

Case Number: 2015-0530-S

SYSTEMATIC MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Original OA/ID Number: 4111				
Document ID: 0006856				
Row: 47	Section: 3	Shelf: 2	Position: 3	Stack: V

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 0006856
RECEIVED: 03 NOV 00 15

TO: BERGER

FROM: CHRISTY
PRITCHARD

DOC DATE: 15 DEC 00
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: VIETNAM
PRESIDENTIAL TRAVEL

HUMAN RIGHTS
CO

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: VIETNAM HUMAN RIGHTS

ACTION: SEE 0006691 FOR FINAL ACTION

DUE DATE: 15 NOV 00 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: CHRISTY

LOGREF: 0006691

FILES: PA

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: NSTCG

CLOSED BY: NSAMK

DOC 2 OF 2

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 0006856

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 CHRISTY
002 BERGER
002 CHRISTY
002

Z 00110315 PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
Z 00121811 FWD TO PRESIDENT FOR SIGNATURE
Z 00121918 FOR REDO
X 00122017 SEE 0006691 FOR FINAL ACTION

UNCLASSIFIED

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: ROBB, CHARLES S
MCCAIN, JOHN
FEINSTEIN, DIANNE

DOC DATE: 18 OCT 00
SOURCE REF: 431999

KEYWORDS: VIETNAM
PRESIDENTIAL TRAVEL

HUMAN RIGHTS
CO

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: SUPPORT RE UPCOMING POTUS TRIP TO VIETNAM

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER

DUE DATE: 15 NOV 00 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: CHRISTY

LOGREF:

FILES: PA

NSCP:

CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION
CHRISTY

FOR CONCURRENCE
LACKEY
NAPLAN

FOR INFO
DEROSA
HILLIARD
MALINOWSKI
PRITCHARD

*This letter will be answered as part of package
#6691. Please close out this package.
H3 12/20*

COMMENTS: IF FINAL REPLY CANNOT BE PREPARED BY DUE DATE, AN INTERIM RESPONSE
MUST BE PREPARED FOR MILES LACKEY'S SIGNATURE.

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSTCG

CLOSED BY:

DOC 1 OF 1

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510



431999

6856

October 18, 2000

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We welcome your decision to visit Vietnam in November, and believe the trip will be viewed as an historic, symbolic step towards further reconciliation between our two countries.

You have played an important role in improving our bilateral relations with Vietnam by deciding to lift the embargo in 1994 and normalizing full diplomatic relations a year later. We believe that your planned visit represents another opportunity to build on the progress of the past, particularly in areas where -- given the proper emphasis -- the Vietnamese leadership may be willing to institute meaningful changes that benefit the lives of all Vietnamese people. Specifically, we would strongly urge you to press for significant, realistic and tangible progress in human rights when you meet with President Luong, Prime Minister Khai and other senior officials.

We are strong supporters of the recently concluded free trade agreement, and look forward to working with the next Administration to gain its passage in the 107th Congress. At the same time, we are concerned that political reform has not kept pace with economic change in Vietnam. Greater progress in respect for internationally recognized human rights in Vietnam would simply undergird prospects for improving the overall relationship, and we hope that you emphasize that fact in your discussions with Vietnamese leaders.

You would be remiss in not giving Vietnam credit for steps taken in the area of human rights in the last twenty-five years, including the release of tens of thousands of re-education camp detainees, receiving Vietnamese refugees who had fled abroad and returned to Vietnam, and inviting UN human rights specialists to visit. Slowly, there has been some forward movement in allowing greater civil and political liberties for the people of Vietnam.

The broader record, however, remains a source of major concern. Basic rights of free expression and freedom of association are restricted. Certain religious organizations, democratic activists, and those who call for greater pluralism and an end to corruption all continue to be subject to imprisonment, surveillance, intimidation, and house arrest. The silencing of government critics is a sad testimony of the ongoing repression in Vietnam today.

