

Originally Processed With FOIA(s):  
2019-1528-F

FOIA Number:  
2019-1528-F

# FOIA MARKER

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**Collection/Office of Origin:** Public Liaison, White House Office of  
**Series:** Fong, Clayton, Files  
**Subseries:**

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**OA/ID Number:** 08127  
**Folder ID Number:** 08127-046

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**Folder Title:**  
National Vietnamese Community Conference, May 2

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**REMARKS HIGHLIGHTING  
ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**

Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the President, I would like to extend his greetings and best wishes. I am honored to share with you my insights during this historic month, because, as you know, this marks the 14th consecutive year we have recognized our Asian Pacific American Heritage. Through coordinated observances throughout the nation extended to a month-long celebration by President Bush, this is a time for all Asian Americans to reflect on our accomplishments and contributions to this great country.

For the past three years, I have had the distinct privilege of working for President Bush. As an Asian American, I am especially proud because I know first hand that President Bush knows much about and is deeply committed to the Asian American community.

In fact, during the past three years I have come to realize the depth of knowledge and sensitivity the President possesses regarding Asians and Pacific Islanders. For nearly fifty years – beginning with the Second World War when he served in the Pacific as the Navy's youngest pilot – President Bush has been involved and interacting with the peoples and cultures of this region. His experience as a Congressman, Ambassador to the United Nations,

**Chairman of the Republican National Committee, Chief of the U.S. Liaison Office in China, C.I.A. Director, and Vice President of the United States has given him more knowledge of this region than any President or national leader in our history.**

**For you and me, this knowledge has translated into important recognition. He has, for example, appointed more Asians to top Administration positions than any other president. And Asians hold higher ranking positions than ever before. President Bush has appointed the first Asian Ambassador and the first Deputy Secretary of a Cabinet department. And three independent agencies have Asian women in charge [SBA, Peace Corps, CFTC], with dozens of other superbly qualified Asian Americans serving the Bush Administration in other important roles.**

**We can also recognize that, more importantly, George Bush stands for the same values and principles that we as a community do: family, faith, hard work, merit, education, entrepreneurialism, and community service. We see this exemplified in the man, in his family and his wonderful wife Barbara, and in his policies and programs. These pillars have made the Asian American community prosperous and successful by any measure.**

**This leads me to my topic for today: the Asian American community looks to the future. This is important, because while economically we Asians have been successful, politically we are at a crossroads. Quiet and hard-working, we have often shunned the public limelight in the past. Now, however, the Asian community is coming of age. We are becoming full participants in the decision-making process, and I believe we are poised to have an even greater impact on decisions that affect our everyday lives. Our impact can be seen, again, in the record number of Asian appointments this President has made.**

**Beyond appointments, however, lies the realization that in order to impact the issues we care about – education, honest government, free trade, free enterprise and so on – we must be more involved in mainstream politics.**

**As a community, more of us must register to vote and participate in the election process. Individually, we must take a stand for a candidate or an issue. Collectively, the community must find common ground and stay united.**

**You are probably thinking that the Asian community is so diverse, how can we possibly all agree on any one set of issues. Well, at least let me start the dialogue with five issues I believe we**

**should all agree upon: Free Trade, Anti-Asian Sentiment, The Asian Consumer, Education and Quotas. Regarding free trade, we now live in a world where the distance across oceans is shortened and the walls between East and West are crumbling.**

**Market economies are rising from the rubble of communist command economies. Increasingly we are becoming a global marketplace where free trade is not only desirable, but vital. Last year United States exports accounted for 80 percent of our economic growth.**

**Asian Americans are uniquely positioned to play an important role in promoting goodwill and developing better relationships and understanding with our Asian counterparts across the Pacific.**

**Additionally, free trade means more competition, lower prices and greater variety and quality for the consumer. Consequently, we must say no to the short-sighted temptations of isolationism. We must also say no to an ugly by product of protectionist rhetoric.**

**Too often, the protectionist drum beat takes the form of Japan bashing which unfortunately, adds fuel to the fire of anti-Asian sentiment in narrow but vocal segments of American society. Moving from the global issue of free trade, let's address something closer to home.**

**The Asian American as a consumer. The 1990 census indicates the Asian population in the U.S. grew faster than any other group, and we have the highest median family income and the highest percentage of college graduates. We are therefore a very attractive consumer market.**

**To quote from a Washington Post article ( May 6, 1991)  
"Small-Business owners who don't try to reach Asian Americans are missing out on a chance to deal with the fastest-growing, most educated and most affluent ethnic group in the United States...".**

**We must help America's business understand, appreciate and address the fast growing and affluent Asian-American consumer market. Another article, this one from the Wall Street Journal (August 23, 1991) makes this point.**

