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International Children's Fund

Box 4432, Berkeley, California 94704
(415) 843-7518.

Dear Friend,

This letter is a plea for your (non-financial) support in helping to reunite Vietnamese children brought to the United States in the April, 1975 "orphan airlift" with their natural parents. As children arrived during that time of high emotion and panic they told frantic tales to those who would and could listen in Vietnamese of having been separated from their parents. Vietnamese volunteers who reported what the children said to the adoption agencies and governmental officials were told there was nothing that could be done. They then turned to legal assistance, and, on April 29th, lawyers for the Center for Constitutional Rights and co-counsel in California filed the class action lawsuit, Nguyen Da Yen, et al. vs. Henry Kissinger, et al., in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. The purpose of the lawsuit was, simply, to seek the reunion of children with their parents.

Eight months later the intended purpose has not been achieved. What has been achieved are findings by the District Court and the higher Court of Appeals that, indeed, some of the children were brought illegally and that, if their families can be located and wish their return, they must be returned immediately. Exactly how many children among the 2,700 "orphans" brought here may have parents who wish their return is not known. Approximately one dozen Vietnamese refugees have so far come forward to claim their children who were in the baby lift - not all with success. Other parents in Vietnam have expressed a desire to have their children returned. A Vietnamese legal expert appointed by the Court as a master has questioned the legality of approximately two thirds of the over 200 children's files he has reviewed at random.

After other wars when the status of children was in question careful efforts were made by responsible international organizations, such as the Red Cross, to check the facts surrounding each such child to determine, as quickly as possible, whether parents or family could be found or whether the child might be adopted. Almost immediately the International Union for Child Welfare, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees - all Geneva based - agreed to begin a tracing program in cooperation with the new government in South Vietnam. But the United States Government, which holds the vital information concerning the children, refuses to cooperate - under cover of unsupported "bloodbath" arguments supposedly in the best interest of the parents in Vietnam. In a December 3, 1975 telegram from the US Department of State to the United States Attorney (who represents the US Government defendants in the lawsuit), the US Government stated:

"The record of the Vietnamese authorities' treatment of persons deemed to require 're-education', as described in reports in the Vietnamese and other media indicate that the parents of children who left the country last April could be viewed unfavorably by

the authorities and treated accordingly. ... To ask parents in Viet-Nam of children now in the United States to step forward and identify themselves, to provide the Vietnamese authorities with a list of names, or even to search actively for them through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees or the International Committee of the Red Cross, could risk compromising any whose identity thus became known to the authorities -- and the consequences would be irreversible."

Compare the above State Department scare language to the enclosed Washington Post story debunking U.S. Government "bloodbath" predictions - which kept us involved in the war so long. Compare the State Department telegram to the eyewitness reports of Vietnamese speaking Mennonites and American Friends Service Committee doctors and social workers who remained in Vietnam after the war to see panic melt into a sense of relief that the dire predictions largely manufactured by the American Embassy did not occur - and in its place a sympathetic spirit of peace and reconciliation. The war is over, but the tired, discredited State Department policy lives on - and continues to bring grief to the Vietnamese. I hope you will join in helping to prevent the U.S. Government from getting away with this end of the road policy - and make it possible for Vietnam's children, plucked in panic from its shores, to return to their parents' loving arms and a new society finally at peace and ready to rebuild!

How can you help us in this battle to return the children? Not by sending money (although this has proven to be an expensive and drawn out lawsuit and contributions are welcome), but by expressing your concern to those listed below by (1) urging immediate and full tracing of children's families in Vietnam by responsible international agencies; (2) urging the immediate return of children whose families can be located and who wish their return; and (3) expressing dismay at the United States Government's shoddy attempt to prevent tracing, in order to protect its political interests, through unsubstantiated warnings of bloodbath and intrigue.

Express your concern to:

The Hon. Elizabeth Holtzman
Subcommittee on Immigration
Committee on the Judiciary
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

W
I
T
H

The Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Subcommittee on Refugees
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

A

The Hon. G. V. Montgomery
Select Committee on Missing Persons
In Southeast Asia
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

C
O.
P
Y
T
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;

The Hon. Spencer Williams,
United States District Judge
United States District Court
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102

-3-

A final note regarding American adoptive parents, who have also been victimized by the "orphan airlift". As painful as it will be to give up a child they have nurtured and loved, the child belongs with its natural parent. Some have already made the decision and returned their child to the parent seeking it - and out of this has come not bitterness but a bond of friendship between both sets of parents.

Peace,

Trần Tường Như

Tran Tuong Nhu
Indochina Coordinator

Enclosures

The International Children's Fund Board of Sponsors includes: Anne M. Bennett, The Rev. John C. Bennett, Carol Bernstein Ferry, Mary Norris Lloyd, William B. Lloyd, Jr., The Rev. Davie Napier, Joy Napier, Ruth Oberg, Bert Schneider and Stanley K. Sheinbaum

SAMPLE "ORPHAN AIRLIFT" LETTER

efully you will be able to send copies to all four addresses; if not
e order of priority is Holtzman, Kennedy, Montgomery & williams)

Dear Ms Holtzman, Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Montgomery:

I wish to register my deep concern and anguish over the continued delays in reunification with their parents of Vietnamese children wrongfully brought to the United States for adoption in the April "orphan airlift". I am particularly disturbed over the roadblock to effective tracing of families in Vietnam established by the United States Government, which would prohibit a responsible, neutral international tracing agency from utilizing information to make direct efforts to locate children's parents. The U.S. Government's stated reasons for not permitting a full, traditional tracing in Vietnam are based upon unsubstantiated arguments of bloodbath and reprisal which, in the past and now, have been proven inhumane, senseless and false. Contrary to dire State Department predictions, the new government in Vietnam has exhibited sympathy and understanding toward the population.

Vietnamese children have an undisputed right to live with their natural parents, and the United States has no right to take them away because of mistakes made in the fear and panic of the final weeks of the war. The children are, in effect, Vietnam's "M.I.A.'s" - only very much alive. Just as American families deserve to know about their loved ones left behind in Vietnam, so do Vietnamese parents deserve the opportunity to reclaim their babies swept away in panic.

Please give these parents and children a chance, and do whatever you can to make certain the tracing of families and return of children is in the competent and unfettered hands of a responsible international agency, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Respectfully,

cc: The Hon. Spencer Williams, U.S.D.J.
United States District Court
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102

On-the-spot report from Quaker team in Saigon

Following are cables and excerpts from letters providing eyewitness accounts of the dramatic events in Saigon. They are worth reading because the view conveyed is at some variance with most reports in the mass media. The source of these reports are six members of the staff of the American Friends Service Committee programs in South Vietnam. All speak Vietnamese. Among them they total 16 years experience in Vietnam and they have extensive contact among the people.