9/16/00

9/16/00

We hope that you can privately raise, if not publicly, the following matters with Vietnamese officials:

- (1) Releasing prisoners of conscience who are being held for peacefully expressing their political or religious views;
- (2) Lifting restrictions on formerly imprisoned activists and religious leaders who continue to be harassed;
- (3) Inviting the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, which last visited Vietnam in 1994, to conduct a follow up visit to assess any progress to date;
- (4) Implementing the UN's recommendations on religious freedom, including the release of those imprisoned for their religious beliefs and activities and full restoration of their rights of citizenship, property, and residence permits;
- (5) Repealing the arbitrary Administrative Detention Decree that allows village level officials to detain anyone, without trial, for up to two years if they are considered to have violated national security laws;
- (6) Easing censorship and control of the media, for example by amending the 1993 Publishing Law authorizing pre-publication censorship "in necessary circumstances decided by the Prime Minister."

In return, it would make sense to offer our assistance where possible to assist Vietnam in certain areas. For example, as part of an effort to increase transparency in Vietnam's legal system, it would be appropriate to provide technical assistance to help reform Vietnam's criminal, press and national security laws. Pledging support for such programs through the World Bank, or even on a bilateral basis, would demonstrate our interest in helping Vietnam directly rather than simply offering our criticisms on human rights generally.

We recognize that the priority in our relations with Vietnam remains accounting for our POW-MIAs, building a strong economic relationship, and achieving better cooperation on a range of regional and international issues, and that these subjects will be the focal point of your meetings while in Vietnam. Our hope is that a serious discussion on human rights can occur indicating our desire to improve relations based on principles of freedom and fundamental human dignity as well as increased economic engagement.

Sincerely,

Chuck Robb

John McCain

Barbara Packer

Dianne Feinstein

Daniel R. Patrick

**NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
THE WHITE HOUSE**

PROOFED BY: _____

LOG # 6856

URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____

SYSTEM ~~ERS~~ INT ARS

BYPASSED WW DESK: _____

DOCLOG JW A/O CD

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
 GIRE	_____	_____	_____
HAAS	_____	_____	_____
POWELL	_____	_____	_____
BASH	<u>1</u>	<u>BD / 12/18</u>	_____
BRADTKE	_____	_____	_____
RUDMAN	_____	_____	_____
KERRICK	<u>2</u>	_____	_____
BERGER	_____	_____	_____
SITUATION ROOM	_____	_____	_____
WEST WING DESK	<u>2</u>	<u>12/19</u>	<u>ABC</u>
RECORDS MGMT.	_____	_____	_____
<u>ASIA - C. H. J. M.</u>	<u>3</u>	_____	<u>See Books</u> <u>note</u>

A = ACTION I = INFORMATION D = DISPATCH R = RETAIN N = NO FURTHER ACTION

100 DEC 19-11 11
CC:

COMMENTS:

EXEC SEC OFFICE HAS DISKETTE

Yes

Wasserman, Elaine P. (EXSEC)

From: Wasserman, Elaine P. (EXSEC)
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2000 4:58 PM
To: Christy, Gene B. (ASIA)
Cc: @ASIA - Asian Affairs; @EXECSEC - Executive Secretary
Subject: Packages 7291, 6691, and 6856 [UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Gene - subject packages (including diskettes) are on their way back to you. Please see Brooks note. Thanks.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

December 15, 2000

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL R. BERGER

THROUGH: JACK PRITCHARD 
FROM: GENE B. CHRISTY 
SUBJECT: Vietnam Human Rights: Reply to Senators Robb,
McCain, Boxer, Feinstein, and Akaka

Prior to the President's departure for Vietnam, Senators Robb, McCain, Boxer, Feinstein, and Akaka wrote to encourage him to press human rights issues with Vietnamese leaders during his visit. They also recommended that, in addition to raising specific issues, the President offer assistance to support transparency in Vietnam's legal system.

The Senators proposed six human rights matters to raise with Vietnamese leaders. These six areas were, in fact, discussed with Vietnamese Ambassador Le Bang in two meetings a month prior to the visit: on October 6 with State Department Deputy Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Bennett Freeman and on October 13 with Jack Pritchard and me. In both meetings, we indicated that progress on any or all of these issues, along with several others, prior to the President's visit would be consistent with our ongoing bilateral human rights dialogue and provide positive reference points during the visit. In the event, we believe the Vietnamese only took action on one of the issues raised by us and the Senators, i.e., release of a handful of prisoners of conscience as part of an amnesty announced in August. These prisoners of conscience had been identified by name during our bilateral human rights dialogue session in June, and both Bennett Freeman and we referred to the list of prisoners in meetings with Ambassador Le Bang because we were unaware of their release at that time.

