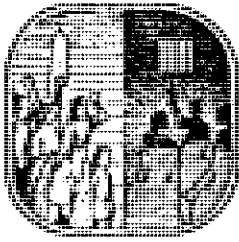


And wife, 1/18
Xin anh gửi tên các địa
nhân cho tôi mua xe để
trả số cho họ xin trả
tháng 1993 -
Merci anh -

Willston có số ngày mai
anh không có đi học -



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

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January 23, 1993

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

Dear Mr. Lord:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association.

Since we last communicated with you in July 1993 a number of issues and concerns have arisen that required our attention. Currently, we are trying to deal with the rumors abounding in the Vietnamese community regarding the United States lifting the embargo and contemplating diplomatic relations with Vietnam in the near future.

It is our hope that we will soon have an opportunity to meet with you so that you can share with us valuable information that you have about Vietnam and to discuss the issues and situations of the political prisoners in Vietnam. In addition, we would like to review with you the status and progress of former political prisoners, who are now in the United States.

As we prepare to celebrate our Vietnamese New Year (Tet, which is February 10, 1994), we would also like to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year filled with prosperity, love, and peace.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Khuc Minh Tho
President



United States Department of State

*Assistant Secretary of State
for East Asian and Pacific Affairs*

Washington, D.C. 20520

JUL 3 1993

Mrs. Khuc Minh Tho
President
Families of Vietnamese Political
Prisoners Association
P.O. Box 5435
Arlington, Virginia 22205-0635

Dear Mrs. Tho:

I am writing in response to your recent letter in which you suggested that we meet on July 23.

I regret to say that I will be traveling in Asia virtually the entire month of July for a series of meetings beginning with the G-7 in Tokyo and ending with a ministerial in Australia at the end of the month. I would very much like to meet with your group and will try to schedule a meeting after my return.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the situation of political prisoners in Vietnam and to review the progress of former prisoners now in the U.S. I may be traveling on July 23. My office will contact you once my travel plans have been set, and will reschedule the appointment if I am not available on the 23rd.

Sincerely,

Winston Lord



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June 15, 1993

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

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NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN
TRẦN KIM DUNG

Dear Mr. Lord:

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.

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



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June 20, 1993

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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.

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. 208 (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

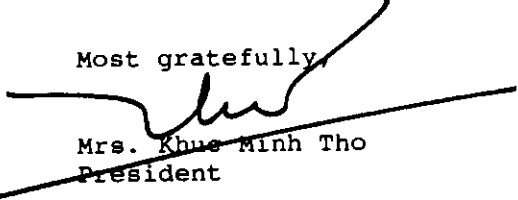
U.S. supreme court has enunciated that exercise of discretion "must be based on legitimate concerns of particular statutory provision" INS v. Rios-Pineda, 471 U.S. 444, 451-452 (1985).

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 State 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. Khue Minh Tho
President

cc:



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FREEDOM REUNION CELEBRATION OF FORMER VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS AND THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY

COMMEMORATING THE

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HISTORIC U.S.-VIETNAMESE AGREEMENT OF JULY 30, 1989 FOR THE RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

P L A N N I N G

The Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association are in the planning stages of the events scheduled for the Fifth Anniversary of the Historic U.S.-Vietnamese Agreement of July 30, 1989 for the Resettlement of Vietnamese Political Prisoners in the United States of America.

The following events are now in the beginning stages of planning. It is anticipated that approximately 400 to 500 people will attend; especially the 100 former political prisoners released in 1992 who will be coming from other states in addition to those living in the Virginia area.

- **ANNUAL FREEDOM REUNION CELEBRATION PICNIC** to be held on **Saturday, July 23, 1994**. This will be a reunion for all former political prisoners in Virginia as well as those in other states and from other countries.
- **MEMORIAL CEREMONY AT THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL** in Washington, D.C. to be held on **Sunday, July 24, 1994**. United States and Vietnam veterans will gather to salute the 57,000 Americans who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of Vietnam. This will also serve as a reunion of United States veterans and Vietnamese veterans of the Vietnam war.

- **APPRECIATION DAY/RECEPTION AT SENATE RUSSELL CAUCUS #SR 325 on Tuesday, July 26, 1994** will serve as an appreciation to members of the Senate, Congress, Administration and Media who supported our cause and helped to make our dreams come true. Thousands of former political prisoners and their families were reunited with their loved ones because of efforts fought off the battlefield by people who exemplified the true humanitarian spirit of those in a free society.

We are receptive to any ideas/suggestions you may have that would enhance the events planned. In addition, please feel free to submit the names of individuals and/or organizations whom you feel should be extended a personal invitation to these events.

- Huỳnh Thanh Hùng - 6Y

Có vết

- Nguyễn Đăng Phương -

13Y

- Nguyễn Cao Dương -

10Y.