

B63

**Brown, Melissa A**

**RELEASED IN PART**

**From:** Alexander, Eric M (Hanoi) NR, B6, B7(C), B7(D), B2, B7(A)  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2008 6:44 AM  
**To:** Bond, Michele T; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Fuller, Gerry W; Furuta-Toy, Julie A; Saint-Victor, Marc; Monahan, Katherine E; Brown, Melissa A  
**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)  
**Subject:** Adoption OI

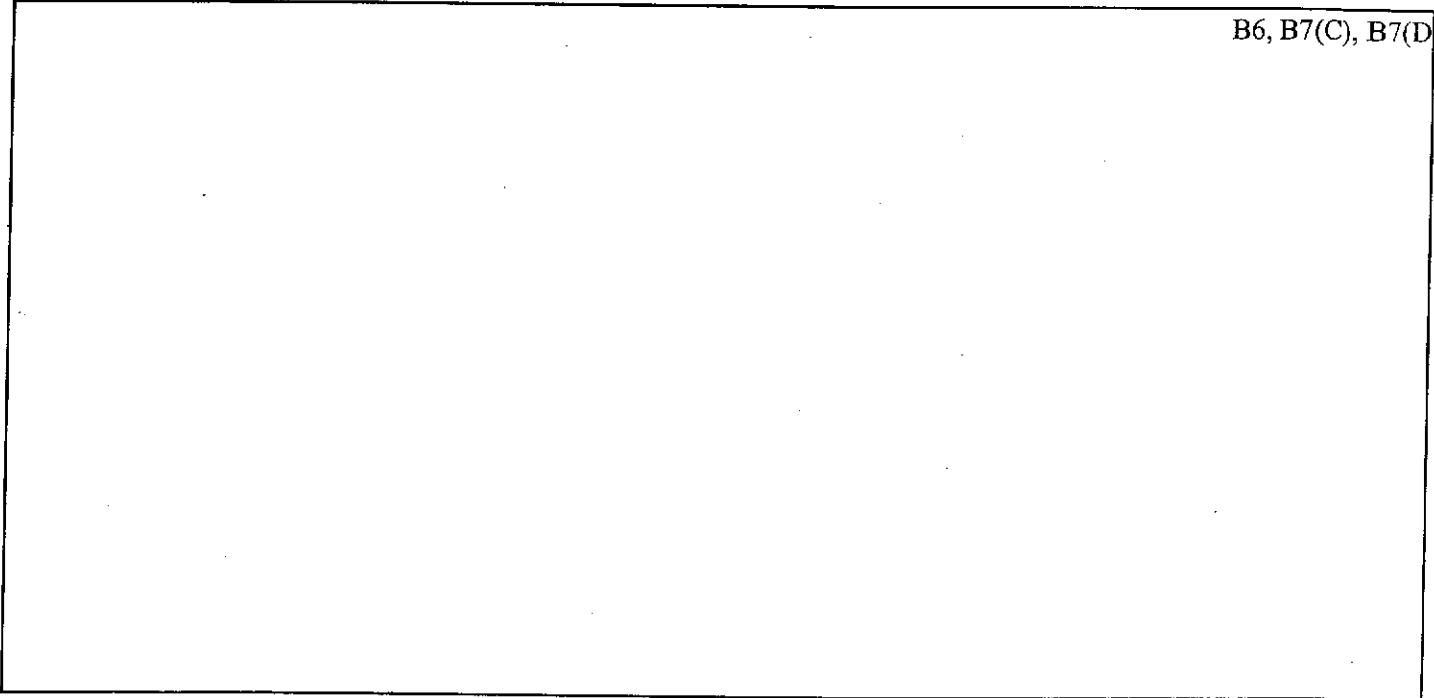
**SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED**

**OFFICIAL INFORMAL #005-08CA**  
**March 28, 2008**



N  
R

**(SBU) Delegation from Binh Tuan-** Post recommends that the CI meet with the visiting delegation from Binh Thuan province, as this meeting can provide a useful discussion on a range of adoption issues. The Department should be aware, however, that there has been a long history of problems in this province. As background, the local Vietnamese officials are traveling to the U.S. on the invitation of the Adoption Center of Washington (ACW), a U.S. Adoption Service Provider (ASP). Per the interviewing officers' remarks, ACW is paying all costs for the group. ACW is licensed in 2 Vietnamese provinces, Binh Thuan and Binh Duong. The only other U.S. ASP licensed to operate in Binh Thuan province is Children's Home Society and Family Services (CHSFS).



B6, B7(C), B7(D)

B7(D)

B7(D)

In February, ConGen HCMC's Fraud Unit attempted to investigate a few adoption cases in the province. When the investigating officer spoke with hospital officials and the birth mother, both confirmed that MPS officials had visited three days prior and informed that that Consulate officials would be coming and that they should report back to MPS following the Consulate's visit.

Fraud concerns in Binh Thuan are high, and there is serious concern that fraud is widespread amongst provincial-level officials – and may reach higher still. Post recommends stressing concerns over opaque accounting practices, the lack of a fee schedule, the poor conditions of the orphanage (despite the steady flow of ASP funds), and the nature of I-604 investigations.

B6, B7(C)

N  
R

**(SBU) Irish ASP View of Vietnam** - ConOff meet today with the Shanon O'Driscoll, Director of Irish Helping Hands, the Irish ASP in Vietnam. O'Driscoll stated that the her organization is concerned about corruption in the adoption system but felt that her agency had appropriate safe guards in place to prevent the financial abuses and child buying reported by us and US ASPs. She was quite blunt in her criticism that the US needed to do more to regulate ASPs, and that we could not expect Vietnam to provide sufficient oversight. She stated that the only way to endure transparency was for the receiving government to impose a schedule of fees, and require that all ASPs give a standard donation, regardless of the number of referrals. At the same time O'Driscoll was surprised to hear of our discovery of a safe house in [redacted] province she held up as a model. In an interesting side note, she stated that since the American ASPs pulled out of Thai Nguyen, there has been a sharp increase in the number of domestic adoptions in that province.

B2, B7(A)