In addition, both we and DAS Freeman urged the Vietnamese to complete their ratification of International Labor Organization Convention no. 182 (on the worst forms of child labor) prior to the visit. This issue was also included in the President's letter to President Luong two weeks before the visit. The

Vietnamese completed their ratification process on November 18. The President cited this achievement in his meetings, and it was noted in our public affairs efforts.

With respect to bilateral or multilateral support to increase transparency in Vietnam's legal system, our initial efforts are directed to commercial and labor law reforms. A part of the \$6 million in USAID technical assistance to support implementation of the Bilateral Trade Agreement will go for commercial law changes. And State's DRL Bureau is underwriting technical assistance in industrial and labor relations law. These efforts should contribute to building rule of law in the domestic economic and labor sectors that can set the stage for reform in other realms of Vietnamese society.

In his response to the Senators, the President notes that he raised human rights in all of his meetings with Vietnamese officials, that he praised and urged continuation of our human rights dialogue, and that he underscored his strong belief in the connection between economic growth and greater openness that comes with respect for human rights. He also points out that the six specific matters of concern noted by the Senators were elements of our dialogue with Vietnamese officials before the visit and that they will remain on our agenda. Regarding assistance to support the rule of law, he confirms this as an emerging area of cooperation between the United States and Vietnam.

The NSC received the incoming correspondence on November 3, 2000. The delay in response is due to the press of other business before the visit and the volume of trip-related correspondence requiring action afterward.

Concurrence by: Steve Naplan, Dan Shapiro, Dan Rosen

306

RECOMMENDATION

That you approve the attached memorandum to the President

Attachments

- Tab I Memorandum to the President
- Tab A Letter to Senator Robb et al
- Tab B Incoming Correspondence

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER
GENE SPERLING
CHARLES M. BRAIN

SUBJECT: Reply to Senators Robb, McCain, Boxer, Feinstein, and
Akaka

Purpose

Reply to Senators Robb, McCain, Boxer, Feinstein and Akaka on
Vietnam human rights issues.

Background

Before your visit to Vietnam, the Senators wrote to encourage you to raise six specific human rights matters with Vietnamese officials. They also recommended that the United States bilaterally or multilaterally support programs to increase transparency in Vietnam's legal system.

In your response, you note that you raised human rights in all of your meetings with Vietnamese officials, that you praised and urged continuation of our human rights dialogue, and that you stressed your belief in the strong connection between economic growth and greater openness that comes with respect for human rights. You confirm that the six matters listed by the Senators were elements of the pre-visit agenda discussed with Vietnamese officials. You also point out that the technical assistance we will provide in commercial and labor law sectors should strengthen the rule of law with potential for spill over in other realms of Vietnamese society.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letters at Tab A

Attachments

Tab A Letters to Senator McCain et al
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Chuck:

Thank you for writing before my trip to Vietnam to share your views about human rights issues I should raise with Vietnamese officials. I believe we have opened a door with Vietnam to greater future cooperation on a range of issues, including human rights.

Human rights has been a fundamental component of normalization of our relations with Vietnam. In 1993, my Administration initiated a human rights dialogue process, and the eighth dialogue session took place in Washington in June. In that meeting, and in meetings with Vietnamese officials before my visit, we raised each of the matters you recommended. Indeed, the Vietnamese have this year released some prisoners of conscience and ratified the International Labor Organization convention no. 182 (on the worst forms of child labor).

During my visit, I raised human rights in all of my meetings with Vietnamese officials. I noted the value of our ongoing human rights dialogue process and urged that it be continued and deepened. I also made clear my belief in the strong connection between economic growth and greater openness that comes with respect for human rights.

Regarding your suggestion to expand our cooperation to encompass support for the rule of law, the United States is providing technical assistance to strengthen commercial and labor law. I believe this assistance will increase transparency in those sectors and eventually spill over into other realms of society.

Again, thank you for your letter and for your words of support.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Charles S. Robb
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-4603

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for writing before my trip to Vietnam to share your views about human rights issues I should raise with Vietnamese officials. I believe we have opened a door with Vietnam to greater future cooperation on a range of issues, including human rights.

