

Case Number: 2015-0530-S

SYSTEMATIC MARKER

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Original OA/ID Number: 1117				
Document ID: 9605597				
Row: 45	Section: 1	Shelf: 8	Position: 2	Stack: v

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9605597
RECEIVED: 14 AUG 96 15

TO: BERMAN, HOWARD L
ET AL

FROM: PRESIDENT

DOC DATE: 24 AUG 96
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: LEGAL ISSUES
HUMAN RIGHTS

VIETNAM
CO

PERSONS: TRAN, BINH

SUBJECT: LTR RE CASE OF BINH TRAN & NEED TO PROTECT AMERICAN CITIZENS
ABROAD

ACTION: FOR DISPATCH

DUE DATE: 17 AUG 96 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: KRISTOFF

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
WH STRIPPING DESK

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO
DANVERS
KRISTOFF
Chron

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY *Ja* DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSTMH

CLOSED BY: NSLA

DOC 4 OF 4

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9605597

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 KRECZKO	Z 96081415 PREPARE MEMO FOR LAKE
001	Z 96081509 ACTION TRANSFERRED
001 KRISTOFF	Z 96081509 PREPARE MEMO FOR LAKE
002 LAKE	Z 96082111 FWD TO PRESIDENT FOR SIG
003 PRESIDENT	Z 96082413 FOR SIGNATURE
004	X 96082717 PRESIDENT SGD LTR
004 WH STRIPPING DESK	X 96082717 FOR DISPATCH

DISPATCH DATA SUMMARY REPORT

DOC DATE DISPATCH FOR ACTION

DISPATCH FOR INFO

003 960823	VICE PRESIDENT
003 960823	WH CHIEF OF STAFF
004 960824 ROYCE, ED	CIA
004 960824 TORRES, ESTEBAN E	STATE
004 960824 SMITH, CHRISTOPHER H	DEFENSE
004 960824 SHAYS, CHRISTOPHER	
004 960824 ROYBAL-ALLARD, LUCILLE	
004 960824 PORTER, JOHN E	
004 960824 OLVER, JOHN	
004 960824 MCKINNEY, CYNTHIA A	
004 960824 LOFGREN, ZOE	
004 960824 LEVIN, SANDER M	
004 960824 LANTOS, TOM	
004 960824 CUNNINGHAM, RANDY "DUKE"	
004 960824 BERMAN, HOWARD L	
004 960824 HILLIARD, EARL F	
004 960824 EHLERS, VERNON	

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9605597
RECEIVED: 14 AUG 96 15

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: ROYCE, ED
PORTER, JOHN E
LEVIN, SANDER M

DOC DATE: 06 AUG 96
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: LEGAL ISSUES
HUMAN RIGHTS

VIETNAM
CO

PERSONS: TRAN, BINH

SUBJECT: PRES TAKE ACTION TO PERSUADE VIETNAM TO ALLOW TRAN TO LEAVE COUNTRY

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR LAKE

DUE DATE: 17 AUG 96 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: KRECZKO

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
KRECZKO

FOR CONCURRENCE
CLARKE
DANVERS
KRISTOFF
SCHWARTZ

FOR INFO
APPEL
BEERS
HARMON
LORIN
MALLEY
SENS
SESTAK

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSTMH

CLOSED BY:

DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED

National Security Council
The White House

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 5597
URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PRS NSC INT ARS
BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG TMH A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
Harmon	<u>1</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	_____
Dohse	_____	_____	_____
Sens	_____	_____	_____
Soderberg	_____	_____	_____
Berger	_____	_____	_____
Lake	_____	_____	_____
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____
West Wing Desk	<u>2</u>	<u>TMH 8-27</u>	<u>D</u>
Records Mgt.	<u>3</u>	_____	<u>D</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

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

cc:

COMMENTS:

Date Aug 24, 1996 ?

