

**NATIONAL
SECURITY COMMITTEE**
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Research and Development
Subcommittee

**PERMANENT
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE**
Chairman,
Subcommittee on Technical
and Tactical Intelligence

**United States
House of Representatives**



Robert K. Dornan

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CONGRESSIONAL TASK FORCES:
Narcotics Abuse and Control Caucus
Property Rights Coalition
Human Rights Caucus

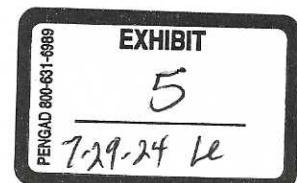
April 30, 1996

The Honorable Jacqueline L. Williams-Bridger
Inspector General
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520
Fax: 202-647-7660

Dear Mrs. Williams-Bridger:

I am concerned that there may be a conflict of interest involving a private organization that is receiving funding from the Department of State to conduct projects overseas. Beginning in January 1996, I have received an overwhelming number of telephone calls and letters from respected Vietnamese-American leaders in my district and across the United States. Specifically, they have expressed their opposition to federal government funding of the private 501(c)3 organization Southeast Asia Resource Action Center -- formerly known as the Indochina Resource Action Center (IRAC). Their concerns include:

- 1) An interview of Mr. Le Xuan Khoa, director of SEARAC, was published in a communist Vietnamese government newspaper (see enclosed) where he indicated his intention to mobilize the Vietnamese-American community to support the Hanoi regime;
- 2) Tax returns of SEARAC which I have acquired show that the organization has received funding for political activity in Laos;
- 3) Allegations of Mr. Khoa's involvement with private business activities in Vietnam, which may pose a conflict of interest;
- 4) Mr. Khoa's involvement with private international organizations, such as Ben Vung in Canada, may pose a conflict of interest; and
- 5) Mr. Khoa's self-promotion as a "Ph.D." However, he recently admitted that he does not have such a degree. His misrepresentation of academic credentials may have resulted in his receiving State Department grants over competing applicants.



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I hereby request that your Inspector General's office investigate these matters and provide me with the following information by May 30, 1996:

First, all records and documents related to any State Department-funded project involving SEARAC or Mr. Le Xuan Khoa. Second, all records related to the competitive bidding process regarding funding obtained by SEARAC or Mr. Khoa. Third, diplomas and other certification of Mr. Le Xuan Khoa's academic credentials. Fourth, all documentation regarding federal laws related to lobbying efforts by 501(c)3 agencies. And Fifth, all documentation regarding SEARAC and Mr. Le Xuan Khoa's relationship, lobbying or advocating for the interest of a foreign government.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me through my assistant, Mr. Al Santoli, at 225-2965.

Sincerely,



Robert K. Dornan
Member of Congress

/enclosures