**"Asian-Americans constitute the most affluent minority in the U.S., and they are seen as extremely brand-loyal. But national marketers have largely ignored this segment, squandering the opportunity to court Asian-Americans in the way they have targeted blacks and hispanics."**

**Education. Instilling the value of education is at the bedrock of success in the Asian Community. The President and the Asian American community both recognize the critical importance of**

**education to successful citizenship. The President's America 2000 initiative emphasizes the ability of parents to choose the education best suited to their children's needs. It calls for goals and standards to encourage high achievement, and demands that schools and teachers be held accountable for the attainment levels of their students.**

**I believe that we can all agree that these goals complement the Asian philosophy that education is paramount to a successful life.**

**Through America 2000, President Bush will improve the quality of education in the United States, and support for this initiative is something on which I believe the Asian American community can enthusiastically and wholeheartedly agree.**

**The last issue I would like to address is one of fundamental fairness: quotas. This is an issue where we as a community find ourselves in a dilemma. The struggle for equal opportunity has been a long and arduous fight.**

**We have come a long way from the time when Asians in America were denied fundamental rights, for example, we could not vote and could not even own land. Consequently it is tempting to agree with quotas as a way to redress past discrimination.**

**However, I would differ based on two points. The first, our culture has instilled in us the fundamental belief that hard work, education and merit are the basis of future success. Quotas, very simply, make a mockery of these core beliefs.**

**Even from a self interested perspective, the Asian community does not benefit from quotas. We are known as over achievers who tend to be over-represented and not under-represented. College admissions are a very good example.**

**The Civil Rights bill signed by the President last year shows that we can fight discrimination with unwavering diligence, while stopping short of imposing quotas which are, in effect, reverse discrimination.**

**Allow me to close by quoting a friend and a man for whom I worked for five years. Governor George Deukmejian of California. "Thank God we live in a country where we have the freedom to nurture our special heritage and pass it on to our children."**

**And at the same time, become full participants in the American dream. I'm not suggesting our country is perfect. Vestiges of discrimination remain. Too many children are still denied a full and equal chance to succeed and excel.**

**But let's be thankful for America's blessings of freedom, family, faith and opportunity. And let's draw upon these strengths to march boldly ahead and scale new peaks of excellence.**

**With freedom as our gift and equal opportunity as our goal, let's join together in a spirit of unity and respect. Let's go for the gold again, and this time let's not leave anyone behind."**

**Thank you very much.**

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Clayton: keynote speaker

suggested topics -

\* - normalization of Vietnam  
8 U.S. gov't

- suggestions on how to assimilate  
politically into mainstream

- education, refugees

10 AM

[ 20-30 min. CF talks  
10-12 min w/ Q&A

300 leaders nationwide

other speakers

Sen. John McCain (AZ) pending

before CF: Mary Margaret Whipple (Arlington  
Co. state rep)

5 min.

Nash. Post, Times confirmed

Grey

I have accepted  
verbally please  
work out the  
particulars -

I don't want to  
do 3 hours  
speech - meet  
folks & out -

make sure they  
spell my name right

# The National Vietnamese Community Conference

Đại Hội Cộng Đồng Việt Nam Tại Hoa Kỳ - Washington, D.C.

3300 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 212, Arlington, Virginia 22201 • Tel. (703) 527-6440 • Fax (703) 527-6493

April 16, 1992

Mr. Crayton Fong  
Special Deputy Assistant to the President  
for Public Liaison  
The White House  
OEOB, # 128  
Washington, D.C. 20526

Dear Mr. Fong:

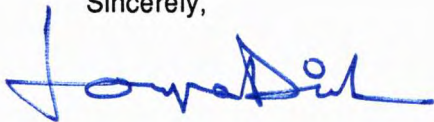
On May 2, 3, and 4, 1992, the first National Conference of the Vietnamese-American Community in the U.S. will be held at the Arlington Career Center at 816 South Walter Reed Drive in Arlington, VA.

This Conference will help to promote educational excellence and the development of small businesses for our community as well as to encourage Vietnamese-Americans to participate in the political mainstream of this country, especially in this election year.

Our dear friend Elizabeth Szu in California was kind enough to inform us of your name. We would like to invite you to attend the Opening and the Luncheon Reception of this Conference from 10 AM to 1 PM on May 2nd as an Honored Guest. We would be pleased by your presence, and we look forward to learning from your experiences and consider it a contribution to our progress and growth within the Asian-American communities.

Please contact me with your response at (703) 527-6440. Thank you very much and we look forward to seeing you at the Conference.

