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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

30 January 1981

Prime Minister
Who you like to receive
Mrs Tinh or would you
rather a Foreign Office Minister
do so?

Andy

I should like to
see her
ms.

Dear Michael,

Mrs Yvette Tinh, who for many years worked as interpreter in our Saigon Embassy but is now living in Norfolk as a refugee, has asked if she might call on Mrs Thatcher on behalf of her family and other refugees from South Vietnam, to present an old Vietnamese lacquer picture 'which symbolises the former freedom and liberty of Vietnam'. I enclose her letter, which was conveyed via our former Ambassador in Hanoi.

While such an occasion, if publicised, could possibly attract a hostile reaction from the Vietnamese Government, we do not think that this should outweigh any wish the Prime Minister might have to meet Mrs Tinh and accept her gift. As far as we know she has no claim formally to 'represent' any other refugees.

As an alternative, we could arrange for the gift to be received on the Prime Minister's behalf.

yours ever
Rodric Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing St

Yvette Vuong Thi Tinh
c/o SCF Refugee Centre
18 Cranwell Road
RAF Watton
Thetford - Norfolk

December 11, 1980.

To : The Prime Minister Mrs. M. Thatcher
(c/o H.E. J.W.D. Margetson, Esq.)

The Prime Minister,

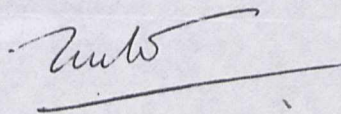
I was a locally-engaged member staff at the British Embassy, Saigon, South Vietnam from 1960 to 1979. Now I am a Vietnamese refugee in the SCF Refugee Centre, 18 Cranwell Road, Watton - Norfolk.

When, I lived in South Vietnam, my colleagues and I listened in secretly to Radio Program from the BBC. We were struck with admiration and touched by your speech at the International Conference about Vietnamese Refugees.

With the help of the British Embassy in Vietnam and the British Government, we arrived in this country on 3rd October. My husband and I would like to have the honour of meeting you, on behalf of ourselves and the South Vietnamese people. We want to express to you our profound gratitude and respect. By way of a simple token of our feelings for you and the British people we also want to offer you an older lacqueware picture which symbolizes the former freedom and liberty of Vietnam.

On this occasion, may we take this opportunity to re-affirm, the assurance of our highest consideration for Great Britain and her most distinguished representative.

Yours respectfully,



Yvette Tinh (Mm.)