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Series D: International Relations Activities. 1961-1992

Box 56, Folder 7, Cambodia, 1979.



TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT CARTER FROM RICHARD MAAS, AJC PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT JIMM CARTER
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEAR MR PRESIDENT,

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE, MEETING AT ITS NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SESSION IN SAN FRANCISCO, WISHES TO EXPRESS TO YOU OUR HEARTFELT APPRECIATION FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP IN ANNOUNCING YESTERDAY THE AMERICAN CONTRIBUTION OF SEVENTY MILLION DOLLARS AS PART OF OUR CONTRIBUTION TO AN INTERNATIONAL RELIEF EFFORT TO HELP SAVE COUNTLESS THOUSANDS OF LIVES OF CAMBODIAN MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN. WE WISH TO PLEDGE TO YOU, TOGETHER WITH OUR CATHOLIC, PROTESTANT AND OTHER FELLOW AMERICANS, THE FULL MORAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT OF OUR MEMBERSHIP IN THIS URGENT EFFORT TO SAVE HUMAN LIVES.

AS JEWS WHO STILL LIVE UNDER THE SHADOW OF THE NAZI HOLOCAUST AND WHO HAVE KNOWN THE TRAUMATIC PAIN OF SUFFERING AND ABANDONMENT BY THE WORLD WHILE MILLIONS OF OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS WERE FATED FOR CERTAIN DEATH, WE CANNOT STAND IDLY BY WHILE SO MANY FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS DIE BEFORE OUR EYES.

TO HELP PREVENT ANOTHER HOLOCAUST IN OUR LIFETIME, WE RESPECTFULLY URGE YOU TO CALL UPON THE UNITED NATIONS TO CONVENE AN IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY CONFERENCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ORGANIZING A SYSTEMATIC RELIEF AND REHABILITATION EFFORT TO SAVE AS MANY HUMAN LIVES WHILE THERE IS STILL TIME.

RESPECTFULLY YOURS,

RICHARD MAAS

PRESIDENT
THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE



Direct Relief Foundation

International Headquarters

404 East Carrillo Street, Santa Barbara, California

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1319, Santa Barbara, CA 93102

Established in 1948 as a Non-Profit Corporation by WILLIAM ZIMDIN (1880-1951)

TELEPHONE: 805/966-9149

CABLE: RELIEF, Santa Barbara

REPRESENTED IN:

Bangladesh	India
Bolivia	Korea
Colombia	Malawi
Dominican Republic	Mexico
Ecuador	Panama
El Salvador	Philippines
Guatemala	Taiwan
Honduras	Thailand

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Meeting the Better Business Bureau's Standards for Charitable Solicitations

November 12, 1979

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Interreligious Affairs Director
The American Jewish Committee
165 East 56th St.
New York, NY 10022 ref: P/Cambodia

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:

I know you to be a humanitarian. You are concerned about the fate of the boat people, refugees, and victims of floods, earthquakes and other disasters. We too, at Direct Relief Foundation, are very concerned about the fate of those who are sick and hungry, and our attention right now is focused on the Cambodian people.

By way of introduction, for the past 31 years the Direct Relief Foundation has been dedicated to helping the ill, suffering and needy worldwide. We are a non-profit, non-denominational and non-political organization emphasizing self-help through medical supplies, services and training for better health care. We collaborate with health service organizations in the medically less developed areas of the world, providing a back-up system of medical supplies and service which would otherwise be unavailable to them. We process and ship, on a self-help basis, contributed medical goods to hospitals, clinics and dispensaries in some 60 countries. The sponsorship contributions toward the cost of processing, warehousing, export packing, trucking to port of embarkation, freight forwarders' charges to seaport of entry, and other necessary expenses must be arranged on a shipment-by-shipment basis prior to shipping. Direct Relief Foundation also provides assistance for victims of emergencies and natural disasters.

As I'm sure you are aware, we have another potential human disaster hitherto unparalleled in history brewing in Cambodia. In the past four years, the Cambodian people have suffered through what has been described by journalists as "another Auschwitz." In a once beautiful and peaceful country of eight million people death has stalked unhindered for over a decade, destroying half of Cambodia's men, women and children.

Now, once again, trapped in the pincers of political upheaval, an estimated 3 million people will starve to death in Cambodia unless something is done immediately. Direct Relief Foundation is willing and ready to send medical supplies and pharmaceuticals to avert the possible extinction of Cambodia's population.

Affiliated with DIRECT RELIEF INTERNATIONAL

Contributions are deductible for tax purposes to the extent allowed by law.
Exempt under IRC 501 (c)(3); not a private foundation.

The situation at the Thai-Kampuchea border is tragic. Aid officials in Cambodia said at least 100,000 Kampuchean refugees have fled into Thailand. Estimates indicate that it is probable that at least 260,000 Kampuchean refugees will be in Thailand in the immediate future.

For the 3 million Cambodians who are threatened with starvation, the outlook is bleak. Cambodian officials admit that "at least" thousands of people will die if enough aid is not received. President Carter has likened the famine in Cambodia to the holocaust that took the lives of 6 million European Jews.

The plight of these people is desperate indeed. Starving in their homeland, they must rely on the kindness of their more fortunate neighbors around the world in order to merely survive. We here at Direct Relief Foundation are rallying to support these destitute refugees, and are ready to make major medical relief efforts to help as much as we can.

To assist the health delivery systems for the afflicted people of Cambodia, we would like to ship 10 palletized containers of a wide-range assortment of medical and hospital supplies needed in almost every hospital and medical program. The items would be similar to the enclosed sample list of contents. The approximate shipping weight of 10 pallets would be 5,500 lbs., with contribution towards processing US \$4,400, cost of packing materials \$510, trucking to Los Angeles export pier \$194, estimated freight forwarders' charges \$1,938, for a total of US \$7,082 to seaport of entry in Thailand for 10 pallets.

Along with the thousands suffering in Cambodia, several hundred thousand people are fleeing the country and escaping into Thailand. Our intention at Direct Relief Foundation is to send medical relief shipments to the areas where the people are in the greatest need, whether it is to Cambodia or to the refugees in Thailand.

Enclosed is a variety of material to acquaint you with our organization. If you need further details or documentation, we will be glad to provide it.

We look forward to your favorable response.

Sincerely yours,



Cynthia L. Snyder
MEDICAL SUPPLY DIVISION

Encs.

SELF-HELP TO HEALTH

MEDICAL RELIEF INTERNATIONAL
 (M.E.R.I.T. PROGRAM)

LIST OF CONTENTS

OUR FILE: _____ TOTAL VALUE: \$6,345.00
 P- _____ PAGES: 1 PIECES: 1 DATE ISSUED: _____
 TOTAL SHIPPING WEIGHT 550 LBS. DATE COMPLETED: _____
 DIMENSIONS 3.5'x3.2'x2.9' FT.. ADDRESS OF RECIPIENT INSTITUTION _____
 PACKING PALLET _____
 OCEAN TRANSPORTATION VIA _____

MEDICAL SUPPLIES

PCE.	T #	NAME OF PRODUCT	MFG.	STGTH	QUANTITY IN PKG.	NO.OF PKG.	LOT # AND EXP. DATE	UNIT PRICE	(dollar) VALUE
		Surgical Sutures			36	5			190.
		Hypodermic Needles			200	1			127.
		Cotton Bandages, roll			20#	1			120.
		Fleet Enema	Fleet		48's	4			80.
		Antiseptic Pads	P/F		24x20	5			125.
		Corra Tubing	Hudson		12 units	1			96.
		Antiseptic Douche	Fleet		12duopak	5			40.
		Glass Syringes			1 unit	20			160.
		Orthopedic Products			20#	1			580.
		Oxygen Masks			50's	1			150.
		Emesis Basins			1	20			40.
		Laboratory Supplies			20#	1			260.
		Coded Eyeglasses			Pr	50			1,750.
		First Aid Components			25#	1			385.
		Catheters			12's	2			120.
		Hospital Wear			20#	1			90.
		Plastic Film			120#	1			720.
		Surgical Instruments			1 unit	20			290.
		Trephine Instruments			Set	12			960.
		Med Soap			10#	1			50.
		Liquid Detergent			1-gal	1			12.

FOOD POLICY NOTES



INTERRELIGIOUS TASKFORCE ON U.S. FOOD POLICY

GEORGE A. CHAUNCEY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.
CHAIRMAN

NOTE 79-26

WELFARE REFORM LEGISLATION

October 23, 1979

The nation's poor won a small but crucial victory September 13 when the House Ways and Means Committee reported out HR 4904, the Administration's Social Welfare Reform Amendments of 1979. This bill, as adopted by the full Committee, retains the positive features of the one earlier approved by the Public Assistance Subcommittee.

Block Grants

During both the Subcommittee and Committee debate, there were concerted efforts to substitute for the Administration bill a block grant plan by Rep. John H. Roussetot (R-CA). This proposal would have given each state a fixed amount of money to use for "any social welfare purpose." While benefits to current recipients of AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) could not be reduced, there was no requirement to expand or improve benefits. In fact, the ceiling on spending (which characterizes most block grant programs) would have made it impossible for states to be flexible in adding needy people to their welfare rolls in time of crisis.

The Roussetot amendment was defeated in full Committee by a 23-13 party line vote, with only one Democrat supporting it. Thus, it is clear that the block grant approach to welfare has become a partisan issue. The Republicans are taking a strong stand in favor of block grants to states and against federalization of welfare programs. They have enough conservative Democratic support to make the future of this or any attempt at welfare reform doubtful.

Current Legislative Status

Following Ways and Means approval, HR 4904 was referred routinely to the Agriculture Committee, to clear a provision which replaces welfare and food stamps with a single cash payment for recipients of Supplemental Security Income (the needy, aged, blind and disabled).

The next step is action by the House Rules Committee to set the conditions under which the bill will be handled in the full House. This is expected the week of October 22. Ways and Means leaders have requested a "closed rule" under which: (1) only Committee amendments will be considered; (2) floor debate will be limited to two hours; and (3) there can be only one motion to recommit the bill (return it to the Committee for further work). Welfare advocates strongly support this request, but opponents of HR 4904 are seeking an "open" rule, which would give them a much greater opportunity to attach weakening and destructive amendments--including the block grant proposal--to the bill.

A decision by the Rules Committee is likely by late October. Regardless of that decision, however, the issue is clear: There will be another major confrontation in the House between supporters of welfare reform and supporters of block grants.

The Block Grant Debate

Supporters of the block grant approach contend that letting states run their welfare programs free of most federal restrictions would save money through reductions in waste, fraud, and abuse. State welfare administrators could use the funds as they

felt best--to purchase goods and services, hire additional caseworkers, or provide welfare benefits, depending on how they judge the state's needs.

Opponents of block grants contend that the grants would enlarge the existing wide variations in benefit levels between states, since decisions about payments would be made locally rather than at a national level. Further, they see the plan as enriching state treasuries without improving benefits since the states would be free to keep money saved by decreasing the welfare rolls. Though the payments to states would increase annually to keep up with inflation, there is no requirement that benefits be increased for welfare clients. Funds would go to states based on general population size, not on the extent of poverty in the state, so more populous states would automatically get the most money, even though the proportion of people in desperate need is highest in some of the smaller states.

