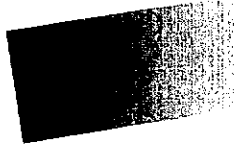


**Brown, Melissa A**

**From:** Alexander, Eric M (Hanoi)  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 01, 2007 8:10 AM  
**To:** Fuller, Gerry W  
**Cc:** Furuta-Toy, Julie A; Saint-Victor, Marc; Brown, Melissa A  
**Subject:** Amb Meeting with Minister of Justice



**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Gerry,

This evening the Ambassador and I meet with the Minister of Justice. The meeting was originally scheduled as a courtesy call with the primary focus AID law reform programs. However, as this was the perfect vehicle for delivering the letter, we added adoptions to the agenda (although the Minister did not know it would be a topic.) The Ambassador gave the letter to the Minister and expressed our concerns on fees, and baby selling. The Minister seemed genuinely surprised and upset to hear that children were being released for adoption without the consent of the birth mother. (Note: The Minister has only been on the job for about one month, and I suspect has not spent any time on the issue of adoptions so far.) The Minister replied that he would look into our concerns, as he was committed to a transparent adoption system. He told us he would give us his full comments after discussing the issue with DIA. He also added that one issue of concern for the DIA was that it was difficult understanding the laws of 50 US states in terms of licensing of ASPs. The Ambassador replied that this difficulty could be overcome by Vietnam joining Hague.

Tomorrow, I will see Dr. Long and give him a copy of the letter, and discuss the issues again.

Eric