

The engagement of millions of Americans in the struggle to end the brutal war in Indochina has led, in a search for what we have called "peace", to a devastation beyond anything we had thought possible. For those Vietnamese, Cambodians and Laotians who have survived the worst bombing in the history of the world, life is precarious and terrifying.

Many of us who feel a burden of responsibility for the pain and grief that American bombs have caused have mixed feelings as the Lenten-passover season approaches. How can we celebrate? Somewhere during this holy season, March 7-April 22—a moment is needed for the Indochinese people, a time to remember those who still live and struggle for life in that tortured part of the world, a time to

givesomething for life and healing.

To answer this need, the FOR has initiated the FOR THE VICTIMS program. We propose that our members and all those who feel concern for the victims of this war will join in a project to raise money for direct and immediate help to the thousands of homeless and wounded war victims in Vietnam. The funds will go to three groups whose work ministering directly to the physical needs of the wounded and homeless is well known and whose need for financial support is urgent: Quang Ngai Rehabilitation Center (Quaker), the Medical Aid for Indochina Committee and the School of Youth for Social Service (Buddhist). Descriptions of the work of these groups appear later in the brochure.

COMMUNITIES OF REMEMBRANCE AND CELEBRATION

These gatherings can be held ecumenically or within one or more congregations. Because we believe there are many who would like the opportunity to participate in such a remembrance/celebration, a church or temple would be appropriate, although it is conceivable that some would like to plan such an occasion in the more intimate surroundings of their own home. Some may wish to hold a vigil and/or procession in a more public place, either

prior to or following the gift-giving service. Still others will wish to plan a simple meal of rice and tea and yet others a complete fast for a set period.

Whatever setting is chosen for the religious service, there may be need for it to go beyond conventional rites to bring in resources which come from Southeast Asia itself. Various types of materials for worship and reflection relating to the war and its effects are available from FOR.

PUBLICITY

It is especially important to call public attention to the FOR THE VICTIMS program because it provides a specific way amid all the suffering in Indochina and the tendency to complacency in the United States for people to give of their resources for life and rehabilitation in Southeast Asia. And it is particularly significant that, during this season of the year when attention is called to justice and

mercy, people in church and synagogue become involved.

We have learned that people who comprise the religious press, in particular, are delighted to have events such as this to cover during this season. A unique event of this kind, symbolizing as it does the heart of Lent and Passover has many picture and feature story aspects.

THE IMMEDIATE TASK

What is called for now is organizing in local communities. Lent is always a busy time and plans should be made early for the kind of occasion you want for your community. We would suggest that

the remembrance/celebration occasions begin in early March.

If you need any more help or clarification from FOR, please don't hesitate to write or call.

THE CHANNELING ORGANIZATIONS:

Medical Aid for Indochina sends medical supplies and equipment to areas of Indochina formerly controlled by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the Provisional Revolutionary Government, the Pathet Lao and their allies. For over a year they have been forwarding medical materials at the request of the Red Cross societies to the areas of Indochina bombed by the U.S. government.

Quaker Rehabilitation Center, in Quang Ngai in South Vietnam, specializes in the making and fitting of artificial arms and legs for Vietnamese civilians, children and adults. Operated by the American Friends Service Committee.

Fellowship of Reconciliation, Box 271, Nyack, N.Y. 10960

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School of Youth for Social Service, operated by the Unified Buddhist church, which is independent of the Thieu regime, maintains refugee centers in the major cities of South Vietnam where emergency aid on a large scale and some relocation is effected.

ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS

All monies collected and sent us for FOR THE VICTIMS will be split into equal portions and sent to the three projects described. Checks for this program may be made out to the FOR and earmarked "For the Victims" or for any of the agencies you especially wish to aid. Only gifts to the SYSS (above) and the FOR are tax-deductible.

- I'm interested in a "For the Victims" program for my church, synagogue or peace group. Send me further materials, including an Organizer's Manual which contains suggestions including special readings for a rice and teameal, etc.
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photo by Philip Jones Griffiths from Vietnam Inc.

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"Is this not what I require of you as a fast:
to loose the fetters of injustice, to untie the
knots of the yoke, to snap every yoke and set
free those who have been crushed."

Isaiah 58:6

FOR THE VICTIMS

**A Program of
the Fellowship of Reconciliation**