

Who's the CMND chain list
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Tho

**AGENDA FOR MEETING BETWEEN
FAMILIES OF VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS ASSOCIATION
AND IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
IN WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**Friday, March 22, 1996
2:00 P.M.**

1. Status of processing under the humanitarian exception policy the unmarried over-21 sons and daughters of the former political prisoners. ODP has not been applying this policy and the cases who were denied humanitarian consideration now face the end of June deadlines. In light of ODP's failure to implement the policy of humanitarian exception, we request that ODP return to the previous practice (which has been so since the beginning of the HO program) that over-21 unmarried sons and daughters be included in the case. As we are sure you are aware, the former political prisoners whose sons and daughters were excluded have been miserable in their resettlement here.

Có family
sua policy
chính trị
đặc biệt
ở gia đình
mười khai

các con của tôi họ sinh trên thế giới đó
sua tình trạng của mẹ -

2. Impact of pending legislative changes (HR 2202 sponsored by Representative Lamar Smith of Texas) to family preference categories that would eliminate unmarried sons and daughters from being petitioned by their parents. This will have a big impact on the FPP's. We understand that the Bill, HR-2202 sponsored by Representative Lamar Smith of Texas will be presented to the Congress in April, 1996. # 2

His
Kathleen
legal
immigrant
có license
living khong

3. Status of the processing of the remaining caseload of former political prisoners under the HO subprogram of ODP. What is the availability of refugee admission numbers for FY97 to process the remaining caseload.

4. Review of the cases involving FPP family members of those prisoners who died after release.

5. Documentation problems continue: the reissuance of release certificates when the original has been lost.

6. Status of the processing of the special commando cases. We are happy that INS is processing these cases and we would like to know the latest data on the number of cases processed, number approved and the anticipated completion date for the caseload. Our association is concerned about the eligibility for the widows of the commandos. ~~FVPPA and the Vietnamese community are eager to help in the resettlement of these cases in this area.~~

Also, where will the refugee admissions numbers come from? We hope that the numbers do not come from those planned for the H0 caseload. # 6

8. We have learned that the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has recovered over 500 cubic feet of personnel records pertaining to the employment of Vietnamese during the Vietnam war era (see attached information about Mr. Boylan and the National Archives at Suitland, Maryland). We feel that the availability of these records justify the reconsideration and reinterview of former USG employees, trainees, contractors, and others closely associated through their work, whose cases were rejected for lack of documentation. (attach. # 3)

9. What can we do about the disturbing "no-show" rate (80%), which is due to circumstances outside the control of the applicants? This should be brought to the attention of the Vietnamese government at the next SRV-USG Working Group talks and, if necessary, the deadline for processing should be extended. # 4

7. ~~Bài kiểm tra xét Khảo H0~~
States of processing and timeline for resettlement of the Special Commandos. What are the guideline for processing-

10 - Review ca'c ho so hop ^{Ky} truu
August 30, 95 # 5
(phia sau)



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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February 5, 1996

Ms. Kathleen Thompson
Office of International Affairs
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Dear Kathleen:

I feel compelled to ask for a meeting with you in the near future due to several issues with a short time fuse. I have not been able to address these issues with you sooner due to the holidays, furloughs and blizzards.

Of particular concern is the continuing frustration experienced by some of the families concerning the eligibility and processing of the unmarried over 21 sons and daughters. As you will recall from our earlier meetings, Ms. Coven agreed to implement a policy of humanitarian exception to the blanket exclusion of over-21 unmarried sons and daughters following the abrupt introduction of this policy in December of 1994. Over a year later, it is fair to say that ODP's implementation of this policy has been half-hearted and haphazard (see attachments). The deadline for the over-21's is now the 17th of April, 1995 and many families whose over-21 sons and daughters were summarily excluded by the policy are not receiving the opportunity to have their cases reviewed for humanitarian exception (see attachments).

This issue is even more critical due to proposed changes to family preference immigration law that would exclude former prisoners from even petitioning for their sons and daughters once they arrive. The advanced age of the former prisoners makes them dependent on the support and care of their now adult sons and daughters who through the years have been integral parts of the household. To deny the former prisoners the support of these sons and daughters during their resettlement now is to take from them one of the major elements upon which they must rely for an independent and dignified old age.

