Appendix 3

Petition of the Vietnamese Refugees at Wacol Hostel, Brisbane

Addressed to:

Federal Minister for Immigration

Minister for Labor

Minister for Social Welfare Minister for Education Minister for Health

Refer to p. 75 para 5.98

many of ship o

The think nguyên của người ty nan Việt Nam tại wacol Hostel - Bro Pane.

ting got 0.0. Be Thing Di The hen Bong, Cantorna,
Be Thing be XX Hoi

Be Thing be y Te

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ting this ony Vi,

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B. Vande las ting:

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- * " Mot so rector so co' dry trios lusar luyan lai te tam mot con nece mor neu do musi "(ty3)
- 3. " Ching phi se het mic gray to the care ban harf upter thing hop is the namy rather yhuan and care ban > (ty 7.8)
- van van, the co met be they to her sac biet?"

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 - 20 Do voi your much co yhe chuyan min:
 - troc to true your to eving yhip,
 - Scan to trive de dans than when no hor tai car turn a chungan of high hay tai ca's as xun, xi'nghip ear ti.

-41

30 Napout ra, co 1 so gou the ning down much there cap not want but which the try wind only theo the very.

e. Van de Ka Hai

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but wie lam ma li co vo lust va mat the cap dans

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-5/

2º "Cae bria an và tiên yhi mien phi" (tai bien, tray 4).

3: Mich thur living bong cho whiting người ty nan, neu to lam, trong vong 1 nam.

49 Van phay ka Hon to wacol Hostel hoat day trong wat nam. (Vi clump to whe was saip day and).

C. Wacol Hostel.

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10 Can co met thing hid wenting Vist lain see this van plung brand clear Ward Hostel (Co thing had view tai plung time View, nhưng qua ban the gray chung tim tai kai kai kai plung the tai kai kai plung the party change.

20 Can co một pháng ý tế hoạt đông thường xuyển 30 Can thay don cách nấu cán và thực đôn hàng yay để thiết lượp và người ty năm Việt Nam, it what thay thời gian đầu.

4° Not ray grow se die don to ward Hostel ten ward Station also newing nguis to lain som vare the . (cany: 5320 - 8300; che som 6330)

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King thise Ony Vi,

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Trum try king chais any Vi

Day Dien

Dong by ten:

NZ-USÉN ĐƯC SÁCH

Petition of the Vietnamese Refugees at Wacol Hostel, Brisbane

English Translation

To: Federal Minister for Immigration
Minister for Social Welfare
Minister for Education
Minister for Health
Minister for Labour

Dear Sirs.

We the undersigned Vietnamese refugees temporarily residing at Wacol Hostel would first of all like to convey our sincere thanks to all of you for helping us to establish a new life in Queensland.

As refugees we have suffered very much in morale. We have lost all of our possessions, family and relatives. Moreover, we face many difficulties in establishing a new life within a totally different society. Therefore, owing to our special circumstances as refugees, we hope your Government will grant us further assistance.

In a spirit of constructive co-operation, we would like to raise the following:

A. Learning the Australian language This is our initial concern. The majority of us are not fluent in the Australian language. Based on the experience of those who are working we consider that:

- those of us who are working have no time to study the Australian language at the place of employment;
- those who are working have no time to pursue their studies at night because they are too tired;
- those who want employment must be able to speak Australian relatively well to avoid problems with the employer, and to obtain good work results;
- in particular, we must secure a basic grounding in the language in a very short time to enable us to have contact with Australians in all levels of society, and to be self-reliant in the social life of Australia within the shortest possible time.

With the above in mind we would like to suggest that all Australian language courses run for a minimum of one year period, and that during this time no one should be forced to go to work.

B. Problem of Labour

When we were residing in Malaysia and Singapore we were advised of the following points through the documents distributed by the Australian representative Mr Gibbons:

- a number of us would have the opportunity of being retrained for a new field of employment (page 3);
- the Government would do its utmost to find work commensurate with one's skills and experience (pages 7 and 8);
- there would be a special system of tertiary education available for the study of professional subjects (page 8).

We would like to offer the following recommendations:

For People Having Professional Qualifications

- For those who brought evidence of their professional qualifications with them, it is recommended that they be allowed to work within the field of their chosen profession, and if necessary, attend training courses before commencing work;
- For those who were unable to bring evidence of their professional qualifications, it is recommended that they be tested on their qualifications and, if necessary, be allowed to take supplementary studies.

People wanting to gain professional skills

- It is recommended that tests for vocational training be taken to enable further professional training, or employment in either the public or private sector;
- A number of families who were farmers would like to be granted a small piece of land so they can once again become productive and self-sufficient.

C. Problems of Social Welfare

From the time of our arrival, up to now, we have received no official guidance on questions such as finding, changing or terminating employment: taxation; child allowance; or other special allowances. As a consequence, a number of people have terminated their employment and become ineligible for certain allowances. They were considered as having broken the law.

According to the documents we have received, during the initial period 'all meals and accommodation were free of charge' (page 4). At the present time, however, all those who are employed have to pay a high weekly tariff. As a consequence there are many families with dependants who are earning less than when they were unemployed. Owing to the above we request that:

- 1. A general meeting be convened to notify the Vietnamese refugees of the duties and benefits which they are entitled before, at the time of, and after their employment; taxation; allowances and laws, etc., etc.;
- that meals and accommodation be free (page 4);

- 3. exemption of wage-tax for refugees, if they work, for one year;
- 4. the Social Welfare Office at the Wacol Hostel operate for one more year (we have heard it will cease to function soon).