They were in Vietnam with the Quaker Rehabilitation Center in Quang Ngai, a project which for the last seven years has provided artificial limbs, physical rehabilitation and other medical treatment to over 50000 patients. Quang Ngai is now in the area administered by the Provisional Revolutionary Government. One member of the team is currently in DaNang, the rest are in Saigon.

We urge you to distribute this material as widely as possible. Excerpt it for flyers and letters to Congress and to newspapers. Show it to reporters and editors. Read it in religious and other gatherings. It is desperately important that a balanced and comprehensive view of this final, tragic phase of the war be widely understood.

March 21, 1975

Sources in Vietnam indicate that the situation in Quang Ngai Province is following the same course as has been observed in the central highlands provinces. Earlier this week, ARVN troops began abandoning their district outposts, such as Tra Bong, in the northwestern part of the province, and Song Ha, in the western part of the province. Route one, leading north and south out of Quang Ngai is cut, and there are no flights in or out on a regular basis. Some people are leaving by boat, while many others are moving back to their traditional homes in the liberated areas. The sources stressed that as of Thursday there was very little bloodshed or violence, although people are apprehensive of possible violence from departing ARVN soldiers as well as repercussions should the province change hands and then temporarily change back, or from bombing by the Saigon air force. There has been a run on the Quang Ngai bank, so that little currency is available.

Reports from Saigon tell of emotionalism and excitement and considerable apprehension among many Vietnamese there. The Quaker team from Quang Ngai is temporarily located in Saigon, while the Rehabilitation Center in Quang Ngai is operating normally under the auspices of a committee composed of Rehab Center staff.

March 25, 1975

Quang Ngai definitely out of contact and lost to the GVN. Expect Quinhon and other nearby places next, and some newspeople feel Danang itself is in danger. Apparently the PRG rocketed Quang Ngai somewhat heavily before taking over, but this is unsure information. It's possible the rockets were carefully aimed. Two friends¹⁾ Earl and Hiro remain Quang Ngai, Paul and Julie in Danang, four Quakers in Saigon. People in Saigon now appear to be getting more anxious by the day. Food and produce prices are rising. Airplane Tickets are outrageous. Checking with various foreign news offices today we heard that the government will begin a strict censorship of outgoing news in a few days. This of course includes our telexes and telegrams. There are

50,000 U.S. per day and ships being used. 747 will hold at least 700 people and if permission received as much as 1500. GVN says plan is to evacuate 9,000 persons a day for a month to Camranh. Everyone knows there are no water or food facilities in Camranh to receive them. Possibly there is housing.

Danang. Many newspeople say it will change hands within a few days. One newsman returned from Danang today saying some soldiers were throwing away their guns and swimming out to boats in the harbor. Planes can no longer refuel in Danang.

Malcolm Brown of NY Times stood on road north of Tamky and spoke with some military men coming out of Quang Ngai area. These men had thrown away their uniforms and put on peasant clothes. The PRG let them leave without difficulty.

March 31, 1975

Julie and Paul returned from Danang Saturday night after a livery boat air trip report follows:

Point 1: The GVN Administration in Danang broke down around Thursday afternoon: the streets began to empty out, people locked themselves in their houses and ARVN troops, rangers and paratroopers as far as we could tell began looting shops and wandering around firing their guns indiscriminately. The police disappeared from the scene when the trouble began.

The refugees who had previously gone to Danang from other provinces, perhaps as many as one million, had been left without rice for ten days, according to report we heard in Danang.

The U.S. embassy was unable to evacuate people from the airport with any order starting Wednesday. We have heard reports which seem quite believable about one thousand people at the airport crowding around incoming planes. All order broke down as the ARVN brass used their weapons to get their families on the first flights. The moment validity of tickets was threatened all hell broke loose. Paul and Julie were swept out of town on USAID coattails in the middle of Thursday night in supposed secrecy. We were ferried by truck to a barge already crawling with almost a thousand refugees, mostly consulate general employees and such. A more terrifying scene of people fighting their way to try and get on the barge before it left. Incredible panic. Later many hours.

Ed to a freighter in very disorderly fashion. The same panic prevailed. People were terrified that the ship would cut the wires and let the barge drift. We were moved to Cam Ranh along with five thousand six hundred refugees. At that point the Americans were separated and sent by plane to Saigon.

The refugees were left in Cam Ranh with four wells and housing for two hundred families. The ministry of social welfare is nowhere in sight. We are seriously opposed to massive transfers of people away from their homes. Their movement is based on panic and not on any real military threat. The remainder of the GVN government has no provision for feeding, housing or relocating these people. At this moment we the team do not see any way of planning a coherent refugee program. Towns and provinces are handed over faster than we can count.

Tom chose to remain with good friends at the central Buddhist Pagoda. They felt his services much needed in setting up a clinic, under the auspices of the Alliance for Reconciliation of the People. Tom was very excited and happy about staying. As before we do not expect word for quite awhile. Paul and Julie were able to find out no concrete news whatsoever about Quang Ngai. Paul and I felt that we had nothing to contribute to the situation in Danang. We could not return to Quang Ngai. Friends in Danang anticipate a lengthy 24 hour curfew lasting as long as three weeks, during the initial period of PRG takeover. Already assisting Quang Ngai college students with rice.

April 1, 1975

1. Cable

A joint statement from team to AFSC and other organizations re: the present condition of GVN (South Vietnam) refugees and the response we consider workable in this very difficult situation.

This statement is based on first-hand experience partially reported in Sunday's telex. (March 31 memo) When Paul and Julie first arrived in Da Nang, March 24, the situation was already disastrous with the disintegration of the corrupt and inefficient government. On that day refugees from Hue and Quang Tri, living in official government camps, had not received rice for ten days. Relief work was confined to small ad hoc groups, students, remnants of the Buddhist School of Social Service and International Boy Scouts, who could offer small handouts on limited basis.

As the refugees panicked further, conditions became worse. We observed packed barges in Da Nang harbor. Lives were lost as panicky people shuttled from craft to craft pushing and pulling. The present call on various nations to use large ships in dispersing refugees sounds heroic and wonderful but is devoid of purpose and incapable of improving the situation for any except American consciences. The grossest indignity is that these refugees did not know where they were going and in the case of our ship Pioneer Contender, 5,600 refugees did not know they were going to a place with no water, food or housing.

