

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Bui Van Trong and Le Nguyet Trinh

COLLECTION: 4700.0989

IDENTIFICATION: Vietnamese civilians

INTERVIEWER: Dudley R. Meier, Jr.

SERIES: Americans in Vietnam

INTERVIEW DATES: 11/29/75

FOCUS DATES:

ABSTRACT:

Tape 1444, Side A

Trinh lived in Saigon until communist takeover; getting out of Vietnam; journey to US; refugee camp; waiting for US sponsor; Trinh was a nurse in Vietnam, decided to volunteer in Army hospital; worked for Catholic relief services in Saigon; in US, worked with Vietnamese families, matching with sponsors; finding sponsor for Trinh's family; waiting for security clearance; arriving in Louisiana; she and her husband got jobs at local hospital; work as technician in hospital, can't work as nurse yet; wants to work in nursing in US, needs better salary; grew up in poor family; father died around time she graduated from nursing school; hospitals she and her husband worked at in Vietnam; husband's work as lawyer, then decided to be a teacher; husband's teaching career; had four children; Trong couldn't afford to stay home with children for long; Vietnam's dependence on French, then American, aid; husband speaks in Vietnamese; Vietnamese have long valued their independence; differences between Vietnamese communists and other communists; differences between US and Vietnam; restrictions communists placed on Vietnamese; comparison of Vietnamese governments; speculation on future of Vietnam, in Vietnamese; influence of Russia and China on Vietnam; situation in Vietnam has improved and will continue to improve; Vietnam should model program after Marshall Tito's program for Yugoslavia; swiftness of communist takeover, fall of Saigon; US programs to prepare for Vietnamese refugees; husband worked in military medical hospital in Vietnam; was head nurse of regiment; differences in attitudes between them and their children; longtime war in Vietnam contrasted with longtime peace in US; adaptability of the Vietnamese; time spent under Chinese rule.

Tape 1444, Side B

1,000 years of Chinese rule; religious beliefs, place of religion in Vietnam; Buddhists and Catholics; Cao Dai religion; importance of family in Vietnam, dependency on family; how Americans feel about Vietnamese refugees in US.

TAPES: 1 (T1444)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 1 hour

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 2 page index

RESTRICTIONS: None