The Administration Bill (HR 4904)

The enactment of HR 4904 would mean only a modest advancement toward the comprehensive welfare reform supported by much of the religious community. Nonetheless, it is a vitally needed first step--partly because it would provide increased benefits for the nation's poorest people and partly because it would establish two major principles in law: a nationwide minimum benefit level and coverage of two-parent families.

As reported by the Ways and Means Committee, HR 4904 would: (1) set a nationwide minimum benefit level (cash plus food stamps) at 65 percent of the poverty line beginning October 1, 1981 (an improvement in 13 states); (2) require all states to operate an AFDC program for any eligible family in which the primary wage earner is jobless; (3) give increased cash benefits instead of food stamps to participants in the SSI program; and (4) increase the Earned Income Tax Credit for the working poor.

The Senate

The Senate Finance Committee will not take any action until the bill passes the House. The Finance Committee Chairman, Sen. Russell Long (D-LA) has never been a friend of the welfare population and is himself the author and proponent of a block grant bill. Long is an extremely powerful figure in the Senate, commanding the loyalty and support of many of his colleagues. Several of his fellow Committee members co-sponsor his block grant bill. Thus, it is absolutely crucial that the House pass HR 4904 as reported by the Ways and Means Committee without weakening amendments, and that the block grant proposal be dealt an overwhelming defeat. Otherwise, the Senate is likely to ignore the Administration bill and move ahead with a block grant bill of its own, which would serve only to jeopardize further the possibility of future comprehensive welfare reform.

Letters to Representatives should support HR 4904 as reported by the House Ways and Means Committee without weakening amendments.

For further information call the Taskforce toll-free at 800/424-7292 (Washington, DC area residents please call 543-2800).

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FOOD POLICY NOTES



INTERRELIGIOUS TASKFORCE ON U.S. FOOD POLICY

GEORGE A. CHAUNCEY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.
CHAIRMAN

NOTE 79-27

CAMBODIAN FAMINE RELIEF

October 24, 1979

A famine of major proportions is facing Cambodia. Of the country's 4-5 million inhabitants, over 50 percent are threatened by imminent starvation. It is estimated that 80 percent of Cambodia's children, many of them orphans, are suffering from malnutrition. Only a massive and immediate international effort can save the hundreds of thousands threatened by starvation and disease.

What are some of the events that have led to the present situation in Cambodia? Where does the US and the international community stand in terms of assistance to Cambodia? Finally, what response is advocated by the Taskforce?

HISTORY

1953-1970: Cambodia achieved independence from France in 1953, under the leadership of Prince Sihanouk. Sihanouk struggled to maintain neutrality throughout the war in Indochina, but in the mid-sixties permitted the North Vietnamese to set up base camps in Cambodia along the South Vietnamese border. In 1969, the US bombed this region in an attempt to destroy these sites.

1970-1975: In 1970, Prince Sihanouk was deposed by his Prime Minister, Lon Nol, and the US recognized the new government. The US military incursion into Cambodia in May 1970 touched off massive American anti-war protests. US ground forces were soon withdrawn but intense air bombardment continued for three years until ended by Congress. The bombing greatly helped recruit Cambodians to the Khmer Rouge Communists' cause under Pol Pot, which before 1970 was a negligible force. The ensuing war within Cambodia forced many Cambodians into crowded refugee camps in Phnom Penh where they were fed by US airlifted food.

1975-1978: In April 1975 the Khmer Rouge successfully ousted the Lon Nol government. Pol Pot was determined to build a self-sufficient, classless society in Cambodia (renamed Democratic Kampuchea). Citizens were forced to leave the cities and towns and to work the fields of agricultural cooperatives. Foreigners, intellectuals, and professionals all became targets of repression. Some fled the country, many others were executed by the Pol Pot regime. According to officials from a recent United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) fact-finding mission in Cambodia, hospitals, schools, water and sanitation facilities, and other signs of civilization were all but destroyed. Shortages of food and medical supplies resulted in the deaths of many due to malnutrition, malaria, and other diseases.

1978-Present: Relations between Cambodia and Vietnam have never been good, and the situation deteriorated seriously in 1978. Border conflicts escalated. A Cambodian attack along Vietnam's southwest border displaced some 750,000 Vietnamese living in the border area, according to a UN High Commission for Refugees official. Vietnam, seeing the hand of a hostile China in such attacks, launched a major offensive in late December of 1978, which led to rapid collapse of Pol Pot forces. The Vietnamese-backed Heng Samrin government was installed in Phnom Penh with the name of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. Pol Pot forces remain in Western Cambodia near the Thai border. Vietnamese forces, estimated at 170,000, now seek to defeat the Pol Pot forces decisively.

In September, efforts by the Heng Samrin government to be seated in the UN Kampuchean seat were rejected by the UN, which continues to recognize Pol Pot as the official Cambodian representative. Vietnam, the Soviet Union and others backed Heng Samrin; China, the US and others supported Pol Pot.

Political considerations on all sides have plagued efforts to deliver food and medical supplies to the Cambodian people.

FOOD SITUATION

During the invasion last December most of Cambodia's crops were destroyed or left unharvested. Many civilians fled seeking safety from the war or returned to their homes after the social upheaval during Pol Pot's years leaving fields unplanted. Faced with starvation many ate the rice seed intended for cultivation. As a result, only 5-15 percent of Cambodia's farmland is under cultivation--not nearly enough to feed the population.

UNICEF and ICRC officials, the coordinating relief agencies, estimate that 900 tons of food per day over the next six months will be necessary to prevent hundreds of thousands of deaths from starvation. They estimate that over \$110 million will be necessary to deliver the food and medical supplies needed. The UNICEF-ICRC six-month relief program is only the beginning if Cambodia is to be helped back to its feet.

RELIEF EFFORTS

Political problems in Cambodia complicate relief efforts. The Heng Samrin and Vietnamese governments have objected to aid going "to all sides," on the grounds that such an effort is designed to shore-up the remnants of the Pol Pot forces. However, UNICEF and ICRC are sending in shipments of supplies while continuing negotiations with the Heng Samrin government. The problem is further compounded by the involvement of Chinese and Soviet support to the two warring factions.

Potential donors also fear that supplies earmarked for emergency relief may be used to feed either Vietnamese or Khmer Rouge forces. However, relief agency officials believe that humanitarian aid will not be diverted from the most needy and are reasonably sure supplies can be allocated fairly in spite of the difficulties.

UNICEF and ICRC will jointly administer and monitor a \$110 million program to extend over a six month period. The program will include air lifts and shipment of supplies, including transport vehicles and equipment to improve the damaged transportation network in Cambodia, thus assuring that necessary relief supplies will reach the more remote regions.

A formal appeal for relief funds has been issued by ICRC/UNICEF and many governments around the world have already responded to the need. The Netherlands have pledged \$4 million; Japan \$4.5 million; the EEC \$7 million; the United Kingdom \$6 million; and the US \$7 million. Also, 100 trucks and 3 aircraft have been made available, and 25,000 tons of food has been pledged by the World Food Program.

Private Voluntary Organizations: Private voluntary organizations have already played a significant role in relief efforts and will continue to serve as a channel for private and government aid. In June, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) began distributing food, medicine, and clothing to Cambodians along the Thai border. CRS is now raising funds to provide further relief aid.

Both British and US divisions of OXFAM are mounting a \$50 million relief effort.

Thirty-four tons of food were airlifted in late August, forty tons in late September. OXFAM has shipped 1,500 tons of rice from Singapore with preparations underway for another 1,000 ton shipment shortly. Following a delegation visit from the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in September, AFSC is sending \$100,000 in vitamins, medicine, and medical equipment by air and a similar amount in rice by sea. Delegations from Church World Service (CWS), the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA), and the World Council of Churches (WCC) have visited Phnom Penh. CWS has already sent mosquito nets valued at \$25,000 and plans a larger program. CCA and WCC have made arrangements to place a staff person in Phnom Penh and to make substantial food and medical shipments.

US Response: While direct US government-to-government food aid to Cambodia is prohibited by statute, emergency US food aid may be made available through US private and voluntary organizations and international relief organizations. The initial US contribution of \$7 million includes \$5 million to purchase and ship 10,000 tons of food aid through such channels. The other \$2 million is to be in the form of disaster assistance (e.g., medicines). Additional US funds of \$925,000 have been granted to CRS and \$300,000 to ICRC for use to aid Cambodians at or near the Thai border.

HR 5519, a bill authorizing \$35 million for US Cambodian relief efforts, is expected to be reported out of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on October 24 and to move quickly to the House floor. A House Subcommittee on October 17 had heard testimony from private agency personnel and Administration witnesses. The former urged prompt passage of authorization and appropriations legislation; the latter indicated reluctance to support a specific amount of new funds. The Administration position as to the amount and the sources of additional funds is expected to be clarified on October 29. There is also activity on the Senate side.

Taskforce Response: George Chauncey, Interreligious Taskforce Chairman, was among the twelve signers of a letter to Secretary of State Vance registering "strong support for your efforts to encourage an international response to the Cambodian famine fully commensurate with the need." The letter writers urged the Administration "to pursue all available bilateral and multilateral channels, including private and voluntary organizations, to see that the United States moves quickly and effectively in responding to this crisis."

The Taskforce and others believe that the \$7 million committed thus far is a woefully inadequate response. It has also been concerned that whatever additional sums are made available come not at the expense of other priority needs (e.g., refugee or Title II programs). The Taskforce is also concerned that Cambodia's needs beyond the initial six months also receive early and favorable US consideration.

The US has a tradition of swift and generous responses to serious human need. A similar leadership role is in order now. Political factors involving the governments of Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Russia, China, and the US complicate the situation, but should not, in our view, further delay the provision of much needed assistance. With the basic groundrules well enough established to enable the launching of a major intergovernmental and private effort, the time to get on with the task is now.

For further information call the Taskforce toll-free at 800/424-7292 (Washington, DC area residents please call 543-2800).

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הקונסוליה הכללית של
ישראל בניו-יורק

CONSULATE GENERAL
OF ISRAEL IN NEW YORK

800. SECOND AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

OXFORD 7-5500

October 27th, 1979

ISRAEL AND THE CAMBODIANS

A 15-man Israeli volunteer medical team together with supplies and equipment is the first step in a program just announced by the Government of Israel to extend medical and humanitarian aid to the Cambodians. As there are no diplomatic relations between Israel and Cambodia, the aid will reach them through Thailand. The Embassy of Israel in Bangkok is cooperating with the Thai Red Cross and the Thai Prime Minister's office in channeling the aid to its destination, which is the field clinics presently located along the Thai-Cambodian border.

According to the decision of the Government of Israel, which is one of the first countries to respond to the desperate situation of the Cambodians, an inter-ministerial committee composed of representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Health, Labor and Social Betterment and El Al Israel Airlines, has been established in order to coordinate activities for the speedy dispatch of aid.