The official March 27 plan of the Ministry of Social Welfare was to move 40,000 Highlands refugees to Khanh-Hoa (capital Nha Trang), 100,000 Quang Tri refugees to Binh Thuan (capital Phan Rang), 200,000 Quang Nam, Quang Ngai and Quang Tin (Tam Ky) refugees to Binh Thuan (capital Phan Rang), and finally 200,000 Highlands and Thua Thien (Hue) refugees to Tuyen Duc (capital Dalat). Americans are now evacuating Nha Trang and Phan-Thiet. Dalat is entirely surrounded, lost de facto if not yet de jure. Thus the Ministry plan of March 27 is already grossly out of date.

There is more misery in store beyond possible present death by starvation and lack of sanitation. By offering refugees places like Cam Ranh the GVN has moved people away from zones where the fighting has just finished back into places where fighting will soon begin.

The policy seems to be to deny the Communists some population, and not to improve the lot of the refugees at all. The effort to move them is a cynical, immoral program which AFSC should have nothing to do with. Are these people being used as a human buffer zone? The refugees also become a pawn in requests for further foreign aid. This is a very difficult problem, for while this mass movement of people will certainly hasten the end, it is a waste of energy, resources and is disastrous for those involved.

The forces for National Reconciliation of Da Nang took a very firm position:

- (1) They would not leave Da Nang themselves.
- (2) They would use their influence to keep the people from moving.
- (3) At the earliest possible moment, they would assist in the return of people to their homes.

We are in full agreement with the Da Nang National Reconciliation forces and will check further to see what position other branches of this group in Saigon and Nha Trang have taken. In terms of concrete program we could only become involved where feeding was on a very short term basis until people are moved back to their homes. At that time we

might be able to assist in transport or feeding until the first rice harvest.

We want this assessment of the situation to be publicized as widely as possible to bring the issue into the open and to boost the morale of local groups working on the premise that it is best for refugees and people to remain where they now are.

2. Excerpts

a. March 26 letter from Tom Hoskins

"The elusive realities of Vietnam are changing ever faster. Three weeks ago United States Senators and Representatives toured a Vietnam purported to reveal the maturity and stability of the "Made in USA" regime of Nguyen Van Thieu. At that time, whether the domino of Vietnam would fall to the left or the right truly seemed to depend on the whims of the United States Congress.

How absurd is the illusion that United States' power alone can bend the backs of a people determined to be liberated.

Western observers and analysts say that the map of Vietnam is different every day as new areas "change hands", or are "lost" or "liberated". They falsely assume that the areas to be colored red or blue, to be called "communist" or "democratic", are a result of whose army controls which hill and whose munitions can destroy the other's camps.

But there is no change in the map of Vietnam. There is a great change in the expressions of hope and anticipation, and yes fear, for the future of Vietnam. The faces of the people are changing. The faces now reveal the true commitment to building a Vietnam...free of political oppression, free from hunger, ignorance, sickness -- free from war.

And these changes are occurring in Vietnam, and fast. Ban Me Thuot, Pleiku, Kontum, Quantri, Hue, Tamky, and now Quang Ngai are liberated, with little fighting and almost no resistance. The Saigon Post headlines that there is "no contact with Quang Ngai." The Liberation Radio of the Provisional Revolutionary Government reports that the liberation cadres in Quang Ngai call upon policemen and army men to lay down their arms and join the people. And join them they do. Agence France Presse relates that last week in Binh Dinh Province, just south of Quang Ngai, local units of the Saigon army were ordered into battle but refused to comply. They turned and joined the ranks of the advancing liberation fighters.

Malcom Brown of the New York Times stood on the road north of Tamky last Monday the 24th. He spoke with former ARVN army men about the "fighting" experience in Tamky, Binh Son, and Quang Ngai. Fighting? These men had thrown away their Saigon-U.S. Army olive-drabs and donned the grey, black, or blue pajama-like clothes they had worn as farmers before they were conscripted. These former ARVN fighters then walked north on Highway One past the tanks and troops of the Provisional Revolutionary Government. Everyone knew what was happening, but the PRG caused them no trouble. The message was to return home. To return to their own homes and restore the life that Vietnam has known in times past.

From what we can tell here in Saigon, the process of "liberation" or "loss"

follows a typical pattern. There is much fear, some fighting, little resistance, and then liberation. The story of the "fall" of Ban Me Thuot is known throughout Vietnam, and may be the model of what we can expect to see repeated in towns throughout Central Vietnam.

First, local Montagnard fighters who had lived their lives in and around the town moved in at 3 AM and dismantled most of the armaments and police outposts. They were followed by local PRG cadres who suppressed what resistance was left. By the time the North Vietnamese tanks came into town, the streets were quiet.

Second, the Saigon regime responded with massive bombing that killed many and destroyed a third of the city. It is this action which causes panic in the other cities of Vietnam.

Third, the new peoples' government of Ban Me Thuot is becoming active and effective. Life is returning to normal but under higher principles. For example, the doctor who was head of the Ban Me Thuot Public Health Department under the Thieu regime, continues to serve the health needs of the people but now under the aegis of the PRG. A man is judged by his actions and by his capacity to change for the good of the people.

With the news of Ban Me Thuot, panic seizes those people who felt their interests would be threatened if a non-capitalist regime took over. The Landlords and businessmen streamed out of Ban Me Thuot, then Pleiku, Kontum, Dalat, Hue, Quang Ngai, Danang, and now Quinhon and Nha Trang. Thousands jam the highways with private cars, busses, trucks, bicycles, horsecarts, and by foot. Air-Vietnam, that bastion of free enterprise in South Vietnam, doubled, tripled, quadrupled, and eventually accepted ten times the normal price (payable in gold) for tickets out of Pleiku, Kontum, Dalat, and Danang.

People are frightened and are rushing to those places where Saigon promises "security". As many as fifty thousand may have crowded into Danang; and there may be several thousand in Quan Ngai. Yet the only roads really open to them are back to their own homes. But they are trapped. They often cannot return along the roads because of skirmishes between the two sides. People are being killed and wounded, although many more are isolated and starving. The Saigon government is propagating a widely publicized effort to airlift thousands of displaced persons from Danang to the waterless sand dunes of Cam Ranh and along the perimeter of Nhatrang. The planes are rented (big 747's designed to carry a maximum of 700 people are being crammed with 1500 people each trip!), but no shelter, food, clothing, water, latrines, or health services await these exploited people.

Also forced to flee through fear and compulsion are thousands of homeless refugees. These are people who long ago were forced off their land in the mid 60s by the United States Military aggression in Vietnam. James Markham of the New York Times reported that ARVN Rangers went ahead of the forced exodus of the farmers and Montagnards from Pleiku and Kontum. The Rangers blasted howitzers into the forest on both sides of the road. In return, according to a Saigon news report, the PRG turned on the headlights of their tanks to light the way of the road to ease the way out. But more ARVN Rangers followed these landless people, forcing them south of their resettlement camps, burning their homes, and destroying their crops and livestock.