Human rights has been a fundamental component of normalization of our relations with Vietnam. In 1993, my Administration initiated a human rights dialogue process, and the eighth dialogue session took place in Washington in June. In that meeting, and in meetings with Vietnamese officials before my visit, we raised each of the matters you recommended. Indeed, the Vietnamese have this year released some prisoners of conscience and ratified the International Labor Organization convention no. 182 (on the worst forms of child labor).

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Regarding your suggestion to expand our cooperation to encompass support for the rule of law, the United States is providing technical assistance to strengthen commercial and labor law. I believe this assistance will increase transparency in those sectors and eventually spill over into other realms of society.

Again, thank you for your letter and for your words of support.

Sincerely,

The Honorable John McCain
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science
and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-4603

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Barbara:

Thank you for writing before my trip to Vietnam to share your views about human rights issues I should raise with Vietnamese officials. I believe we have opened a door with Vietnam to greater future cooperation on a range of issues, including human rights.

Human rights has been a fundamental component of normalization of our relations with Vietnam. In 1993, my Administration initiated a human rights dialogue process, and the eighth dialogue session took place in Washington in June. In that meeting, and in meetings with Vietnamese officials before my visit, we raised each of the matters you recommended. Indeed, the Vietnamese have this year released some prisoners of conscience and ratified the International Labor Organization convention no. 182 (on the worst forms of child labor).

During my visit, I raised human rights in all of my meetings with Vietnamese officials. I noted the value of our ongoing human rights dialogue process and urged that it be continued and deepened. I also made clear my belief in the strong connection between economic growth and greater openness that comes with respect for human rights.

Regarding your suggestion to expand our cooperation to encompass support for the rule of law, the United States is providing technical assistance to strengthen commercial and labor law. I believe this assistance will increase transparency in those sectors and eventually spill over into other realms of society.

Again, thank you for your letter and for your words of support.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-0505

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Dianne:

Thank you for writing before my trip to Vietnam to share your views about human rights issues I should raise with Vietnamese officials. I believe we have opened a door with Vietnam to greater future cooperation on a range of issues, including human rights.

Human rights has been a fundamental component of normalization of our relations with Vietnam. In 1993, my Administration initiated a human rights dialogue process, and the eighth dialogue session took place in Washington in June. In that meeting, and in meetings with Vietnamese officials before my visit, we raised each of the matters you recommended. Indeed, the Vietnamese have this year released some prisoners of conscience and ratified the International Labor Organization convention no. 182 (on the worst forms of child labor).

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Regarding your suggestion to expand our cooperation to encompass support for the rule of law, the United States is providing technical assistance to strengthen commercial and labor law. I believe this assistance will increase transparency in those sectors and eventually spill over into other realms of society.

Again, thank you for your letter and for your words of support.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-0504

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Dan:

Thank you for writing before my trip to Vietnam to share your views about human rights issues I should raise with Vietnamese officials. I believe we have opened a door with Vietnam to greater future cooperation on a range of issues, including human rights.

Human rights has been a fundamental component of normalization of our relations with Vietnam. In 1993, my Administration initiated a human rights dialogue process, and the eighth dialogue session took place in Washington in June. In that meeting, and in meetings with Vietnamese officials before my visit, we raised each of the matters you recommended. Indeed, the Vietnamese have this year released some prisoners of conscience and ratified the International Labor Organization convention no. 182 (on the worst forms of child labor).

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Regarding your suggestion to expand our cooperation to encompass support for the rule of law, the United States is providing technical assistance to strengthen commercial and labor law. I believe this assistance will increase transparency in those sectors and eventually spill over into other realms of society.

Again, thank you for your letter and for your words of support.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Daniel K. Akaka
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1103

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510



431999

6856

October 18, 2000

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We welcome your decision to visit Vietnam in November, and believe the trip will be viewed as an historic, symbolic step towards further reconciliation between our two countries.

You have played an important role in improving our bilateral relations with Vietnam by deciding to lift the embargo in 1994 and normalizing full diplomatic relations a year later. We believe that your planned visit represents another opportunity to build on the progress of the past, particularly in areas where -- given the proper emphasis -- the Vietnamese leadership may be willing to institute meaningful changes that benefit the lives of all Vietnamese people. Specifically, we would strongly urge you to press for significant, realistic and tangible progress in human rights when you meet with President Luong, Prime Minister Khai and other senior officials.

