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RECORD ID: 9801496
RECEIVED: 27 FEB 98 18

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: TRAN DUY CHANH

DOC DATE: 22 FEB 98
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: VIETNAM
MFN

HUMAN RIGHTS
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: FREE VIETNAM ORGAN OPPOSITION TO JACKSON VANIK FOR VIETNAM

ACTION: NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED

DUE DATE: 11 MAR 98 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: GAGNON

LOGREF:

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ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9801496

DOC ACTION OFFICER

001 GAGNON
001

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

Z 98022718 PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
X 98030214 NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED

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

FOR ACTION
GAGNON

FOR CONCURRENCE
BAKER
CLARKE
KYLE
SCHWARTZ

FOR INFO
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COMMENTS:

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DOC 1 OF 1

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CỘNG ĐỒNG VIỆT NAM TỰ DO TẠI HAWAII
Free Vietnam Organization

1220 Aala St., #602
Honolulu, HI 96817

1496

February 22, 1998

(date)

President William Clinton
c/o Mr. Samuel Berger, NSC
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20501

2/27/98
PLEASE STAFF

Dear President Clinton:

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.

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.

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.

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.

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, by allowing free press, and by releasing all political and religious dissidents from its system of prisons and labor camps.

Sincerely,



Tran Duy Chanh
President

FEB 27 18:03

PRESIDENTIAL/NSA CORRESPONDENCE

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

ACTION OFFICER:

Gagnon

LOG NUMBER:

1496

DUE DATE:

11 Mar

DATE STAFFED:

27 Feb

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO:



PRESIDENT



NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

FROM:

Tran Duy Chanh

NFAL

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