

Case Number: 2015-0530-S

SYSTEMATIC MARKER

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Original OA/ID Number: 161				
Document ID: 9306967				
Row: 44	Section: 2	Shelf: 2	Position: 1	Stack: v

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9306967
RECEIVED: 15 SEP 93 13

TO: LAKE

FROM: BASKIN
WIEDEMANN

DOC DATE: 22 SEP 93
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: VIETNAM
CO

HUMAN RIGHTS

PERSONS: QUE, NUYGEN DAN

ROBB, CHARLES S

SUBJECT: PRES REPLY TO SEN KERREY RE CANCELLATION OF SEN ROBB MTG W/ HUMAN
RIGHTS ADVOCATE QUE

ACTION: ORIGINALS RETURNED TO NSC/S

DUE DATE: 18 SEP 93 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: BASKIN

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: _____

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSMEM

CLOSED BY: NSVJD

DOC 2 OF 2

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9306967

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 WIEDEMANN
002 LAKE
002
002

Z 93091514 PREPARE MEMO FOR LAKE
Z 93093019 FWD TO PRES FOR SIG
X 95022415 OBE / STATUS OF ORIGINAL UNKNOWN
X 95030214 ORIGINALS RETURNED TO NSC/S

UNCLASSIFIED

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: KERREY, J ROBERT

DOC DATE: 08 SEP 93
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: VIETNAM
CO

HUMAN RIGHTS

PERSONS: QUE, NUYGEN DAN

ROBB, CHARLES S

SUBJECT: LTR TO PRES FM SEN KERREY RE CANCELLATION OF SEN ROBB MTG W/ HUMAN
RIGHTS ADVOCATE QUE

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR LAKE

DUE DATE: 18 SEP 93 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: WIEDEMANN

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

WIEDEMANN

FOR CONCURRENCE

CLARKE

ROSNER

SCHWARTZ

FOR INFO

GROSS

ITOH

KENNEY

KRECZKO

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSMEM

CLOSED BY:

DOC 1 OF 1

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: SEPTEMBER 15, 1993

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE J. ROBERT KERREY

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO STRESS HUMAN RIGHTS
CONCERNS IN ANY UPCOMING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE
VIETNAMESE

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
HOWARD PASTER		ORG	93/09/15		___/___/___
REFERRAL NOTE:					
✓ WILLIAM ITOH		RSA	93/09/15		___/___/___
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1210 _____
 _____ MAIL USER CODES: (A) D NE _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

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*****
*ACTION CODES:          *DISPOSITION          *OUTGOING          *
*                        *                        *CORRESPONDENCE:   *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION  *A-ANSWERED          *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM       *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL *      OF SIGNER    *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE      *C-COMPLETED         *      CODE = A     *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET  *S-SUSPENDED         *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*                        *      OUTGOING     *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                        *                        *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE        *                        *                        *
*X-INTERIM REPLY        *                        *                        *
*****
  
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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
 (ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT-2590
 KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
 LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
 MANAGEMENT.

SCANNED

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 8, 1993

President William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

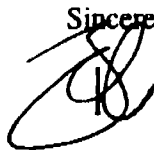
Dear Mr. President:

I am attaching a copy of a letter I recently sent to the Prime Minister of Vietnam regarding Vietnam's decision to cancel Senator Robb's meeting with Dr. Nguyen Dan Que, a leading human rights advocate who is in prison in Vietnam.

I am very concerned about this incident because I think it is indicative of the Vietnamese government's attitude toward human rights concerns. While the Vietnamese have demonstrated greater cooperation in resolving remaining POW/MIA cases, there has not been similar progress on human rights issues.

I urge you to stress human rights concerns in any upcoming discussions with the Vietnamese. I would be happy to discuss this with you in greater detail at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Robert Kerrey', written over the typed name.

J. Robert Kerrey

J. ROBERT KERREY
NEBRASKA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 20, 1993

Vo Van Kiet
Prime Minister
Socialist Republic of Vietnam
Hanoi, Vietnam

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

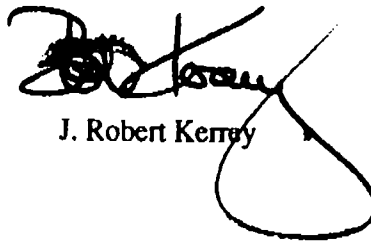
I would like to protest in the strongest possible terms your government's decision to cancel Senator Charles Robb's meeting with Dr. Nguyen Dan Que.

In taking this action the government of Vietnam has thrown serious doubt on its claims about its commitment to human rights. As you know, Dr. Que is an internationally-recognized advocate of human rights who was imprisoned in Vietnam without trial from 1978 to 1988 and is presently in his second year of a twenty-year term. He was sentenced in 1991 to twenty years in prison because he publicly called for your government to respect human rights and allow political reform.

Allowing Senator Robb to visit Dr. Que would have demonstrated that your government is serious about respecting the most basic human rights. While Vietnam has demonstrated a willingness to cooperate with the United States in resolving remaining POW/MIA cases, you have sent a clear signal by your actions with Senator Robb that this cooperation does not extend to improvements in human rights.

Again, I strongly protest your decision to cancel Senator Robb's meeting with Dr. Que and urge you to reconsider.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Robert Kerry", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the bottom right.

