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U.S. GROUPS OPENS CENTER FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN IN VIETNAM (350)

PHILADELPHIA -- THE DAY CARE CENTER FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN WHICH THE AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE OPENED THIS WEEK IN QUANG NGAI, SOUTH VIETNAM, IS CALLED THE "FIRST STEP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COORDINATED REFUGEE PROGRAM" IN THAT AREA.

THE COMMITTEE, WITH HEADQUARTERS IN PHILADELPHIA, SAID OCTOBER 12 THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 87,000 REFUGEES IN THE AREA AND THE NUMBER IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE. IT SAID IT WILL HELP PROVIDE SERVICES TO MEET THEIR IMMEDIATE NEEDS. SPWVCL1)) SOON OFFER PROGRAMS IN BASIC EDUCATION, SKILLS AND RECREATION.

THE COMMITTEE ALSO NOTED THAT IT "WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO BRING RELIEF TO WAR VICTIMS IN NORTH VIETNAM." THE QUAKER ORGANIZATION HAS ANNOUNCED IT WILL DONATE 2,000 DOLLARS TO THE CANADIAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE AND 4,000 DOLLARS TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS IN GENEVA FOR PURCHASE OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES FOR WAR VICTIMS IN BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM, INCLUDING AREAS HELD BY THE VIET CONG. THE U.S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT HAS ISSUED A LICENSE SO THAT THE COMMITTEE CAN SEND THESE FUNDS.

THE QUANG NGAI DAY CENTER WAS OPENED OCTOBER 11. IT CONSISTS OF A NURSERY SCHOOL AND A KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN BETWEEN AGES OF TWO AND HALF AND SIX YEARS. THE FACILITIES CAN NOW ACCOMMODATE 50 CHILDREN BUT IT WILL BE EXPANDED TO CARE FOR 100, THE COMMITTEE SAID.

THE DAY CENTER AND PROJECTED SERVICES STEMMED FROM A TEAM OF OBSERVERS WHICH THE SERVICE COMMITTEE SENT TO VIETNAM IN THE SUMMER OF 1965 TO FIND WAYS FOR HELPING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE WAR VICTIMS. IN ADDITION TO THE QUANG NGAI PROGRAM, THE ORGANIZATION SPONSORS THREE AMERICANS WHO WORK WITH INDIGENOUS AGENCIES OR SOCIAL SERVICE PROJECTS IN OTHER AREAS OF SOUTH VIETNAM.

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE HAS HAD A LONG TRADITION OF PACIFISM.

IT WAS FOUNDED IN 1917 TO HELP VICTIMS OF WORLD WAR ONE AND HAS CONTINUED TO SERVE IN THAT CAPACITY THROUGHOUT ITS 50 YEAR HISTORY. IT OFFERS HELP WITHOUT RPT WITHOUT REGARD TO POLITICAL BOUNDARIES OR IDEOLOGICAL POSITIONS. ITEM

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