

5/10/49
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FB - General Collins

Mr. Hoey's Chro
Jan. 26, 1955

PSA - Kenneth T. Young, Jr.

Telephone Call from Representative of International Rescue Committee

Mr. Salzmann, of the International Rescue Committee, telephoned Mr. Hoey this morning to request that you agree to meet in Washington on February 3 with Mr. Cherne, Chairman of the Committee, and Mr. Buckner, President of the Junior Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

Mr. Salzmann explained that the IRC had just entered into an agreement with the Junior Chamber of Commerce with respect to aiding the refugees in Viet-Nam. (Mr. Cherne, who was formerly an economic advisor to President Roosevelt, visited Viet-Nam in this connection in October 1954. His organization has in the past been principally concerned with aiding in the resettlement of Jewish intellectuals from Eastern Europe and finding occupations for them in the United States.)

Mr. Hoey explained to Mr. Salzmann that you would be leaving in early February and that your time is very much taken up with consultations; however, he would pass on the request to you for an answer. Mr. Hoey suggested that if a meeting be held, it might well include representatives of FOA who were the action agency regarding the refugee program. Mr. Salzmann then told Mr. Hoey that the real purpose of the meeting was to attempt to secure your endorsement to persuading Prime Minister Diem to visit the United States as a guest of the IRC. They had previously invited him but he had declined.

Mr. Hoey explained that it would be most unusual for a foreign chief of government to visit the United States in response to a private invitation. Also Prime Minister Diem is very much occupied with the solution of urgent problems in his country. Mr. Hoey doubted that any further approach to Mr. Diem to visit the United States as the guest of the IRC would be a proper subject for the President's special representative in Viet-Nam.

Nevertheless,

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Nevertheless, Mr. Salzmann requested that this matter be brought to your attention in the hope that a meeting could be arranged either on February 3 or alternatively February 1. He asked to be notified by telephone in New York at Murray Hill 2-4672 or that Mr. Cherne be notified directly in New York at Plaza 5-8900.

Recommendation:

Both the International Rescue Committee and the American Junior Chamber of Commerce have been interested in making what contribution they could to the refugee problem in Viet-Nam. Neither organization has much to offer materially but we feel that private volunteer relief agencies should be encouraged to take an interest in the Vietnamese refugee problem in Viet-Nam for public relations reasons. I recommend that if your schedule permits you agree to meet with Mr. Cherne and Mr. Buckner prior to your departure with representatives of the Department and FCA. You might wish to take the opportunity to thank Mr. Cherne and Mr. Buckner for their interest and help; specifically, the Philippine Junior Chamber of Commerce has been maintaining a team of several doctors and nurses at the refugee resettlement centers in Viet-Nam. However, should you be asked to attempt to influence Diem to visit the United States as a guest of the IRC or the Junior Chamber of Commerce, that you respond along the lines that this proposal appears to be outside of your established relationship with the Chief of the Government of Viet-Nam and that you are dubious as to his ability to accept. Visits by foreign chiefs of state are at the invitation of the President.

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