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B7(A), B2, B6, B7(C)

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ACTION OCS-00

EII

INFO	LOG-00	CA-00	INL-00	EAP-00	DHSE-00	UTED-00	H-00
	TEDE-00	L-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	CAEX-00
	DOHS-00	STPD-00	VO-00	NCTC-00	FMP-00	ECA-00	SAS-00
	FA-00	/000W					

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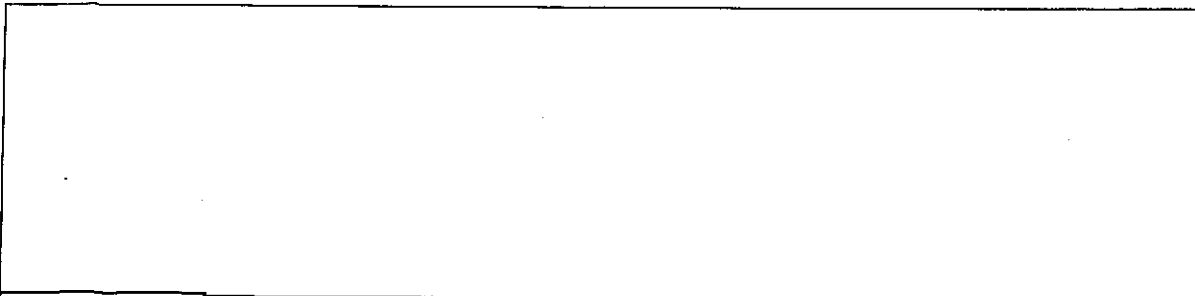
O 200557Z MAR 08
FM AMEMBASSY HANOI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7439
USCIS WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL HO CHI MINH
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

UNCLAS HANOI 000323

SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR CA/VO, CA/OCS/CI AND EAP/MLS
BANGKOK FOR USCIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: CVIS CASC CMGT KOCI VM
SUBJECT: VIETNAM ADOPTIONS: A CHILD FOR A PIG



B2, B7(A)

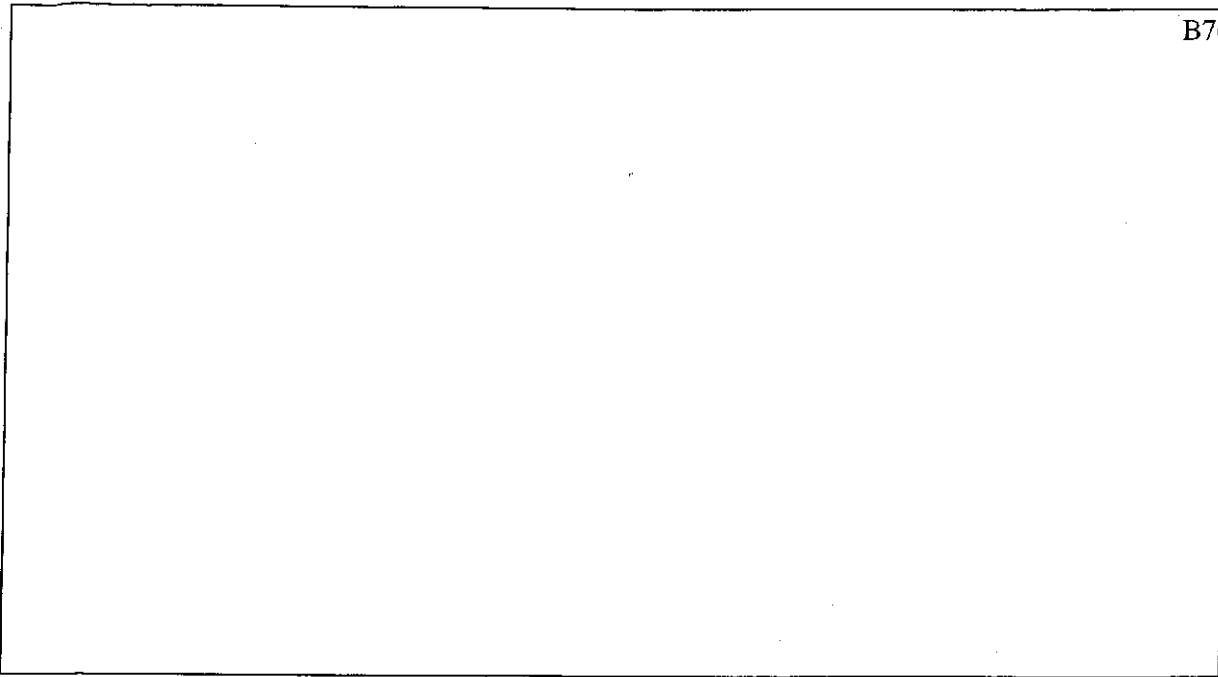
[Redacted] Evidence uncovered during this investigation provides further evidence to support the conclusion that fraud and corruption have become pervasive in the Vietnamese adoptions process and reinforces the need to better regulate and monitor U.S. adoption agencies. The current system of international adoptions from Vietnam fails to protect all groups: children, biological parents, and adopting parents. End summary.



