

Brown, Melissa A

From: Alexander, Eric M (Hanoi)
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To: Bond, Michele T; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Fuller, Gerry W; Furuta-Toy, Julie A; Saint-Victor, Marc; Monahan, Katherine E; Brown, Melissa A; 'Michael.valverde@dhs.gov'; Overstrom, Kevin K
Cc: Aloisi, Jonathan M (Hanoi); Boduszynski, Monica A (Hanoi); Russell, Mary Ann X (Ho Chi Minh City); Mattingley, Donald G (Hanoi); Preston, Courtney M (Hanoi); Schwenk, Jeffrey C (Ho Chi Minh City); Michalak, Michael W (Hanoi); Lam, Monica M (Hanoi); DeLuca, Alexandra (Hanoi); Fairfax, Kenneth J (Ho Chi Minh City)
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(SBU) DNA Testing Notifying the GVN - We would appreciate the Department's and USCIS's guidance on timing and talking points for informing the GVN of the new DNA testing requirement. We expect that the GVN will have concerns about the requirement that birth parents travel to Hanoi or Ho Chi Minh City for DNA testing, especially given the travel time from more remote locations in Vietnam. Given the potential sensitivity, it is important that we notify the GVN before a public announcement of the program is made.

(SBU) DNA Testing ASP Comments - While the USCIS Memorandum has now been taken off bringourchildrenhome.org, we continue to receive questions and concerns from ASPs about the new program. Several ASPs have bluntly stated that they expect GVN officials will now document all cases as desertions to "get around the DNA testing requirement." Others have expressed concern that in some cases the children have been in the orphanage for more than two years and it may prove impossible to find the birth family. In replying to these concerns we would appreciate any talking points that CI has from our experience with DNA testing in Guatemala.

(SBU) Another Blocked Province - We regret to report that we have had further difficulties during consular investigations. The first issue occurred during an investigation by FPU HCMC in Can Tho. The investigating team arrived at the Children's Hospital to verify two desertion cases. The director of the hospital refused to assist the team and prevented them from speaking to hospital officials. The Foreign Affairs Office (ERO) in Can Tho then called the hospital and asked them to assist the team, but again the director refused.

Today an Embassy team was blocked in Ninh Binh province. When the team arrived at the orphanage, where we have conducted successful investigations in the past, they were asked to wait and meet with the director. The director then told the team that they were not welcome at the orphanage and that they needed permission from the provincial Department of Justice before they could visit the orphanage. The director also implied that even with such permission they would not be allowed to see orphanage records. The team then met with the district police to try and verify the child finder statements, and again were told they lacked the required permission and that they could not investigate cases.

(SBU) PM Visit Itinerary and Timing - The Ambassador was told by MFA today that the PM has accepted the President's invitation to visit the United States, and would like to undertake the trip during last ten days of June, with stops in Washington (first), Texas (second) and California (third). We believe that this visit and the discussions leading up to it will be helpful in making progress on a variety of adoption related issues including the status of the pipeline case and GVN commitment to Hague. We would appreciate CI's thoughts on what kind of assistance package we could put together to help Vietnam draft a new law and join Hague.