Exec Sec Office has diskette _____

Rec'd 4:15 pm 8/21

National Security Council
The White House

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 5597
URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PRS NSC INT ARS
BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG OK A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
<u>15</u> Harmon	<u>1</u>	<u>JA</u>	
Dohse			
Sens			
Soderberg	<u>2</u>	<u>M</u>	
Berger		<u>h20 < y</u>	
Lake	<u>3</u>	Natl Sec Advisor	
Situation Room		has seen	
West Wing Desk	<u>4</u>	<u>OK 8/22</u>	<u>D. Walker</u>
Records Mgt.	<u>5</u>	<u>OK 8/24</u>	<u>B. Stern</u>

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

cc:

COMMENTS:

8/21
1: x typ'd done
p. 2 1 letter

Exec Sec Office has diskette yes

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 24, 1996

Dear Representative Royce:

Thank you for your letter concerning the case of Mrs. Binh Tran and the need to protect American citizens arrested abroad. The task of helping Americans who are arrested overseas is one of the most important responsibilities of the State Department and our embassies. We are committed to fulfilling this responsibility, which includes periodic visits by consular officers, monitoring emergency dietary and medical needs and acting as a liaison with family members. This is true whether the American is arrested in Vietnam or elsewhere.

Mrs. Tran was arrested in Ho Chi Minh City by the Vietnamese authorities in October 1993 on charges of tax evasion on the export of cigarettes. In June 1995, she was sentenced to four years imprisonment and a \$182,000 fine. On April 24, 1996, she was released following a request by the U.S. Embassy based on her poor health. She has not been permitted to leave Vietnam pending payment of the fine. We have sent a letter to the local court on her behalf and have raised her case with the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry, most recently in late July. We are urging the Vietnamese to allow Mrs. Tran to return to the United States on her own recognizance and, at a minimum, ensure she is not sent back to jail while the case is being reviewed by the Foreign Ministry. We will continue to pursue this case with the Hanoi government.

You mentioned ten other U.S. citizens or lawful residents who may be imprisoned in Vietnam. We are aware of only five. In each of these cases, our consular officers visited the imprisoned individuals, most recently in April and August, and are doing their utmost to protect each against possible abuses.

Anthony Lake, my National Security Advisor, raised the issue of human rights protections during his July visit to Vietnam. You can be sure we will continue our dialogue on human rights issues and press for Vietnam's adherence to international norms of human rights protection and expression of political views.

I share your interest in providing the best possible services for Americans who are arrested or otherwise harmed during overseas travel. My Administration will continue to respond to each and every case, quickly and thoroughly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, horizontal flourish at the end.

The Honorable Edward R. Royce
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-2307

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 24, 1996

Dear Esteban:

Thank you for your letter concerning the case of Mrs. Binh Tran and the need to protect American citizens arrested abroad. The task of helping Americans who are arrested overseas is one of the most important responsibilities of the State Department and our embassies. We are committed to fulfilling this responsibility, which includes periodic visits by consular officers, monitoring emergency dietary and medical needs and acting as a liaison with family members. This is true whether the American is arrested in Vietnam or elsewhere.

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I share your interest in providing the best possible services for Americans who are arrested or otherwise harmed during overseas travel. My Administration will continue to respond to each and every case, quickly and thoroughly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Torres' or similar, written in a cursive style.

The Honorable Esteban Edward Torres
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-1801

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 24, 1996

Dear Representative Smith:

Thank you for your letter concerning the case of Mrs. Binh Tran and the need to protect American citizens arrested abroad. The task of helping Americans who are arrested overseas is one of the most important responsibilities of the State Department and our embassies. We are committed to fulfilling this responsibility, which includes periodic visits by consular officers, monitoring emergency dietary and medical needs and acting as a liaison with family members. This is true whether the American is arrested in Vietnam or elsewhere.

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I share your interest in providing the best possible services for Americans who are arrested or otherwise harmed during overseas travel. My Administration will continue to respond to each and every case, quickly and thoroughly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

The Honorable Christopher H. Smith
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3810

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 24, 1996

Dear Representative Shays:

Thank you for your letter concerning the case of Mrs. Binh Tran and the need to protect American citizens arrested abroad. The task of helping Americans who are arrested overseas is one of the most important responsibilities of the State Department and our embassies. We are committed to fulfilling this responsibility, which includes periodic visits by consular officers, monitoring emergency dietary and medical needs and acting as a liaison with family members. This is true whether the American is arrested in Vietnam or elsewhere.

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Anthony Lake, my National Security Advisor, raised the issue of human rights protections during his July visit to Vietnam. You can be sure we will continue our dialogue on human rights issues and press for Vietnam's adherence to international norms of human rights protection and expression of political views.

