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NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9802290
RECEIVED: 30 MAR 98 17

TO: BERGER

FROM: FERRIS, ELIZABETH G

DOC DATE: 25 MAR 98
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: VIETNAM
IMMIGRATION
NSA CORRESPONDENCE

INTL TRADE
LEGAL ISSUES

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: INTERACTION LTR RE JACKSON VANIK WAIVER FOR VIETNAM

ACTION: SEE 9802214 FOR FINAL ACTION

DUE DATE: 10 APR 98 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: GAGNON

LOGREF: 9802214

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: 9802290

DOC ACTION OFFICER

001 GAGNON
001

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

Z 98033017 PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
X 98040218 SEE 9802214 FOR FINAL ACTION

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ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER

DUE DATE: 10 APR 98 STATUS: S

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
GAGNON

FOR CONCURRENCE
BAKER
BUSBY
LEE

FOR INFO
BRAINARD, L
CLARKE
KRISTOFF
KYLE
SCHWARTZ

see 2214

COMMENTS: Attached to #2214 (faxed copy of this letter)

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PRESIDENTIAL/NSA CORRESPONDENCE

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

ACTION OFFICER: Gagnon

LOG NUMBER: 2290

DUE DATE: 10 Apr

DATE STAFFED: 30 Mar

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO:

☐

PRESIDENT

☒

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

FROM: Ferris

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.

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NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9802290
RECEIVED: 30 MAR 98 17

TO: BERGER

SUSPENSE

FROM: FERRIS, ELIZABETH G

DOC DATE: 25 MAR 98
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: VIETNAM
IMMIGRATION
NSA CORRESPONDENCE

INTL TRADE
LEGAL ISSUES

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: INTERACTION LTR RE JACKSON VANIK WAIVER FOR VIETNAM

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER

DUE DATE: 10 APR 98 STATUS: S

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
GAGNON

FOR CONCURRENCE
BAKER
BUSBY
LEE

FOR INFO
BRAINARD, L
CLARKE
KRISTOFF
KYLE
SCHWARTZ

COMMENTS: _____

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American Council for Voluntary International Action

2290

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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

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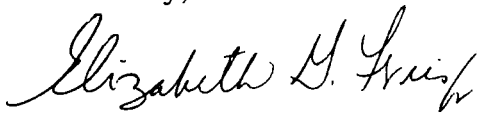
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Vietnamese communities. We assume that, when such persons are located, the USG will press the SRV to make them available for ROVR processing. Similarly, we hope to work with the Department of State on other issues which may arise in the implementation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

Tsehaye Teferra, Executive Director
ETHIOPIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Leonard Glickman, Executive Vice President
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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
LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES

Lionel A. Rosenblatt, President
REFUGEES INTERNATIONAL

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