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NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9802214
RECEIVED: 25 MAR 98 18

TO: FERRIS, ELIZABETH

FROM: BERGER

DOC DATE: 06 APR 98
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: VIETNAM
NSA CORRESPONDENCE

MFN

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: JACKSON VANIK WAIVER FOR VIETNAM & ROVR

ACTION: BERGER SGD LTR

DUE DATE: 06 APR 98 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: GAGNON

LOGREF: 9802290

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

BRAINARD, L
BUSBY
GAGNON
HIGHSMITH
NSC CHRON
PRITCHARD

COMMENTS:

DISPATCHED BY



DATE

4/10

BY HAND

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DOC 3 OF 3

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ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9802214

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 GAGNON
002 BERGER
003

Z 98032518 PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
Z 98040316 FOR SIGNATURE
X 98040613 BERGER SGD LTR

DISPATCH DATA SUMMARY REPORT

DOC DATE DISPATCH FOR ACTION

DISPATCH FOR INFO

003 980406 FERRIS, ELIZABETH

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**National Security Council
The White House**

4/3
715pm

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	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
Cosgriff			
Rice	<u>1</u>	<u>4/3</u>	<u>done</u>
Davies			
Kerrick	<u>2</u>	<u>4/3</u>	
Steinberg	<u>3</u>		
Berger	<u>4</u>		
Situation Room			
West Wing Desk	<u>5</u>	<u>TMA 4.6</u>	<u>D</u>
Records Mgt.	<u>6</u>	<u>4/10</u>	<u>D</u>

A = Action I = Information D = Dispatch R = Retain N = No Further Action

cc:

COMMENTS:

'98 APR 3 AM 11:46

Exec Sec Office has diskette

yes

National Security Council
The White House

4/3
7:15pm

PROOFED BY: _____

LOG # 2214

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DOCLOG T.M.A. A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
<i>[Signature]</i> Cosgriff	_____	_____	_____
Rice	1	② 4/3	<i>done</i> ②
Davies	_____	_____	_____
Kerrick	2	② 4/3	_____
Steinberg	3	<i>[Signature]</i>	_____
Berger	4	②	_____
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____
West Wing Desk	5	T.M.A. 4.6	<i>[Signature]</i>
Records Mgt.	6	② 4/10	D

A = Action I = Information D = Dispatch R = Retain N = No Further Action

CC:

COMMENTS:

'98 APR 3 AM 11:46

Exec Sec Office has diskette *yes*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 6, 1998

Dear Ms. Ferris:

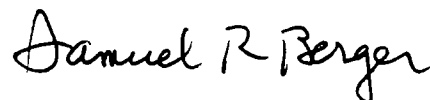
Thank you for your letter regarding a Jackson-Vanik waiver for Vietnam. I understand your concerns about moving forward with the waiver, but I believe this course is the right one and will help us advance our objectives with Vietnam.

I share your interest in ensuring that the Resettlement Opportunity for Vietnamese Returnee (ROVR) program is a success. Through the efforts of Ambassador Pete Peterson, Vietnam agreed to revise its emigration regulations, which allowed the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to expedite interviews of Vietnamese eligible for ROVR. As you know, the change has increased significantly the number of ROVR candidates being processed by the INS. The Vietnamese authorities have located and approved for interview 14,000 of the estimated 18,000 persons we believe are eligible to participate in ROVR. We believe the granting of a Jackson-Vanik waiver will build on this momentum and encourage the Vietnamese government to take further steps toward implementing a system that offers its people the opportunity to emigrate freely.

We will, of course, continue to press the Vietnamese for an accounting of the approximately 3,000 persons not presented for interview under the ROVR program and for speedy processing of those approved for immigration to the United States by the INS. We welcome any assistance your organizations can provide in addressing these issues. We will review these and other emigration matters during the annual review of all countries receiving Jackson-Vanik waivers, including Vietnam, in June 1998.

