The Organization of Chinese Americans Resolution On
Immigration Policy Regarding Undocumented Aliens
Passed by OCA General Membership on
July 17, 1993

Whereas, the highly publicized incidents of immigrant smuggling involving Chinese nationals have thrust the Chinese American community into the national immigration debate;

Whereas, most of these Chinese immigrants are paying $15,000 - $35,000 for their journey to the U.S. and becoming indentured servants to the smugglers when they reach the U.S. in order to pay off their debt;

Whereas, inflammatory remarks have been made by certain INS officials suggesting the Chinese American community is guilty of withholding knowledge about organized immigrant smuggling rings;

Whereas, the United States, the greatest democracy in the world, is a nation built by immigrants and must maintain its historic tradition of being a haven for those fleeing persecution;

Now be it therefore resolved that, the Organization of Chinese Americans supports the nondiscriminatory investigation and vigorous prosecution to the full extent of the law, of all persons, regardless of national origin, involved in smuggling and indenturing people for profit;

Be it also resolved that, the Organization of Chinese Americans calls for the commitment of adequate resources to investigate and to prosecute smugglers and the review of asylum claims;

Be it also resolved that, the Organization of Chinese Americans supports the full enforcement of labor laws in order to eliminate the conditions which foster an underground market for undocumented workers;

Be it also resolved that, all undocumented immigrants be granted full due process under national and international law, and that these individuals be accorded fair and humane treatment;

Be it also resolved that, the Organization of Chinese Americans firmly supports the right of each asylum applicant to timely review of claims by a trained asylum officer, with access to counsel and, where necessary, a translator; OCA also supports the right to a timely hearing before an immigration judge with a right of expeditious appeal;

Be it also resolved that, the Organization of Chinese Americans opposes legislative efforts to summarily exclude undocumented immigrants seeking political asylum, including legislation that would permit lower level immigration officers to summarily deport or exclude asylum petitioners who do not possess proper documentation;

Be it also resolved that, the Organization of Chinese Americans calls for INS and other governmental agencies to cease issuing irresponsible and incorrect blanket statements tying Chinese American communities in the United States to the illegal and heinous activities of immigrant smugglers;

Be it also resolved that, in this historic year, 1993, marking the fiftieth anniversary of the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act, the Organization of Chinese Americans stands firmly opposed to efforts to use the recent incidents of immigrant smuggling as a vehicle to curb existing asylum and family-based immigration laws.