

1974

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**"AMERICANS WHO ARE CONCERNED INC."
RELIEF PROGRAM**

Following is an open letter of the Vietnam Veterans for a Just Peace addressed to the American public concerning the refugee relief program for South Vietnam.

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Due to the recent invasion of South Vietnam and events related to it, from 700,000 to 1,000,000 new refugees have been created there. In response to this human tragedy, the Vietnam Veterans for a Just Peace has initiated a refugee relief program for South Vietnam known as "Americans Who Are Concerned, Inc." (AWAC). This organization, a non-profit corporation, is endeavoring to gather needed items to help alleviate some of the suffering which has accompanied the step-up in the war. AWAC will collect and deliver such goods as sweet canned milk, powdered soap, sewing kits, cloths, and money to the refugees themselves as well as working with existing relief groups already in South Vietnam.

The urgency of the situation has been verified by first hand reports from VVJP members in Vietnam as well as through the national media. A commitment has already been given to AWAC for the transportation of collected goods from the United States to South Vietnam. A team from AWAC and VVPJ is prepared to go with a shipment and make the delivery in person throughout Vietnam. Right now we need groups to coordinate relief drive efforts in their own localities and to provide temporary storage facilities for the donated materials until they can be shipped overseas. Such collection points could be veterans' halls, town halls, schools, and religious buildings.

This program has been endorsed by such people as Mrs. Anna Chennault, a well known figure in both political and international affairs, and by former Ambassador to Vietnam, Elbridge Durbrow. Initial organizational support has been given by the Freedom Leadership Foundation and the National Student Coordinating Committee for Freedom in Vietnam. Many political, civic, and religious groups are being approached on a non-political, non-partisan basis in an effort to enlist their endorsement and help in this project.

A special bank account will be set up to handle donations which will be used to buy desperately needed items for the refugees. Tax exempt and tax deductible status are being applied for to the IRS. An IRS agent informs us that all donations will be deductible retroactive to the date of filing of the exemption forms (due to be filed in mid-June, 1972). AWAC has filed for incorporation as a non-profit, charitable organization on June 6, 1972 in accordance with the incorporation regulations of the District of Columbia.

Inquiries and donations can be made to: or to:

Americans Who Are Concerned, Inc. (AWAC)
501 13th St. N.W. Room 1012
Washington, D.C. 20004

Americans Who Are Concerned, Inc.
c/o Vietnam Veterans for a Just Peace
P.O. Box 34405
West Bethesda, Maryland 20034

We urge you to join with us in this humanitarian effort to help those in need. The American people have given generously to the peoples of war-torn Biafra and Bangla-

Desh. Again the innocent of another war-torn nation call out for your help, a call which Americans have always heeded regardless of political considerations. Won't you please heed this call?

Sincerely,

Max Friedman
Antonio Sistero
James Kerns

VMLO APPEALS TO CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

SAIGON, June 6 (VP) -- The Vietnamese Mother's Love Organization (VMLO) recently appealed to women of all social strata to help the Organization in the assistance of the homeless children and war orphans.

The VMLO, sponsored by the Vietnamese Confederation of Labor (VCL) and the Social Action School, proposed different ways of helping the children.

Each family having sufficient means may adopt one or many children for a limited period, from one to six months or more.

Widows may receive VMLO allowances to bring up their children.

The VMLO will give monthly allowances to those who want to adopt children but do not have sufficient financial means. The allowances are contributed by other charitable women who cannot personally take care of the children.

Associations and organizations may adopt children in accordance with their means and circumstances.

When necessary, the VMLO will organize and manage a center for war orphans.

According to the VMLO, the adoption of children will help their mothers, fathers or relatives have time to earn a living.

The sponsorship of children will be granted by an agreement signed between charitable families and adopted children's families, with the acknowledgment of the Social Welfare Ministry.

VMLO representatives are Mrs. Hoang Thi Thu and Mrs. Pham Thi Tu, Director of Social Action School

