Mr. Lord:

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

On behalf of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association we would like to request a meeting with you preferably on Friday, July 23, 1993 in the afternoon.

We will be celebrating our Annual Freedom Reunion Picnic on Sunday, July 25, 1993 and will host political prisoners and their families from California, Massachusetts and Virginia. Many of those in attendance represent 100 of the longest held political prisoners, who were released last year.

**Cố Vấn Đoàn**  
**Advisory Committee**

HIỆP LOWMAN  
NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN  
TRẦN KIM DUNG

At our meeting with you some of the political prisoners would like to express their grateful appreciation for the continued support and interest in resettlement efforts on their behalf; as well as to articulate issues and concerns of this population, specifically as they relate to the political prisoners still in the camps.

Please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience to let me know if the afternoon of July 23 is agreeable with your schedule.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Khuc Minh Tho  
President

Chị Thảo,

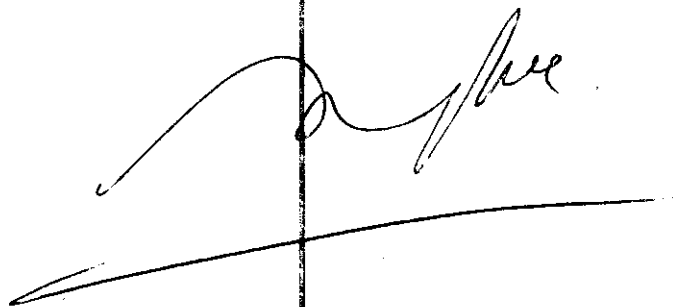
\* Đây có 2 chương trình chúng tôi muốn nhờ giúp đỡ là:  
- Dân Trí  
- Dân Sinh.

1) Dân Trí: Đây là 1 hệ thống dạy học cho giới trẻ  
đầu tiên: Management (Quản lý - Quản trị K/T) ở  
Vùng Tàu và Sài Gòn. Ở Sài Gòn là trường TRÍ-  
ĐƯỜNG của GS Nguyễn (Đại học Kinh Doanh cũ ở  
Đa Lạt). và anh Nguyễn đang mở 1 trường mới ở  
Vùng Tàu. Đang xin phép: vậy nhờ họ giúp đỡ  
1 tay. Có lẽ sau đó sẽ mở ở Cần Thơ nữa sau đó:  
- training audio, thiết kế Computer.  
- tài liệu huấn luyện.

2) Dân Sinh: Đây là 1 <sup>trên tinh thần</sup> proposal mở  
ngân hàng loại nông-nghiệp nghiệp để có thể giúp  
nông-nghiệp dân vực từ mức phân bón, thuốc  
trừ sâu và thức ăn nuôi tôm... v.v... để phát  
hiển 2 ngành nông-nghiệp (nhất là ngư) trên cơ  
đề nuôi tôm công nghiệp ở miền Tây.

\* Nguyễn ra đi nhiều về định tiết kiệm hơn để họ  
thường xuyên với: Đức Khỏe và Nguyễn Văn.

Nếu cần tôi sẽ đi taller thêm cho chi vì  
2 chũng lịch tin , sau khi đi sẽ bàn  
còn chi. Tôi sẽ có người competent là viết  
này : dân số + dân trí. Trích lại ở  
huyền ban ở Bangkok của chi, lúc khi  
anh ta que đó.



A handwritten signature, possibly reading 'P. Lee', is written in cursive above a long, thin horizontal line that spans across the bottom of the page.



# 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

June 20, 1993

### Hội Đồng Quản Trị Board of Directors

KHÚC MINH THO  
 NGUYỄN QUỲNH GIAO  
 NGUYỄN VĂN GIỚI  
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 NGUYỄN THỊ KHEN

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 TRƯƠNG THỊ LANG ANH  
 Treasurer  
 NGUYỄN THỊ KHEN  
 Deputy Treasurer

### Cố Vấn Đoàn Advisory Committee

HIỆP LOWMAN  
 NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN  
 TRẦN KIM DUNG

The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy  
 Chairman, Senate Subcommittee  
 on Immigration and Refugee Affairs  
 United States Senate, SR-135  
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kennedy:

We are writing to request your intervention on the following matter.

Recently, we were informed by former reeducation camp prisoners in Vietnam, in particular by Hiep Quang Nguyen, IV # 319099 about a new policy that seriously affects these former prisoners. This sudden change of policy was confirmed to me by personnel attached to the Orderly Departure Program (ODP) in Washington, D.C.