Ms. Kathleen Thompson
Office of International Affairs
Immigration and Naturalization Services
Department of Justice

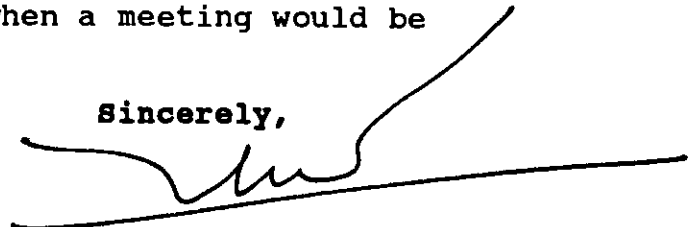
- 2 -

On the brighter side, I would also like to talk to you about the processing and resettlement of the commandos. Our association greatly appreciates your assistance in this program and we would like to talk about the status of the cases.

Finally, I would like to talk with you about the processing of the remaining caseload of former political prisoners. We have heard that ODP is winding up and we are concerned about the staffing to process the remaining caseload as well as the availability of adequate refugee admission numbers in light of on-going budget cuts.

Please let me know when a meeting would be convenient for you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Khuc Minh Tho', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Khuc Minh Tho
President

Attachments



Embassy of the United States of America # 1

August 15, 1995

Bangkok, Thailand

Ms. Khuc Minh Tho
President
Families Of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association
P.O.Box 5435
Arlington, VA 22205-0635

Dear Ms. Khuc:

Thank you for your letter of June 30, 1995 received by this office on August 4, 1995. You wrote concerning the refugee applications of Do Thi Thai and her children (ODP file IV-339699/H33-447).

The referenced applicants were interviewed by a U.S. immigration officer in Ho Chi Minh City on June 6, 1995. They were scheduled for their interview due to our error. In fact, the policy that precludes the over twenty-one year old children of refugee applicants from being scheduled for interview had already been announced when we scheduled these applicants for an interview. The last interview trip to include over twenty-one year old derivative refugee applicants ended on April 17, 1995. After that date, no over twenty-one year old derivative refugee applicants have been scheduled, with the exception of cases involving a "last remaining family member". Since Hua Thi Mong Hoa and Hua Thi Thao Trang are both over twenty-one years old, neither of them can be given special consideration as the last remaining family member. For this reason, their refugee applications were denied when they appeared at the interview with their mother.

Under U.S. immigration law, refugee applicants who are also eligible for immediate relative immigrant status must enter the U.S. as immigrants, rather than as refugees. This does not preclude the principal applicant's children who are under twenty-one years old from being considered for refugee status. Since Do Thi Thai's daughter, Hua Thi Thu Thanh has been in the U.S. for a number of years and may now be a U.S. citizen, we have requested verification of her immigration status from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). In the meantime, if she is now a U.S. citizen, she should file an immediate relative immigrant visa petition with INS on behalf of her mother. Once we receive an approved immigrant visa petition on behalf of Do Thi Thai, or confirmation from INS that Hua Thi Thu Thanh is not yet a U.S. citizen, we will continue processing Do Thi Thai's and her minor son's applications.

I hope this information will be helpful to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Martha Sardinas".

Martha Sardinas
Director
Orderly Departure Program

MS/jsj (5320a/30-31)

Refugee Eligibility

Individuals may apply for admission to the US as refugees under ODP's Regular Subprogram or Re-education Subprogram. If approved, an applicant may travel to the US as a refugee unless someone in the US is eligible to file an immediate relative visa petition on his/her behalf. In this case, the applicant must enter the US as an immigrant although their approved children may travel as refugees.

Previously all ODP applicants approved as refugees were allowed to be accompanied by their spouse and unmarried sons and daughters who continuously resided in the family household. In December 1994 the US Department of State and the US Immigration and Naturalization Service announced that refugees interviewed after April 14, 1995 are allowed to be accompanied by their spouse and unmarried sons and daughters *under the age of twenty-one*. Exceptions may be made for sons and daughters who are over the age of twenty-one if they are the last remaining, dependent, family member in Vietnam who might be subject to severe hardship if left alone or who are disabled and have no relatives in Vietnam to care for them.