I share your interest in providing the best possible services for Americans who are arrested or otherwise harmed during overseas travel. My Administration will continue to respond to each and every case, quickly and thoroughly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

The Honorable Christopher Shays
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-4702

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 24, 1996

Dear Lucille:

Thank you for your letter concerning the case of Mrs. Binh Tran and the need to protect American citizens arrested abroad. The task of helping Americans who are arrested overseas is one of the most important responsibilities of the State Department and our embassies. We are committed to fulfilling this responsibility, which includes periodic visits by consular officers, monitoring emergency dietary and medical needs and acting as a liaison with family members. This is true whether the American is arrested in Vietnam or elsewhere.

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I share your interest in providing the best possible services for Americans who are arrested or otherwise harmed during overseas travel. My Administration will continue to respond to each and every case, quickly and thoroughly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a large "B" and a stylized "en".

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0533

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 24, 1996

Dear Representative Porter:

Thank you for your letter concerning the case of Mrs. Binh Tran and the need to protect American citizens arrested abroad. The task of helping Americans who are arrested overseas is one of the most important responsibilities of the State Department and our embassies. We are committed to fulfilling this responsibility, which includes periodic visits by consular officers, monitoring emergency dietary and medical needs and acting as a liaison with family members. This is true whether the American is arrested in Vietnam or elsewhere.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

The Honorable John Edward Porter
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-1504

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 24, 1996

Dear John:

Thank you for your letter concerning the case of Mrs. Binh Tran and the need to protect American citizens arrested abroad. The task of helping Americans who are arrested overseas is one of the most important responsibilities of the State Department and our embassies. We are committed to fulfilling this responsibility, which includes periodic visits by consular officers, monitoring emergency dietary and medical needs and acting as a liaison with family members. This is true whether the American is arrested in Vietnam or elsewhere.

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I share your interest in providing the best possible services for Americans who are arrested or otherwise harmed during overseas travel. My Administration will continue to respond to each and every case, quickly and thoroughly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a large "B" and a stylized "en".

The Honorable John W. Olver
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0545

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 24, 1996

Dear Cynthia:

Thank you for your letter concerning the case of Mrs. Binh Tran and the need to protect American citizens arrested abroad. The task of helping Americans who are arrested overseas is one of the most important responsibilities of the State Department and our embassies. We are committed to fulfilling this responsibility, which includes periodic visits by consular officers, monitoring emergency dietary and medical needs and acting as a liaison with family members. This is true whether the American is arrested in Vietnam or elsewhere.

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I share your interest in providing the best possible services for Americans who are arrested or otherwise harmed during overseas travel. My Administration will continue to respond to each and every case, quickly and thoroughly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trump", written in a cursive style.

The Honorable Cynthia A. McKinney
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-1011

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 24, 1996

Dear Zoe:

Thank you for your letter concerning the case of Mrs. Binh Tran and the need to protect American citizens arrested abroad. The task of helping Americans who are arrested overseas is one of the most important responsibilities of the State Department and our embassies. We are committed to fulfilling this responsibility, which includes periodic visits by consular officers, monitoring emergency dietary and medical needs and acting as a liaison with family members. This is true whether the American is arrested in Vietnam or elsewhere.

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I share your interest in providing the best possible services for Americans who are arrested or otherwise harmed during overseas travel. My Administration will continue to respond to each and every case, quickly and thoroughly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a large "B" and a stylized "en".

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3203

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 24, 1996

Dear Sandy:

Thank you for your letter concerning the case of Mrs. Binh Tran and the need to protect American citizens arrested abroad. The task of helping Americans who are arrested overseas is one of the most important responsibilities of the State Department and our embassies. We are committed to fulfilling this responsibility, which includes periodic visits by consular officers, monitoring emergency dietary and medical needs and acting as a liaison with family members. This is true whether the American is arrested in Vietnam or elsewhere.

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Anthony Lake, my National Security Advisor, raised the issue of human rights protections during his July visit to Vietnam. You can be sure we will continue our dialogue on human rights issues and press for Vietnam's adherence to international norms of human rights protection and expression of political views.