According to ARVN radio reports heard in Saigon, at Sonha, in Quang Ngai, the ARVN airlifted hundreds of families of Montagnards to the "safety" of the perimeter of

Quang Ngai town. Families were forced into helicopters as their stick-houses were burned and their bundles of food and clothing were left behind. Then the cattle of the Montagnards, often their one means of living, were herded into a small enclosure and machine-gunned by ARVN troops until all were slaughtered.

These Montagnards were then left stranded on the outskirts of Quangai-intended to be a human wall against the inevitable advance of the liberation troops.

In Quang Ngai itself, when the Krichtons and Quinn-Judges left last Thursday, the shops were closing, people were rushing for airflights out of town, busses and trucks were packed with families leaving, and bundles were carried by cart and back. Some were leaving because of fear and were heading to the "safe" conclaves of Saigon and Danang. Others were going home.

One Center worker sent his wife and two small children by boat to tranquil Leson Island. From there they are to return to their old home in Binh Duc on the Patangan peninsula--an area liberated months ago.

Over the weekend in Quang Ngai things seemed quiet. True, two important outposts fell with few shots being fired. The fort at Njhia Hanh was turned over after a few mortar rounds were fired in. A second fort, on a hill across the river from the airfield--long the ARVN defense outpost of the Quang Ngai airport--was abandoned after the 100 ARVN defenders sighted tanks to the west.

Other reports, passed on by friends of soldiers who received military radio reports, say the PRG tanks were sighted six kilometers to the north west of Quang Ngai. This news led to the "evaporation" of the ARVN soldiers in Quang Ngai, in the words of Malcom Brown of the Times.

On Sunday, perhaps as many as 100 rockets were fired into Quang Ngai town, directed at forts, police stations, and the Province Chiefs Headquarters. Liberation Radio reports that at ten AM Monday Liberation troops advanced on the Province Chiefs headquarters (who had conveniently left for Chulai airbase), then cut communications from the town. The last remaining ARVN troops moved north out of town or went to the coast to waive down passing boats to take them away.

The Times reports that Quang Ngai is lost. Liberation Radio reports that Quang Ngai has come over to the People."

b. March 27 letter from Keith Brinton

The refugee problem: "Being refugees ourselves now, we have some bonds with the thousands and hundreds of thousands of people who are now leaving areas "liberated" by the PRG and North Vietnamese. We left relatively comfortably and mostly against our adventurous wills; the Vietnamese refugees, on the other hand, have mostly left out of fear and in great discomfort. We all agree that the refugees are genuinely afraid of the PRG and NVA, afraid of communism as a strange new force, afraid of radical change and afraid of the consequences of remaining in areas controlled by the PRG and NVA. These consequences are two-fold: first, liberated areas are usually bombed and shelled to rubble, and civilians are the least adept at saving themselves from destruction; and, second, the GVN is particularly savage in reprisals against people who chose to remain in an area that was definitely going to be controlled by the other side. Thus, if we could assure people positively that the GVN would never come back in, they would feel

a lot better about remaining in their que-huongs (original homes) despite destruction by artillery. But if they know they have to suffer the destruction of their homes and loss of life, and also arrest and torture should the GVN come back in, then they seem to opt for the uncertain fate of the refugee. So in a funny ironic way, it has been easiest for people in liberated areas who suffered temporarily from ARVN incursions and occupation: these people never had to undergo arrest and torture by the PBC after the ARVN were driven out."

April 3, 1975

Point One: Ministry of Health today delivered letter officially terminating AFSC contract and services. They gave us sixty (garbled)

Article 15 of contract. They sincerely thank us for the "relevant assistance we have provided in the Rehab Center, and wish us to convey their thanks to our central office. We will formally acknowledge their decision.

Point Two: This morning Keith observed two new provinces listed in the Central Post Office as officially "out of touch" (though we know they are really lost): Nha Trang and Phan Rang. On a second visit this afternoon three more were listed: Quinhon, Tuy-Hoa, Dalat. Many post office counters were closed and _____ prevailed among the people on line, as if suddenly things had become very clear to them. Keith also visited banks to see if a rush had begun, but saw only fair-to-middling crowd at Bank of America. Agence France Presse reports total ineffectiveness of leaders in government to form new "Cabinet for Struggle" because of swiftness of collapse and abandonment of posts, this present leadership is a group of ministers who have resigned.

Point Five: We feel there are intense behind-the-scenes activities going on to force Thieu to resign, but it appears that his replacement may be a man of similar attitude and policy, thus no real hope for immediate political settlement.

Point Six: Team consensus is that we all wish at this point to stay. We have received strong urging by responsible friends to do so, and we now feel we can do this without real risk to ourselves. It is possible we may stay in more than one place, if we request sanctuary from reputable friends as advised to do. But then all would be safe and our neighbors have expressed gladness with our decision to day. We are supplied with food and are being careful in our movements, again as advised. We feel when U.S. authorities withdraw Americans from the city the panic will begin but that it will be mindless and not directed at specific people at all. We also await Ford's speech tomorrow, can only suppose he will formally withdraw support.

Point Eight: News from a woman who walked out of Quang Ngai to visit children in Saigon but leaving husband there, two days after changeover. Things are very quiet, no guns. Gas has run out and people are using bikes and pedicabs. Market is open and business usual. Young people are having new papers made up by new authorities. That's all. Team.

QUAKER TEAM IN SAIGON



Paul Quinn-Judge



Sophia Quinn-Judge



Tom Hoskins



Julia Forster



Keith Brinton



Claudia Kitch

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memo



Indochina Resource Center, 1322 18th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036

(202) 785-3111

SUBJECT: The bloodbath issue

April 10, 1975

TO: Members of Congress

FROM: Jim Morrell, Research Associate

The argument that the Communists will carry out a massive bloodbath on taking power has become crucial to the rationale for American military aid to Vietnam and Cambodia, and in his speech tonight the President is expected to resurrect the old myths along with new ones said to be based on recent intelligence data. Members of Congress should be aware of what the available evidence suggests:

1. North Vietnam's land reform, 1955-1956: On April 16, 1971 President Nixon told the American people "a half a million, by conservative estimates...were murdered or otherwise exterminated by the North Vietnamese."

However: The former director of the Saigon psychological warfare service, Nguyen Van Chau, told Diana Johnstone of Dispatch News Service in 1972 that the land reform bloodbath story was totally fabricated by his agency.

