

July 25, 1995

Hi Joseph,

Dan told me that Dr. Khoa is not going to testify, nor will Hiram Ruiz, but someone from World Learning. If that's the case, then we already know his position. World Learning, World Education and Save the Children form a Consortium in Vietnam, headed by Robert Stocker, the one who initiated the fax to Senator Lautenberg.

I doubt that this witness does not know much about the broad issue of refugee protection. His organization only provides educational services to returnees in Vietnam. I have checked with former employees of the Consortium in Vietnam. In their opinion, the fax to Lautenberg contains many overstatements.

However, that might be irrelevant. I believe that this witness would have to agree that those who fear persecution should not be sent back; that, considering the gross mistakes and abuses in screening, there is a great likelihood that thousands of refugees had been wrongly screened out; and that the only way to identify them is to review all the claims.

I also would like to submit the following questions for Kyle Horst.

1. How many returnees had you personally visited in the capacity of UNHCR monitoring officer?
2. In general how long after their return to Vietnam, did you visit these returnees?
3. How many returnees had received repeated visits from you?
4. In November of last year, the European Community (EC) decided to fold its reintegration program in Vietnam, reportedly after finding out that it was a failure. Why is the EC's assessment of its own program differs so much from the UNHCR's?
5. Do you think the UNHCR is equipped to protect refugees, who might be wrongly screened out and repatriated, against persecution in Vietnam? What would UNHCR be able to do in the case they are imprisoned or harassed? What has the UNHCR done to protect those currently imprisoned in first asylum countries?
6. Currently the UNHCR does not have the mandate nor obligation to monitor forced returnees. Yet, there are reasons to believe that those who fear persecution the most would not return voluntarily and would be forcibly repatriated. If so, then the people at the highest risk would be the ones receiving the least attention, not to mention protection, from the UNHCR. Is that the case?
7. In view of the recent crackdown on the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam, do you think religious leaders who had been vocal prior to their escape, and who remain vocal in

the camps, can return in safety to Vietnam? Would they be allowed to practice their religion in the name of the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam?

8. There are a number of asylum seekers who claim to have avoided re-education in 1975, or to have escaped from re-education camp. They then lived in hiding under a false identity until their eventual escape from Vietnam. Their identity has now been disclosed during screening and possibly to the Vietnamese Government. Would Vietnam waive punishment for these people, who had not paid their "blood debt", if they were repatriated?

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thaw", is written on the page.