In addition to the Israel Government, citizens like Mr. Abie Nathan, an Israeli well known for his involvement in humanitarian causes, are demonstrating their concern for Cambodians. Mr. Nathan is already in Thailand where he has launched activities aimed at alleviating their plight through the distribution of food supplies. His activities have

gained wide support among the Israel public and have earned the praises of the Thai Government.

This step is another in the series of assistance programs to refugees which began in June 1977 when the present Government of Israel took office and made as its first decision the offer of asylum to 66 Vietnamese refugees.

The most recent stage in this assistance came on October 23rd when Israel opened its doors and heart to 197 Vietnamese refugees, including 41 who had been rescued on the high seas by an Israeli naval vessel.

Prior to receiving this group, Israel, in January 1979 had provided a haven for 103 "boat people" from Southeast Asia who have now, like the first group, become rehabilitated and absorbed in Israel. All are learning Hebrew and the children among them are regularly attending school. Many have found jobs in their own fields, such as television repair, textile work, printing and midwifery. Others have received retraining for professions which offer good opportunities for work in the country. Most notable is Dr. Hwa, a cardiac surgeon now on the staff of Tel Hashomer Hospital near Tel Aviv.

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CITIZENS COMMISSION ON INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

CARE OF INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE, INC.

386 PARK AVENUE SOUTH • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016

TEL. (212) 679-0010 • CABLE: INTERESCUE, NEW YORK

TO: Leo Cherne
Bayard Rustin
Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum
John C. Whitehead
Edwin J. Wesely

DATE: October 24, 1979

FROM: Louis A. Wiesner *LSW*

SUBJECT: Statistics and Information on
Kampuchea relief

Enclosed are some of the State Department's most recent refugee statistics and some publications of the U.S. Government and the Indochina Refugee Action Center on humanitarian assistance to Kampuchea and to Khmer refugees in Thailand. This is background information for our visit to Thailand and the Cambodian border.

The official statistics do not include about 250,000 Khmers who have recently entered Thailand but are not recognized as refugees. IRC is rapidly expanding its medical work on the border, and CARE is giving very valuable support, as is the American Refugee Committee (headed by Neal Ball). We are also working closely with Catholic Relief Services, Christian and Missionary Alliance, Project Viet-Nam Orphans and other agencies that are feeding the Khmer refugees. The entire operation is under the jurisdiction of the Thai Supreme Command. UNICEF and the ICRC are coordinating international assistance, and medical work in the border area is conducted under Thai Red Cross auspices.

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Enclosures

INDOCHINESE REFUGEE PROGRAM

PROGRAM SUMMARY

FOR
MONTH ENDING 30, SEPTEMBER, 1979

INLAND CAMP REFUGEESBOAT REFUGEES

<u>220,593</u>	Cumulative Refugee Population	<u>303,158</u>
<u>5,244</u>	Average Monthly Arrival Rate	<u>11,351</u>
<u>(4,569)</u>	since August 1977	<u>(8,988)</u>
	(September, 1979)	
<u>57,741</u>	Departures since August 1977	<u>119,051</u>
<u>(7,935)</u>	(September, 1979)	<u>(17,787)</u>
<u>31,883</u>	-- To U.S.	<u>69,957</u>
<u>(5,268)</u>	(September, 1979)	<u>(10,067)</u>
<u>25,858</u>	-- To Third Countries	<u>49,094</u>
<u>(2,667)</u>	(September, 1979)	<u>(7,720)</u>
<u>162,852</u>	Current Camp Population	<u>184,092</u>
<u>18,733</u>	Of Whom Scheduled for U.S.	<u>17,702</u>
	Programs	
<u>144,119</u>	Residual Refugee Population	<u>166,490</u>
	Without known Resettlement	
	Opportunity	

FOR
MONTH ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER, 1979

	<u>SEPTEMBER, 1979</u>	<u>CUMULATIVE</u>
A. INLAND CAMP POPULATION as of August 1977		A. <u>84,246</u>
B. ARRIVALS since August 1977	<u>4,569</u>	B. <u>136,347</u>
C. CUMULATIVE POPULATION		C. <u>220,593</u>
D. DEPARTURES TO U.S.	<u>5,268</u>	D. <u>31,883</u>
1. under IPP	<u>7,932</u>	
2. under LRP	<u>23,584</u>	
3. under CE/OLP	<u>134</u>	
4. under IV	<u>93</u>	
5. under HP	<u>140</u>	
E. TO THIRD COUNTRIES	<u>2,667</u>	E. <u>25,858</u>
F. CURRENT POPULATION		F. <u>162,852</u>
G. OF WHOM INS APPROVED	<u>8,376</u> (Sept 16-30)	G. <u>18,685</u>
1. under IPP	<u>68</u>	
2. under LRP	<u>18,617</u>	
H. INS APPROVED BUT SPONSOR- SHIPS <u>NOT RECEIVED</u>		H. <u>11,977</u>
1. under IPP	<u>0</u>	
2. under LRP	<u>11,979</u>	
3. under CE	<u>0</u>	
I. OF WHICH PENDING OVER THREE MONTHS		I. <u>92</u>
J. <u>SPONSORSHIPS RECEIVED</u>	<u>2,512</u>	J. <u>6,708</u>
1. under IPP	<u>68</u>	
2. under LRP	<u>6,640</u>	
3. under CE	<u>0</u>	
K. AWAITING PETITIONS FOR IMMIGRANT VISAS		K. <u>48</u>
L. RESIDUAL POPULATION without resettlement offer		L. <u>144,119</u>

ESTIMATED MONTHLY ARRIVAL RATES

1978 average _____

1979 monthly rate:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	!
7200	3332	5910	5636	4,976	14,939	9,552	3,188	4,569			

INDOCHINESE REFUGEE PROGRAM
BOAT REFUGEES

FOR
MONTH ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER, 1979

	<u>SEPTEMBER 1979</u>	<u>CUMULATIVE</u>
A. BOAT REFUGEE POPULATION as of August 1977		A. <u>8,027</u>
B. ARRIVALS since August 1977	<u>8,988</u>	B. <u>295,131</u>
C. CUMULATIVE POPULATION		C. <u>303,158</u>
D. OF WHOM INS APPROVED	<u>10,421</u>	D. <u>89,296</u>
1. under IPP	<u>13,999</u>	
2. under LRP	<u>63,149</u>	
3. under CE	<u>2,524</u>	
E. INS APPROVED BUT SPONSOR- SHIPS NOT RECEIVED		E. <u>11,874</u>
1. under IPP	<u>0</u>	
2. under LRP	<u>8,025</u>	
3. under CE	<u>3,849</u>	
G. FOR WHOM SPONSORSHIPS RECEIVED	<u>3,183</u> (Sept 16-30)	G. <u>8,761</u>
1. under IPP	<u>5</u>	
2. under LRP	<u>7,375</u>	
3. under CE	<u>1,381</u>	
H. DEPARTED TO U.S.	<u>10,067</u>	H. <u>69,957</u>
1. under IPP	<u>13,853</u>	
2. under LRP	<u>47,975</u>	
3. under CE	<u>7,179</u>	
4. under IV	<u>936</u>	
5. under HP	<u>14</u>	
J. CURRENT TOTAL POPULATION		J. <u>184,092</u>
L. RESIDUAL BOAT REFUGEE POPULATION WITHOUT KNOWN RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITY		L. <u>166,490</u>

CURRENT CAMP POPULATION IN INDONESIA

<u>Location</u>	<u>Population</u>
Galang	5,900
Bintan	9,000
Rambutan (Jakarta)	330
Anambas	29,700
Other	200
TOTAL	45,130

CURRENT CAMP POPULATION IN MALAYSIA

<u>Location</u>	<u>Population</u>
Pulau Tengah	6,500
Pulau Besar	
Pulau Bidong	24,070
Kota Baru	1,970
Kuantan	7,480
Sabah	430
Sarawak	800
Transit (KL)	7,800
TOTAL	49,050

CURRENT LAND CAMP POPULATION IN THAILAND

<u>Location</u>	<u>Lao</u>	<u>Highland</u>	<u>Khmer</u>	<u>Viet</u>	<u>Total</u>
Chiang Khong	920	5,820	0	0	6,750
Chiang Kham	5	2,889	0	0	2,890
Ban Nam Yao	765	12,655	0	0	13,420
Sob Tuang	100	10,260	0	0	10,360
Fak Tha	360	1,110	0	0	1,470
Ban Vinai	4,460	33,870	0	0	38,330
Nongkhai	31,100	2,680	300	0	34,080
Ubon	37,840	0	0	0	37,840
Sikhiu	50	0	20	1,660	1,730
Surin	0	0	2,650	0	2,650
Aranyaprathet	0	0	5,440	0	5,440
Kamput	0	0	950	0	950
Buriram	0	0	480	0	480
Trat	0	0	4,920	0	4,920
Transit Centers	0	0	510	0	510
TOTAL	75,610	69,280	15,270	1,660	161,820

THIRD COUNTRY RESETTLEMENT - LAND AND BOAT REFUGEES

Page 10
PRG rated to
annual date

Resettlement Country	# resettled prior to Aug. '77	# resettled Aug. 77 through	Cumulative Resettlement	Resettlement Offers
Australia	5,857	20,101	25,958	14,000
Austria	218	213	431	500
Belgium	1,889	794	1,683	2,062
Canada	8,543	13,600	22,143	36,000
China (PRC)	0	250,000 (est)	250,000	10,000
Denmark	300	785	1,085	800
France	33,980	22,981	56,961	22,600
Germany (FRG)	1,059	6,521	7,580	10,000
Hong Kong	157	168	325	--
Israel	66	102	168	200
Italy	222	526	748	1,000
Japan	9	108	117	500
Luxembourg	6	41	47	100
Malaysia	1,584	735	2,319	600
Netherlands	276	850	1,126	1,360
New Zealand	261	1,001	1,262	1,200
Norway	399	727	1,126	2,400
Philippines	119	8	127	--
Sweden	0	674	674	2,000
Switzerland	839	1,984	2,823	1,000
United Kingdom	1,196	2,351	3,547	10,000
Other	2,477	682	3,159	7,888
Total	58,457	324,952	383,409	124,920
U.S.	145,567	101,640	247,407	168,000
Grand Total	204,024	426,792	603,816	292,920

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

A human tragedy of horrifying proportions is unfolding in Kampuchea, with millions of people facing illness or death from starvation. Every member of the international community has a duty to help avert further mass suffering in Kampuchea. This is beyond politics. It is a matter of simple and urgent humanitarian concern.

Two respected agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) have been acting as agents for concerned governments and the UN in launching a major relief program to get food and medicine to the people of Kampuchea before it is too late.

I am today announcing an initial US pledge of \$7 million to this effort: \$2 million from the US Refugee and Migration Assistance Emergency Fund, plus 10,000 tons of food worth \$5 million from Food for Peace.

This is in addition to the more than \$1.2 million we have already devoted to feeding and caring for people along the Thai-Kampuchean border. I hope we can do more once the food and medicine begins to flow to those who need it, and I am eager to work with Congress to that end.

