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InterAction, the American Council for Voluntary International Action, is a coalition of more than 150 U.S. based non-profit organizations working to promote human dignity and development in 165 countries around the world. Our member organizations have local affiliates that provide services to refugees and other newcomers in every state of the nation where refugees are resettled. InterAction's Committee on Migration and Refugee Affairs includes the CPA (Comprehensive Plan of Action) Task Force, which is comprised of resettlement agencies, advocacy groups, and agencies working in re-integration assistance in Southeast Asia.

InterAction issued the following statement in support of Track II in Vietnam.

InterAction's Principles on the CPA and Indochinese Asylum Seekers
July 1995

The CPA which was adopted in 1989, distinguished between refugees and non-refugees by screening newly arriving Indochinese asylum seekers. While most of us believe that there should have been a more responsive appeals process, about 73,000 of those screened out have returned to Viet Nam.

The challenge now is to augment the CPA by addressing those 40,000 boat people remaining in the refugee camps of Southeast Asia in an honorable and effective manner. This has become especially urgent in light of recent events which have dramatically raised the probabilities of serious violence in the camps.

InterAction's CPA Task Force agrees to the following:

1. The present situation, involving the possibly imminent prospect of forced repatriation with casualties, is extremely dangerous and must be addressed.
2. The U.S. should take a leadership role in dealing with this problem.
3. Solutions are needed which address wrongly screened out cases and promote a peaceful resolution to the present situation.
We recommend for consideration this possible approach:

* Allowing boat people now in the UNHCR camps in Southeast Asia a hearing with a U.S. official; the U.S. would accept those who meet pre-agreed criteria. For example: those with U.S. connected service, re-education or

other evidence of past persecution.

* In light of apparent objections by first asylum governments to reconsidering cases, this hearing might take place in Viet Nam on some sort of transit basis.

4. For those repatriates remaining in Viet Nam, augmented monitoring and adequate sustained re-integration assistance remains essential.

InterAction's CPA Task Force Co-Chairs:

Lionel A. Rosenblatt, President
REFUGEES INTERNATIONAL

Dr. Le Xuan Khoa, President
SOUTHEAST ASIA RESOURCE ACTION CENTER

On behalf of the following agencies:

Dr. Elizabeth Ferris, Executive Director
CHURCH WORLD SERVICE/IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE PROGRAM

Martin Wenick, Executive Vice President
HEBREW IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY

Ralph Plumb, President
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