B2, B7(A)



B2, B7(A)

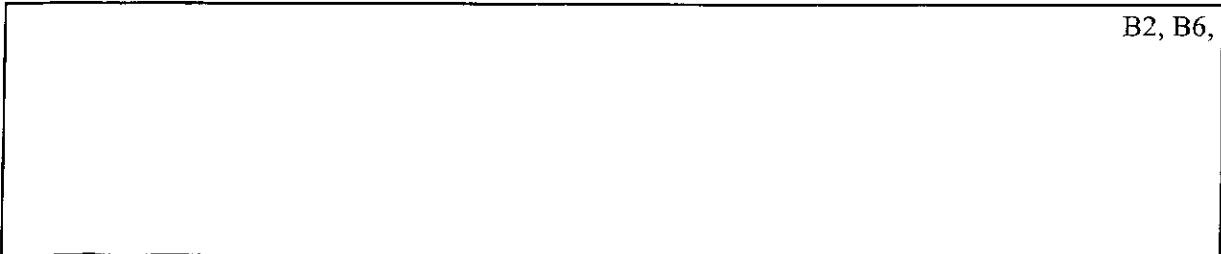
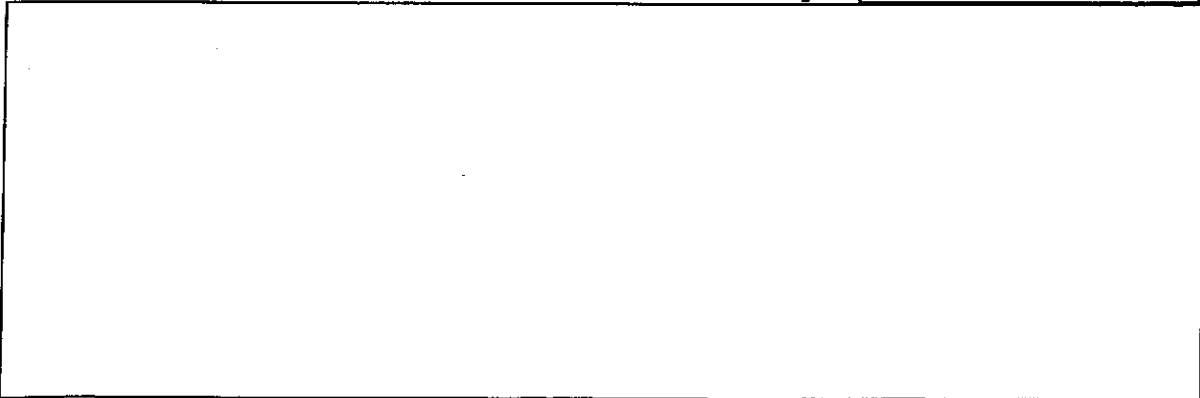


