

Councilman Russell C. Paris

City of Westminster

15561 Eden Street
Westminster, CA 92683
Phone: 714-897-2837 Fax: 714-891-4018
Email: rcparis6@gte.net



To: Vietnamese Community of Southern California & My Vietnamese American Constituents

Oct 18th, 2002

Dear My Vietnamese American Constituents:

As the Council member of Westminster, California, representing one of the largest Vietnamese American communities, I recognize your concerns about

- 1. The legality of the secret nature of the land/sea concessions which took place in December 1999 and December 2000 between Vietnam and China where about 270 square miles of land and 4247 square miles of Vietnam Sea were given up by Vietnamese communist government as to whether they were ratified by its own congress or signed off only by the top few officials.**
- 2. The lack of basic democracy and freedom of press in Vietnam because these land/sea concessions by Vietnamese communist officials were done in secret so its people did not have a chance to voice their opinions given that these concession will affect their livelihood for many generations to come.**
- 3. The abuse of human rights and suppression of free speech in Vietnam, which is contrary to its own constitution, when the few people who knew about the concession spoke out against the secret land/sea concessions. Some outspoken citizens have been arrested illegally are Quang Chi Le, Binh Vu Nguyen, Son Hong Pham, Father Ly Van Nguyen, and Buddhist clergyman Do Quang Thich. They are being held in jail indefinitely and subject to unfair trial, or possible secret execution.**

As your elected officials, I oppose the human rights abuse and suppression of free speech in Vietnam when people are arrested when they speak out against these concessions. Further, I support your effort to notify your fellow Vietnamese people in Vietnam of the secret land/sea trading, so that they have a chance to voice their opinion about these land/sea trading that effect their national interests and security and also their livelihood for many generations to come.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Russell C. Paris". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Russell C. Paris
Council Member of Westminster, California