However: The sole primary source on the land reform bloodbath is a Vietnamese employed by Saigon's Ministry of Information in 1955 and 1956 and by the USIA in the 1960's, Hoang Van Chi.

However: Chi's account is based on a series of falsehoods, non-existent documents and slanted translations which leave no doubt that his purpose was propaganda rather than accurate history; e.g.

GIAP'S SPEECH ON LAND REFORM ERRORS--Mistranslations of key passages

<u>Vietnamese text*</u>	<u>Accurate translation</u>	<u>Chi's translation</u>
"...xu tri oan nhung nguoi ngay..."	"...the unjust disciplining of innocent people..."	"and executed too many honest people..."
"...dung nhung bien phap tran ap qua dang."	"used excessive repressive measures..."	"...resorted to terror..."
"(h)...tham chi dung phuong phap truy buc..."	"even coercive measures were used"	"...worse still, torture..."

*Nhan Dan, October 31, 1956

(For details, see D. Gareth Porter, "The Myth of the bloodbath: North Vietnam's Land Reform Reconsidered," Bulletin of Concerned Asian Scholars, 5:2, September, 1973, available from the Indochina Resource Center.)

2. The Hue "massacre"

- No independent source has ever confirmed the number of bodies.
- No independent source has ever confirmed the causes of death.
- No Western journalists were allowed to examine the original gravesites.
- The origin of the story is ARVN's Tenth Political Warfare Battalion whose specific mission is to discredit the Communists without regard to the truth.

(See D. Gareth Porter, "The 1968 'Hue Massacre,'" Cong. Record, Feb. 19, 1975, S2189-94.)

3. Khmer Rouge massacres. The Indochina Resource Center has received a report from our research director, William Goodfellow in Cambodia, to the effect that the "Ang Snuol massacre" of innocent villagers--advertised back in January as diamond-hard evidence of a Khmer Rouge massacre policy--has yet to be verified by a single eyewitness. (Report available from Indochina Resource Center).

In 30 years of war there have been incidents of reprisals on all sides. The kind of large-scale deliberate policy the Administration portrays does not, however, rest on credible or defensible historical evidence.

VVA

Mile High Veteran

Chapter 107

RENDEZVOUS REVIEW

October 1984

CREDIT PAST DUE

The 1st Annual Rendezvous at Crestmoor Park on Saturday, September 22, was a great success. The weather was made to order. Everyone attending made new friends. The chapter gained several new members and associate members. In addition to raising enough donations to send Ann Funck to the "Third National Conference on the Treatment of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder", in Baltimore, Maryland.

We also received television exposure on channel 7, KMGH news.

With all this plus hamburgers and beer, how could it be called anything but a success? To those of you that couldn't make it, we missed you, to those who could, we're glad we met you.

ARE YOU A MEMBER IN GOOD
STANDING?

If you are a chapter member and have not verified that your time in service was during the Vietnam Era, you need to do so in order to have full voting rights.

You may verify your service dates by sending a copy of your DD form 214 to

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
Denver Chapter #107
P.O. Box 12031
Denver, CO 80212

Or, stop by our office at 1540 Emerson Street, Suite #6, 2nd floor.

For more information call 832-0VVA

As Vietnam Era Veterans most of us are familiar with the problem of not receiving proper recognition for doing a job that no one else would.

The hard work that Coleen Ford has been doing for the chapter and the newsletter shall not go unrecognized.

In addition to being the wife of Rod Ford, chapter president, Coleen has been doing the graphics and layout for the newsletter. Along with composing many of the articles and doing much of the typing.

I can say without hesitation, that if not for Coleen there would have been no September newsletter.

To Coleen Ford, for dedication and support above and beyond the call, and for a job well done, I can only say THANK YOU.

Rick Hanson
Editor, Mile High
Veteran

VETERANS DAY PARADE

On November 11th a contingent from chapter #107 will be representing the VVA in the Denver Veterans Day Parade. Anyone wishing to participate should stay in touch with the business office as more information becomes available. 832-0VVA

"Help Each Other Help Ourselves"

GRAND OPENING!

Even though the office at 1540 Emerson St., has been open and operating for several weeks, the official grand opening of the Denver VVA Chapter #107 Headquarters will take place on Monday October 29th, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Members are welcome to stop by and have a look around.

For more information call 832-OVVA

NEWSLETTER DONATIONS

The "Mile High Veteran" is sent to over 200 addresses each month. Of that, only 25% are full members. The remaining 75% are receiving this letter free. The tax deductible donations of non-member readers would go a long way toward covering the cost of publishing our newsletter. If you wish to make a tax deductible donation to the "Mile High Veteran" newsletter, please make your check or money order payable to V.V.A. Chapter #107 and send it to:

V.V.A. Chapter #107
Mile High Veteran
P.O. Box 12031
Denver, CO 80212

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Remember who you are . . .

Since taking over as Chairman of Fund Raising we have worked as support to both Public Relations; and Membership Chairman. The job has ranged from finding a picnic sight, to getting air time on the Woody Page talk show. In between we have talked to Peter Boyles of KNUS radio, Shirley Pearson of KDKO radio and Tim Fox of KPKE radio. We are also attempting to acquire air time on the Shirley Pearson T.V. Show.

We have begun talks on starting our own Thrift Store; and are currently holding talks with Intermountain Productions Inc., who have proposed to help us with our fund raising.

We do need fund raising help and ideas. If you want to help, please call us at our office on 832-0882.

Tony Chesnar
Fund Raising

Calendar of Events

- Oct. 15 - Board of Directors
7:00 p.m. Meeting, 1540 Emerson St., 2nd floor.
- Oct. 24 - General Meeting
7:30 p.m. 1540 Emerson St., 2nd floor
Deadlines for Newsletter Articles.
- Oct. 29 - Grand Opening of Denver VVA
7:00 p.m. - Chapter #107 Headquarters
10:00 p.m. 1540 Emerson St., 2nd Floor
- Nov. 11 - Veterans Day Parade
Downtown Denver

For more information about upcoming events, call (303) 832-OVVA.



VVA NATIONAL NEWS

AGENT ORANGE

Judge Weinstein, who has been hearing the testimony in the Agent Orange Lawsuit settlement has set back the filing date for claims to January 2, 1985. He has also delayed judgment on the settlement until after reviewing the claims. VVA S Board of Directors recommended this action at the last Board meeting.

CLAIMS SERVICE NAME CHANGE

You are reminded that VVA Claims Service has changed its name to VVA Legal Services.

The U.S. Department of Defense has identified three units directly sprayed with agent orange in Vietnam. They are

- 1). 3rd. Bn, 1st Marines
- 2). 31 Engineer Bn.
- 3). 1st. sq., 9th Cav. (Airmobile)

If you or anyone you know were in these units in Vietnam, you should have an agent orange exam immediately.