Sincerely,



Long Dinh  
Chairman  
National Vietnamese-American Community Conference

# **The National Vietnamese Community Conference**

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3300 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 212, Arlington, Virginia 22201 • Tel. (703) 527-6440 • Fax (703) 527-6493

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Arlington, Virginia, April 7, 1992

The first National Conference of the Vietnamese Community in the U.S. will be held in Arlington, Virginia on May 2,3,and 4, 1992. This conference will have representatives of 48 Vietnamese-Americans communities from 28 states and cities, and it is hosted by the Vietnamese Community of Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia (VCWMV), an umbrella organization of more than 40 associations representing 45,000 Vietnamese in the metropolitan area. Mr. Long Dinh, President of Amtek Institute, the designated Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the Conference, has been in contact with various community leaders and based largely on their feedbacks, the National Conference will focus on four critical areas:

- To consolidate and unify the political views of the Vietnamese and design a plan of action on the issues of diplomatic normalization between the United States and Hanoi Government and the forced repatriation of Vietnamese Refugees.
- To encourage Vietnamese-Americans to participate in the political mainstream of this country, especially in this election year.
- To set up a national structure of the Vietnamese-American Community in this country.
- To promote educational excellence, to help small business development, and to prevent crimes and drug abuse within the community.

The National Conference is part of the major effort to make the U.S. Government more responsive to the concerns of more than 600,000 Vietnamese living in this country as well as to help us make a greater contribution to this country. Many U.S. Senators and Congressmen and government high ranking officials have been invited and are expected to attend. Chairman of the VCWMV, Mr. Thang Tran, who works as a Senior Tax Auditor for the Arlington Commissioner of Revenue, said, "With the collapse of communism in the world, the Vietnamese-Americans in this country must unite to provide the support for the cause of Freedom and Democracy in Vietnam where 70 million people are still under a most oppressive form of government."

The public is invited to attend the Opening Ceremony which will be held at the Arlington Career Center, 816 South Walter Reed, Arlington, Virginia 22204 on Saturday May 2, 1992 from 10 AM to 12:PM. Please call Dr. Ken Evans at (703) 527-6440 from 8 AM to 12 AM (M-F) to make reservation.



TO: MR. Grey Fitch

FAX: 202 456-1647

FROM  
**THE NATIONAL VIETNAMESE  
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE**

MR. LONG DINH

DATE: 04-30-92

FAX: 703 527-6440

PAGES TO FOLLOW: 04

Grey: Please let us know A.S.A.P  
~~for~~ a schedule for our White  
House Briefing. Many Thanks.

## The National Vietnamese Community Conference

Đại Hội Cộng Đồng Việt Nam Tại Hoa Kỳ - Washington, D.C.

3300 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 212, Arlington, Virginia 22201 • Tel. (703) 527-6440 • Fax (703) 527-6493

April 30, 1992

Mr. Clayton Fong  
Deputy Assistant to the President  
for Public Liaison  
OEOB, #128  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Fong:

We would, first of all, very much like to invited you to be a **Keynote Speaker** on May 2 at 10:00 AM at the Arlington Career Center, 816 South Walter Reed Drive, Arlington, VA 22204.

Enclosed is the information on the background of the National Vietnamese Community Conference to be held on May 2, 3, and 4, 1992, there will representatives of 48 Vietnamese American communities from 28 states and cities, and it is hosted by the Vietnamese-American Community of Washington, D.C. Maryland, and Virginia (VACWMV), which is an umbrella organization of more than 40 associations representing 45000 Vietnamese Americans in the metropolitan area.

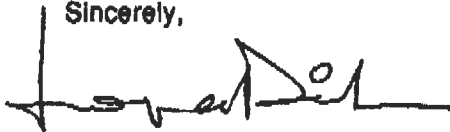
Of the 200 leaders of regional and local communities who will attend this Conference, 21 have been selected to attend the White House briefing. A list of these 21 leaders and their telephone numbers is attached.

Also included with this letter is an Official Invitation and Schedule for the conference.

Please inform us of the Briefing Time for our group.

If you need anymore information, please contact me. You have my best wishes for your and yours.

Sincerely,



Long Dinh  
Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the Conference

-called back 4/30, 4:30pm re. W.H. briefing - will  
get DOBs to us by ~~4/30~~ Mon. morn.