I share your interest in providing the best possible services for Americans who are arrested or otherwise harmed during overseas travel. My Administration will continue to respond to each and every case, quickly and thoroughly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T Bin". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a large "T" and a stylized "Bin".

The Honorable Sander M. Levin
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3307

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 24, 1996

Dear Tom:

Thank you for your letter concerning the case of Mrs. Binh Tran and the need to protect American citizens arrested abroad. The task of helping Americans who are arrested overseas is one of the most important responsibilities of the State Department and our embassies. We are committed to fulfilling this responsibility, which includes periodic visits by consular officers, monitoring emergency dietary and medical needs and acting as a liaison with family members. This is true whether the American is arrested in Vietnam or elsewhere.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T Lantos". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "T" and a cursive "Lantos".

The Honorable Tom Lantos
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-1402

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 24, 1996

Dear Representative Cunningham:

Thank you for your letter concerning the case of Mrs. Binh Tran and the need to protect American citizens arrested abroad. The task of helping Americans who are arrested overseas is one of the most important responsibilities of the State Department and our embassies. We are committed to fulfilling this responsibility, which includes periodic visits by consular officers, monitoring emergency dietary and medical needs and acting as a liaison with family members. This is true whether the American is arrested in Vietnam or elsewhere.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

The Honorable Randy 'Duke' Cunningham
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-2003

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 24, 1996

Dear Howard:

Thank you for your letter concerning the case of Mrs. Binh Tran and the need to protect American citizens arrested abroad. The task of helping Americans who are arrested overseas is one of the most important responsibilities of the State Department and our embassies. We are committed to fulfilling this responsibility, which includes periodic visits by consular officers, monitoring emergency dietary and medical needs and acting as a liaison with family members. This is true whether the American is arrested in Vietnam or elsewhere.

Mrs. Tran was arrested in Ho Chi Minh City by the Vietnamese authorities in October 1993 on charges of tax evasion on the export of cigarettes. In June 1995, she was sentenced to four years imprisonment and a \$182,000 fine. On April 24, 1996, she was released following a request by the U.S. Embassy based on her poor health. She has not been permitted to leave Vietnam pending payment of the fine. We have sent a letter to the local court on her behalf and have raised her case with the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry, most recently in late July. We are urging the Vietnamese to allow Mrs. Tran to return to the United States on her own recognizance and, at a minimum, ensure she is not sent back to jail while the case is being reviewed by the Foreign Ministry. We will continue to pursue this case with the Hanoi government.

You mentioned ten other U.S. citizens or lawful residents who may be imprisoned in Vietnam. We are aware of only five. In each of these cases, our consular officers visited the imprisoned individuals, most recently in April and August, and are doing their utmost to protect each against possible abuses.

Anthony Lake, my National Security Advisor, raised the issue of human rights protections during his July visit to Vietnam. You can be sure we will continue our dialogue on human rights issues and press for Vietnam's adherence to international norms of human rights protection and expression of political views.

I share your interest in providing the best possible services for Americans who are arrested or otherwise harmed during overseas travel. My Administration will continue to respond to each and every case, quickly and thoroughly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T Bin". The letters are stylized and cursive.

The Honorable Howard L. Berman
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0531

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 24, 1996

Dear Earl:

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I share your interest in providing the best possible services for Americans who are arrested or otherwise harmed during overseas travel. My Administration will continue to respond to each and every case, quickly and thoroughly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill", written in a cursive style.

The Honorable Earl F. Hilliard
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0107

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 24, 1996

Dear Representative Ehlers:

Thank you for your letter concerning the case of Mrs. Binh Tran and the need to protect American citizens arrested abroad. The task of helping Americans who are arrested overseas is one of the most important responsibilities of the State Department and our embassies. We are committed to fulfilling this responsibility, which includes periodic visits by consular officers, monitoring emergency dietary and medical needs and acting as a liaison with family members. This is true whether the American is arrested in Vietnam or elsewhere.

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I share your interest in providing the best possible services for Americans who are arrested or otherwise harmed during overseas travel. My Administration will continue to respond to each and every case, quickly and thoroughly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

The Honorable Vernon, J. Ehlers
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-2205

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ID 9605597

REFERRAL

DATE: 27 AUG 96

MEMORANDUM FOR: WH STRIPPING DESK

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

TO: BERMAN, HOWARD L

SOURCE: PRESIDENT

DATE: 24 AUG 96

SUBJ: LTR RE CASE OF BINH TRAN & NEED TO PROTECT AMERICAN CITIZENS

ABROAD

REQUIRED ACTION: FOR DISPATCH

DUE DATE: 28 AUG 96

COMMENT:

FOR



JOHN W. FICKLIN

NSC RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICE

5597

Millison, Cathy L.

