MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 28, 1996
FROM: Alison Falt, IndoChinese Case Manager
RE: LOST COMMANDOS, your memo to Richard Hogan of USCC
TO: Khuc Minh Tho, President of Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association

Mr. Hogan copied your memo of March 25, 1996 to my agency. Subsequently, I forwarded the memo to my affiliates. As a result, the director of my World Relief office in San Jose, CA has contacted me. He believes that San Jose would be an excellent site to resettle lost commandos. He states that there are at least thirty families there willing to sponsor cases. Many of these families are close relatives of the commandos.

Please advise what the criteria is for selecting sites for commando resettlement.

Thank you.
MEMORANDUM

March 27, 1996

FOR: Mr. Richard Hogan
Migration and Refugee Services
United States Catholic Conference

FROM: Mrs. Khuc: Minh Tho
Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association

SUBJECT: Sites for Resettlement of the Lost Commandos

REF: (A) Your Memo Dated March 26, 1996
(B) My Letter to You Dated March 25, 1996

Thanks for your memo requesting our Association's recommendations for additional locations for resettlement of the lost commandos. In addition to Phoenix, we suggest Philadelphia and Atlanta. The addresses for points of contacts of Vietnamese communities and Former Political Prisoners Associations in those cities are as follows:

(1) Philadelphia:
Mr. Nghia Nguyen, President
Vietnamese Former Political Prisoners Friendship Association
Tel: (215) 878-3724
(Fax): (610) 734-3389

(2) Atlanta:
Mr. Ha Van Son
Secretary General
Vietnamese Community of Georgia
(Tel): (770) 455-1060

Again, thanks for your help in identifying promising locations for the resettlement of the lost commandos and good luck in your meeting today. Please let me know the results of the meeting as soon as possible. Warm Regards.
DATE: 3/26/96
NUMBER OF PAGES: 3

TO: Mrs. Khue Minh Tho
LOCATION: Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association
FAX NUMBER: 202-204-0394

FROM: Dick Hogan
LOCATION: MRS/NY
FAX NUMBER: (212) 387-8601

COMMENTS:
Last Congress - Additional placement sites needed.

Thanks for your help with this Mrs. Tho.
MEMORANDUM

TO: Mrs. Khue Minh Tho
FROM: Dick Hogan
SUBJECT: "Lost Commandos"
DATE: March 26, 1996

Thank you for your letter of March 25 concerning the resettlement of the subject cases. It was also good speaking to you about the importance of refugee self-sufficiency through early employment. There is no question that employment can be obtained even when refugees do not speak English because employers do provide technical English classes on the job or arrange for non-English speakers to work closely with a "buddy" - someone who has adjusted to the work place and who speaks the language of the newly arriving refugee.

I am in agreement with you that Phoenix would be a good placement site for some of this group of refugees. The voluntary agencies have each established solid programs, which are well-experienced in providing both quality resettlement services and excellent employment opportunities. Between the several agencies there, I suspect Phoenix should be able to resettle a significant number of the 300 or so remaining refugees in this particular sub-group.

Placement of all 300 "lost commandos" and their families in one city, however, may not be in best interest of the refugees. So many persons arriving in one city may over tax the community's ability to find adequate resources for the entire group. It is for this reason that I suggest we jointly identify at least two or three other cities in the US where the voluntary agencies have strong programs and where you know your association would be willing to assist the voluntary agencies in the entire resettlement process.

To this end, I would appreciate it if you could provide me with a short list of two or three other sites wherein your association is active and willing to assist in the resettlement of this deserving refugee population. If you could fax me this list today, I would be sure that the voluntary agencies discuss the additional sites at tomorrow's Allocation Meeting at the Refugee Data Center. Hopefully, we can jointly come up with a few sites which will be able to provide the best possible resettlement and employment opportunities for this caseload.
To assist you in this process, I will ask Adriana Badaluta of my staff to call you later today to discuss this matter.

Thank you for your assistance.

cc: A. Botti
Mr. Richard Hogan  
Assistant Director  
Migration and Refugee Services  
902 Broadway, 8th Floor  
New York, New York 10010-6093

Dear Dick:

Thank you for your phone call of Friday, March 22, concerning the best locations for the resettlement of the special commando refugees. I welcomed your opinion that the Northern Virginia area is not best-suited for the resettlement of the special commandos.

I think we (You, Anita, Betsy, Ngoc-Dung and I) all agree that the Phoenix, Arizona area is well-suited for resettlement of this refugee group. My recent visit to Phoenix confirmed that the Vietnamese community there, which includes two resettled commandoes as well as an active former political prisoner association, is most supportive of helping the resettlement of the special commandos. We also know that the job-market in the Phoenix area offers many employment opportunities for the resettled refugees and their family members at this time.

In its efforts to assist the resettlement of the lost commandos, the Vietnamese community will need the cooperation and coordination of the USCC diocese in Phoenix. Our association considers it most important that your office keep in touch with us about the program in general to assist the resettlement of the commandos. Our association needs to know when and where the special commandos will be resettled as soon as those decisions are made so that we can coordinate our assistance with the local Vietnamese communities, as we discussed at our meeting with Anita on March 6.
For those commandos to be resettled in Phoenix, we suggest that USCC in Phoenix contact Mr. Bui Minh Nga, who is the President of the Former Political Prisoners Association there. Mr. Nga’s home and work address and phone numbers are as follows:

Mr. Bui Minh Nga  
4630 West San Miguel Avenue  
Glendale, Arizona 85301  
(602) 937-4845 (Home)  
(602) 438-4220 (Office)

The members of this Association and the Vietnamese Community who assist are all volunteers.

We in the Association understand that some of the lost commandos have already been resettled in the state of Georgia. At this time we do not have specific information on the outcome of these resettlements, specifically the success in post-resettlement employment.

Again, our Association thanks you and the USCC for your continued help for these unfortunate people and we look forward to working with you in the resettlement of the lost commandos. We hope that your meeting this Wednesday in New York will secure promising locations for their resettlement. Along with the State Department, we all share a concern that the commandos are resettled in locations that offer the best hope for successful resettlement.

Warm regards,

Khuc Minh Tho  
President