

Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear friends,

Thank you for coming to our family reunion. In the past, when many of you who are here present were still detained in re-education camps, or were still living in anxiety and fear in Vietnam, the Families of Vietnamese political prisoners' Association used to organize a dinner called the "Unity Dinner" every year. This dinner, which took place at a large restaurant, gathered friends who were united in the common cause of fighting for the freedom of political prisoners in Vietnam. The purpose of this annual dinner was to warn the public not to forget the political prisoners, and to continue to campaign for the Association's two goals which are the freedom of the detainees after the fall of South Vietnam and their departure from Vietnam if they so wish.

Both our goals have been achieved, though not entirely - Nevertheless, the majority of prisoners have been released, and many of them are here today. It is our greatest reward and that of numerous people who, through all the years, have never forgotten you and have done their best to obtain today's results.

At last year's "Unity and Reunion Dinner," we stated that our Association would be dissolved - However, as you all know; there are still a number

of prisoners whose fate is still undecided - Therefore, (2) we must continue to follow up and endeavor to obtain the full implementation of the July 30, 1989 Agreement.

Even though we do not organize a "Unity dinner" this year, it doesn't mean that we no longer are united - Far from it, we have to get together and join forces in order to help one another in our new life.

Thus, the purpose of today's family reunion is to provide an opportunity for the distinguished friends who have ^{helped} further ~~the~~ our cause and ^{together} ~~each other~~ the former political prisoners to meet ^{together} ~~each other~~, exchange views, and relate to each other the hardships of the first days of settlement in a new environment.

Thank you, distinguished guests, and ~~you~~ you, my friends, for coming today -

We are deeply moved by your presence.

I hope that this occasion will give you precious moments of conversational exchange -