B7(C), B7(A), B2

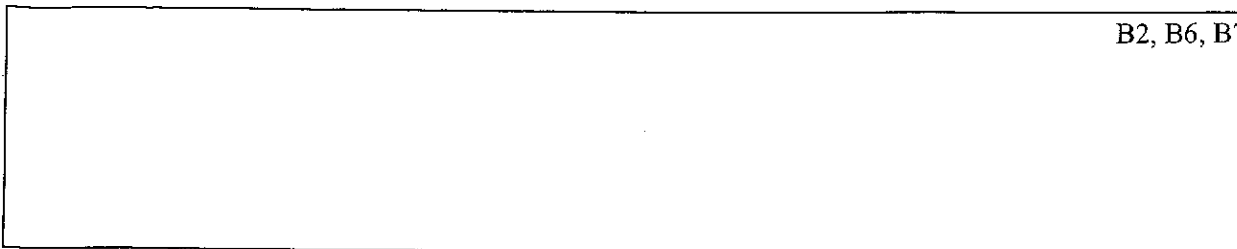
Case 1: Single Means Not Married

4. (SBU) While the assumptions and conclusions above can be considered based on trends or circumstantial information, we have uncovered evidence of wrongdoing linked to a number of specific cases, including on a recent verification trip.

B2, B6, B7(C), B7(A)

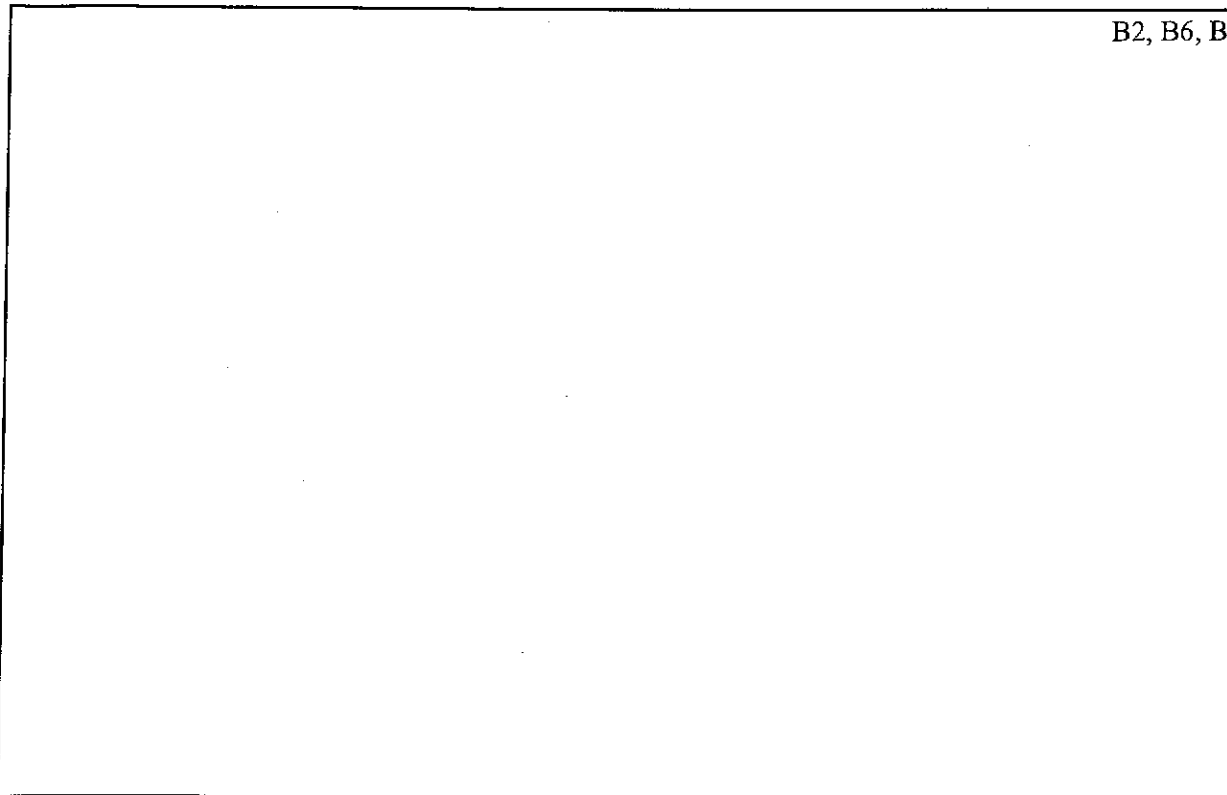


B2, B6, B7(A), B7(C)