According to this new policy, officers of the US INS connected with ODP in Bangkok determined that former reeducation camp prisoners may no longer be accompanied by their spouse to emigrate to the United States, if their bona fide marriage was entered into less than 24 months from the date of interview with INS agents. Instead, these former reeducation camp prisoners were suggested to rely on the second family preference (INA Sec 203 (a) 8 U.S.C. Sec. 1153 (a) to petition their spouse once in the United States. It is well known that many years could have elapsed before these former prisoners can be reunited with their spouse should they be compelled to follow that avenue.

*Insert* →

Similarly situated former reeducation camp prisoners whom I have contacted are deeply alarmed by this abrupt change of policy. This unprecedented policy, if allowed to continue, will certainly cause extreme hardship and irreparable damages to these unfortunate former prisoners and their families, for oftentimes, these former prisoners' sole source of solace and moral support is their spouse.

We concede that U.S. Refugee and Asylum Law, especially INA Sec. 203 (a) does empower INS agents with discretion to grant or deny asylum or refugee status. However, we contend that the exercise of discretion in a particular case must require consideration of all of the facts and circumstances involved. There must be a balancing of the social and humane considerations presented in the former reeducation camp prisoner's favor against all but the most egregious of adverse factor, such as a sham marriage. In addition, the

U.S. supreme court has enunciated that exercise of discretion "must be based on legitimate concerns of particular statutory provision" INS v. Rios-Pineda, 471 U.S. 444, 451-452 (1985).

As you might be aware, former Secretary of State George Shultz in 1984 made the public pronouncement, on behalf of President Reagan, of the American humanitarian initiative to bring former reeducation camp prisoners and their close family members to the United States. Again, at the U.N. International Conference on Indochinese Refugees in 1989 in Geneva, the then Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger reaffirmed on behalf of President Bush, the U.S. commitment to resettle the former reeducation camp prisoners and their families in the United States.

Since Congress has plenary power over immigration matter (U.S. Const. Art. 1, para. 8, cl. 4), and since family unity is a central consideration underlying the Immigration and Nationality Act, which is universally recognized by the Board and the federal courts as consistent with congressional policy. Errico v. INS, 385 U.S. 214, 220 (1966); Ravancho v. INS, 658 F. 2d 169 3rd Cir. 1981); Faddah v. INS, 577 F. 2d 491, 495 (5th Cir. 1977); Urbano de Malaluan v. INS, 577 F. 2d 589 (9th Cir. 1978), we, therefore, beg you to urge the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the State Department's Orderly Departure Program to rescind the aforementioned policy vis-a-vis the former reeducation camp prisoners and instead adopt provisions similar to those in the Immigration Fraud Amendments of 1986, in particular INA Section 216 and 8 CFR 216 in order to permit bona fide spouses to accompany beneficiaries of the ODP/Former Reeducation Camp Prisoner Subprogram to emigration to the United States as Conditional Resident Aliens subject to the requirements of INA Section 216 (a) (1) and 8 CFR 216.1, based upon a qualifying marriage (INA Sec. 216 (g) (3), i.e. a valid marriage entered into less than 24 months before the alien spouse obtain conditional resident alien status by virtue of such marriage.

While waiting to hear from you, we are.

Most gratefully,

  
Mrs. Khúc Minh Tho  
President

cc:

insert new paragraph after para. 3.

In addition, the principal applicants have not been advised that they are entitled to apply for Visas 93 approval should they be compelled to depart Vietnam prior to departure of the spouse. This would allow the spouse to receive a "following to join" visa and allow the spouse to receive certain refugee benefits. Forcing the principal applicant to file a Form I-130 would subject the spouse to the waiting period of approximately 3 years and may disallow refugee benefits for the spouse.



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

BUREAU FOR REFUGEE PROGRAMS

FAX MESSAGE COVER SHEET

DATE: sep 6

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING PAGES TO:

Name: Kim Dung

Office: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax Telephone: 703 241 9211

THIS MESSAGE IS FROM:

Name: Mr. Ricardo M. Warner (RP/RAP/SEA, Rm. 1234, SA-1, Washington, D.C. 20520)

Office: Refugee Admissions and Processing - Southeast Asia Division

Telephone: (202) 663-1053

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET:

THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST *	<input type="checkbox"/>
* Warning: Anyone using the Fax to send action items MUST ensure that all clearances have been received	
FOR CLEARANCE	<input type="checkbox"/>
FOR INFORMATION ONLY	<input type="checkbox"/>

NOTES:

I'm sure they can file a V93 for spouse if they arrive as refugees.

Thes Niti  
- Mantra Smith  
- 4 sec  
- I R C.