Former Re-education Center Detainee Subprogram

All applicants who were interned in re-education centers for three or more years due to their pre-1975 association with US government policies in Vietnam are eligible for an interview under the Re-education Subprogram. Time served in re-education centers as a result of unsuccessful attempts at illegal departure or post-75 counter-revolutionary activities does not qualify for ODP interview eligibility purposes nor do the various probation periods to which former detainees were often subjected following release. Spouses of former detainees who died as a direct result of time spent in re-education may also be eligible for an interview provided they have evidence to support their claim.

Until recently, under a bilateral arrangement between the US and Vietnamese governments, former re-education center detainees registered with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV) to have their names included on a Vietnamese interview list ('HO' list) by presenting their re-education release certificates with their applications for exit permission. On March 31, 1994, ODP accepted the last interview list (H44) for this program. Remaining applicants were given until September 30, 1994 to register directly with ODP.

Regular Subprogram

Applicants in any of the following categories are eligible for a refugee interview in the Regular Subprogram: beneficiaries of 'Visas 93' refugee petitions (form I-730); certain parents whose children in the US are both unaccompanied and under the age of 21; applicants with at least five years of former employment with the US government or a US private company or organization; and individuals with between one and three years of re-education who also provide evidence of one or more years of US government or private employment or any period of training in the US under US government auspices.

Meeting the interview criteria listed above is not a guarantee of approval. At the interview, applicants must prove they meet the definition of a refugee as defined under §101(a)(42) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). Briefly, this provision of the law requires a demonstration of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution in one's home country on account of his/her race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion.

Refugee Registration Deadline

It is no longer required that refugee applicants be named on an SRV interview list as long as they have exit permission granted by the Vietnamese authorities. All refugee applicants who meet the above criteria and who have supplied copies of documentary evidence to support their claims qualify for an interview if they established an ODP file prior to September 30, 1994.

Pre-Interview Processing

When ODP receives evidence of refugee eligibility, the file is reviewed and any additional documentation needed is requested. Applicants seeking refugee status as former employees of the US government or US private companies must have documentary evidence to support their claims. This may be in the form of old personnel action notices, letters of recommendation, letters from former colleagues in the US, pay stubs, certificates or verification notices from the agency or the appropriate records center. Applicants whose eligibility includes US government sponsored training in the US must also provide documentary evidence of their training.



U.S. Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

425 Eye Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20536

CO 100/8.3

APR 11 1995

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

Dear Mrs. Tho:

Thank you for your February 24 letter reporting on your meeting in California with resettled former political prisoners and their family members. I appreciate the ideas you expressed in your letter and during our earlier meeting.

As promised when we met, I am forwarding to you a copy of the guidance we sent to Daniel Solis, our district director in Bangkok regarding humanitarian exceptions for certain adult sons and daughters of former re-education camp detainees. Mr. Solis has assured me that all of the immigration officers involved in the Orderly Departure Program fully understand that there may be some compelling cases and that the guidance will be implemented with a generous spirit.

I understand that Kathleen Thompson of my staff has had several conversations with you on this issue and would be pleased to discuss any thoughts you may have on the guidance. Thank you again for sharing your views.

Sincerely,

Phyllis A. Coven
Director
International Affairs

Enclosure

Memorandum



Subject Humanitarian Exceptions for
Sons and Daughters of Former
Re-Education Camp Detainees

Date

To Daniel Solis
District Director
Bangkok, Thailand

From International
Affairs

I recently met with Mrs. Khuc Minh Tho and other representatives of the Vietnamese-American community to hear their concerns about the recent interagency decision regarding eligibility for interview in the Orderly Departure Program (ODP).

As you are well aware, effective February 1, adult sons and daughters of former re-education camp detainees (re-eds) are no longer proposed for interview. The policy change recognized that there may be individual cases in which significant humanitarian reasons warrant including an adult son or daughter in a re-ed case. I wish to encourage generosity in considering such requests.

I appreciate the interests that are served by the policy change--deterring fraud and achieving consistency in refugee processing programs. At the same time, I am sympathetic to Mrs. Tho's arguments that the resettlement of aging former prisoners might be more successful and self-sufficiency might be more quickly achieved if their children were to accompany them to the United States. To balance these two perspectives, I want to ensure that all officers interviewing re-ed cases give careful and sympathetic consideration to requests for humanitarian exception.