Subsequently we expect that the United Nations World Food Program, which is taking a leading role in mobilizing international food assistance, will draw upon US pledges already made.

Secretary General Waldheim has appealed to UN member states to support this effort with money and food. Japan, the Federal Republic of Germany, Australia, Britain and the European Economic Community have already responded. I urge others to follow their example.

I want to commend the private voluntary agencies which have moved so quickly to deal with this emergency. During Pope John Paul's visit to the White House, he and I discussed the need to act swiftly. I know that his concern is shared by religious groups of many denominations.

A heavy responsibility rests on the regimes and fighting armies causing so much of the misery in Kampuchea -- I call on those who are supplying them the weapons of war to use all their influence to assure that humanitarian relief reaches the people.

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Department of State

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 18380 171808Z
ACTION 10-15

5235

BRUSSE 18380 171808Z

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 ADS-00 RP-10 SR-04 SS-15
SP-02 NSC-05 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-05
CA-01 EB-08 /100 W

OFFICIALS POINT OUT PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF ICRC/UNICEF
EFFORT TO REACH ALL SEGMENTS OF POPULATION APPEAR
FAVORABLE. LAMB

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P 171801Z OCT 79
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6531
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BEIJING
ALL EC CAPITALS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 18380

USEEC

ROME FOR FODAG

E. O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: SREF, PORG, UNGA, EEC, CB
SUBJ: EC APPROVES ADDITIONAL FOOD RELIEF
FOR KAMPUCHEA
REF: (A) BRUSSELS 17268, (B) BRUSSELS 17102,
(C) STATE 269531

1. FURTHER TO MISSION'S REPORT REF A, WE UNDERSTAND THAT
EC COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEMBER
STATES (COREPER) LAST WEEK APPROVED ALLOCATION OF 5000
TONS OF RICE AS EMERGENCY FOOD AID TO KAMPUCHEA. THIS
FOOD ASSISTANCE, VALUED AT APPROXIMATELY \$1.1 MILLION,
IS ADDITIONAL TO HUMANITARIAN RELIEF (4 MILLION EUROPEAN
UNITS OF ACCOUNT OR \$5.5 MILLION) REPORTED REF B.
A COMMISSION AID OFFICIAL SAID THE 5000 TONS OF RICE
WILL BE PROCURED IN THAILAND FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY UNDER
AUSPICES OF WFP (3000 TONS) AND A RELATIVELY UNKNOWN
FRENCH NGO (COMITE CATHOLIQUE CONTRE LA FAIM ET POUR LE
DEVELOPPEMENT -- 2000 TONS) WHICH PLANS TO DISTRIBUTE
RICE IN PHOM PENH AREA.

2. ACCORDING TO A RECENT EC COUNCIL PRESS RELEASE, THE
4 MILLION EUA IN HUMANITARIAN RELIEF APPROVED EARLIER
BY THE EC-NINE IS TO BE DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS:

-- FAO	300,000 EUA
-- UNICEF	1,000,000 EUA
-- ICRC	1,000,000 EUA
-- WFP	300,000 EUA
-- OXFAM	245,000 EUA
-- CRS	200,000 EUA
-- MEDICINS SANS FRONTIERES	150,000 EUA
-- SECOURS POPULAIRE FRANCAIS	180,000 EUA
-- SECOURS CATHOLIQUE FRANCAIS	140,000 EUA
-- RESERVE	485,000 EUA

DESTINED FOR PURCHASE AND TRANSPORT OF MEDICINES,
FOODSTUFFS, SEEDS, ETC. THIS RELIEF AID IS TO BE
DISBURSED OVER THE NEXT THREE MONTHS. WE UNDERSTAND
COMMISSION OFFICIALS ARE NOW STUDYING POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL
ALLOCATIONS FOR A FURTHER SIX MONTH PERIOD TO HELP MEET
THE AID TARGETS SET BY THE INTERNATIONAL RELIEF
AGENCIES.

3. CONCERNING STIPULATION BY EC THAT AID TO KAMPUCHEA
CAN BE RELEASED ONLY UPON ASSURANCE OF AID'S AVAILABILITY
TO ALL ELEMENTS OF POPULATION (REF B), COMMISSION A-1AID
OFFICIALS SAY THAT COMMISSION POLICY IS TO IGNORE
RECENT VIETNAMESE/HENG SAMRIN PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND
PROCEED ON BASIS OF SEPTEMBER 23 ICRC/UNICEF
UNDERSTANDING WITH HENG SAMRIN AUTHORITIES. THESE

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INCOMING
TELEGRAM

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ACTION SR-04

5106

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100 GRAMS - TOTAL

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 10-15 ADS-00 HA-05 RP-10 AID-05
FDRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 AGRE-00 EB-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00
PH-06 H-02 INR-10 L-03 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 EUR-12
MED-05 /118 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8027
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 16957

E.O. 12055: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: KAMPUCHEAN HUMANITARIAN RELIEF: ICRC/UNICEF
RELIEF PROGRAM

REF: GENEVA 16894

1. TODAY (10/17) MISOFF HELD DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WITH
ICRC CONCERNING ITS SHORT-TERM PLANS FOR FOOD AID TO
KAMPUCHEA. MR. DIND, CHIEF, ICRC SUPPLY DIVISION AND
MR. SHIELDS, UNICEF EXTERNAL RELATIONS DIVISION, INFORMED
MISSION AIDOFF THAT THE EXPECTED NEW APPEAL, TRANSMITTED
TO DEPARTMENT BY REFTEL IS BASED ON A SOLID PLAN OF
ACTION WHICH SUPPORTS OTHER BILATERAL ACTION. PROVIDED
WORLDWIDE RESPONSE IS PROMPT AND COMPASSIONATE, OFFICIALS
ARE HOPEFUL THAT A MAJORITY OF THE SO-CALLED DOOMED
CAMBODIANS CAN BE SAVED. HIGHLIGHTS OF CURRENT SITUATION
AND PLAN OF ACTION FOLLOW:

A. SCOPE OF APPEAL:

ICRC APPEAL INTENDED TO FEED 2.5 MILLION PEOPLE FOR
6 MONTHS BASED ON CONSUMPTION OF DAILY RATION OF 340 GRAMS
OF FOOD; OR 850 METRIC TONS PER DAY; OR 153,000 M/T FOR
6 MONTHS. FURTHER, 700,000 EXTREMELY MALNOURISHED
PEOPLE WITHIN THE 2.5 MILLION TOTAL WILL RECEIVE AN
ADDITIONAL DAILY RATION OF 100 GRAMS OF FORTIFIED FOODS
WHICH WILL BE DISTRIBUTED THRU HOSPITALS, OUT-PATIENT
CLINICS, ORPHANAGES AND SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS; OR 70 M/T
PER DAY; OR 12,600 M/T FOR 6 MONTHS. GRAND TOTAL:
165,600 M/T FOR 6 MONTHS.

B. COVERAGE:

APPEAL INCLUDES FOOD FOR VICTIMS TO BE FED THROUGH BOTH
PHNOM PENH AND THAI BORDER DISTRIBUTION POINTS. TOTAL
SUPPLEMENTS FOOD ICRC FORECASTS WILL BE PROVIDED BY
OTHER BILATERAL DONORS.

C. BREAKDOWN:

(1) BREAKDOWN OF BASIC DAILY RATION FOLLOWS:

250 GRAMS RICE
20 GRAMS OILS AND FATS
15 GRAMS SUGAR
45 GRAMS PULSES
10 GRAMS DRY FISH AND FISH FEED

340 GRAMS - TOTAL

(2) BREAKDOWN OF ADDITIONAL FORTIFIED RATION FOLLOWS:

50 GRAMS CSM
50 GRAMS MILK

D. SCHEDULING:

ICRC POINTS OUT THAT THOUGH PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION
OF FOOD AID PROGRAM FOR KAMPUCHEA IS JOINT UNICEF/ICRC
EFFORT, WFP IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTUALLY PROCURING FOOD
WHICH WILL BE DISTRIBUTED IN COUNTRY THROUGH UNICEF/ICRC
AUSPICES. PLANNING SCHEDULE FOR FOOD DELIVERY TO INITIAL
KAMPUCHEAN PORT OF ENTRY FOLLOWS:

OCTOBER - 10,000 M/T (333 M/T PER DAY)
NOVEMBER - 20,000 M/T (666 M/T PER DAY)
DECEMBER - 30,000 M/T (1000 M/T PER DAY)
JANUARY - 30,000 M/T (1000 M/T PER DAY)
FEBRUARY - 30,000 M/T (1000 M/T PER DAY)
MARCH - 30,000 M/T (1000 M/T PER DAY)
APRIL (MID) - 15,600 M/T (1000 M/T PER DAY)

TOTAL 165,600 M/T

E. NEW DEVELOPMENTS:

AS OF LAST WEEKEND (OCT 13-14), ICRC HAS:

- (1) COMPLETED TESTS OF THE FEASIBILITY OF ITS DELIVERY
AND DISTRIBUTION PLAN AND FOUND IT FEASIBLE;
(2) STARTED INITIAL AIRLIFT OF FOOD WITH ONE C-130
AIRCRAFT (PAYLOAD APPROX. 20 M/T) WHILE AWAITING ARRIVAL
AT KOMPONG SOM (KAMPUCHEA'S ONLY PORT) OF 3 SHIPS
CARRYING 6,000 M/T (2 - 1,000 M/T EACH; 1 - 4,000 M/T)
OF WFP-PROCURED FOOD;
- (3) COORDINATED PLANNED DELIVERY OF FOOD AID WITH OXFAM'S
THREE SHIPS OF 2,000 M/T EACH SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE FROM
SINGAPORE ON OCT 13, OCT 31 (APPROX), AND NOV 30 (APPROX);

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INFO OCT-01 EA-12 10-15 ADS-00 HA-05 RP-10 FDRE-00
AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 AGRE-00 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00
PM-06 H-02 INR-10 L-03 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 EUR-12
MED-05 /118 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8828

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 16957

AND,

(4) INCREASED ITS STAFF IN KAMPUCHEA FROM 2 (LAST WEEK) TO 8 WHICH WITH REPORTED INCREASE OF UNICEF STAFF FROM 2 TO 4, AND SOON 6, WILL TOTAL 14 UNICEF/ICRC STAFF MEMBERS (WHICH ICRC BELIEVES WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO SUPERVISE DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM).

2. COMMENT: WE HOPE THAT ABOVE INFORMATION WILL BE HELPFUL TO DEPARTMENT IN (1) PROVIDING DETAILED INFORMATION ON UNICEF/ICRC PLANNING WHICH WILL PLACE IN BALANCE SEVERAL RECENT ARTICLES IN INTERNATIONAL PRESS CRITICAL OF U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO AID KAMPUCHEA'S PEOPLE; AND (2) PROVIDING ENOUGH OF THE UNICEF/ICRC PLAN FOR AN INITIAL ASSESSMENT BY U.S. NUTRITION/LOGISTIC EXPERTS. MISSION INTENDS TO UPDATE THESE REPORTS PERHAPS ON BI-WEEKLY BASIS.