VVA VETERAN

The VVA VETERAN is now being sent by second class mail which should speed up delivery time. We feel that our members getting the VETERAN on time is worth the added expense. There was no VETERAN printed in June or July. The size of and information contained in the August issue should make up for the missing two issues.

THRIFT STORES

The Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation has entered into an agreement with a number of Thrift Stores. This agreement will produce funding for many of our Service Projects such as the printing of informational materials for veterans, training of our Service Representatives and outreach to Vietnam Era veterans seeking help and information.

These stores will be soliciting household goods in the name of VVA. In addition to the stores already in operation in Covina, CA and Birmingham, AL, stores will be opening in Trenton, NJ, Camden, NJ, Gladstone, OR, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, North Miami, FL, Hialeah, FL, and Jacksonville, FL, New Orleans, LA, Patterson, NJ, Wilkesburg, PA and two in Pittsburgh, PA.

** CHOPPER PILOTS **

The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association is seeking members who flew for the U.S. Armed Forces during the Vietnam War. They hope to obtain a mailing list of pilots for a directory and reunion in the near future.

Write: VHPS
2312 W. Mandalay Lane
Phoenix, Arizona 85023

VVA CHARTER

The future of the VVA charter will be decided within the next few weeks. It is imperative to demonstrate grassroots support and to attract as many additional cosponsors as possible. We now have 52 cosponsors in the Senate. This does not assure passage of our charter. If you have not contacted your Senators do so now and get everyone in your chapter, their families and friends to write. Your contact with Senators and Representatives has gotten us this far but your all-out effort is needed right now. Let your Senators know the work you are doing in your communities and states.

VV MEMORIAL STATUE DEDICATION

The statue of three soldiers will be dedicated at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. on Sunday, November 11, 1984, at 2 p.m. There will be many reunions and receptions going on that weekend. We will keep you informed of plans for the weekend as they are finalized.

If any of you are planning to go, reservations should be made no later than October 15. VVA (national) has requested a block of rooms for members at the Hotel Washington. Ann Funck is attending and arrangements can be coordinated through her. Or, you can contact Washington by calling 1-800-424-9540 (toll free) for individual or small groups. Large groups should contact Libby Dyer at 1-202-638-5900. A list of hotels is available through our board.

Be sure to ask for the VVA block, and ask for the veterans discount.



Open Forum

Many Vietnam Veterans have put their hearts on paper in the form of poetry since coming home.

If you have written poetry, and if you're ready to share it, the MILE HIGH VETERAN would be proud to be the first to print it.

SEND YOUR POEMS TO:

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
 Denver Chapter #107
 P.O. Box 12031
 Denver, Co. 80212

IDEAS AND INPUT

Got any brainstorms for projects and events for the VVA to pursue? WE NEED IDEAS AND INPUT. Express your thoughts to Ann Funck, Office Manager at 832-OVA. Ann will refer you to the officer in charge of that particular department.



"Goodnight Saigon"

We met as soul mates on Paris Island,
 We left as inmates from that Asylum,
 And we were sharp
 As sharp as knives
 And we were so gung ho to lay down our lives.

We came in spastic, like tameless horses,
 We left in plastic, as numbered corpses,
 We learn fast to travel light
 Our arms were heavy but our bellies were tight.

We had no home front,
 We had no soft soap,
 They sent us Playboy
 They gave us Bob Hope

We dug in deep and shot on sight,
 And prayed to Jesus Christ with all our might,
 We had no cameras to shoot the landscape
 We passed the hash pipe and played our Doors
 tape, And it was dark so dark at night.

And we held on to each other, like brother to
 brother, And promised our mothers we would write
 And we would all go down together
 And we all said we would go down together
 And we all said we would all go down together

Remember Charley, Remember Baker,
 They left their childhood on every acre
 And who was wrong
 And who was right
 It didn't matter in the thick of the fight
 We held the day in the palm of our hands
 They ruled the night.

And the night seemed to last as long as six
 weeks on Paris Island, We held the coastline
 They held the highland
 And they were sharp, as sharp as knives
 They heard the hum of the motors
 They counted the rotors
 And waited for us to arrive

And we will go down together
 And we will all come home together
 We said we would all come home together

words by: Billy Joel



Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc
2001 S St. NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20009-1125
(202) 332-2700



TO: VVA CHAPTERS
FROM: LILY ADAMS, SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON WOMEN VETERANS
SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR WOMEN VETERANS RECOGNITION

The week beginning Novmeber 11, 1984 has been designated as Women Veterans Recognition Week. Many of you will want to plan some special recognition for the women veterans who are members of your chapter. We are expecting a large number of women to attend the dedication of the statue at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. on November 11th and are asking for your assistance in providing a a designated place where women vetrans and civilians who served in adjuctive organizations can meet. If each VVA Chapter could contribute a minimum of \$10.00 we can provide a Hospitality Room sponsored by VVA Chapters and the Special Committee on Women Veterans that will be open during Salute II week-end.

Those of us who attended the National Salute in 1982 had a difficult time finding other women veterans. You often ask us how we can get women to join your chapters. This Hospitality Room which will be at the Hotel Washington will serve both to let women know that VVA not only appreciates their service but welcomes them as members of our organization.

Contributions for this project should be made out to:

The Special Committee on Women Veterans
and sent to the National Office (ATTN: Mary Stout). We also ask that you include a letter from the Chapter congratulating the Women Veterans on their Special Recognition. These letters will be placed in a book and will be available in the Hospitality Room.

We appreciate your consideration of this project and hope to hear from you soon. Any moneys not used for this Special Project will be used by the Special Committee on Women Veterans for continued outreach programs.

