

June 24, 1979

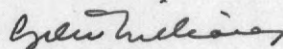
Editor,
The Washington Post
Washington, DC

Dear Sir,

As the Indochina refugees now flood toward the contiguous nations of Southeast Asia in numbers which, if sustained, will clearly swamp the capacities of refugee programs to cope with them, palliative solutions will no longer suffice. The refugees are not themselves the problem. They are the result of the problem. The problem is the tyranny and contempt for human rights exercised by the present masters of Indochina, a handful of aging fanatics in Hanoi who have pursued since the 1930s their dream of seeing Indochina united under their own rule. It is useless now to ask by what right these people impose their will on the bludgeoned populations of southern Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Might has made right, often with the mindless support of duped foreigners as well as the very mindful backing of like-minded fanatics in Moscow and Peking. And so, now, the rest of the world has the refugee problem to cope with.

What to do ? While binding up what wounds we can, we must realize that the ultimate solution must be found at the source of the problem. Sooner or later, with nowhere else to go, the peoples of Indochina will have to stay home and change their societies from the inside. No one has yet demonstrated how a communist dictatorship, once fully established, can be dismantled by its own people. No help can be expected from the Western nations more interested in comfort than freedom. The mantle of leadership has passed from ours to broader shoulders. The victimized peoples of Indochina should look for guidance to today's only authentic heroes, the lonely Soviet dissidents. Hanoi's oppression will one day create the Asian heroes who will rescue, from within, these once happy peoples. And that will be the only solution for the refugee problem.

Sincerely,



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