3. CORRECTION: PARA 1, SECOND LINE, ADD AFTER ICRC, "AND UNICEF CONCERNING THEIR..." SORENSON

Kampuchea: Growing Humanitarian Crisis

September 27, 1979



United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C.

Richard C. Holbrooke, Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, before the Subcommittee on East Asia and Pacific Affairs of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, on September 27, 1979.

Your invitation to testify today on the situation in Southeast Asia is timely. Once again, events within Indochina have cast their long shadows upon the region as a whole, bringing still more anguish and suffering to the peoples of Indochina and posing a threat to the security and stability of its neighbors. Just over 1 year ago, a hearing of this committee foreshadowed the possibility of what has since occurred; a year ago we took the initiative, submitting a letter to the U.N. Security Council calling attention to the developing crisis and urging preventive action by the international community.

We are following the situation today with great attention. If our influence is perforce limited, we remain prepared to take whatever steps will prove effective in resolving, or at least alleviating, the immense political and humanitarian problems facing the region.

Let me begin with the description of the situation that exists in Kampuchea and its dangerous implications for the region as a whole. I will then turn to the actions and policies that our nation and our close friends in the Pacific and Europe are following at this time in an effort to contain and limit the dimensions of the problem.

War in Kampuchea

As I appear before you today, Vietnam's military offensive in Kampuchea, dormant during the rainy season, has been resumed on a large scale and is growing in intensity. Almost 200,000 Vietnamese troops, according to our latest intelligence, are inside Kampuchea. Their purpose is to consolidate Vietnam's hold on that country and destroy the 20,000–30,000 Khmer who are opposing them. Most are loyal to the regime of Democratic Kampuchea and its leader, Pol Pot.

Last week Vietnamese infantry units began setting up ambushes and conducting sweeps which are expected to continue for the next month. The ground is apparently drying sooner than usual this year since rainfall during the preceding season was unusually light. Therefore, the Vietnamese will probably be able to deploy their armor and artillery sometime in October, when the fighting will intensify further.

The resurgence of fighting signals the lack of success of efforts by many nations, including the United States, to find a peaceful, political solution to the problem of Kampuchea. At the same time there was a continuing refusal, overcome only on September 26, by both Phnom Penh and Hanoi—despite strenuous efforts by the United States and other governments, the United Nations, and other international organizations—to cooperate in establishing an effective relief program for over 3 million Khmer people already in desperate straits due to lack of food and medicine.

It is clear that the Vietnamese plan to carry out a vigorous campaign to eliminate effective resistance to their domination of Kampuchea. Success in this campaign could permit Hanoi to reduce appreciably the Socialist Republic of Vietnam forces needed to prop up the Heng Samrin regime. Hanoi might then seek to exploit and perhaps exaggerate the extent of such withdrawals for maximum political effort abroad. The likelihood of such an outcome will depend, of course, upon Vietnamese success in engaging Pol Pot's forces of substantial size. Pol Pot's troops are particularly adept at small-unit warfare and will probably present as few opportunities as possible for the Vietnamese to engage them in large set-piece style battles. Pol Pot's objective, for both himself and his forces, will be primarily to survive the dry season.

We estimate that Hanoi's military prospects are best in those areas near the Thai border and in portions of central and northeastern Kampuchea where it can employ its armor and artillery. Pol Pot's forces will have a better chance of defending themselves in their mountainous redoubt in southwestern Kampuchea. The Vietnamese may augment their forces somewhat for this offensive, but there is probably no need now for massive reinforcement. Vietnamese forces will benefit from the major military supply build-up from the Soviet Union, which already this year has supplied Vietnam with several times the amount of military equipment it did all last year,

and the Soviet internal airlift transferring military supplies inside Vietnam and into Laos and Kampuchea.

The probable consequences for the region of this cruel struggle can be described as follows.

- The immense loss of life and suffering of the Khmer people will become greater still.
- The flow of refugees on Thai soil from Kampuchea will undoubtedly increase, as will the danger of the spread of military actions into Thailand.
- The terrible effects of famine and disease on 2-3 million people will be intensified.
- The international relief effort we and others have been so actively seeking, and which Heng Samrin and Hanoi authorities have just agreed to, will be enormously complicated.
- Relations between China and Vietnam, already very poor in the wake of their 17-day war earlier this year, will deteriorate further.
- The threat to stability in the surrounding region will be heightened, as will the threat of expanded hostilities and the danger of an increased Soviet presence in Indochina.

ASEAN's Role

Over the past year, the ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) states have met the challenge of events in Indochina with unity, courage, and resilience. We expect they will continue to do so. They have taken the lead in bringing the Kampuchea problem before the United Nations and in seeking a peaceful solution based upon the principles of the U.N. Charter. We support their request to place the issue on the U.N. General Assembly agenda. They have persistently used their direct contacts with Vietnam to urge withdrawal and a peaceful solution. They have provided first asylum for hundreds of thousands of refugees. And they have made evident their solidarity with ASEAN's front-line state Thailand, even while maintaining the nonmilitary nature of ASEAN and its focus on economic and social cooperation.

It is of vital importance that the friends and allies of the ASEAN countries provide them with the support they need to maintain their stability and confidence. The meetings at Bali hosted by the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN with the Foreign Ministers of Australia, Japan, New Zealand, the United States, and Ireland, representing the European Community, was a demonstration of the broad international importance accorded to ASEAN.

The United States has acted to strengthen its support of ASEAN and its individual members to help them meet the challenge. The Bali meeting, attended by Secretary Vance, was a symbol of our support and was marked by the conclusion of several agreements for cooperation in programs of economic development, cultural exchange, narcotics control, and other areas, as well as fruitful discussions on how to deal with refugees and other serious problems affecting all five states.

Individually, we have welcomed Thai Prime Minister Kriangsak to the United States, when the President reaffirmed our commitment to that country under the Manila pact, and have accelerated the delivery of weapons to that country to enable it better to protect itself against external threats. At the initiative of this committee, previously requested levels of foreign military sales credits for Thailand, Indonesia, and Malaysia have been increased, and we also moved forward in implementing the agreement reached with the Philippines on military assistance related to the base accords. We have continued significant levels of economic assistance, as well, to Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines and cooperated with those countries, Singapore, and Malaysia on a number of international economic issues. With your support, we intend to continue this cooperation and support as our top priority for Southeast Asia.

Need for Humanitarian Aid

The efforts of masses of people to escape war, starvation, and disease exact a heavy toll from Indochina's neighbors. Ambassador Dick Clark will discuss the international refugee programs and our role in them. Let me only touch upon

some of the consequences of the vast displacement of peoples from Indochina due to Vietnamese policies.

The countries of first asylum in South-east Asia, including the Crown Colony of Hong Kong, have accepted over 700,000 refugees over the past 4 years. They deserve the recognition of the entire international community for their cooperation in continuing to accept refugees, despite enormous political, economic, and social pressures. In addition, Indonesia and the Philippines have demonstrated their willingness to ease the burdens upon Thailand and Malaysia by accepting additional numbers of refugees in temporary centers. The offer made by President Marcos of a processing center for some 50,000 refugees is of special significance, and its establishment is proceeding with the cooperation of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and a number of governments in addition to our own.

Although the moratorium on forced and organized flight that Hanoi accepted last July at the Geneva conference has had a decisive effect upon facilitated departures, the flow of escapees from Vietnam is still running at about 10,000 or so per month. Pressures on Thailand will continue to increase as perhaps over 200,000 more Khmer will seek refuge from the war and famine inside Kampuchea. This massive exodus will put great strains on Thai capabilities, exacerbate the danger of a spillover of the conflict onto Thai territory, and test the capacities of the international community to respond to the humanitarian requirements.

The threat of famine in Kampuchea became evident early this year, and we moved to alert international organizations to the need to undertake planning for a relief effort. In July in Canberra, and in subsequent congressional testimony, Secretary Vance called for an international humanitarian relief program to aid the Khmer people. In early August the State Department issued an appeal to all political authorities in Kampuchea to cooperate with international relief efforts for all needy Khmer, regardless of the political control under which they live, monitored by international observers to insure against diversion of supplies. Supported

by the United States and several like-minded governments, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) tried for 3 months to obtain agreement from Phnom Penh and Hanoi for such an effort.

The situation today in Kampuchea is grim. The famine that Secretary Vance foresaw several months ago has begun, and malnutrition and disease are omnipresent. We estimate that as many as 3.5 million people face severe malnutrition or starvation in the upcoming months. Because of the continued fighting, because of massive population movement away from the main rice growing areas (encouraged by both fighting sides), and because of the near total breakdown of transportation systems, there is no way that domestic production can meet minimal consumption needs. With no resources to fight crop pests and disease, even scattered small plantings are endangered.

Scores of thousands of Khmer civilians are ranging across much of Kampuchea foraging for food. In such a situation, death takes its toll first among the very young and the very old. Observers have remarked on the near absence of infants in the Vietnamese-controlled zone and among refugees in Thailand. A generation of Khmer may already have been lost. As might be expected, refugee pressure is also mounting with 20,000 refugees already along the Thai border and thousands more moving into border areas in search of food, shelter, and safety. Further deterioration of the situation is virtually certain unless the international relief program announced September 26 is begun at once.

We have been doing everything we can within the limits of laws and regulations to facilitate humanitarian relief for Kampuchea. Secretary Vance has expressed our concerns directly to Secretary General Waldheim. Although we have no diplomatic relations with the various regimes involved, we have spoken directly to the Vietnamese, urging that such a program be facilitated by the Heng Samrin regime. We have asked the U.S.S.R. and the P.R.C. to use their influence with the contending regimes in Kampuchea to further a relief effort for all the Khmer

people. Other governments, such as Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and France, which have relations with Hanoi, have joined in our urging, as has Secretary General Waldheim.

As events evolved over the past months, a consensus developed among the governments most concerned that the only promising approach for a program on the magnitude required was a coordinated approach through the ICRC-UNICEF. Secretary General Waldheim has named UNICEF to be the lead agency. The United States has made clear its willingness to accept whatever agreement these organizations could reach with the parties on the ground, in keeping with their standard procedures, and indicated that we would be prepared to contribute to any effective relief effort that can be developed. In the interim, we have already contributed to programs along the Thai border.

Representatives of the ICRC and UNICEF have been working since early August to reach an agreement with the Vietnamese and the authorities set up in Phnom Penh by the Vietnamese who would make it possible to launch an effective program. Thus far the ICRC and UNICEF have been able to send in only a few plane loads of emergency supplies. The scale of these shipments and those of other international private groups has been woefully inadequate to meet the enormous needs.

The long delay in beginning a program has already proved costly in terms of suffering in Kampuchea. Furthermore, the renewed Vietnamese offensive will enormously complicate the practical problems of delivering food and medicine to needy Khmer.

As the conflict grows in intensity it will increasingly pose serious obstacles to an adequate program; scores of thousands of Khmer will be condemned to death; tens of thousands will be driven into Thailand.

