



**EMBASSY
THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM**

Oslo, 20 May 2015

Dear Mr. Governing Mayor,

I would like to present my compliments to you and refer to the unaccomplished Vietnamese boat refugee monument on the shore at Bygdoynes in front of the Norwegian Maritime Museum.

First of all, I would like to extend sincere thanks to you, Oslo City authorities, the Government and the people of Norway who have extended profound assistance to the Vietnamese immigrants for their successful integration in the Norwegian society. My sincere thanks also go to the Norwegian sailors, ships and shipping companies who rescued the Vietnamese boat people at sea.

I would like to draw your attention to the agreement reached between the initiators, the Norwegian Maritime Museum and the City of Oslo (the Planning and Building Services and Arts in Oslo) made public on the website of the Maritime Museum, which requires that the Monument "Sjoblomst"/ or Sea Flower as designed by the artist Thor Sand Borg shall be an art work in the City of Oslo and the monument must be given a politically neutral design and either in the design phase or later use, i.e. not use for political manifestations or other political purposes.

I regretably take note again that, as appear on the actual memorial located on the shore at Bygdoynes in front of the Norwegian Maritime Museum, the Vietnamese wordings which include the word "cộng sản" (which means "communist" in the English language) and is not consistent with both the Norwegian wordings and the English wordings, constitute a mistake, a trick, and a political manifestation. Such inconsistent wordings with political manifestation on the memorial and activities for political purposes around the memorial are degrading the Monument which was designed to be an art work of Oslo City. At the same time, such kind of wordings and its political manifestation on an art work of the City of Oslo or the use of such Monument and memorial for any political purpose by any people in Norway are not welcome by the people and the Governments of Viet Nam and Norway who have maintained friendly and good cooperation ever since 1971 when the bilateral diplomatic relations was established.

I therefore reiterate our kind request that Mr. Governing Mayor and relevant authorities of the City of Oslo, as well as the Norwegian Maritime Museum ask the initiators/ constructor of the monument and memorial to remove the Vietnamese word "cộng sản" on the memorial in order to make the Vietnamese wordings consistent with the Norwegian and English wordings, and take appropriate measures to make sure that such Monument and memorial on the shore at Bygdoynes in front of the Norwegian Maritime Museum and their use be politically neutral, not for political manifestations or other political purposes, in conformity with the agreement reached between the initiators, the Norwegian Maritime Museum and the City of Oslo (the Planning and Building Services and Arts in Oslo), for the sake of protection of the quality of art work of the City of Oslo in general, as well as the friendly and good cooperation between Viet Nam and Norway.

I thank you very much for your understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely Yours,

LE Thi Tuyet Mai
Ambassador

To: - Mr. Stian Berger Røsland, Governing Mayor of Oslo

Cc: - Mr. Fabian Stang, Mayor of Oslo

- Oslo City Council members

- Art Department, Agency for Cultural Affairs, City of Oslo

- Agency for Building and Services, City of Oslo

- Norwegian Maritime Museum, Oslo