Mrs. Tho has been advised that any such requests may be raised by the principal refugee applicant at the time of the INS eligibility interview. The merits of the requests, of course, must be decided on a case-by-case basis. We would anticipate that deserving cases may include, for example, those in which an unmarried adult son or daughter, if not included, would be the only remaining family member in Vietnam, cases in which a family member has a physical or mental disability that could not receive appropriate care if the family were to be divided, and other cases in which unusual hardship would result were an adult son or daughter left behind.

I understand that when the interviewing officer finds an individual case has merit, the adult son or daughter can be "added-on" to the case with the issuance of a Letter of Introduction (LOI) to the Vietnamese authorities and that the son or daughter can be expeditiously invited for interview.

Page 2
Daniel Solis

Please keep me informed of your progress under the new interview eligibility criteria and advise me if additional guidance is needed on considering requests for humanitarian exception.

Phyllis Coven
Director

INTERVIEWS OF RECENTLY-ARRIVED BOSNIANS...

In order to collect additional information on the atrocities committed during and after the fall of Srebrenica in October 1995, the Human Rights Watch will be conducting interviews with the Bosnian refugees who were recently released from the detention centers in Serbia and have arrived in the United States. Any resettlement agency with information or access to refugees wishing to share their stories can contact Diane Paul at (212) 972-8400.

Also, the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor is collecting information on war crimes. Agencies who know refugees interested in offering evidence of war crimes may contact Crystal Nix at (202) 647-3809 or Josiah Rosendatt at (202) 647-1385 of the State Department.

Obviously, this sensitive matter must ultimately be decided by the refugees. Strict confidentiality will be exercised in these interviews and refugee name and addresses will not be given out to outside organizations.

REFUGEE PROCESSING - BELGRADE...

The November-December 1995 INS circuit ride to Belgrade took place during the 27 November to 7 December period. Two INS officers interviewed for a total of 9 working days.

The first week was spent on mission to the two detention centers in Southern Serbia where the officers interviewed and approved 199 cases/214 people referred by UNHCR for U.S. resettlement.

The second week was spent in Belgrade interviewing USRP cases. A total of 97 cases/283 people were interviewed by INS during this period and of this number, 91 cases/276 people were approved.

REFUGEE PROCESSING - ODP...

Below are the highlights of the ODP Statistical Summary Report for the end of November 1995.

- Refugee interview attendance
Eighty percent (80%) of refugee applicants proposed for interview in FY 1996 were unable to attend an interview. The large majority of these were unable to obtain documents issued by and required by the Vietnamese government. Files were prepared for more than 13,000 applicants. Fewer than 3,000 were interviewed.
- * Former political prisoners
Interviews are scheduled to conclude in June 1996.
- Amerasians
While as many as several thousand Amerasians are estimated to remain in Vietnam, ODP is of the opinion that most who wished to depart have done so.
- Family Reunification
Visas are now processed in accordance with worldwide US visa guidelines.

December 4, 1995

95/#24

REFUGEE PROCESSING - BELGRADE...

INS officers are heading to Southern Serbia this week to complete the special processing of 201 cases/220 people - all of whom are Moslem males who fled the Bosnian Serb Army invasions of Srebrenica and Zepa and who are being detained in two camps in the mountains of southern Serbia.

Bios on approved cases are expected within the next week. If expedited assurances are received from the volags, the refugees are expected to depart for the U.S. by mid- to late January.

REFUGEE PROCESSING - SAUDI ARABIA...

INS conducted an interview tour to Rafha camp from October 30th through November 17th. A total of 548 cases/776 persons were adjudicated by the INS with a 60% approval rate or 465 persons.

Post has issued a request to all voluntary agencies to expedite the assurances for all Iraqi cases. Assurances for all cases allocated the week of November 29th should be received by JVA/Saudi Arabia by COB Wednesday, December 6, so that JVA and IOM can process approximately 150 refugees before the Christmas season and Ramadan for departure to the U.S. by mid to late January.

The next INS tour to Rafha camp is expected for March 1996.

REFUGEE PROCESSING - ODP...

ODP reported that high no-show rates continued into September. Of the applicants proposed for interview, 71% did not attend.

