

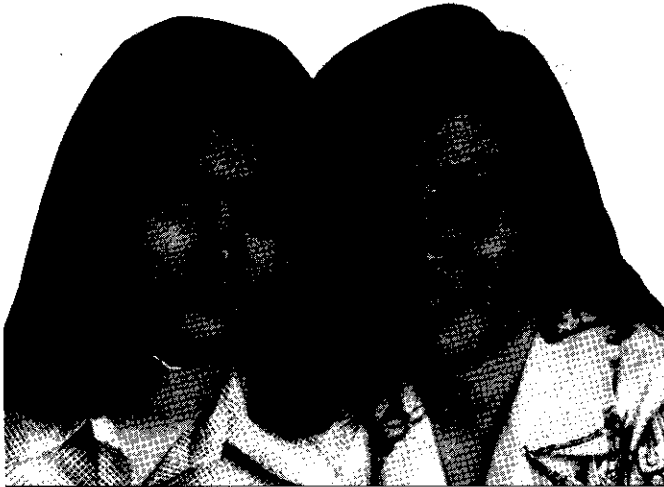
Christian Anti-Communism Crusade

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July 15, 1979

Dear Friend,

I had just written the front-page article of this newsletter about the need to transform the general problem of nameless Vietnamese refugees into the shared suffering of known and loved individuals when an event happened which did exactly that for every member of the Crusade staff.



Ho-Thi-Hanh (Daughter, 21 years) Ho-Thi-Hong (Wife)

Working on our staff is a mature Vietnamese man, Hoang Van Sao. Sao was a policeman in Saigon and he escaped just as Saigon fell. He left his wife and family behind, and love for them and worry about their security and well-being have been the central concerns of his life here. He has difficulty expressing his thoughts in English, but any discussion of his family causes his eyes to light up. He has saved from his small salary with the hope that one day they may join him in the U.S.A.

He has just received a cable from his wife in Vietnam which says: "Come and meet me, children on boat No. 5428; Left (Vietnam) on June 19."

That is all he knows and naturally he is worried to distraction, and we share his worry. The vision of his wife, daughter and son, crowded into a small boat of dubious seaworthiness, adrift on the vast ocean, threatened by storms, hunger, thirst, drowning and possibly pirates, and facing hostility wherever they try to land, is a fearful one. This is not just a problem of "refugees." It is his wife, son, and daughter who are in deadly peril.

We do not know where they are going and have been unable to find out. Is the destination Malaysia, Thailand, or Hong Kong? Sao thinks it is most likely to be Malaysia, but he is not sure. If the boat does reach Malaysia, will it be towed out to sea again by the Malaysian Navy? If we only knew, we could and would send Sao and the Rev. James Colbert to the area with the hope that they would be able to find them and arrange for their admission to the U.S.A. We are confident you would approve and support us in this.

We have called everyone we think may be able to help, but have failed dismally to secure any useful information. Calls have been made to Congressmen, the State Department, the Red Cross, the Malaysian Red Crescent, World Vision and others, but none have been able to do more than give general information and sympathy. A cable has been sent to the niece who sent the original cable hoping she can give more information.

We can only wait, hope and pray. Please join us in this and let us know you are praying. We are a large family and must heed the exhortation, "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ." Jesus commands us to love one another. Love shares suffering.

Please send us your gift of love. We need it to continue our work of love.

With Christian love,

Fred Schwarz