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People Committee of Thai Nguyen Province
Department of Justice
No: 656/CV-TPHT
Ref: register for inter-country adoptions

Thai Nguyen, March 24, 2008

To: DIA – MOJ

In reply to Mr. Margret Jensen Howard's letter – Chief Representative of World Child Agency in Vietnam asking about inter-country adoptions cases that referred by DIA in Thai Nguyen province.

We would comment as follows:

1. As many times we talked directly to the representatives of ASPs and U.S. Embassy, once again, we affirm that all inter-country adoption cases were completed correctly under the Vietnamese law (Circular 68&69)

Since starting doing foreign adoptions so far, only abandoned children who were received into the DOLISA-owned orphanage have been considered for foreign adoptions placement. Only when neither birth parents nor local people come to adopt the children, were they accepted for foreign adoptions.

In avoidance to corruption, all foreign adoption cases are verified by the provincial police. Only when verification reports are submitted, can DOLISA go ahead and finish the paperwork.

2. According to some Medical Centers as well as communal authorities of Thai Nguyen province, recently, there are some foreigners who introduced themselves as American Embassy's staff came there to collect information without introduction letter signed by local authorities or working with the provincial-level office in advance. They went straight to some hospitals, medical centers and interviewed the staff during their working time without permission from the director. This spoiled the normal activities of a working organization so they did not get the cooperation of the organization's leaders and other targeted people.

At the same time, they head to the villages and talked to the villagers without permission from local authorities. Viewing foreigners with suspicions, the villagers were not cooperative. Therefore, the information they get is not objective and incorrect. This causes regretfully misunderstanding.

3. We would propose that DIA should inform the Embassies to collaborate with provincial authorities in conducting investigation. They should not do it independently; otherwise, they will neither get cooperation from the interviewees nor keep their own security.

DOJ VICE DIRECTOR
Nguyen Hung Trang

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