Current statistics on No-show Interview (NSI) letters show that 68.5% of No-show applicants failed to attend an interview because they were unable to obtain exit permission. Twenty-five percent cited a variety of other reasons for the NSI. Only 6% of responses indicate that the applicants have withdrawn their application, have died or have departed by other means.

The Department of State has instructed JVA to terminate the registration of any refugee applicant who failed to attend their scheduled interview. JVA will attempt to contact NSI applicants after they fail to appear for interview. Applications will be terminated if no correspondence has been received within 2 months of the original interview date.



DEC 1 1995

URGENT MEMORANDUM

From: Khuc Minh Tho
To: Interested Parties
Re: Family Reunification

Your help is urgently needed to prevent Congress from changing a law that would create disastrous problems for former political prisoners and their families.

A bill in the House of Representatives, H.R. 2202, is sponsored by Rep. Lamar Smith of Texas. It has cleared the Judiciary Committee and will go to a vote early next year. This bill deals with both illegal and legal immigration.

The legal part would have the effect of cutting family reunification visas by 30% and eliminating three of the three categories -- brothers and sisters, adult children, and parents of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents.

If this part of the bill becomes law, it will end forever the hopes of the families of many former political prisoners for reuniting with their families in the United States!!!

We believe the best strategy for dealing with this emergency is to get Congress to "split" the bill, so that the illegal and legal issues are separated and considered separately. But in order to do this, action by House Speaker Newt Gingrich and House Majority Leader Richard Armev are needed.

We are therefore asking you to contact both these leaders, asking them to split the bill. We are also asking you to contact your own Representative and ask her or him to ask Mr. Gingrich and Mr. Armev to split the bill. A suggested letter is enclosed for your information and possible use.

Crucial votes will be taking place in the Congress in the next few weeks. We can make a difference, but we need to act right away. Please, please, please make your views known to the Congress!!

Sincerely,



Khuc Minh Tho, President
Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners

Vietnamese Civilian Personnel Records in the National Archives

On 20 February 1996, Mrs. Khuc Minh Tho and Sedgwick Tourison visited with Richard Boylan, archivist at the National Archives, Suitland, Maryland. The visit was at Mr. Boylan's invitation and was specially arranged to provide Mrs. Khuc Minh Tho and her association membership with information about Vietnamese civilian personnel and pay records recently discovered at the National Archives in Suitland.

According to Mr. Boylan, the majority of Vietnamese Civilian Personnel Records are kept where such civilians are normally sent and stored, at the civilian personnel records center in St. Louis, Missouri. Agencies such as the Department of State, Immigration & Naturalization Service, and others routinely query the civilian personnel records center to verify the employment of foreign nationals who worked for the United States.

There are currently approximately 50,000 cubic feet of records at the St. Louis center. Although these personnel records relate to civilian employees of many foreign nations, the clear majority of these records pertain to Vietnamese employed by the United States during the Vietnam War.

One archivist surveyed the requests coming to the personnel center during 1993. At that time, the center received over 600 requests per month for personnel information and an average of one-third of the requests pertained to Vietnamese, the next largest foreign national group being requests relating to Filipinos. The archivist noted that some of the requests for employment verification came from the ODP office in Bangkok but it did not appear that the ODP office had sent many requests, during the period the archivist examined the incoming requests. At the same time, both Mrs. Tho and Mr. Tourison have received correspondence from Vietnam from prospective emigrants rejected by ODP/INS/JVA because there was no evidence of a previous employment relationship with the United States.

In 1995 the National Archives in Suitland, Maryland discovered an estimate 500 cubic feet of previously unknown Vietnamese civilian personnel records in its underground storage site. These documents arrived at the National Archives in dozens of separate shipments in the first half of the 1970s. Based on box labels, the documents had been shipped first to a U.S. Army records center on the Ryukyu Island, known to most as Okinawa, and were then transferred to the National Archives in Suitland. Examining some of these records, Mr. Boylan ventured an opinion that it was obvious that the Americans did not want to abandon these records in Vietnam. Records such as these are kept in different underground storage rooms at Suitland, each room the size of a football field with 18 foot ceilings, the boxes of documents carefully located by room, section, row, and shelf, each room temperature controlled to help prolong the life of the documents. Researchers can gain access to those records that have been opened to the public and National Archives staff help locate documents of interest, but they

do not do the work for the researcher to find specific information.

