

**STATEMENT  
OF  
THE VIETNAMESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY**  
**October 5, 1995**

On the occasion of the visit to the U.S. of Nguyen Manh Cam, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and Le Van Triet, Minister of Trade of the same, we, representatives of the Vietnamese American community on the East Coast, gather in Washington, DC, to make the following points:

1. We condemn in no uncertain terms the gross violations of religious freedom that are being perpetrated in Vietnam at the present time. These include: The house arrest of the Patriarch of the Unified Buddhist Church (UBC), THICH HUYEN QUANG, since 1982; the impending trial by kangaroo court, announced in *Nhan Dan* (August 16, 1995), of the said Patriarch and the Most Venerable THICH LONG TRI, respectively i.e. Number 1 and Number 3 leaders of the UBC; the illegal trial and sentencing on August 15, 1995, of the Most Venerable THICH QUANG DO (No. 2 leader of the UBC), Venerables THICH KHONG TANH and THICH NHAT BAN, Reverend THICH TRI LUC, and lay persons NHAT THUONG and DONG NGOC, for no other crime than an attempt to organize an "unauthorized" flood relief campaign in November 1994; and the continued detention of dozens of other Buddhist leaders, including THICH TRI TUU and THICH HAI TANG, following the death by self-immolation of a Buddhist martyr at Thien Mu Temple, Hue (March 23, 1993).

2. We join our voices to that of the 49 Buddhist leaders in Binh Dinh Province who recently protested (in a Letter referenced as 09/PGBD/VT to the SRV Government) the government's treatment of the UBC Patriarch THICH HUYEN QUANG; and to that of the 280 leaders and representatives of 39 Buddhist temples belonging to the officially sanctioned Buddhist Church of Vietnam in Ho Chi Minh City, who recently protested (in a Petition to the Government) the extremely irregular and illegal proceedings of the August 15 trial.

3. We are extremely moved by the supreme sacrifice of Ms. SABINE KRATZE, a German exchange student, who burned herself to death on September 3, 1995, in Saigon in protest against the August 15 trial. Ms. KRATZE became a Buddhist with the religious name of Tu Tan ("Compassionate Heart") while in Vietnam. We pray for the liberation of Ms. KRATZE's soul and we hope that her self-sacrifice will help awaken the world to the situation of religious repression in Vietnam, not only against the UBC but also against other faiths in that martyred land.

Based on the above recent developments, we appeal to you:

- To register a STRONG VOICE OF PROTEST against what is happening in Vietnam, especially the gross violations of human rights going on right now.
- To join us in CONDEMNING IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS such practices that make Vietnam look like an Animal Farm; and
- To REFUSE DOING BUSINESS WITH VIETNAM until such time as the SRV Government learns to behave like a civilized government.

**NO HUMAN RIGHTS, NO BUSINESS**