Thank you



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

1608 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 223-6846

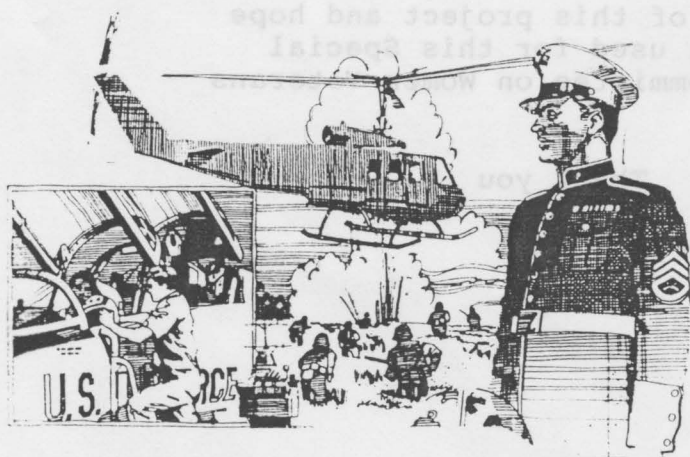
March 1, 1984

U.S. GOVERNMENT POSITION ON LIVE SIGHTINGS

The following data has been provided by the Defense Intelligence Agency:

"Since the fall of Saigon in 1975, the United States Government has acquired more than 2,372 reports bearing on the POW/MIA problem. Of the total reported, over 598 are firsthand live sighting reports with 435 or 73% resolved through a determination that they correlate with individuals since accounted for. Additionally, eighty-eight (15%) are known or suspected to be fabrications by the source. Over 163 or 27% of the sighting reports of Americans held against their will remain unverified and are under continuing investigation in an attempt to confirm the information. The remaining reports pertain to hearsay sightings and to crash site and grave site information."

The official U.S. government position statement goes on to say, "Given the above circumstances, it would be irresponsible to rule out the possibility that live Americans are being held. Thus, the U.S. government's current position is: "Although we have thus far been unable to prove that Americans are still detained against their will, the information available to us precludes ruling out that possibility. Actions to investigate live-sighting reports receive and will continue to receive necessary priority and resources based on the assumption that at least some Americans are still held captive. Should any report prove true, we will take appropriate action to ensure the return of those involved."



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1320 Bellaire St.
Broomfield, Colo. 80020

GET PICKLED!

Here is the pickle recipe that so many of you enjoyed at our picnic recently:

HOT REFRIDGERATOR PICKLES

2½ pounds of 4 inch fresh cucumbers
(quarter them)
6 fresh Dill Heads
8 Jalepeno Peppers(halved)
8 Cloves of Garlic, peeled and quartered

Pack the above ingredients into a clean 1 gallon jar. Make the following Brind:

2 quarts water
1½ cups of vinegar
1/3 cup pickleing salt

Heat Brine - Pour hot Brine over the cucumbers to cover. Cool, stick in the refridgerator. Ready to eat in 2 to 3 days, but they are better after 2 weeks.

By
Joy Ingram

MILE HIGH VETERAN STAFF

Editor Rick Hanson
Transcribing Cindy Hanson
Graphic and
Layout - Tim Ward
Circulation Bob Funck

The Mile High Veteran Newsletter exists to inform chapter members, associate members and Vietnam Veterans at large, of information and events, affecting or pertaining to the Vietnam Era Veteran.

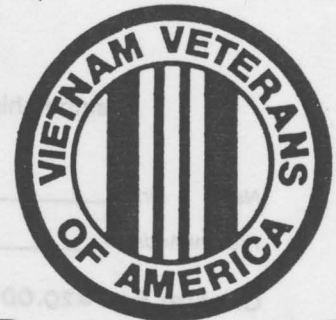
If you have an article or a poem, a letter to the Editor or important information about an up-coming event, please send it to:

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
Denver Chapter #107
NEWSLETTER
P.O. Box 12031
Denver, CO 80212

Your input is more than welcome.

The deadline for Newsletter articles is the 4th Wednesday of each month. If your attending the general meeting you may turn them in then.

JOIN VVA!!!



In Service to America

We need your support!

We wish to correct the phone number that was given on our Public Service spots, now that we have an office and a telephone. The number to use is 832-0VVA. Pass it on . . .

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Rod Ford (422-3603)
1st Vice President-Ed Rowan (279-3408)
Treasurer Chip Bellamy (279-8273)
Secretary Fred Harrison (837-1165)

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(755-2028)
Tony Chesnar Chairman, Fund Raising
(452-1145)
Jerry Morris Chairman, Membership
(698-1015)
Bob Funck Chairman, Newsletter Circulation
(832-4435)
Ann Funck Service Director/Office Manager
(832-4435)

This newsletter is a publication of the Vietnam Veterans of America. If you served in the U.S. military during the Vietnam era, we need you. Associate memberships are available for family members and members of the public at large



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. is open to Vietnam Era Veterans
Associate Membership to the Public at Large

Name First _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Present Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Chapter Fee \$20.00

Home Phone _____

Return this form to

For Other Information

• VVA Chapter 107 •

• VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA •
(303) 422-3603

P.O. Box 12031 • Denver, Colo. 80212 • (303) 832-4435

- I am a Vietnam era veteran and would like to be a Member.
- I am not a Vietnam era veteran, but would like to be an Associate Member.

Your Local Chapter No. 167

I want to give more. Enclosed is my check for \$20, \$50, \$ _____ New Member or Renewal

Membership Card No. _____

(All contributions are tax deductible.)

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Tim Ward*



In Service to America

CURRENT UPDATE ON INDOCHINA FROM INDOCHINA PROGRAM NEWSLETTER DATED 4/11/75

President Ford's April 19th deadline is designed to rush Congress into inadequately considered action. It has the effect of making it much harder for us to mobilize popular sentiment in the usual ways. A major theme of our message to Congress must be to STOP AND THINK!

The Coalition to Stop Funding the War believes that Ford's billion dollar package was not designed with any realistic hope of passage. Instead, he hopes to reduce the margin of defeat on the Supplemental (which may be voted on as early as Wed., April 16). Moderates would be pressured towards supporting a compromise between \$0 and \$722 million. (The \$722 million is \$422 million more than the original Supplemental request for \$300 million in military aid.)

While it is unlikely that Ford can win on any compromise figure, if he minimizes his defeat, that will check the momentum towards zero military aid in Fiscal Yr. '76 only 2½ months away. The monsoon hits South Vietnam in about a month, severely restricting military action around Saigon and the Delta, so from the Administration's view, by holding things together just a bit longer, it gets a 6 mo. breather to maneuver politically in Washington and Saigon.

Our point of view is that political settlement along the lines called for by the Paris Agreement is possible now. Crucial to this settlement is the cessation of U.S. war aid to Saigon so that a government of reconciliation might come to power which would negotiate the settlement. A political settlement is the only real way to guarantee the safety of withdrawing Americans and Vietnamese emigres whose lives might be endangered under a new government.

OF GREATEST IMMEDIATE DANGER is Ford's attempt to reintroduce U.S. troops. Astonishingly, the media reports he has broad Congressional support for this. The following information should help you confront this new issue effectively:

Case-Church Amendment (adopted initially June 1973, and twice thereafter)

"Notwithstanding any other provision of law, on or after Aug. 15, 1973, no funds herein or heretofore appropriated may be obligated or expended to finance directly or indirectly combat activities by United States military forces in or over or from off the shore of North Vietnam, South Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia."