J. Robert Kerry

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

September 22, 1993

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY LAKE

THROUGH: KENT WIEDEMANN 

FROM: JOHN BASKIN 

SUBJECT: Letter to the President From Senator Kerrey
Concerning Cancellation of Senator Robb's Meeting
With Human Rights Advocate Que

Senator Robert Kerrey has sent a letter to the President protesting Vietnam's decision to cancel a meeting between Senator Charles Robb and human rights advocate Dr. Nguyen Dan Que. At Tab A is a proposed letter from the President to Senator Kerrey emphasizing that the President shares Kerrey's deep concern over the continued detention of Dr. Que and reaffirming that promoting human rights in Vietnam will be a top priority in our bilateral relationship.

Concurrences by:  Richard Clarke, Jeremy Rosner, Eric Schwartz

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memo at Tab I. 

Attachments

Tab I Memo from you to the President advising him of Senator Kerrey's letter
Tab A Proposed letter from the President to Senator Kerrey
Tab B Incoming from Kerrey

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ANTHONY LAKE
HOWARD PASTER

SUBJECT: Letter to the President From Senator Kerrey
Concerning Cancellation of Senator Robb's Meeting
With Human Rights Advocate Que

Purpose

To forward a letter from you to Senator Kerrey expressing your deep regret at Vietnam's decision to cancel the meeting between Senator Charles Robb and Vietnamese human rights advocate Dr. Nguyen Dan Que. The letter also emphasizes that a central feature of our bilateral relationship is promoting human rights for Dr. Que and others in Vietnam who are persecuted for their religious or political beliefs.

Background

Your administration and previous administrations have raised Dr. Que's detention with Vietnam's leadership, and his imprisonment was included in the Department of State's human rights report last year.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Proposed letter from you to Senator Kerrey
Tab B Incoming from Kerrey

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Bob:

I appreciated receiving your letter of August 20 regarding the imprisonment in Vietnam of Dr. Nguyen Dan Que and I share your deep concern about his continued detention. Dr. Que's case has been of special concern to the Executive Branch for some time, and representatives of my Administration, and previous administrations, have raised Dr. Que's detention with Vietnam's leadership. The issue of his imprisonment was also highlighted in the Department of State's human rights report last year.

I also share your disappointment over Vietnam's refusal to allow Senator Robb to visit Dr. Que last month. I want to assure you that as long as Dr. Que--and others who attempt to express political or religious beliefs--are imprisoned by the government of Vietnam, we will continue to press for their release.

I dispatched emissaries to Vietnam in July to pursue progress on the POW/MIA issue. I instructed them also to stress the importance that we attach to human rights. As a result, Vietnamese officials agreed to include a discussion of human rights among other issues in our ongoing bilateral dialogue.

Sincerely,

The Honorable J. Robert Kerrey
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 8, 1993

President William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am attaching a copy of a letter I recently sent to the Prime Minister of Vietnam regarding Vietnam's decision to cancel Senator Robb's meeting with Dr. Nguyen Dan Que, a leading human rights advocate who is in prison in Vietnam.

I am very concerned about this incident because I think it is indicative of the Vietnamese government's attitude toward human rights concerns. While the Vietnamese have demonstrated greater cooperation in resolving remaining POW/MIA cases, there has not been similar progress on human rights issues.

I urge you to stress human rights concerns in any upcoming discussions with the Vietnamese. I would be happy to discuss this with you in greater detail at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Robert Kerrey", written over a horizontal line.

J. Robert Kerrey

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 20, 1993

Vo Van Kiet
Prime Minister
Socialist Republic of Vietnam
Hanoi, Vietnam

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

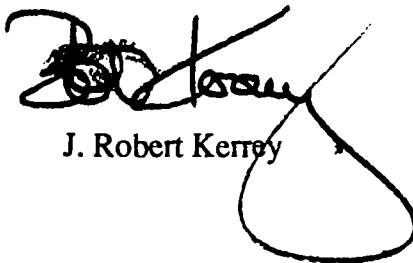
I would like to protest in the strongest possible terms your government's decision to cancel Senator Charles Robb's meeting with Dr. Nguyen Dan Que.

In taking this action the government of Vietnam has thrown serious doubt on its claims about its commitment to human rights. As you know, Dr. Que is an internationally-recognized advocate of human rights who was imprisoned in Vietnam without trial from 1978 to 1988 and is presently in his second year of a twenty-year term. He was sentenced in 1991 to twenty years in prison because he publicly called for your government to respect human rights and allow political reform.

Allowing Senator Robb to visit Dr. Que would have demonstrated that your government is serious about respecting the most basic human rights. While Vietnam has demonstrated a willingness to cooperate with the United States in resolving remaining POW/MIA cases, you have sent a clear signal by your actions with Senator Robb that this cooperation does not extend to improvements in human rights.

Again, I strongly protest your decision to cancel Senator Robb's meeting with Dr. Que and urge you to reconsider.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Robert Kerrey", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

J. Robert Kerrey

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
September 13, 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM ITOH

FROM: HOWARD G. PASTER 
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL MAIL

Attached are copies of letters sent to the President from several members of Congress.

Since these letters address national security issues, I would appreciate your assistance in drafting a response. The letters are as follows:

- 1) Toby Roth (R-WI), concerning the crash of the C123 in Nicaragua in 1986;
- 2) Eliot Engel (D-NY), concerning Bosnia;
- 3) Elizabeth Furse (D-OR), concerning Somalia;
- 4) ~~Ike Skelton (D-MO), concerning Bosnia; and~~
- ✓ 5) Bob Kerrey (D-NE), concerning Vietnam.

Thank you very much for your assistance. If you have any questions, please feel free to call LeeAnn Inadomi at x7500.

Enclosure