Already it has become necessary to provide funds to assist the UNHCR, ICRC, and the Catholic Relief Service to set up emergency feeding operations on Thai territory in the Thai-Kampuchean border areas. The World Food Program, the Food and Agriculture Organization, and

others are also participating in this relief effort. It will become more important as the situation inside Kampuchea gets worse and will require much greater support from us and from the international community.

We note and welcome the announcement made September 26 in Geneva that the ICRC and UNICEF have finally received permission to establish offices in Phnom Penh. ICRC is moving forward toward full implementation of an international relief effort under ICRC-UNICEF coordination. We understand that ICRC and UNICEF each will be able to place representatives in Phnom Penh to insure that relief distribution is timely and, in the words of the announcement, "consistent with principles of impartiality and non-discrimination."

The ICRC furthermore has announced that the Democratic Kampuchea authorities have also agreed to the immediate initiation of a relief program to provide urgently needed humanitarian assistance to help the tens of thousands of Khmer civilians along the Thai-Kampuchea border. ICRC and UNICEF representatives will be permitted to observe distribution of this relief.

The ICRC has pledged that it and UNICEF "will watch that this relief will in no way contribute to the war effort or either of the belligerents." As we have said before, the United States is prepared to make a substantial contribution to an effective international relief effort in Kampuchea. We will be consulting with the Congress regarding details of U.S. participation.

Promoting Peace and Stability

Clearly the problems I have already described have a vital bearing on the question of our diplomatic relations with Vietnam.

At the beginning of this Administration, we made it clear that in order to put the hostility of the past behind us and to enhance the peace and stability of Southeast Asia, we were ready to normalize relations with Vietnam. This remains our ultimate objective. But from the first meeting we stressed two things to the Vietnamese—first, we would not agree

to economic aid as a precondition to normalization, and second, progress toward normalization would be affected by Hanoi's policies toward its neighbors.

While we still believe normal relations between our two countries to be in our mutual interest, we cannot move in this direction under present circumstances. The Vietnamese are well aware of our views. We have had periodic talks with the Vietnamese on such issues as MIAs, [missing-in-action], refugees, and Kampuchea in the hope of convincing them that other, more responsible courses of action would serve their own long-term interests. There has been some success on refugees and MIAs but none in Kampuchea. We will continue these contacts and keep Congress fully informed.

The question of the Kampuchea seat in the General Assembly has presented us with equally grave problems. When we, together with 70 countries, supported the credentials of Pol Pot's representatives, we also stated explicitly, as we have many times before, our abhorrence of the brutal violations of human rights under his regime. We have urged the international community to condemn these practices and to investigate the human rights situation in Kampuchea.

We believe, however, that in the absence of a superior claim, the General Assembly should seat the representatives of the

government whose credentials were accepted by the previous General Assembly.

The Heng Samrin regime, installed and maintained by Vietnamese military force and continuing occupation of Kampuchea, presents no such superior claim. It rules thanks to the power of the Vietnamese army. The so-called peace and friendship treaty, cited by the Vietnamese as legitimatizing their military presence in Kampuchea, signed 8 weeks after Vietnam's invasion, is simply another indication of the extent of Vietnam's control over the regime in Phnom Penh, which is totally dependent on the Vietnamese for support and direction. Outside Phnom Penh, the only authority of any kind, civil or military, is the Vietnamese army.

We are trying to alleviate the difficulties and dangers posed by Vietnam's policies and its confrontation with its neighbors.

We are focusing attention on providing international assistance to Khmer refugees in Thailand and to Thai along the border who have been uprooted by the refugee influx and by the spillover effect of the fighting in Kampuchea.

As the ICRC-UNICEF program of relief to the Khmer in Kampuchea gets underway, we will be making an appropriate and timely contribution.

We are urging the maintenance of a Vietnamese moratorium on organized departures and pressing the international community to continue the impressive resettlement offers and financial contributions it made at Geneva.

But in addition to treating the symptoms, we are also seeking a cure for the disease. We and other governments have been in direct contact with the Hanoi regime, describing the disastrous consequences of these policies for Vietnam as well as the rest of Indochina. In discussions with Vietnam, the U.S.S.R., the P.R.C., and other governments that have a role to play, we have stressed the need for a political settlement to the Kampuchean tragedy. We believe that such a settlement would involve the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea, the creation of an independent Kampuchea Government truly representative of the Khmer people, an end to external interference in any state in the region, and the establishment of peaceful relations among all of them. Thus, despite the difficulties that exist, we shall pursue this goal.

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1. The problem: The population of Kampuchea is in danger of starvation. Since Vietnam's December 1978 invasion and occupation of the country--already prostrate after almost four years of brutal, despotic rule--the US has been concerned about implications for the welfare of the Khmer people and for regional peace and security. The invasion was launched at the time of the primary harvest. Both the Vietnamese and the defending Democratic Khmer (DK) forces used crop destruction and denial tactics, resulting in loss of most of the rice crop. Continued fighting led to massive population shifts: People under DK control fled to remote areas; those under People's Republic of Kampuchea (PRK) control grouped in squatter settlements around Vietnamese troop concentrations and along major communication routes. This movement away from agricultural lands disrupted planting in May and June. Only about 10% of the arable land was planted for the August harvest, and yields from the main harvest in December 1979 will probably be even lower. Disease and malnutrition are taking a heavy toll.
2. Famine: Famine has begun. International observers report extreme malnutrition, rampant malaria, and hundreds of deaths. Scores of thousands of Khmer civilians are foraging for food across much of the country. Refugee pressure is mounting, with an initial 20,000 persons pressing against the Thai border.
3. US diplomatic efforts: In March 1979, the US began urging international organizations to begin contingency planning against the expected famine in Kampuchea. Secretary Vance, in July, called for an international humanitarian relief program to aid the Khmer people. In early August, the State Department called upon political authorities in Kampuchea to cooperate with such a program. We also stated that this assistance must go to all needy Khmer, regardless of which faction had political jurisdiction over them, and that distribution be made under effective international supervision, monitoring, and control to insure against diversion of relief goods to military use. We repeated our willingness to help and, later in August, urged over 30 countries and international agencies to join us in pressing for early launching of a program.
4. The immediate future: In mid-September, Vietnamese forces began a new offensive against Khmer resistance elements. The fighting involves broad sweeps and ambushes in the central region and probing action in the southwest mountainous areas.

These operations, if they continue and expand, may severely inhibit the functioning of any internationally monitored relief program in Kampuchea, at least outside Phnom Penh. They will also jeopardize feeding operations now underway and planned in the Thai/Kampuchean border area and exacerbate the plight of the Khmer in these regions, driving many into Thailand. Khmer resistance elements may join this refugee tide, posing grave security and humanitarian problems for Thailand--already burdened with a refugee population of over 160,000. We estimate that 100,000 Khmer would try to flee into Thailand in the first few days of intensified fighting near the western Khmer border, and another 100,000 would follow shortly. In the process, as many as 60,000 Thai could be displaced.

5. Relief efforts: International relief organizations have been in contact with Vietnamese, PRK, and DK authorities for months, but only a trickle of aid has reached Phnom Penh. ICRC/UNICEF announced in Geneva and New York on September 26 an agreement in principle covering the start of large-scale relief efforts in Kampuchea and that the authorities in Phnom Penh would permit the opening of an office there. ICRC/UNICEF believe the Phnom Penh authorities accept the principle that relief supplies should be provided to all war victims under appropriate safeguards. The ICRC/UNICEF announcement also notes that the Pol Pot authorities have agreed to permit relief operations in their zone.
6. US aid: While awaiting establishment of an enduring international relief presence in the Vietnamese/Heng Samrin-controlled areas of Kampuchea, the US has directed its relief efforts to the Thai/Khmer border area. For feeding and medical supply operations there, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has received \$925,000 from the US, primarily in Foreign Disaster Assistance funds. In addition, the US anticipates contributing PL-480 commodities to World Food Program inputs into relief efforts for Khmer both in Kampuchea and Thailand.
7. Donations: Individuals and organizations wishing to contribute to Kampuchean relief may do so through designated contributions to the American Red Cross, or to the following agencies, among others: ICRC, 17 Avenue de la Paix, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland; UNICEF, c/o UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017; UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Room C-301, New York, NY 10017; Catholic Relief Services, 1011 1st Avenue, New York, NY 10022; Church World Service, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10027; International Rescue Committee, 386 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016; Refugee International, 1800 K St., N.W., Suite 401, Washington, DC 20006.

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1025 Fifteenth Street NW, Suite 600
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October 1, 1979

CRYING FOR LIFE

CAMBODIA: THE DESPERATE
PLIGHT OF A STARVING PEOPLE

The desperate cry of a dying people -- Jews in Germany, Biafrans, Bangladeshi, and most recently, the "boat people" -- resounds painfully in human consciences of compassion throughout the world. The current catastrophe in Cambodia warrants analogy with the greatest human tragedies of this century.

The Indochina Refugee Action Center has prepared the attached report to assist in a better understanding of the rapidly deteriorating situation in Cambodia. The report describes relief efforts presently underway, and discusses possible means by which all peoples of good will can find a solution to the massive human suffering in that country.

If action is not taken now, hundreds of thousands will be dead from starvation and disease by Christmas.

The attached report presents facts, to the extent that they are known, and discusses some of the solutions currently being considered. While this report does not provide specific answers, it compels the conclusion that the world community must act collectively and that national governments, private organizations and individuals must contribute massive amounts of time and resources to solving the world's present Holocaust. We must avert the unconscionable threat of extinction of the Cambodian people.

All men and women of conscience throughout the world must raise their voices in unison and demand immediate relief for the people of Cambodia.

CAMBODIA

"Nothing approaches the desolation...the disease, starvation, orphans...it is all incomprehensible. I have seen nothing like it before, not Bangladesh, not anything."

o Western official returning from Phnom Penh, Washington Post, 8/23/79

"Not famine in a few weeks' or months' time. Famine is here and now. Unless, somehow, there is an airlift of some 600 tons of rice a day beginning now and lasting several months, the Cambodian people will die."

o Jacques Beaumont, UNICEF official interviewed in Phnom Penh, Newsweek, 9/24/79

"If the magic wand of international aid does not come to our help quickly, we are finished."

o Dr. Nouth Saueun, pediatrician in a Phnom Penh hospital, Far Eastern Economic Review, 8/17/79

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This report was written with the assistance of many people. The members of the Center staff who conducted the research, and wrote and edited the report were Sue Johnson, Bob Frankel, and Rob Stein.

CRYING FOR LIFE

CAMBODIA: THE DESPERATE PLIGHT OF A STARVING PEOPLE

I. INTRODUCTION

The Cambodian people are facing imminent extinction from disease and starvation. The world, for the most part, is uninvolved. The reports from within Cambodia tell of walking skeletons, rampant disease, shrivelled and bloated children and the ghastly results of pervasive hunger and malnutrition. While precise facts are difficult to obtain, the reliable estimates are chilling:

- o Almost no food is being grown or produced in the entire country. Only about 5% of the rice paddies appear to be in cultivation -- and people have been eating seedlings in order to stay alive.
- o Most people are living on about 4.5 oz. of rice per day -- less than 1/3 of the average quota in Southeast Asia.
- o 80% of the children are suffering from the severest form of malnutrition.
- o The ravages of war and the excesses of the recently overthrown Pol Pot regime have left the populace with virtually no transportation, communication system, telephones, books, medical supplies, machines, and other aspects of modern civilization.
- o There are only 55 doctors in the entire country (out of more than 500 practicing before the Pol Pot regime came to power in 1975), and only a few hospitals. A substantial proportion of the educated people living in Cambodia before 1975 -- doctors, teachers, engineers, and other professionals -- were killed between 1975 and 1979.