We are strong supporters of the recently concluded free trade agreement, and look forward to working with the next Administration to gain its passage in the 107th Congress. At the same time, we are concerned that political reform has not kept pace with economic change in Vietnam. Greater progress in respect for internationally recognized human rights in Vietnam would simply undergird prospects for improving the overall relationship, and we hope that you emphasize that fact in your discussions with Vietnamese leaders.

You would be remiss in not giving Vietnam credit for steps taken in the area of human rights in the last twenty-five years, including the release of tens of thousands of re-education camp detainees, receiving Vietnamese refugees who had fled abroad and returned to Vietnam, and inviting UN human rights specialists to visit. Slowly, there has been some forward movement in allowing greater civil and political liberties for the people of Vietnam.

The broader record, however, remains a source of major concern. Basic rights of free expression and freedom of association are restricted. Certain religious organizations, democratic activists, and those who call for greater pluralism and an end to corruption all continue to be subject to imprisonment, surveillance, intimidation, and house arrest. The silencing of government critics is a sad testimony of the ongoing repression in Vietnam today.

9/16/00

9/16/00

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- (1) Releasing prisoners of conscience who are being held for peacefully expressing their political or religious views;
- (2) Lifting restrictions on formerly imprisoned activists and religious leaders who continue to be harassed;
- (3) Inviting the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, which last visited Vietnam in 1994, to conduct a follow up visit to assess any progress to date;
- (4) Implementing the UN's recommendations on religious freedom, including the release of those imprisoned for their religious beliefs and activities and full restoration of their rights of citizenship, property, and residence permits;
- (5) Repealing the arbitrary Administrative Detention Decree that allows village level officials to detain anyone, without trial, for up to two years if they are considered to have violated national security laws;
- (6) Easing censorship and control of the media, for example by amending the 1993 Publishing Law authorizing pre-publication censorship "in necessary circumstances decided by the Prime Minister."

In return, it would make sense to offer our assistance where possible to assist Vietnam in certain areas. For example, as part of an effort to increase transparency in Vietnam's legal system, it would be appropriate to provide technical assistance to help reform Vietnam's criminal, press and national security laws. Pledging support for such programs through the World Bank, or even on a bilateral basis, would demonstrate our interest in helping Vietnam directly rather than simply offering our criticisms on human rights generally.

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Sincerely,

Chuck Robb

John McCain

Barbara Papp

Dianne Feinstein

Daniel R. Baker

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 3, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT A. BRADTKE
NSC Executive Secretariat

FROM: KAY CASSTEVENS
Legislative Affairs

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Attached are copies of letters sent to the President by various Members of Congress. Since these letters address national security issues, we would appreciate your assistance in drafting the responses.

Thank you very much for your assistance. If you have any questions, please call Courtney Crouch at x67500.

The following is a brief description of the letters:

- 1) Sen. Charles S. Robb (D-VA) and four other Senators, concerning the President's upcoming trip to Vietnam;
- 2) Sen. Fred Thompson (R-TN) and sixteen other Senators, concerning North Korea's status on the State Department's list of state sponsors of terrorism;
- 3) Sen. Paul David Wellstone (D-MN), concerning the temporary protected status (TPS) for Sierra Leone nationals currently residing in the United States;
- 4) Rep. Kenneth E. Bensten, Jr. (D-TX), Rep. Gene Green (D-TX) and Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX), recommending that Mr. Peter Nguyen, Mr. Scott K. Bui, and Mr. Nhan Tran accompany the President on his upcoming trip to Vietnam; and,
- 5) Rep. Tony P. Hall (D-OH), expressing his interest in joining the President on his possible upcoming trip to North Korea.

