

## **List of Issues for the Congressional Delegation**

### **Traveling to Vietnam**

#### **From**

#### **Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association**

- (1) Interpretation of the language and intent of the McCain amendment as applied to the cases of unmarried over-21 adult children of the former Vietnamese political prisoners who qualified and were accepted as refugees but who were processed as immigrants at the convenience of the U.S. government. Our Association believes that the amendment should be read as applying to all of the adult unmarried over-21 children and we believe that the Congressional Record makes this clear. The fact that some of these political prisoners were processed as immigrants at the convenience of the U.S. government should not disqualify their children from benefiting under the amendment. (Please see copy of attached McCain amendment language).
- (2) Inclusion of the unmarried adult over-21 children of widows of political prisoners who died in camp. These children should be processed as if the political prisoner was still alive to sponsor these children, which has always been the policy of ODP.
- (3) We believe that this issue of language interpretation could be resolved by an interpretation by INS which is both more humane and generous and more truly reflective of Congressional intent.
- (4) We are concerned about reports that ODP is not accepting reissued birth and marriage certificates and/or Release Certificates from the government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.
- (5) The ODP eligibility of the former political prisoners of the Vietnam war era who do not meet the traditional ODP processing guidelines but who were sent to prison for many years, including approximately 100 cases who were incarcerated at least ten years for “counter-revolutionary” views, or other political dissidence activities. We believe that these cases should be adjudicated by ODP for refugee admission and resettlement in the U.S.

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### **FVPPA**

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(6) The problems in the processing of the former U.S. government employees with five or more years of service. The U.S. government established this program to help these victims of persecution and now the rejection rate is running at 97%, which effectively nullifies the purpose of this program. Why?

(7) Drastic reductions in the refugee ceiling admission numbers to 78,000 for FY97 and funding for 3,000 of these may not be available. We are concerned that these reduced numbers will cut-off the legitimate claims of thousands of former Vietnamese political prisoners and their families who have waited many years for refugee resettlement. Every effort should be made to find admission numbers to complete this important program as soon as possible. At a minimum, adequate numbers should be provided to accomplish this by the end of FY 1998.