- o The population has been reduced from more than 8 million in 1970 to between 4 and 5 million at present -- a reduction of 40-50%.
- o Only 20-30% of the remaining adult population is male. Most of the adult females are widows.
- o There is only one birth for every ten deaths.
- o In the next six months, the situation threatens to grow much worse. The main rice crop, due to be harvested in December and January, is virtually non-existent. Within the past few weeks, the Heng Samrin government -- which, supported by the Vietnamese army, controls most of Cambodia -- has launched a major new military offensive to destroy what remains of Pol Pot's forces. The renewed fighting threatens not only to wipe out most of the meager rice crops that remain; but also could disrupt the famine relief efforts presently being negotiated.
- o Estimates are that unless massive aid begins to arrive in Cambodia almost immediately, as many as 2 1/2 million people, or more, face death from starvation.

These facts, horrible as they are, cannot adequately portray the depth of the agony suffered by the hundreds of thousands of people condemned to a slow, painful death from disease and starvation. Few of us have been forced to experience the horror of mothers who must watch their children starve before their eyes.

People of conscience must act now. Mobilization of resources is essential. The private and public sector in America must move rapidly and decisively to provide relief and to avert human suffering of such monumental proportions.

The purpose of this paper is to provide a brief factual overview of the situation in Cambodia; to describe efforts presently underway by international organizations to provide assistance; to present the major ideas and proposals for meeting

the crisis which are presently being considered; and to analyze some of the issues which must be faced as we determine the nature and scope of the assistance we can provide.

II. GEOGRAPHY AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Cambodia (presently called Kampuchea) is a land of approximately 70,000 square miles (about the size of Missouri) situated south of Thailand and Laos, and west of Vietnam. Part of the southern border of Cambodia is on the Gulf of Thailand in the South China Sea. (A map of Cambodia and the surrounding area is attached to this report.)

About 90% of the people are ethnic Cambodians (Khmer). Ethnic minorities include several hundred thousand Chinese, and much smaller numbers of Chan-Malays (Malayo-Polynesian Muslims), Khmer Loeu (hill tribesmen), Burmese, and Vietnamese. The Khmer people traditionally practiced Theravada Buddhism, but refugees report that no religious practices were permitted under the Pol Pot regime.

In the early 1970's the population of Cambodia was more than 8 million. Present reliable estimates are that only 4 to 5 million people have survived the war and destruction that have devastated Cambodia during the past decade.

III. POLITICAL HISTORY

The Khmer people were the major power in their region of the world for over 500 years, from the 9th to the 14th centuries, A.D. In the 14th century, the Thais, a traditional rival of the Khmers, sacked Angkor and set in motion the gradual decline of

Khmer power. By the 19th century, Cambodia was dominated by a dual suzerainty of the Thais and Vietnamese (the latter also being a traditional enemy).

In 1863 the Cambodian king requested a French protectorate to save the country from being totally engulfed by the Thais and Vietnamese. The French gained economic advantages from this relationship, but did not develop the elaborate colonial presence that they did in Vietnam.

Japan controlled Cambodia during World War II, although it allowed the Vichy French to continue in nominal control until March 1945. In 1946, Cambodia became an "autonomous kingdom" within the French Union, with Sihanouk as the head of state. By 1953, Cambodia achieved full independence from France.

The main element in Cambodian foreign policy during the 1950's and 60's was neutrality. By the mid 60's, however, North Vietnam was allowed to set up base camps on the Cambodian border with South Vietnam. In March, 1969, the United States began large scale secret bombings of these base camps, thus beginning what many observers feel is the start of the tragic downward spiral in Cambodia's recent history.

In 1970, Sihanouk's Prime Minister, General Lon Nol, overthrew him, abolished the monarchy and set up a new government, supported throughout most of its five year history by the United States. During the protracted fighting in the early 70's between Lon Nol's forces and the Khmer Rouge (the Cambodian Communists), hundreds of thousands of Cambodians were uprooted from their homes and became refugees.

IV. THE POL POT REGIME: 1975-1979

Pol Pot's forces (the Khmer Rouge) overthrew the Lon Nol government in April, 1975. Immediately on seizing victory, the Pol Pot regime sealed the borders of Cambodia and ordered the complete evacuation of all cities and towns, driving the entire population into the countryside, ostensibly to till the soil.

The full story of the inhuman destruction wrought by the Pol Pot regime is beyond the scope of this report. However, without some understanding of the Pol Pot regime, one cannot accurately grasp the reasons why the people in this once lush, green "land of fruit", which had been a "significant exporter" of rice, are now at the edge of starvation.

The atrocities which were inflicted upon the Cambodian people have been reported in the world press. The following few paragraphs taken from a New York Times (8/8/79) story by Seymour Hersh (in which he reports on interviews with officials from the U.N. Children's Fund and the International Committee of the Red Cross as they returned from a fact-finding mission to Cambodia) capture the essence of the horror:

"Pol Pot believed that the salvation of Cambodia was possible only through the expulsion of all foreigners and foreign influence and through "purification," or evacuation, of the cities...

The relief experts said that the former regime had not only forced citizens to evacuate Phnom Penh, and other cities to work in the fields,... but also had destroyed all vestiges of intellectual life and whatever they could find of 20th-century civilization in the country...

Cambodia's social welfare apparatus has been left in shambles, the relief officials said, citing demolition of hospitals, schools, water supply facilities and sanitary systems. The destruction of such facilities has been on a scale far wider than previously believed...

All signs of modern civilization - typewriters, radios, television sets, phonographs, books - were destroyed. In the shuttered hospitals of the capital, all the medical equipment, textbooks and reference journals were found, broken and scattered, on the floors....

The increase in rats and other vermin had caused outbreaks of plague and other diseases...The treatment of the sick is complicated by a lack of medical equipment, since the former government was scrupulously methodical in its destruction of hospitals....

Intellectuals were systematically purged...Survivors reported that all people who were known to speak foreign languages were hunted down, imprisoned and, in some cases, beaten to death with sticks....

The relief officials also said...they had seen evidence of systematic torture in chambers operated by the Pol Pot Government...Members of the Pol Pot regime, they said, carefully logged the names and titles of their victims and the types of torture each suffered."

The Pol Pot regime not only helped to precipitate the present crisis; in destroying the societal infrastructure, it has rendered Cambodia's relief effort immeasurably more difficult to carry out than the situation that was faced in Biafra, Bangladesh, and other major famines of modern times.

Pol Pot was overthrown by a Vietnamese-backed invasion early in 1979, and was replaced by Heng Samrin, whose government, bolstered by 175,000-200,000 Vietnamese troops, presently controls most of Cambodia. Pol Pot and his forces, however, still control some parts of the country. A third force -- the Khmer Liberation Movement - which opposes both Heng Samrin and Pol Pot, is also believed to control certain areas. It is estimated that perhaps as many as 400,000 - 800,000 people live in areas controlled by Pol Pot and the Khmer Liberation Movement.

Pol Pot claims control of about one fourth of Cambodia, although most objective sources put the true figure at much less than that. The Pol Pot regime is, however, intent on regaining power. The Heng Samrin government, backed by the Vietnamese army, apparently has begun a full scale assault on Pol Pot's enclaves. This new outbreak of war is certain to bring more death and widespread destruction to Cambodia, to exacerbate the famine, and to make relief efforts immeasurably more difficult.

V. PHYSICAL OBSTACLES TO RELIEF EFFORTS

An almost insurmountable array of physical obstacles stand in the way of any effort to alleviate the suffering of the Cambodian people. There are few roads on which to transport food and medical supplies -- most have been destroyed by war, or fallen into total disrepair. There are hardly any cars or trucks, nor is there enough fuel to run them or spare parts to repair them. Countless bridges must be repaired before starving people in the countryside can be reached. Yet many Cambodians are so weak, from sickness or hunger, that they are literally unable to load and unload the packages or supplies, much less repair roads and bridges, or even move from one community to another.

The military situation also presents countless obstacles. Since the rival political factions in Cambodia are now at war, carrying relief supplies into the countryside means entering zones of military conflict -- an extremely dangerous undertaking at best.

The logistics of transporting aid into Cambodia pose problems as well. When and if relief agencies gain the necessary

permission to bring in the massive amounts of aid that are truly needed, air transport will not longer prove practical. Shipment either overland or by sea, or up the Mekong River, is enormously more efficient, given the quantities of aid needed. (One U.N. official has estimated that the minimum of 300,000 tons of food, medical supplies, agricultural equipment, etc. needed in the next six months would require 8,000 flights, if it were brought in by plane.) The need for overland and sea routes raises the serious problem of the poor condition of Cambodia's one major seaport at Kompong Som, as well as the problems discussed above concerning the condition of Cambodia's roads, bridges, etc.

VI. POLITICAL OBSTACLES TO RELIEF EFFORTS

A confusing labyrinth of political alliances, partisan politics, and regional fears casts its shadow over efforts to mount humanitarian aid for the Cambodian people. The Pol Pot regime -- despite all of the gross violations of human rights of which it stands accused -- is nevertheless supported as the "legitimate government of Cambodia" by China, is officially recognized by the United Nations, and, in varying degrees, is tacitly encouraged in its fight against the Vietnam-backed Samrin government by many of Cambodia's Southeast Asia neighbors. This, of course, stems from the fear these nations have of Vietnamese power, rather than out of any love for Pol Pot.

The Soviet Union and her allies, on the other hand, support the Heng Samrin government -- which does indeed appear to be substantially in control of Cambodia.

The United States has accorded diplomatic recognition to neither side, yet recently voted in the U.N. to allow Pol Pot to claim Cambodia's seat in the General Assembly.

All of this wreaks havoc with attempts to elicit international aid. The United States apparently is fearful lest aid be diverted from the Cambodian people to feed the Vietnamese army, or to further the military efforts of one side or the other.^{*/} The Soviet Union wants no part of an aid effort that might fall into the hands of Pol Pot's forces. China's attitude is similar, only in reverse; it doesn't want aid to fall to the Heng Samrin regime.

The United Nations is unable to provide aid to a government which it does not recognize as legitimate (Heng Samrin), or to a government which has not requested aid (Pol Pot). UNICEF, however, is an exception; its charter provides for the feeding of children throughout the world, without respect to politics. As one UNICEF official put it, "Children have no politics." We applaud this view, and would broaden the concept: The world community must awaken to the idea that 2 1/2 million Cambodians -- men, women and children -- must not be allowed to die of starvation -- politics or no politics.