THE War Powers Resolution (passed over Nixon's veto in November 1973)

"Section 4. (a) In the absence of a declaration of war, in any case in which United States Armed Forces are introduced--into the territory, airspace or waters of a foreign nation, while equipped for combat...the President shall submit within 48 hours to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to the President pro tempore of the Senate a report, in writing, setting forth--(a) the circumstances necessitating the introduction of United States Armed Forces; (b) the constitutional and legislative authority under which such introduction took place; and (c) the estimated scope and duration of the hostilities or involvement."

WHAT IS FORD TRYING TO DO? On April 10th, the President asked Congress to "clarify" its restrictions on the use of American forces in Southeast Asia thus enabling him to send in combat troops to aid in the evacuation of Americans and endangered Vietnamese. He made no reference to Case-Church. His strategy apparently is to define the issue as only one of clarifying the admittedly vague War Powers Act rather than as repealing the definitive Case-Church prohibition. Such a clarification would be less controversial and probably be legally interpreted as overriding Case-Church.

HISTORY Tonkin Gulf, Aug. '64. Pres. Johnson uses an alleged attack on U.S. destroyers Maddox and Turner Joy to extract from Congress permission for retaliatory air strikes. The "retaliation" continued for about 8 years.

“

I'm still involved in this ongoing process of trying to find out what I was doing over there . . .

Even at this late date there doesn't seem to have been any logical reason. I think studying about Vietnam is a form of therapy.

It keeps me from going around the bend.

”

CLASSIFIED

HELP WANTED:

Alumni relations have but one purpose, to maintain the same level of service to you, our graduates, that we offered while you were enrolled in classes. It's simple: You're the people we're all about, and that means we need two things to be able to serve you well. We need to know where you are, and we need your suggestions and help in making our efforts to serve you as effective as they can be.

An intensive search is underway to find "lost" alumni. Since 1947, more than 44,000 people have graduated from University College, roughly split between our stateside and overseas divisions. But of this group, we have current addresses for only 13,000! Please help by letting us know of any of your fellow alumni who did not receive this issue of *University College World*, and be sure to let us know when you change your address or phone. Our listings are particularly scanty for European and Asian Division alumni.

We want your addresses so we can keep you informed—about all of our programs and activities. We want your participation in our growing alumni efforts. We welcome any and all ideas, suggestions, contributions to *World* (stories or pictures), and we especially welcome any time you can spare. You can counsel current students about your career area, volunteer with our small professional staff to work on updating mail and phone lists, actually develop and organize alumni events, and perhaps help with phone calls to other alumni.

Why should you bother? Pride. Reaching out to a ready-made network of professional and social contacts. A chance to shape the alumni program, for you and others. (Remember, you're also eligible to join the University of Maryland Alumni Association International. Dues for new graduates are just \$5.00 for three years and benefits include a discount program and many special events.) So lend a hand. You'll be helping us, which means you'll be helping yourself. For further information, or to volunteer, call (301) 985-7077.

PUBLIC NOTICES:

We'd like you to take note: University College is still here to serve you! We offer graduate, undergraduate, and non-credit courses; career and academic advisors; conferences, seminars and institutes—and the expertise to help plan and run them; a full-service meeting and banquet facility; and many more services and programs. Notice these numbers (area code 301):

General Information (8-8, M-F)	985-7000
Graduate School (all inquiries)	985-7155
Undergraduate Admissions	985-7265
Academic Advising	
Daytime Information	985-7288
Evening Appointments	985-7498
Career Planning Services	985-7275
Academic Support Center	
(writing, math, computers, etc.)	985-7276
Financial Aid	985-7231
Transcripts	985-7236
Conferences and Institutes Program	
(non-credit and short courses)	985-7157
Center of Adult Education	
(rooms, catering, events)	985-7306
Office of Institutional Advancement	
(alumni affairs; Annual Fund)	985-7077
Univ. of Md. Alumni Assn. Intl.	853-3703

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

WORLD

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FACT SHEET

HISTORY

French Involvement:

1. Since 1928, part French children may claim French nationality
2. In 1954, when the French withdrew from Indo-China, they took out 3000 part French children and cared for them in France. The Ministry of Social Affairs continues to support these children at the cost of a million dollars per year.
3. The French have found a high rate of success in adjustment of these children into French life and many were adopted.

PRESENT SITUATION

1. About 500 children have been adopted in the past 5 years. This have been done privately through proxy and placed in several countries.
- 2/ Official estimates of the amount of homeless children in Vietnam is set at 258,000 of which 15,000 are half-American. (War Victims Directorate CORDS, 1970)
- 3/ Present Vietnam law makes it difficult to adopt children and bring them out of the country. Example: If you are not married over 10 years, childless or one partner over 30, President Thieu must sign the final release papers allowing a child to be adopted by American parents. Although the South Vietnamese government does not discourage inter-country adoption and has made the procedure easier, they have decreed against any mass evacuation of children.
4. Most adoptive groups are interested in the problem of getting the children out. Welcome House, Holt Adoption Program and Lutheran Social Services are all sending representatives to Vietnam in January to assess the situation for inter-country adoption.
5. There are approximately 160 orphanages both Buddhist and Catholic. Most of the orphanages are supported privately. Those registered by the Vietnam Ministry of Social Welfare receive about \$2.00 per month per child. Even the best institutions have minimal medical care and education is non-existent. The children die at the alarming rate of 80%. They die of such illnesses as dysentery, diarrhea, measles, polio, worms, etc. The conditions in the institutions are frightful. Overcrowding causes neglect and many children die of apathy.
6. A reception center must be established to keep the children alive. The American dollar can go a long way. Example: \$5.00 feeds a baby for 15 days. \$25.00 provides diapers for 50 children for 3 days. \$35.00 supports one orphanage worker for a month. The situation is more acute now that the Americans are withdrawing. Money for medical care is being reduced by our government.

LEGISLATIONS

1. Bill #S3841 would allow single parent inter-country adoption. It was introduced by Senator Javits of New York.
2. Bill # 2071 introduced by Senator Moss of Utah asks the U.S. government to do what the French did in terms of evacuating part American children from Vietnam and caring for them totally.
3. Bill #S2497 introduced by Senator Williams of New Jersey would authorize the President through the temporary Vietnam Children's Care Agency to enter into arrangements with the South Vietnamese Government to provide assistance in improving the welfare of children and to facilitate the adoption of orphaned or abandoned Vietnamese children, particularly children of U.S. fathers.

THE COMMITTEE OF RESPONSIBILITY, INC.
To Save War-Burned and War-Injured Vietnamese Children
Denver Branch

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(affiliations for identification only)

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