Thank you again for writing on this very important issue.

Sincerely,



Samuel R. Berger
Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

Ms. Elizabeth G. Ferris
Chair, Committee on Migration and Refugee Affairs
American Council for Voluntary International Action
1717 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Suite 801
Washington, D.C. 20036

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

2214

April 1, 1998

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL R. BERGER

THROUGH: JACK PRITCHARD ³
FROM: JAMES M. GAGNON ¹
SUBJECT: Response to Letters Opposing the Jackson-Vanik
Waiver for Vietnam

Elizabeth G. Ferris, Chair of the American Council for Voluntary International Action's Committee on Migration and Refugee Affairs, wrote you to express opposition to the non-MFN Jackson-Vanik waiver for Vietnam. Your reply reviews our policy and reaffirms our intention to continue pressing the Vietnamese on emigration issues.

Concurrences by: ^{NH} Newell Highsmith, ^{SB} Scott Busby, ^{LB} Lael Brainard

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the attached response at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Letter to Ms. Ferris
Tab B Incoming correspondence



American Council for Voluntary International Action

2290

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Chief Executive Officer**
Jim Moody

Chairperson
Kathryn Wolford
Lutheran World Relief

Vice Chairperson
Jose A. Aponte
American Red Cross

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Nancy A. Aosse
International Medical Corps

Treasurer
John H. Costello
Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs

Assistant Secretary
Victoria M. Sheffield
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Assistant Treasurer
Andrew Griffel
American Jewish World Service

Executive Committee
Iqbal Noor Ali, Aga Khan Fdn
Prema Mathai-Davis, YWCA USA
Margaret C. McCullough,
Christian Children's Fund
Ray Offenheiser, *Oxfam-America*
Daniel E. Pellegrin, *Pathfinder Int'l*
Cherie Bellamy,
Service and Development Agency
Roger P. Winter,
Immigration & Refugee Services of America
Andrew Natsios,
World Vision Relief & Development
Dick Cobb, *Winrock Int'l*
Sam Evans, *YMCA of the USA*
Charles F. Maginnick, *Save the Children*
David Beckmann, *Bread for the World*
Peggy Curlin, *CEDPA*
Neal Keny-Guyer, *Mercy Corps Int'l*
John M. Palmer, III, *Helen Keller Int'l*
Linda Pfeiffer,
Int'l Medical Services for Health
Frances Seymour, *CIDE/WRI*
Jane G. Covey,
Institute for Development Research
Louis Mitchell, *Pact*
Rudolph von Bernuth,
Save the Children
Elizabeth I. Ferris,
Church World Service
Robert Chase, *World Learning*
Meredith Richardson,
Pearl S. Buck
William S. Reese,
Partners of the Americas

March 25, 1998

Mr. Samuel Berger
National Security Advisor
First Floor West Wing
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

3/30/98

PLEASE STAFF

Dear Mr. Berger:

We refer to our letter of January 22, 1998, urging that the Administration proceed less precipitously on the issue of a Jackson-Vanik waiver for Vietnam. While acknowledging some hopeful developments, we pointed out that there remained many uncertainties about a full implementation by the Vietnamese of their commitments on the Resettlement Opportunities for Vietnamese Returnees (ROVR) program. We urged that the leverage inherent in Jackson-Vanik not be given up until these uncertainties are resolved.

We note that the President has now proceeded to grant a Jackson-Vanik waiver to Vietnam. We regret that is the case but assume that such a decision was taken on a judgement that ROVR could be completed successfully. We very much hope that will prove to be correct and will do all we can to assist in making ROVR a successful program.

Nevertheless, there remain important uncertainties that could impede ROVR. A major question will be which individuals named on lists provided by the United States government (USG) to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV) as eligible for ROVR, will not be made available by the SRV for ROVR processing. The decision to grant a Jackson-Vanik waiver at this time appeared to us particularly hasty. The USG was aware that the SRV intended to submit a list of some 3,000 persons, requested for INS interview by the United States, who would not be made available. Nevertheless, the Administration proceeded to grant the waiver without waiting to receive and analyze the complete list.

