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RESCUE COMMITTEE TEAM TO STUDY REFUGEE NEEDS IN VIETNAM (380) DATE 3/73

NEW YORK, MAR. 27--A SPECIAL MISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE (IRC) WILL ARRIVE IN SAIGON APRIL 6 TO STUDY THE PROBLEMS AND NEEDS OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND CHILDREN.

LEO CHERNE, CHAIRMAN OF THE NEW YORK-BASED COMMITTEE, SAID MARCH 27 THAT ON ITS RETURN THE MISSION WILL REPORT ON ITS FINDINGS AND PROPOSALS. THIS REPORT WILL BE USED AS A GUIDELINE FOR AN "EXPANDED REHABILITATION PROGRAM IN VIETNAM," MR. CHERNE SAID.

WITH THE HELP OF MANY VOLUNTEERS IRC WORK IN VIETNAM GOES BACK TO 1954 WHEN NEARLY A MILLION NORTH VIETNAMESE FLED SOUTH. MR. CHERNE ESTIMATED THERE ARE NOW SEVEN MILLION REFUGEES OUT OF A POPULATION OF 17 MILLION; AND 700,000 CHILDREN HAVE LOST ONE OR TWO PARENTS. IRC PROGRAMS IN VIETNAM TODAY INCLUDE MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH PROJECTS, CHILDREN'S CENTERS AND CLINICS, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS IN AREAS LARGE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES ARE CONCENTRATED.

CO-CHAIRMEN OF THE VIETNAM-BOUND IRC MISSION WILL BE ANGIER BIDDLE DUKE, A FORMER PRESIDENT OF IRC AND CHAIRMAN OF THE 1971 IRC EMERGENCY MISSION TO INDIA; LEONARD H. MARKS, AN IRC BOARD MEMBER AND FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY; AND KENNETH KEATING, RECENT U.S. AMBASSADOR TO INDIA. MR. KEATING, ALSO A FORMER U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW YORK, WILL SERVE AS THE MISSION'S LIAISON IN THE UNITED STATES WHILE THE PARTICIPANTS CONDUCT THEIR SURVEY IN VIETNAM.

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OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MISSION ARE MR. CHERNE AND IRC VOLUNTEER LEADERS ACTIVE IN REFUGEE PROBLEMS, RELIEF AND RESETTLEMENT WORK -- MRS. ROBIN C. DUKE, JOSEPH BUTTINGER, ANTHONY D. DUKE, CECIL B. LYON, I.M. SCOTT, DAVID SHER AND DR. DANIEL L. WEINER.

IRC -- WHICH IS SUPPORTED BY CONTRIBUTIONS OF INDIVIDUAL AMERICANS, COMMUNITY GROUPS AND GRANTS FROM FOUNDATIONS, CORPORATIONS AND LABOR UNIONS -- ALSO CONDUCTS PROGRAMS FOR REFUGEES FROM EAST EUROPE, SOVIET UNION, HAITI, CUBA, GREECE, MAINLAND CHINA, AND WITH EAST BENGALIS AND ASIAN EXPELLEES FROM UGANDA. FOUNDED IN 1933, IT IS AMERICA'S LEADING VOLUNTARY AGENCY ENGAGED IN RELIEF WORK, RESETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS FOR REFUGEES. ITEM

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