

U.S.-Vietnam Relations - The Need For A Broader Vision

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Raymond F. Burghardt, U.S. Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Remarks to the Annual Meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce

Hanoi, Vietnam In his remarks at the Annual Meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce in Hanoi, U.S. Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Raymond Burghardt said of Vietnam: "America is a complex country, as is Vietnam, and our ties will be complex. Any attempt to narrow our focus to economic ties will ultimately fail...We need to discuss our strategic views on the region and the world and we must deal with our differences of opinion on human rights and religious freedom." Burghardt went on to say, "I know that Vietnam has progressed in the areas of individual freedom, people's control over their lives, and freedom of religion. But it is a fact of life that the attention of most people in the West will always be drawn to shortcomings and problems rather than to the advances." Full text at <http://usembassy.state.gov/posts/vn1/wwwhamb030924.html>