From: Millison, Cathy L.
To: @ASIA - Asian Affairs
Cc: /R, Record at A1; @CROSS - Cross Hatches
Subject: #5597-Congressional Letter [UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Monday, August 26, 1996 10:18AM

Package #5597 has been signed by the President. However, the additional letters were not prepared before the package went to the President. I will send you a copy of the signed package and diskette. Please prepare the additional letters and labels and return them to our office along with the diskette as soon as possible.

Thanks.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 23, 1996

96 AUG 23 8:44

16 AUG 26 8:44

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ANTHONY LAKI ✓
JOHN HILLEY 14

SUBJECT: Congressional Letter on Vietnam Human Rights
Issues

Purpose

To reply to Congressional correspondence concerning the issuance of an exit visa for Binh Tran and other issues related to human rights practices.

Background

Several Representatives wrote you urging our intervention on behalf of Mrs. Binh Tran in her efforts to secure an exit visa from Vietnam. The letter also urges the Administration to condition further "normalization" of our relations with Vietnam on the immediate release of all prisoners and improvements in human rights practices.

The proposed reply reviews the Binh Tran case and reports on our efforts to address similar cases, as well as broader human rights issues.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letters at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Letters to Congress
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

Signed 8/24/96

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

7

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

5597

August 15, 1996

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY LAKE

FROM: SANDRA J. KRISTOFF *SJK*
SUBJECT: Congressional Letter on Vietnam

Several Representatives wrote the President urging that he intervene on behalf of Mrs. Binh Tran in her efforts to secure an exit visa from Vietnam. The letter also urges the Administration to condition further "normalization" of our relations with Vietnam on the immediate release of all prisoners and improvements in human rights practices.

The proposed reply reviews the Binh Tran case and reports on our efforts to address similar cases as well as broader human rights issues.

Concurrence by: *ELW* Eric Schwartz, Alan Kreczko *18/5* Bill Danvers *18/5*
ron

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memo to the President at Tab I.

Attachments

Tab I Memo to the President
Tab A Letters to Members
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

5597

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515 96 AUG 12 P2:02

August 6, 1996

Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to urge that you take immediate action to persuade the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV) to allow the immediate departure from Vietnam of Mrs. Binh Tran, a United States citizen.

Mrs. Tran was imprisoned in October 1993 on charges of tax evasion. She has steadfastly maintained her innocence and has pursued all available legal remedies. According to her family, the charges were the result of a business agreement that did not work out to the satisfaction of SRV officials. Her family also reports that at the time of her imprisonment, SRV officials demanded \$15,000 for her release, but that she requested the family not comply with this demand. She was subsequently sentenced to four years in prison and a fine of \$180,000. Eventually, the family did pay the requested \$15,000, and she was released in October 1995. Although an appellate court has indicated that Mrs. Tran should be able to return to the United States pending further proceedings in her case, the SRV has refused to give her an exit permit.

At the time of Mrs. Tran's imprisonment she was two months pregnant. She lost her baby after being denied medical attention in prison. Among the reasons for her urgent request to return to the United States is her desire to receive medical attention here.

On June 6, Mrs. Tran received a notice that her fine had been increased to \$300,000, and that she would be re-imprisoned if she did not pay the entire amount.