- Normalization / wait & see

Rose Aeff Policy Phase 1, 2, 3

A/S Solomon went last no  
good meetings

Pow/MIA

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Why

Conditions - Pow/MIA - fullest meeting possible

Human Rights / multiparty system

Human Rights are always a cornerstone of for. Policy

Promote Democracy throughout the world

Political Prisoners

Um Election

We continue to oppose forced repatriation  
of Viet Refugees in HK

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## DAY 1 (Saturday 05/02/92)

8:00AM - 10:30AM

Registration/Meeting Coffee  
National Anthem  
Presented by the Color Guards,  
Virginia Military Institute

10:15AM - 10:30AM

Welcome Remarks & Recognition  
Mr. Long Dinh, Chairman  
NVCC-USA Organizing Committee

10:35AM - 10:39AM

Meeting Remarks  
Mr. Thanh Tran, Chairman  
NVCC-DCA/DVA

10:39AM - 10:55AM

Conference Orientation by  
Mr. Liam Bu, Coordinator  
NVCC Tech. Sub-Committee

10:55AM - 11:00AM

Announcing of the Conference Goals  
& Program Procedures by  
Mr. Cong Nguyen, Prog. Coordinator  
Mr. Thanh Nguyen, Vice Coordinator  
NVCC Program Sub. Committee

11:00AM - 12:00AM

Guest Speakers  
Keynote Speaker: Mr. Clayton Fong

12:00AM - 12:06AM

Presenting Issues at the conference  
which will be discussed by  
Mr. Cong Nguyen, Prog. Coordinator

12:15AM - 2:00PM

Lunches/Reception

2:00PM - 5:30PM

Issue 1: Vietnamese Community  
Political Point of Views on U.S. policy  
toward to the He-Noi Government

5:30PM - 8:00PM

Day 1 - Ending & Briefing next day  
schedules

## DAY 2 (Sunday 05/03/92)

8:00AM - 9:00AM

Meeting Coffee  
National Anthem  
Presented by the Color Guards,  
Virginia Military Institute

9:00AM - 9:05AM

Schedules & Program Procedures by  
Mr. Cong Nguyen, Prog. Coordinator  
Mr. Thanh Nguyen, Vice Coordinator  
NVCC Program Sub. Committee

9:10AM - 12:10AM

Group Discussions: Issues 2, 3 & 4

12:10PM - 12:40PM

Lunch Break

12:40PM - 2:40PM

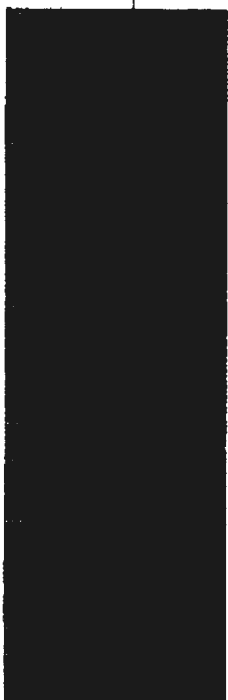
Program Conclusion/  
Conference Presentation & Issue Papers

2:40PM - 3:00PM

Day 2 - Ending & Briefing Day 3

## DAY 3 (Monday 05/04/92)

Schedule for The White House  
and the Capitol Hill Meetings



**Mr. Clayton Fong**

You are cordially invited to the  
opening ceremony as a Keynote Speaker at

the First National  
Vietnamese Community Conference

which will be held on

Saturday May 2, 1992

at

Arlington Career Center

816 S. Walker Road Rd.

Arlington, Virginia

From 10 AM To 2PM

A lunch buffet will be served

763  
358 5800

INVITATION



NATIONAL  
VIETNAMESE  
COMMUNITY  
CONFERENCE

U.S.A

MAY

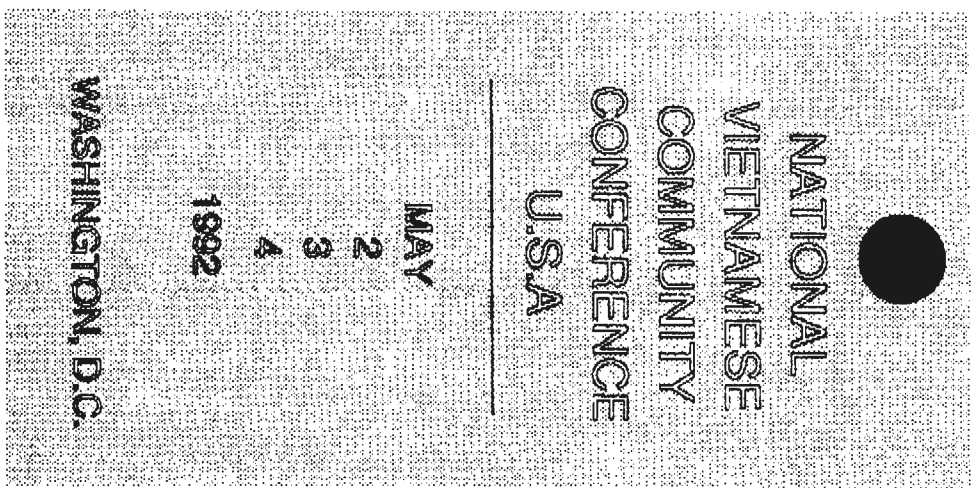
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4

1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.



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