Mr. Boylan explained that his branch office in Suitland, Maryland archives paper documents. Due to extremely limited personnel, the Archives is often only able to establish a permanent record about an arriving shipment and must wait sometimes decades before it is possible actually to inventory each box. In the case of the Vietnam War, for example, it may be in the middle of the 21st Century before all Vietnam War documents have been properly catalogued.

The National Archives has screened through some of the boxes of Vietnamese civilian personnel records. The archives discovered, for example, civilian employee records of Vietnamese civilian employees who served with USOM and USAID, Vietnamese civilian employees of the Defense Attache Office, missing U.S. military health records, records of U.S. civilian employees, personnel records of Vietnamese civilians employed by private U.S. firms under contract to the U.S. government and others, the exact scope of which are as yet uncatalogued due to a shortage of personnel.

Mr. Boylan brought two boxes of records to provide Mrs. Tho a sample of the condition of the records and the problems for archivists, particularly after the records arrive in St. Louis. The first box contained approximately 100 brown files, each file neatly labeled with name and a four-digit employee number in sequential order. These files were discovered to be the payroll records of Vietnamese assigned to the Xay Dung Nong Thon training center at Vung Tau. Each file contained the annual payroll figures and all deductions, as well as a laminated plastic payroll card with the employees picture and other basic information.

The second box contained a jumbled mass of several dozen manila folders, each manila folder containing the personnel documents of a specific employee. A careful examination by Mrs. Tho determined the records pertained to some civilian employees of USAID assigned at Banmethuat, Nha Trang and other locations in the second half of the 1960s. The personnel documents of each employee typically included the individual's fingerprint card, photograph, police check, hiring information, performance reports, promotion and special qualification pay decisions, and other typically personnel documents. It appeared as if someone had taken the personnel records and had merely stuffed them into old folders; it was obvious the documents would be a nightmare to catalogue. Mrs. Tho recognized one file as that of someone she had known in the past and she stopped to wonder, where is that person today? Could these records be of help to the woman today? There was no way to tell.

According to Mr. Boylan, the 500 cubic feet of previously unknown Vietnamese civilian personnel records is an important find. He has drawn this conclusion in light of the large number of records and compared with current records at St. Louis, evidence that many groups of records appear to be complete and do not duplicate records at St. Louis and the obvious reality that many records may pertain to Vietnamese who may have been denied emigration because St. Louis was unable to verify their employment.

Since the fall of 1975 when Mr. Tourison first reported about the discovery of the long missing Vietnamese civilian personnel files, Mr. Boylan has received several hundred requests, requests he is unable to answer. His office is developing a form letter to be sent to each individual as soon as practical, advising them to contact a specific office in St. Louis because the National Archives is expected to transfer all records there within the next week. Mr. Boylan agreed to continue receiving requests and advising correspondents whom they should contact when the records are shipped to St. Louis late in the week of 26 February. Mr. Boylan stressed that it will take personnel at St. Louis several months to try and identify and begin to integrate the personnel records once they arrive in St. Louis.

Mr. Boylan also suggested Vietnamese desiring information from St. Louis contact the following:

National Records Center
Attention: Paul Gray, Assistant Director
9700 Page Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63132

Examining the personnel records, it became apparent to Mrs. Tho and Mr. Tourison that the records will indeed be a problem for those who must catalogue them. It is also possible that some Vietnamese former employees may still be unable to find their records. But, examining the boxes of payroll and personnel files, it is possible that there will be a way to help those with missing employee files to confirm their employment.

For example, the personnel files of USAID/USOM civilian employees often identifies the name of the person the new employee replaced, provides the name of all supervisors, and often gives the names of co-workers. It appears, therefore, that former employees who are experiencing difficulties might want to think about the names of those they replaced and those who replaced them, in hopes that the personnel records of others may contain information about them. In the case of the Xay Dung Nong Thon payroll records, for example, are the names of the supervisors such as Lt. Col. Be and Lt. Col. Thieu, plus many others. The Xay Dung Nong Thon records, and there may be thousands of them since the box screened contained payroll records numbered between about 3900 and 4200, and the records pertaining to training cadre, medical cadre, and others assigned to or receiving their pay from the Xay Dung Nong Thon training center.

