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RECORD ID: 9800770
RECEIVED: 03 FEB 98 07

TO: BERGER

FROM: TRAN, HO

DOC DATE: 18 JAN 98
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: MFN
HUMAN RIGHTS
NSA CORRESPONDENCE

VIETNAM
EMIGRATION

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR OPPOSING WAIVER OF JACKSON VANIK AMENDMENT FOR VIETNAM

ACTION: NO REPLY NECESSARY PER KRISTOFF DUE DATE: 14 FEB 98 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: KRISTOFF

LOGREF:

FILES: WH NSCP: CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION

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ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9800770

DOC ACTION OFFICER

001 GAGNON
001
001 KRISTOFF

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

Z 98020307 PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
Z 98021117 ACTION TRANSFERRED
X 98021117 NO REPLY NECESSARY PER KRISTOFF

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DUE DATE: ~~09~~ FEB 98 STATUS: S
14

STAFF OFFICER: GAGNON

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

① FOR ACTION
KYLE

FOR CONCURRENCE
BAKER
CLARKE
GAGNON
SCHWARTZ

FOR INFO
BUSBY
KRISTOFF
LEE
MCCARTHY

② ↳ Transfer to
GAGNON

COMMENTS: NPAA - Inappropriate to POW, reply. SK

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DOC 1 OF 1

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0770



Vietnamese Political Action Committee

2/2/98

PLEASE STAFF

**National Board
of Directors**

January 18, 1998

Ho Tran, M.D.
President

President William J. Clinton
c/o Mr. Samuel Berger, NSC
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20501
Fax (202) 456-2461

Timon Tran
Vice-President
External Affairs

Dear President Clinton:

Binh Vo
Vice-President
Internal Affairs

We are disturbed by news that your Administration intends to recommend a waiver to the Jackson-Vanik Amendment for Vietnam. Its communist government continues to violate the human rights of its citizens, including the right to free emigration.

Dung [Yun] Tran
Secretary General

Vietnam's recent change in the procedure under the Resettlement Opportunity for Vietnamese Returnees (ROVR) only delays the requirement for exit permission until a later stage--applicants approved for resettlement still need exit permission to emigrate. There is also mounting evidence that local authorities have invented many different ways other than the denial of exit permission to block access to ROVR.

Thanh Mai
Treasurer

Bao Ky Vu
Assistant Secretary
General

Beside ROVR, many eligible applicants under the general Orderly Departure Program (ODP) are also facing problems with exit permission. They include former political prisoners, former U.S. employees, religious leaders, dissidents, immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, etc. As you may agree, Jackson-Vanik was not created just for ROVR.

Dan Duy Hoang
Legislative Affairs
Director

We also would like to call your attention to the deterioration in the general human rights conditions in Vietnam since the U.S. normalized relations with that country in 1995. More political dissidents and religious leaders have been imprisoned. Freedom of the press has been much more severely curtailed than before. And this trends continues.

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Last month the Ministry of Interior established a new center to further tighten its grip on the press. In November 1997, the chief editor of a trade journal was arrested for exposing high-level corruption. In April 1997, the government promulgated Executive Decree 31/CP, authorizing the administrative detention of political suspects for up to two years without trial.

The U.S. should not reward Vietnam with trade privileges until its communist government makes significant concessions on human rights by truly honoring the right of its citizens to freely emigrate and by releasing all political and religious dissidents from its system of prisons and labor camps.

Sincerely,

Ho Tran, MD
President

WASHINGTON, D.C.
FEB 2 1998

Board of Directors:

20816 Timberline Lane, Walnut CA 91789

Phone/Fax: (909) 595-8258

PRESIDENTIAL/NSA CORRESPONDENCE

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

ACTION OFFICER:

Kyle

Gagnon

LOG NUMBER:

0770

DUE DATE:

14 FEB

DATE STAFFED:

3 FEB

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO:

☐

PRESIDENT

☒

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

FROM:

TRAN, Ho

PREPARE A RESPONSE FOR THE PRESIDENT'S OR NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR'S SIGNATURE WITHIN 10 DAYS. IF A LETTER DOES NOT REQUIRE A RESPONSE, PLEASE RETURN IT TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT (RM 379) WITH THIS FORM, ANNOTATED ACCORDINGLY. NEAR