

OF THE  
**INTERNATIONAL  
RESCUE COMMITTEE**

386 Park Avenue South,  
New York, N.Y. 10016/679-0010

November 21, 1973

Dear Friend of IRC:

In Vietnam, a desolate war orphan stares into space, his sadness mirrored on the faces of a hundred other abandoned children in the crowded room. . . In a refugee camp in Italy, a small girl whispers to her parents - refugees from the Soviet Union - that she is cold and tells of her fear that they will never have a real home. . . In a Hong Kong shanty, the five children of Chinese refugees do not complain of their hunger as their mother comforts them with the dream of a better life. . . In Spain, a Cuban mother and father who left all their possessions behind them try to tell their tearful children why there will not be any Christmas presents this year. . .

In a world filled with violence and oppression, thousands of refugee children like these are facing a cruel winter and a joyless holiday season. They are the human debris of war that destroyed homes and parents; boys and girls whose families fled from the religious, racial and political terror prevailing in many countries. Their dreams are not of toys and luxuries, but of someone who will lead them to the safety of a home-- away from the tragic violence and human destruction they have experienced. Surrounded as they are by hunger, sickness and death, their dream of a new life has not quite been extinguished, and a spark of hope remains.

It is the mission of the International Rescue Committee to heal the scars of uprooted boys and girls and to fulfill their fragile hopes. We do this through children's centers and orphanages you help support, clinics and hospitals, refugee schools and rehabilitation work, food and clothing and shelter. Through our resettlement program, we find asylum for refugee families in the free world where they can rebuild their lives. In Vietnam, we have just established a Rehabilitation Center for war orphans who are being considered for adoption in America. So highly regarded is IRC's work in child care and rehabilitation that the leading adoption agencies asked us to create this Center for the shattered Vietnamese orphans before they come here to their adoptive parents.

As the holiday season approaches, appeals for IRC's humanitarian aid are heard with growing intensity from thousands of homeless refugees. For children in America this is a happy season as families and friends gather in a spirit of warmth and generosity and love. It is a time of excitement as gifts are given and received, a time of joyful dreams of the future. It is a time, also, when

**IRC OFFICERS:**

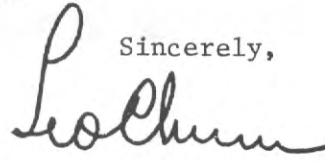
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the International Rescue Committee makes a very special effort to bring to desolate refugee children a measure of holiday joy and hope for the future.

Will you, too, make a very special effort to help the uprooted, sick and orphaned children this holiday season? Please enclose your tax-free contribution in the postpaid envelope and send it off as soon as possible. It will only take minutes of your time but will do a lifetime of good for a refugee child. And as you observe the holidays here, a child - who otherwise would have nothing - will instead be started on the road to a new life. Please be as generous as you possibly can.

My own good wishes to you for the holiday season.

Sincerely,



Leo Cherne  
Chairman



A Christmas gift from IRC brings joy to a Cuban refugee child in Spain.



Wall-to-wall children—an afternoon nap at an IRC refugee nursery in Hong Kong.



A Vietnamese war orphan is comforted by the IRC Director in Saigon.



This war-injured boy in Vietnam is recovering at an IRC children's hospital.



A refugee girl from Russia smiles happily at IRC headquarters in New York.



This Bengali baby is well now—after treatment at an IRC clinic.



Lunchtime is a joyous event at an IRC refugee children's center in Vietnam.

Your tax-deductible donation to the International Rescue Committee will do a lifetime of good for a refugee child.