

UNITED STATES ARMY
RANGER
ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Mr. Mike Wallace
c/o C.B.S. TV
60 Minute Program
524 West 57th Street
New York, NY 10019

RE: SECRET ARMY

Dear Mr. Wallace:

I never write concerning telecasts but I just have to write this letter to you.

I missed your recent 60 Minute telecast "SECRET ARMY" concerning the Hmong or Meo of Laos and their present deplorable situation. I just found out that it was presented on March 4th or 11th.

I was saddened to hear the written-in comments made. I miss very few 60 Minute Shows - - but it had to be those weekends.

I served attached to MAAG Laos in the Special Operation Division (SOD) while in Special Forces. There were not very many of us involved in Laos. I participated in combat operation with these courageous people and grew to respect and admire their heritage. Years later I learned that most all the Mountain Villagers I trained were killed. (Most Special Forces Personnel are still on active duty and would never talk about it.) It is an unwritten rule for a professional.

The subsequent trail of tears these people have suffered seems not to concern most of us today. I know General Vang Pao and his "Staff" are resettled here and well provided for.

Mike, I just cannot help feeling guilty. I helped train them for long-range patrolling that led to their elimination. It's the personal contacts with them, their affection and trust that burns in my memory. What good we did for them, in the end, caused the destruction of their way of life.

I am asking if you could help me with the following:

Since I know the segment will never be shown again could you furnish a copy of the written text or a tape of the audio? It is my desire to see about adopting a Hmong girl. Can you provide names of contacts, agencies or someone to write to?

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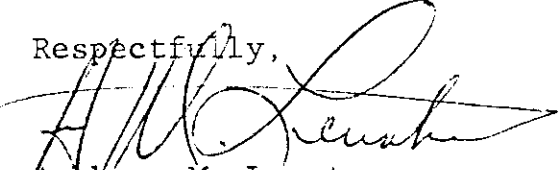
"SECRET ARMY"

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I have watched your work and respect what you do. Your reputation is well-earned. Please help a man who years ago tried to serve his country as he should and ended up going to many funerals of his friends.

I guess it proved that our conduct and involvement in Viet Nam will not end the suffering. I want a Hmong girl to live and share our home with my two daughters and reverse one small instance of suffering for what was done.

Respectfully,



Anthony M. Levata
National Vice-President
U S Army Ranger Association

A. M. Levata
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New Orleans, LA 70127

P.S. Should you desire to do a segment about USA Ranger's today - -
I could try to get assistance with the 1st Ranger Battalion at
Ft. Steward, GA.

AML/ec