Enclosures

NOV 01357

**THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET**

ID# 431999
PAGE 1

DATE RECEIVED: 10/31/2000

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE CHUCK ROBB

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO PRESS FOR SIGNIFICANT, REALISTIC AND TANGIBLE PROGRESS
IN HUMAN RIGHTS WHEN HE MEET WITH PRESIDENT LUONG, PRIME MINISTER KHAI AND
OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS WHEN HE VISIT VIETNAM

		ACTION		DISPOSITION		
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C D	COMPLETED YY/MM/DD
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS	CHARLES "CHUCK" BRAIN	ORG	2000/10/31		C	00/11/03
ACTION COMMENTS						
NSC	Robert Bradtke		1/1			1/1
ACTION COMMENTS:						
			1/1			1/1
ACTION COMMENTS:						
			1/1			1/1
ACTION COMMENTS:						

COMMENTS

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: 4

MEDIA: LETTER

INDIVIDUAL CODES:

REPORT CODES:

USER CODES:

ACTION CODES:

A - APPROPRIATE ACTION
C - COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION
D - DRAFT RESPONSE
F - FURNISH FACT SHEET
I - INFO COPY/NO ACT NECESSARY
R - DIRECT REPLY W/ COPY
S - FOR SIGNATURE

DISPOSITION CODES:

A - ANSWERED
B - NON-SEPC-REFERRAL
C - COMPLETED
S - SUSPENDED

OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

TYPE RESP = INITIALS OF SIGNER
CODE = A
COMPLETED = DATE OF OUTGOING

**REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT (ROOM 72, OEOB) EXT-62590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO
RECORDS MANAGEMENT.**

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: ROBB, CHARLES S
MCCAIN, JOHN
FEINSTEIN, DIANNE

DOC DATE: 18 OCT 00
SOURCE REF: 431999

KEYWORDS: VIETNAM
PRESIDENTIAL TRAVEL

HUMAN RIGHTS
CO

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: SUPPORT RE UPCOMING POTUS TRIP TO VIETNAM

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER

DUE DATE: 15 NOV 00 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: CHRISTY

LOGREF:

FILES: PA

NSCP:

CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION
CHRISTY

FOR CONCURRENCE
LACKEY
NAPLAN

FOR INFO
DEROSA
HILLIARD
MALINOWSKI
PRITCHARD

COMMENTS: IF FINAL REPLY CANNOT BE PREPARED BY DUE DATE, AN INTERIM RESPONSE
MUST BE PREPARED FOR MILES LACKEY'S SIGNATURE.

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSTCG

CLOSED BY:

DOC 1 OF 1

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4603

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Charles S. Robb

U.S. SENATE
RECEIVED
OCT 26 AM 7:58

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

6666666666666666

LOG # 6856

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

FM DB To DK DATE 12/18

I recommend you approve for SRB

FM _____ To _____ DATE _____

Indeed, the Vietnamese have ^{this year} released some

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

6856
edit
made
12-16
[signature]

Plus
ADDITIONAL
letters

Dear Chuck:

Thank you for writing before my trip to Vietnam to share your views about human rights issues I should raise with Vietnamese officials. [Thank you, too, for expressing support for the visit and its objectives.] I believe we have opened a door to greater future cooperation on a range of issues, including human rights.

Human rights has been a fundamental component of normalization of our relations with Vietnam. In 1993, my Administration initiated a human rights dialogue process. ^{with Vietnam} The eighth dialogue session took place in Washington in June. In that meeting, and in meetings with Vietnamese officials before my visit, we raised ^{each} all of the matters you recommended and several others, as well. [We know of some releases of prisoners of conscience, and [the Vietnamese] ratified ^{the} International Labor Organization convention no. 182 (on the worst forms of child labor).]

^{During my visit,} I raised human rights in all of my meetings with Vietnamese officials. I noted the value of our ongoing human rights dialogue process and urged that it be continued and deepened. I also made clear my belief in the strong connection between economic growth and greater openness that comes with respect for human rights.

Regarding your suggestion to expand our cooperation to encompass support for the rule of law, the United States is providing technical assistance to strengthen commercial and labor law. I believe this assistance will increase transparency in those sectors and eventually spill over into other realms of society.

Again, thank you for your ^{letter and for your} words of support [and your advice.]

Sincerely,

The Honorable Charles S. Robb
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-4603

PRESIDENTIAL/NSA CORRESPONDENCE

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

ACTION OFFICER: Christy

LOG NUMBER: 6856

DUE DATE: Nov. 15

DATE STAFFED: Nov. 3

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO:



PRESIDENT



NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

FROM: Casper, Robb et al

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.