There are currently at least ten United States citizens and lawful permanent residents imprisoned in Vietnam. Without pre-judging the merits of the case, we believe it is essential for United States diplomats in countries that are known to commit serious human rights violations to recognize that such violations are frequently perpetrated under the cover of legal process. When there is reason to believe that a United States citizen charged with a crime may be guilty only of displeasing a foreign government or official, the United States must take the strongest possible action to secure the release of our citizen and the protection

Honorable William J. Clinton

August 6, 1996

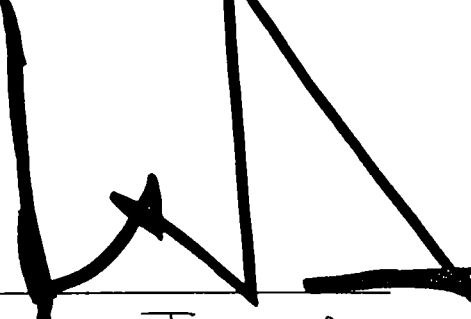
Page two

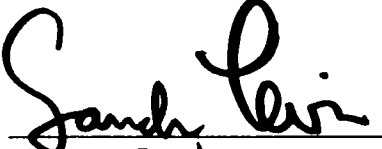
of his or her rights. We urge you to make it clear to the SRV that the immediate granting of an exit visa to Mrs. Tran, and the release of all unjustly imprisoned United States citizens - including human rights activists, religious leaders, and other persons of humanitarian interest to the United States - are essential to the continuation of normal relations between our two countries.

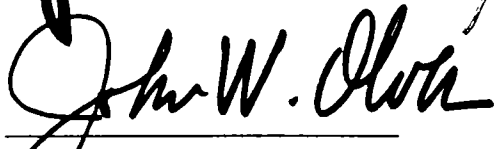
We look forward to your attention to this matter.

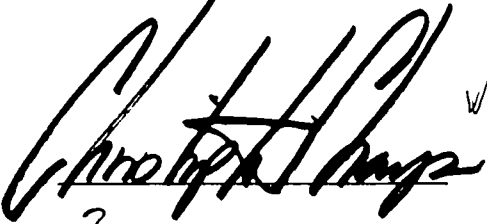
Sincerely,

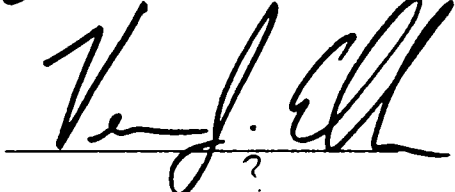

Ed Royce ✓

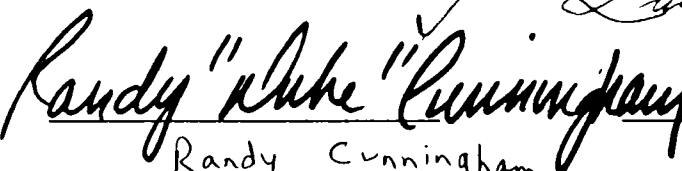

John Porter ✓


Sander Levin ✓


John W. Olver ✓

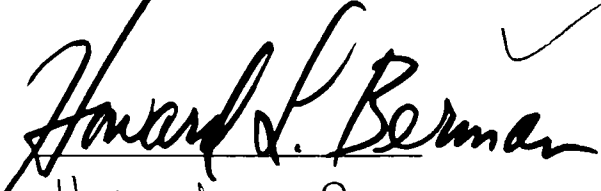

? ✓


? ✓


Randy Cunningham ✓


Lucille Roybal-Allard ✓


Tom Lantos ✓


Howard Berman ✓

Honorable William J. Clinton
August 6, 1996
Page three

William F. Jones ✓
?

Bill ✓
? Hilliard.

Chris Smith ✓
Chris Smith

Cynthia McKinney ✓
Cynthia McKinney

Zoe Lofgren ✓
Zoe Lofgren

5597

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 13, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR ANDREW SENS

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Attached are copies of correspondence sent to the President by members of Congress. Since these letters relate to national security issues, I would appreciate your assistance in drafting responses.

Thank you very much for your assistance. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris Walker at x67500.

The following is a brief description of each letter:

- 1) Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-CO), on behalf of several others concerning Presidential clemency for Richard Johnson;
- 2) Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA), Rep. Sander Levin (D-MI) and 13 others, concerning Mrs. Binh Tran's desire to leave Vietnam;
- 3) Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-CO), on behalf of several others concerning Presidential clemency for Richard Johnson;
- 4) Rep. Sam Gejdenson (D-CT), concerning exportability of U.S. software and hardware with DES-level strength encryption;
- 5) Sen. Don Nickles (R-OK), concerning a presidential greetings regarding the 900th anniversary of the First Crusade; and
- 6) Sen. Al D'Amato (R-NY), concerning exports of U.S. dairy products to Canada.

Enclosures