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**United States of America
and
Viet Nam**

Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on the acceptance of the return of Vietnamese citizens (with annexes). Hanoi, 22 January 2008

Entry into force: *22 March 2008, in accordance with article 6*

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**États-Unis d'Amérique
et
Viet Nam**

Accord entre le Gouvernement des États-Unis d'Amérique et le Gouvernement de la République socialiste du Vietnam sur l'acceptation du retour des citoyens vietnamiens (avec annexes). Hanoï, 22 janvier 2008

Entrée en vigueur : *22 mars 2008, conformément à l'article 6*

Textes authentiques : *anglais et vietnamien*

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[ENGLISH TEXT – TEXTE ANGLAIS]

AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
ON
THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE RETURN OF VIETNAMESE CITIZENS

The Government of the United States of America (hereinafter called “the U.S. Government”) and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (hereinafter called “the Vietnamese Government”),

With a wish of developing friendly relations between the two countries, and to establish procedures for competent authorities of both countries on the prompt and orderly acceptance of Vietnamese citizens who have been ordered removed by the U.S. Government,

In order to establish common procedures for the relevant authorities based on the legal principles of each country and the international responsibility to accept the return of repatriated citizens; and to follow recognized principles of international law, to allow for a case-by-case determination of repatriation, and to recognize the right of the receiving country to determine nationality,

Have agreed to the following:

Article 1
General Provisions

1. The U.S. Government will carry out the repatriation of Vietnamese citizens who violated U.S. law in accordance with U.S. and international law and the provisions of this Agreement. The repatriation should take into account the humanitarian aspect, family unity and circumstances of each person in each individual case.

2. The Vietnamese Government may consider the return of its citizens who violated U.S. law based on the consideration of legal procedures and the

status and circumstances of each individual case. The subject individuals and the acceptance procedure will be based on the terms of this Agreement.

3. Repatriation will be carried out in an orderly and safe way, and with respect for the individual human dignity of the person repatriated. The U.S. Government will allow Vietnamese citizens who have been ordered removed a reasonable time to arrange their personal affairs before returning them to Vietnam.

4. Persons repatriated under this Agreement have the right to transfer their legal money and personal property to Vietnam.

5. The U.S. Government will pay for the cost of returning to Vietnam persons repatriated under this Agreement, as provided in Article 5 and Annex 1. The U.S. Government will also pay for the cost of returning to the United States any person who was mistakenly repatriated, in accordance with Article 3 of this Agreement.

Article 2

Removable Persons and Conditions of Acceptance

1. The Vietnamese Government will accept the return of Vietnamese citizens in accordance with Article 1 and item 2 of Article 2 of this Agreement, if upon investigation the individual meets the following requirements:

(a) The individual is a citizen of Vietnam and is not a citizen of the United States or of any other country;

(b) The individual previously resided in Vietnam and has no current residence in a third country;

(c) The individual has violated U.S. laws and has been ordered by competent authority removed from the United States; and

(d) If the individual has been convicted of a criminal offense (including immigration violation), the person will have completed any imprisonment before removal, and any reduction in sentence will have been ordered by competent authority.

2. Vietnamese citizens are not subject to return to Vietnam under this Agreement if they arrived in the United States before July 12, 1995, the date on which diplomatic relations were re-established between the U.S.

Government and the Vietnamese Government. The U.S. Government and the Vietnamese Government maintain their respective legal positions relative to Vietnamese citizens who departed Vietnam for the United States prior to that date.

3. In the case of a citizen of Vietnam who immigrated to the United States from a third country where that person had a permanent residence and who has been ordered removed from the United States, the U.S. Government will seek to return that person to the third country or consider allowing that person to stay in the United States, before requesting removal to Vietnam.

4. In any case where the Vietnamese Government obtains information relevant to the repatriation of an individual that was not previously considered by the U.S. Government, the Vietnamese Government may request a humanitarian reconsideration based on the specific circumstances of the repatriated person in accordance with United States law.

Article 3

Return of Persons Repatriated in Error

Upon notice by the Vietnamese Government that a person returned to Vietnam by the U.S. Government does not meet all criteria mentioned in Article 2 of this Agreement, the U.S. Government should promptly receive the return of that person to the United States without any special procedure.

Article 4

Acceptance Procedures

1. When the U.S. Government believes that a removable person is a citizen of Vietnam and meets all criteria within Article 2 of this Agreement, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, on behalf of the U.S. Government, will request appropriate travel documents from the Vietnamese Government and will forward the appropriate files to that Government. Such files will include three sets of documents, the original and two copies. The original and one copy shall be forwarded to the Vietnamese Ministry of Public Security (Immigration Department) by the U.S. Embassy in Vietnam, and the other copy will be sent to the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Consular Department).

Each file will contain a diplomatic note which requests that the Vietnamese Government accept the returnee, the name of the person the U.S. Government believes should be repatriated to Vietnam, the appropriate forms completed by such person (an example of which is provided in Annex 2 of

this Agreement), a copy of the order of removal, and other documents regarding the person's biography, citizenship, criminal history, sentence imposed, and decision of amnesty or reduction of criminal sentence. The order of removal will be translated into Vietnamese on the standard form, and the criminal history will include a National Crime Information Center (NCIC) record in English accompanied by a code key translated into Vietnamese. All documents and translations will be certified by the competent U.S. authorities.

2. Upon request by the Vietnamese Government, the U.S. Government will arrange and facilitate the interview of persons who fall within Article 2(1) of this Agreement by Vietnamese immigration officials to determine information regarding the Vietnamese citizenship, biographical data, and last place of residence of such persons. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security will arrange a venue for those interviews. The U.S. Government also will facilitate interviews by U.S.-based consular officers of the Vietnamese Government of deportable persons whom the U.S. believes to be Vietnamese citizens.

3. The Vietnamese Government will provide a prompt response to the U.S. Government on cases referred under this Article after the Vietnamese verification is made. If it is determined that a person whose name and file has been provided to the Vietnamese Government in accordance with this Article meets the requirements of Article 2, the Ministry of Public Security of the Vietnamese Government will issue a travel document authorizing that person's return to Vietnam, and will provide written notification to the U.S. Embassy in Vietnam.

4. When the Vietnamese Government has issued a travel document under this Agreement, the U.S. Government will provide at least fifteen (15) days notice of the flight and travel arrangements by which the person will be returned to Vietnam. The U.S. Embassy in Vietnam will inform the Ministry of Public Security (Immigration Department) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Consular Department) of the date and number of the flight, the time of arrival, the port of entry (Noi Bai Airport in Hanoi or Tan Son Nhat Airport in Ho Chi Minh City), and the details regarding any U.S. officers escorting the person to be returned (such as names, dates of birth, passport numbers, estimated times of stay in Vietnam, etc), and allow the Vietnamese side to confirm receipt of the returnees.

When a person under medical treatment is returned to Vietnam under this Agreement, the escorting U.S. officers will provide a copy of the person's health record to the receiving Vietnamese officials at the port of entry. The