Mr. Boylan asked Mrs. Tho to inform her members and other interested parties about a problem in processing requests received from Vietnamese in Vietnam. In most cases, it is almost impossible to read the name and address of the sender in Vietnam. A Defense Department intelligence officer, Robert DeStatte, has helped him read the names and address of many of the several hundred correspondents. But, Mr. Boylan continued, it would be most helpful if correspondents could print their names and addresses so he and his staff can read the mail sent to them.

Mr. Boylan can be contacted at the National Archives as follows:

National Archives & Records Administration
Suitland Reference Branch (NNRR)
Attn: Richard Boylan
Washington, DC 20409

Since the Vietnamese civilian personnel records are being readied for shipment to St. Louis, it will be some time before those who need the information within them can have their requests for information satisfied. Since the volume and scope of the long missing payroll and civilian personnel records are significant, some action must be taken to bring this issue to the attention of ODP and Department of State.

It is unclear how many Vietnamese former civilian employees may have been rejected by ODP/INS because there was no record of their wartime affiliation. Since the 500 cubic feet of records may contain as many as 1.5 million pages of documents, a truly historic discovery, it is obvious that this material may be of help to some individuals who were previously rejected by ODP/INS. Mr. Boylan stressed that no U.S. government agency has ever asked him for information from these records because no one knew that these records were at the National Archives. Now that they have been located, however, it is important to determine how the discovery of these records will affect current and future State/ODP policy and how a reasonable solution to this problem can be developed, in view of the anticipated end of the ODP/HO program.



Embassy of the United States of America # 1

August 15, 1995

Bangkok, Thailand

Ms. Khuc Minh Tho
President
Families Of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association
P.O.Box 5435
Arlington, VA 22205-0635

Dear Ms. Khuc:

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— nhũ họ 83: Võ Sơn - con 21 tuổi
Nguyễn Văn Nhũ
(2 em trai 3 năm)

Nhũ Thị Cẩm Nhung

tions were denied when
eir mother.
ee applicants who are
migrant status must
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**AGENDA FOR MEETING BETWEEN
FAMILIES OF VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS ASSOCIATION
AND IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
IN WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**Friday, March 22, 1996
2:00 P.M.**

1. Status of processing under the humanitarian exception policy the unmarried over-21 sons and daughters of the former political prisoners. ODP has not been applying this policy and the cases who were denied humanitarian consideration now face the end of June deadlines. In light of ODP's failure to implement the policy of humanitarian exception, we request that ODP return to the previous practice (which has been so since the beginning of the HO program) that over-21 unmarried sons and daughters be included in the case. As we are sure you are aware, the former political prisoners whose sons and daughters were excluded have been miserable in their resettlement here.

2. Impact of pending legislative changes (HR 2202 sponsored by Representative Lamar Smith of Texas) to family preference categories that would eliminate unmarried sons and daughters from being petitioned by their parents. This will have a big impact on the FPP's. We understand that the Bill, HR-2202 sponsored by Representative Lamar Smith of Texas will be presented to the Congress in April, 1996.

3. Status of the processing of the remaining caseload of former political prisoners under the HO subprogram of ODP. What is the availability of refugee admission numbers for FY97 to process the remaining caseload.

4. Review of the cases involving FPP family members of those prisoners who died after release.

5. Documentation problems continue: the reissuance of release certificates when the original has been lost.

6. Status of the processing of the special commando cases. We are happy that INS is processing these cases and we would like to know the latest data on the number of cases processed, number approved and the anticipated completion date for the caseload. Our association is concerned about the eligibility for the widows of the commandos. FVPPA and the Vietnamese community are eager to help in the resettlement of these cases in this area.

7. We have learned that the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has recovered over 500 cubic feet of personnel records pertaining to the employment of Vietnamese during the Vietnam war era (see attached information about Mr. Boylan and the National Archives at Suitland, Maryland). We feel that the availability of these records justify the reconsideration and reinterview of former USG employees, trainees, contractors, and others closely associated through their work, whose cases were rejected for lack of documentation.

8. What can we do about the disturbing "no-show" rate (80%), which is due to circumstances outside the control of the applicants? This should be brought to the attention of the Vietnamese government at the next SRV-USG Working Group talks and, if necessary, the deadline for processing should be extended.

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