



VIETNAMESE FEDERATION OF SAN DIEGO

Hiệp Hội Người Việt San Diego

7833 Linda Vista Road San Diego, CA 92111

Email: info@vietfederationsd.org Website: www.vietfederationsd.org

President George W. Bush
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington DC 20500

Re: Nguyen Minh Triet's visit

Dear President Bush,

Vietnam's communist politburo number two Nguyen Minh Triet will visit Washington and meet with you on June 22, 2007. From a news report, during an interview, Mr. Triet said he will lobby for further economic concessions from the U.S after Vietnam's gain of PNTR status and its access to WTO. Mr. Triet's agenda during his visit will conform to the U.S. foreign policy of economically engaging failed states with the pretext that free market economy's values would induce a political openness and an ensuing democracy.

The reality has proven the contrary. China's and Vietnam's communist leaderships have exploited the opportunity offered by the West to the hilt, hogging all financial aids and money-making means of free markets while tightening their grips on power with the newly found riches. In both societies, the halfhearted free markets have been producing an increasing inequality and a greater division between the rich and the poor. The economic engagement pretext of elevating the poor is being stonewalled by the ramparts of totalitarianism and the germination of the middle class, a much touted catalyst of democracy, is being foiled.

Furthermore, this engagement debacle downgrades the so-called transformational leadership of your administration; it reminisces backward America's foreign policies of last century - its loathsome cooperation with junta extremists at the expense of poor people. People in Berlin, in Tirana, in Hanoi, etc., either liberated or still under oppression, mobbed America's presidents and cheered them on because they're the ones and only capable champions of freedom and human rights. This honor, America has dearly earned with millions of its valiant sons and daughters lost on the beaches of Normandy, in the remote islands of the Pacific, under the torrential monsoons of Vietnam, or in the delirious heat of Iraq. It can't be betrayed by any economic shortsightedness.

Last and worse, America's present and future enemies are no longer contained economically and financially as during the Cold War. Under the facade of peaceful engagement for buying time and technologically catching up with America, they relentlessly utilize its market and financial system to accumulate wealth. At the same time, they continue to deny its values, gang up in a network of failed regimes, and torpedo its foreign policies to their advantage. Their latest tactics, as in the IEDs, the poisoning with alpha-radiating polonium, the space pollution, are astonishing revelations of redoubtable, asymmetric challenges to America's security. It would be unwise, if not suicidal, for America to continue to finance failed states with economic engagement without their firm and verifiable commitments to building true democracies.

We, the Vietnamese-American community of San Diego, have always been agreeing with your righteous, spectacular remark after the 9/11 tragic event: "Either you are with us or you are against us!" This should be a non-negotiable condition on Mr. Triet and his politburo on June 22, 2007 before any further deal is granted.

Respectfully yours,

Tiet Tran
President

Cc: Senator Harry Reid – Senate Majority Leader
Senator Mitch McConnell – Senate Minority Leader
Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi – Speaker of the House