D. Wacol Hostel

Wacol Hostel is the place where we permanently and directly reside at the present time. Many unfortunate occurrences have arisen in the past two months, and we believe the following requests must be raised:

- 1. A Vietnamese interpreter translator is required at the administration office at Wacol (there is a translator at the administrative office but he has been unable to help us because he is too busy);
- 2. a permanent Health Care Centre is needed;
- 3. a daily change in menu, and cooking suitable to Vietnamese at least in the initial period;
- extension of the transport schedule from Wacol Hostel to Wacol station for those who go to work early and come home late (morning from 5.30 a.m. to 8.00 a.m., afternoon from 3.00 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.);
- 5. the elimination of the discriminatory spirit of some staff members of the administrative office, so that everybody can be treated equally.

Dear Sirs,

We request your consideration of these recommendations so as to enable a broader administrative system in which to operate to meet the special and peculiar needs of refugees. We ask for whole-hearted support to be given to ways of overcoming our initial difficulties so that we might blend in with the rhythm of life in Australia.

We hope we will receive your opinions in the near future.

Please Sirs, accept our sincere gratitude.

Yours faithfully,

NGUYEN DUC SACH
Representative

Unanimously Signed

Copy of the Petition received by the Department of Labor and Immigration

COPY

I, START JAMES BRADLEY, GRADUATE OF NO 7 VIETNAMESE COURSE, RAAF SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES, POINT COOK, SOLEMNLY DECLARE THAT THE FOLLOWING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE TRANSLATION OF THE POINTERS RAISED BY VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ON SUNDAY, 5th OCTOBER, 1975. WHERE THIS TRANSLATION DIFFERS FROM THE TEXT, IT FOLLOWS THE TAPE RECORDED REPORT.

STUART J. BRADLEY 8th OCTOBER,1975

Naturally, as refugees, we have suffered greatly, morale wise as well as having lost all possessions, family and relatives. Even so, we are facing difficulties again here, in seeking to establish a new life, and settle in to a completely different society.

We hope the government will help us more because of the special circumstance of our being refugees. Thus in a spirit of constructive cooperation, we submit the following:

A. STUDY OF ENGLISH

This is the first concern of ours. The majority of us are not yet fluent in English. With the experience of those who have gone to work we note:

- 1/ They cannot study more at work
- 2/ At night they are too fatigued to take the evening classes.
- 3/ Only with a good grasp of English is it easy to work with high efficiency, and not cause trouble for those in charge.
- 4/ We need to be fluent in English as soon as possible, to be able to communicate under all circumstances, with all people, so that we can stand on our own two feet in the Australian society.

THEREFORE We suggest the following:-

a/ English classes extended for one year, and during this period no one be forced to work.

COPY

-2-

X, B, LABOUR

When in Malaysia and Singapore, through Mr
(Possibly Gibbons, or Florent, the latter being a Vietnamese interpreter who was in Malaysia and Singapore with the refugees, and handed out the document in question--- TRANS.NOTE) and through a document distributed, we were told by representatives of the Australian government that:

- 1/ A number of people would have the opportunity of retraining in a new trade if they so desire.
- 2/ The government will do all it can so that we would obtain work suitable to our capabilities and experience.
- 3/ For those who wish to study a trade, there
 is a special University system(Possibly Technical Colleges).
 WE SUGGEST
 - 1/ For those with a trade:
 - a. If they have their certificates, that they continue in their trade, and, if needed, study for a term to make them efficient prior to taking up their profession.
 - b. If they do not have their certificates, that they sit for an examination to assess their capabilities as a tradesman, and take a special supplementary course if needed.
 - 2/ For those who want to have a trade: Vocational guidance to be given, afterwhich it would be easier for them to go to Tech School, or in the workshop, business, private or public.
 - 3/ Furthermore there are a number of small who would appreciate a grant of a tract of land off wich to live, according to their skill.

C. SOCIETY.

Since the time we arrived, we have not been formally shown how to solve some problems, like finding, changing or terminating employment, renting a house, child endowment, special allowances and other miscellaneous problems.

COPY

- 3-

Because of this, a number of people have changed or terminated employment, and, it appears, quite unlawfully, and lost their original allowance. According to the document we received, we see that in the initial period, "You'll have free board and lodging" (p.4). However now everyone who goes to work has a rather large amount subtracted from his weekly pay,. A lot of large families, then, receive less than when they did not work.

BECAUSE of this, we suggest:

- 1. Call a meeting of all to explain/direct us on our rights and responsibilities as refugees in the following circumstances: before, during, and after working; re KRKING renting homes, allowances, rules and regulations etc ctc.
 - Free board and lodging, according to Page 4 of the document, at least for a period of one year,
 - Free rent for one who has found work, in that initial year.
 - 4. The Social Security Office at Wacol Hostel to continue activities for one year.

44 D. WACOL HOSTEL

Wacol Hostel is an organisation with which we have had continuous direct contact at present. In approximately two months \boldsymbol{x} living at Wacol, many regretful events have occurred, and we feel we should make the following suggestions:

- 1. There is a need for an Australian interpreter who speaks $^{\rm V}$ ietnamese to work at the Administration Office of Wacol Hostel.
- There is a need for an active Medical Centre, at all times, at Wacol Hostel.
- 3. There is a need to change the way of cooking the and daily menu, more suited to Vietnamese refugees, at least in the initial period.
- 4. Extend the hours of operation of the transport from Wacol Hostel to Wacol Station es-that those going to wer