

Leo Cherne



Executive Director

The Research Institute of America, Inc.  
589 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017

August 24, 1978

Mr. Ogden Williams  
4621 Q Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20007

Dear Mr. Williams:

I must apologize for not having been able to read your article until a trip to Madison, Wisconsin, earlier this week where I addressed the five branches of the Lutheran Church on the subject of the Indochinese refugees and the urgent actions which must be taken to assist them in the months ahead.

Reading "The Dark Night of the Hmong" could not have been a more appropriate prelude as I flew out. It is simply a first-rate piece on every level. The depth of your intimate knowledge emerges so clearly and yet effortlessly. The magnitude of the tragedy becomes so irresistible that it is inconceivable to me that on the sheer level of interest, there is not an important publication which would find room for your piece.

The Reader's Digest would, of course, have been ideal and I am not quite clear (whatever else they have contracted for) why this piece is not so different that they would not be eager to carry it. Unfortunately, we now have so few publications which give room to a piece which requires space to breathe in, as yours does, and I am not aware of national publications which offer such an opportunity and provide more than a page or two as, for example, most of the weekly Sunday supplements, like Parade Magazine.

The American Legion magazine has a very large circulation and pays well. Their audience, however, is not exactly the audience I would most wish read your piece simply because you will not be reaching those who must be sensitized to that which you have written. Yet, you may decide to move in that direction.

I'm going to send a copy of your article to two magazines which tend to publish on a much more abstract and political level and yet they are most influential and might be moved to find room for your (and for them) very different kind of piece. One will be Commentary magazine and the other will be the quarterly publication of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, The Washington Review. There is so much information in your piece of importance to members of the Citizens Commission on Indochinese Refugees that I will also arrange for copies to go to them.

In closing, I do want to say how grateful I am to you for what you're doing, what you've written, and how much you care.

With deepest regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Tolson".

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