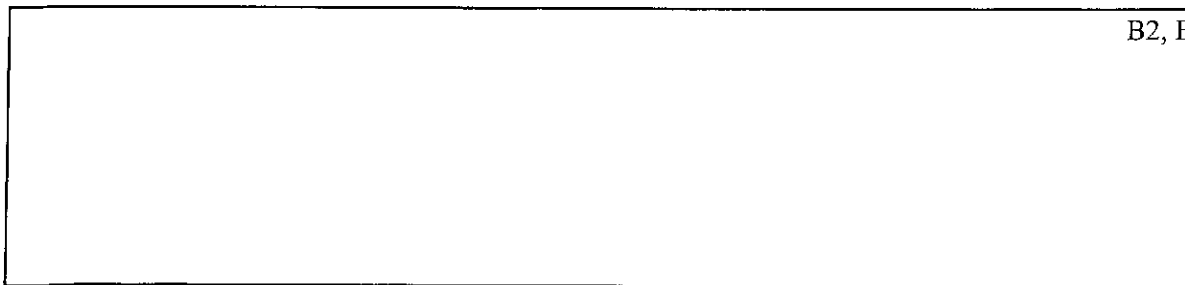
B2, B6, B7(C), B7(A)

Case 2: A town that sells its children



B2, B6, B7(C), B7(A)

Case 3: "I never gave up my son"



B2, B6, B7(C), B7(A)

B2, B6, B7(A), B7(C)

COMMENT

8. (SBU) Fraud is pervasive in Vietnamese adoption documents and the system is such that facts they purport to claim are never verified by any competent authority. In the first case presented above, the rationale for relinquishment as presented in the documents submitted to the Embassy - that the biological mother's single status, lack of employment and income, and her dependence on her parents prevented her from being able to raise her daughter - is clearly untrue. Yet it was signed by village officials who know the family, and "verified" by both the provincial Department of Justice and the DIA.

Given that the true facts were readily discernable, the facts in this case indicate either incompetence or corruption on the part of the competent authorities. Moreover, despite committing that the information presented is true and that "if there is anything wrong, I will be punished by the law," to date neither the biological mother nor the officials who certified her statement have been punished in any way. Again, it appears that the Vietnamese government has neither the will nor the ability to counter fraud in adoption cases or address its consequences, which clearly and significantly compromise the principles the GVN embraces with regard to the adoption process. On the contrary, there is reason to believe government officials play an active role in creating fraudulent documents.

9. (SBU) Overall, the evidence collected during this visit to [redacted] province adds to the mounting body of evidence that in Vietnam there is a market on which children are being bought and sold, often against the express wishes of their biological parents. The practice has become so widespread in some parts of [redacted] that a market and a standard price per child has emerged. As this market becomes increasingly blatant, stories of infant trafficking and child kidnapping for the purposes of international adoption have begun to make the headlines in domestic and international media. It is only a matter of time before a story of U.S. parents purchasing a

B2, B7(A)

Vietnamese child "for the price of a pig" hits the Vietnamese press.

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10. (SBU) Comment Continued: The recent investigation also indicates that fraudulent documents are the rule rather than the exception in adoption cases - including in relinquishment cases. Local officials seem not only to tolerate but in fact facilitate such behavior, while no competent authority exists at the higher levels to investigate, prevent, or punish perpetrators of such fraud. The fraud in these cases was not sophisticated and the true facts were readily know by the local villagers and easily discovered by the investigating team. Yet, local, provincial and central authorities all participated in the production and certification of documents that they knew were false. As a result we must conclude that these documents are unreliable and that no competent Vietnamese authority exists either to verify the facts in an adoption case or to protect children from being reduced to a commodity, and sadly, one worth less than a pig. End Comment

Michalak
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