We urge that the Administration work closely with the NGOs as we work through this issue. Many of the persons on the SRV list may prove to be persons who simply left their home address to live elsewhere and who cannot be located by the Vietnamese authorities. Many such persons may turn out to be in contact with our agencies or with friends and relatives in the overseas

1717 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Suite 801
Washington, DC 20036
PHONE: (202) 667-8227
FAX: (202) 667-8236
(202) 667-4131
E-MAIL: ia@interaction.org
<http://www.interaction.org>

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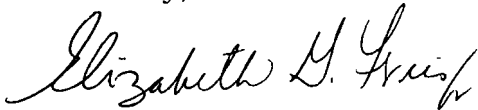
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Vietnamese communities. We assume that, when such persons are located, the USG will press the SRV to make them available for ROVR processing. Similarly, we hope to work with the Department of State on other issues which may arise in the implementation of ROVR.

As noted we thought the grant of the waiver was premature. However, we were repeatedly assured by members of the Administration that, if the SRV failed to adequately meet its commitments on Jackson-Vanik, the waiver could be withdrawn at the end of six months. The Administration's judgement will be tested by events over the next few months. We shall watch these closely and hope for success but, should the Administration's optimistic prognosis for ROVR prove unfounded, we shall expect and press hard for such a withdrawal of Jackson-Vanik related benefits from Vietnam.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth G. Ferris, Chair
Committee on Migration and Refugee Affairs

on behalf of the following agencies:

Diana Aviv, Associate Executive Vice President for Public Policy
COUNCIL OF JEWISH FEDERATIONS

C. Richard Parkins, Director
EPISCOPAL MIGRATION MINISTRIES

Tsehay Teferra, Executive Director
ETHIOPIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Leonard Glickman, Executive Vice President
HEBREW IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY

Roger P. Winter, Executive Director
IMMIGRATION & REFUGEE SERVICES OF AMERICA
U.S. COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES

Reynold Levy, President
INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE

Ralston H. Deffenbaugh, Jr., Executive Director
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Diana P. Bui, Deputy Director
SOUTHEAST ASIA RESOURCE ACTION CENTER

Mark Franken, Executive Director
U.S. CATHOLIC CONFERENCE/MIGRATION & REFUGEE SERVICES

Don Hammond, Vice President
WORLD RELIEF CORPORATION

cc: Stanley Roth, DOS/EAP
Julia Taft, DOS/PRM
Eric Schwartz, NSC



American Council for Voluntary International Action

2214

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March 25, 1998

3/25/98
PLEASE STAFF

Mr. Samuel Berger
National Security Advisor
First Floor West Wing
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

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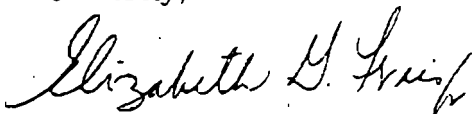
InterAction is a membership association of US private voluntary organizations engaged in international humanitarian efforts including

MAR 25 17:40

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on behalf of the following agencies:

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Julia Taft, DOS/PRM
Eric Schwartz, NSC



American Council for Voluntary International Action

1717 Massachusetts Avenue N.W. #801, Washington D.C 20036 phone (202)667-8227 fax (202) 667-8236

VIA FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Total pages: 4

DATE: March 25, 1998

TO: Mr. Samuel Berger
National Security Advisor

FAX: (202) 456-2883

FROM: Dana Beegun, CMRA

RE: Jackson-Vanik

MESSAGE:

Please see attached letter from InterAction's Committee on Migration and Refugee Affaris.

If you have any problems with this transmittal, please contact me at (202) 667-8227 ext. 105.

Thank you.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dear Ms. Ferris:

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Ms. Elizabeth G. Ferris
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1717 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

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