

Minh-Quy Hospital
c/o 67th Evac Hospital
APO, 96318
22 August 1972

Dear Sir:

On my visit to Saigon last week, I left with you a statement concerning the critical refugee situation in Ben Het, Kontum Province. This note is to amend certain statements in the light of new information, and to inform you of progress in the situation.

In my recent brief, I mentioned: "VNAF has given virtually no air support or Chinooks to the operation,..." and, "US authorities in Pleiku are reluctant to increase their effort without some sort of reciprocation by VNAF." From the vantage point of one dealing directly with the refugees involved, the lack of aircraft was seen as a failure on the part of the units who operate the helicopters. As was pointed out to us by the American units also involved in the effort, the VNAF organization was also eager to get the people out, but were restricted by other priorities established by higher command.

As of today, the majority of the Ben Het refugees have been evacuated, by a cooperative US/VNAF operation, quite extensive in scope. The first day of evacuation was marred, however, by the freak crash of a VNAF Chinook and a VNAF Huey, with at least 12 persons killed, including 4 VNAF crew members. In view of this tragic sacrifice, and the effort and good will expended by the VNAF, I feel it important that the matter be clarified.

Would you circulate copies of this letter to all persons involved in the dissemination of the previous statement? My

apologies for this error are hereby extended.

Sincerely,

John W. Taylor, M.D.

Minh-Quy Hospital

Kontum/Pleiku