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RECORD ID: 9801681
RECEIVED: 05 MAR 98 17

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: HUNG, DAO BA

DOC DATE: 28 FEB 98
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: MFN
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

VIETNAM

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR RE INTENTIONS OF US TO WAIVE JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT

ACTION: NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED

DUE DATE: 17 MAR 98 STATUS: C

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

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

COMMENTS: _____

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ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9801681

DOC ACTION OFFICER

001 GAGNON
001

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

Z 98030517 PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
X 98030915 NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED

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FILES: WH

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FOR ACTION
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DOC 1 OF 1

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*NFAR: A response by the President
to this letter would not be appropriate*

3/6/98

PRESIDENTIAL/NSA CORRESPONDENCE

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

GAGNON

ACTION OFFICER:

~~*GAGNON*~~

LOG NUMBER:

1681

DUE DATE:

17 MAR

DATE STAFFED:

5 MAR

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO:



PRESIDENT



NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

FROM:

HUNG, DAO BA

NFAR

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.

1681



TỔNG HỘI KHÔNG LỰC VIỆT NAM CỘNG HÒA FEDERATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AIRFORCE ASSOCIATIONS

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Arlington, VA.

HÀ TẤN PHÁT
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NGUYỄN VĂN QUÝ
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MAR 5 1998
ĐÀO VĂN SANG
St. Louis, MO.

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Belgium

NGUYỄN GIA TIẾN
Switzerland

TĂNG PHƯỚC TRỌNG
Seattle, WA.

VŨ NGÔ KHÁNH TRUẬT
San Jose, CA.

ĐÀM THƯỢNG VŨ
Phoenix, AZ.

February 28, 1998

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

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 and by releasing all political and religious dissidents from its system of prisons and labor camps.

Sincerely,

Dao Ba Hung
Maj., VNAF Retired
President, FVNAFA



3/5/98
ASIAN
AFFAIRS