^{*/} Actually, the situation is more complicated: Congress has expressly prohibited any direct aid to Cambodia; however, recent legislation makes clear that Congress does not intend to deny "Food for Peace" (PL480/Title 2) contributions, or aid given under the provisions of the International Disaster Assistance Act.

VII. RELIEF EFFORTS UNDERWAY AS OF SEPTEMBER 28, 1979

Following is a summary of the most significant relief efforts that have been carried out within the past few months, and those which are presently underway:

A. UNICEF and the International Committee of the Red Cross

These two agencies have been working jointly in an effort to gain permission from the Heng Samrin government to transport regular and continuing shipments of food, medicine, and other necessities into Phnom Penh, for distribution to other areas of the country. As of late September the negotiations appeared to be successful. Press reports indicated that the Heng government had agreed to a continuing emergency relief program, and would allow UNICEF and the ICRC to set up relief offices in Phnom Penh.

Since July, when representatives of UNICEF and ICRC first went to Phnom Penh to attempt to establish a working relationship with the Heng regime, these two agencies have brought in 5 planeloads of food, medical supplies, tools, and other necessities.*/ After the first shipment, two representatives, one from UNICEF and one from ICRC, were allowed to remain in Phnom Penh to aid in the distribution of supplies and observe the situation. They were allowed to travel 90 kilometers into the surrounding countryside, where they visited hospitals and orphanages, and observed the tragic circumstances facing

*/ Except for the first shipment, which was smaller, each of the four recent shipments have delivered an average of 40 tons of food, medicine, and other supplies.

Cambodia first hand. Jacques Beaumont, the UNICEF official on this mission, told Newsweek: "Unless, somehow, there is an airlift of some 600 tons of rice a day beginning now and lasting several months, the Cambodian people will die."

As of September 28, two more flights had been scheduled for departure, and at least three nations -- Japan, the Netherlands, and Australia -- had pledged financial and/or food contributions to the UNICEF/ICRC program.

B. Catholic Relief Services

Since late June, more than 15 convoys of trucks loaded with food, clothing, and medical supplies have traveled to a remote area in eastern Thailand, moved up to within 500 yards of the Cambodian border (but no further), and delivered their cargo to Cambodians who came across the border, picked up this aid, and carried it back into Cambodia. According to an article in the New York Times (8/13/79), Prime Minister Chamanand of Thailand agreed to this project only after Hanoi approved it, and only on the condition that the supplies were not diverted to the military forces of either side of the Cambodian war. The U.S. Government contributed \$325,000 to this operation through the Agency for International Development. Presently the Catholic Relief Services are attempting to raise at least \$1,000,000 in additional funds -- through appeals to church, private, and government sources -- to continue these operations.

C. Church World Service and the Christian Conference of Asia

These affiliates of the World Council of Churches sent a delegation of 4 persons to Phnom Penh during August to negotiate

a relief effort with the Heng regime. The negotiations proved fruitful, and a series of four airlifts of food and medical supplies was scheduled for September.^{*/} These organizations apparently are also negotiating with the Heng government for the transport of 1,200 tons of food by ship to Vietnam, and then up the Mekong River to Phnom Penh.

D. OXFAM (Oxford Committee for Famine Relief)

OXFAM-America (based in Boston) is co-operating with OXFAM-Great Britain, in mounting a major effort to fight the Cambodian famine. A team headed by Jim Howard, OXFAM-Britain's technical officer, carried 34 tons of powdered milk and medical supplies to Phnom Penh on a flight from Luxemburg on August 26th. During a 10 day stay in Cambodia, Mr. Howard engaged in discussions with the Ministry of Health of the Heng regime, and received permission to continue OXFAM's Cambodia relief effort.

Mr. Howard told the New York Times (September 18, 1979) that he was given 100% cooperation during his visit, and received permission to visit almost every place he asked to see; "They welcomed our help," he added. "There is no time," Howard told the Times. "I lived for 10 years in India, and I have worked in many disasters, but the hunger I saw in Cambodia is the worst I have ever seen."

OXFAM sent a second flight to Phnom Penh on September 22 carrying 40 tons of milk powder, sugar, and other food products, as well as some office supplies for the Ministry of Health.

^{*/} We have not as yet been able to ascertain how many of the four scheduled flights reached Phnom Penh.

Accompanying that flight were a team of individuals, including Mr. Howard, a nutritional expert, and a logistics specialist. A third flight is scheduled for the first week in October.

OXFAM believes (as do UNICEF, and most other relief agencies) that the big shipments of aid will have to travel by ship. Guy Stringer, the organization's deputy director general, traveled to Bangkok in September in order to purchase 1,000 tons of rice, and to charter a ship, which the Heng government has promised to admit to the harbor at Kompong Som. OXFAM hopes to have this ship docked in Cambodia within the next few weeks.

OXFAM has so far projected an expenditure of more than \$1 million for its current project in Cambodia. OXFAM-America is seeking financial help from donors in this country in order to sustain these efforts.

E. Other Relief Efforts

In addition to the somewhat larger projects discussed above, a number of additional efforts have been mounted by other religious groups and non-sectarian voluntary agencies:

(1) The International Rescue Committee has sent teams of medical personnel, from its medical projects operating in the Indochinese refugee camps in Thailand, to move near to certain areas of the Thai-Cambodia border (remaining on the Thai side) to aid Cambodians with severe medical ailments who have crossed over the border in search of help. This has been done with the permission of the Thai military authorities, and sometimes in conjunction with the Catholic Relief Services' program of

feeding Cambodians in the border area.

The IRC also contributed a sum of money to the Catholic Relief Services project, helping to finance one of the convoys bringing food and medical supplies to the border. The International Rescue Committee has also communicated to the U.S. State Department, UNICEF, the Catholic Relief Services, and other agencies its desire to offer medical care and assistance to the Cambodian relief effort, once channels for such aid can be opened up.

(2) The UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) has made funds available for food and medicines for individuals fleeing from the Cambodian famine.

(3) The Mennonite Central Committee contributed funds to the joint efforts of the Church World Service/Christian Conference of Asia/World Council of Churches (discussed above), and continues to partake in their deliberations.

(4) The American Friends Service Committee sent a delegation to Phnom Penh during early September to negotiate with the Heng government concerning AFSC's desire to make a substantial contribution of medical supplies.

(5) Refugees International has been attempting to set up negotiations with the Heng Samrin regime in order to discuss an airlift of food to Cambodia.

* * * *

When one closely analyzes the relief efforts which have been underway in recent months, as against the most expert

projections about what is needed to save the Cambodian people, one comes face to face with the incredible distinction between what has been done -- and what must be done to save 2 1/2 million people from starvation. This is not meant in any sense as a criticism of the relief organizations or efforts enumerated above. These agencies are straining their resources to meet the needs of this desperate crisis. Rather, the facts presented here constitute a challenge to the people of the world, and their governments, to mobilize immediately to rescue the Cambodian people from starvation.

Most experts in international relief efforts agree that between \$100 and \$200 million will be needed within the next 6 months to help stave off the starvation of the Cambodian people. To date, it appears that only a few million dollars have been raised, allocated, or expended.

In the next 6 months the situation threatens to grow intolerably worse. A small rice crop, normally harvested in October, will yield only a tiny fraction of its normal output. The main rice crop, due to be harvested in December and January, is virtually non-existent. Now that the Heng Samrin forces have renewed their military offensive against Pol Pot's army, there is the threat that the fighting will not only destroy many of the meager crops which remain, but will undoubtedly wreak havoc with the relief efforts that are now underway.

VIII. DIRECTIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR MEETING THE CRISIS

A number of directions, proposals, and ideas for alleviating the human suffering in Cambodia are currently being discussed by representatives of international relief organizations, members

of Congress, U.S. State Department officials, United Nations personnel, church leaders, businessmen, and concerned citizens. The following is a brief synopsis of some of the ideas being most widely considered:

(1) Lifting the Congressional ban on direct U.S. aid to Cambodia.

For several years, Congress has passed the Foreign Assistance Act with the following prohibition attached:

Notwithstanding any other provision of law or of this act, funds authorized to be appropriated in this act shall not be used for any form of aid, either by monetary payment or by the sale or transfer of any goods of any nature, to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Cambodia, Uganda, or Cuba. */

There is growing support in both houses of Congress for lifting this ban (as it applies to Cambodia), thereby paving the way for the United States to contribute a substantial amount of money towards fighting the Cambodian famine.

On the negative side, there are practical drawbacks to expending a substantial amount of energy in a fight to lift this ban. There is considerable Congressional opposition to such a move, and some people feel that such a fight might prove counter-productive -- i.e., in causing a backlash against all aid to Cambodia (including "Food for Peace," etc.).

*/ It must be noted that (under present interpretations) this section of the Foreign Assistance Act does not prohibit U.S. aid being contributed through the "Food for Peace" (PL480/ "Title 2") program, or under the International Disaster Assistance Act (which is administered by the Agency for International Development). However, neither of these two programs would be able to offer the considerable financial resources that a lifting of the ban could conceivably bring about.

(2) Increasing U.S. Government aid to international agencies and programs -- such as UNICEF, the International Committee of the Red Cross, Catholic Relief Services, Church World Service, OXFAM, etc. The contributions would be made through the "Food for Peace" (PL 480) program and/or the International Disaster Assistance Act, and hence would not violate any Congressional prohibitions. Fundamentally, the policies of these international relief agencies and the policies and philosophy of the two U.S. Government programs (Food for Peace, and the International Disaster Assistance program) are quite similar: both aim at humanitarian assistance, eschew political involvement, and aim at a system of distribution that would prevent abuses of the kind mentioned previously in this report -- such as aid being diverted to the military effort of either side.

There are numerous precedents for U.S. aid channeled in this way. At least two such contributions have already been made in response to the present Cambodian crisis: \$325,000 was contributed to the Catholic Relief Services in July to aid in their program of bringing food to the Thai-Cambodian border; another \$300,000 was given to the International Committee of the Red Cross in June, to feed Cambodian refugees fleeing into Thailand because of famine and/or persecution.

(3) Calling an international "pledging conference."

The United States Government, according to a recent press report, is considering an appeal for famine aid to the Cambodian people from nations throughout the world. It is understood that federal officials are exploring the idea of an international "pledging

conference" similar to the one which was held under United Nations auspices this past summer to deal with the plight of the "boat people." The conference would aim at obtaining commitments from governments around the world to contribute to the struggle against the Cambodian famine.

(4) Organizing a massive private effort to raise funds, and channeling this aid through one or more of the relief programs which have had some success in getting aid into Cambodia. Essentially, this is a matter of using an "existing funnel", rather than duplicating efforts by sending another delegation to negotiate with the Samrin government. The UNICEF/ICRC joint effort, the Church World Service/World Council of Churches/Christian Conference of Asia program, and the OXFAM project, are the three logical channels for aid going into Phnom Penh (through negotiations with the Heng Samrin government). The Catholic Relief Services program is apparently the major food relief effort reaching those Cambodians along the Thai border.

(5) Organizing a major public education campaign. Closely tied to the idea of organizing a massive private effort to raise funds is the idea of generating a major education campaign to raise public consciousness about the Cambodian tragedy. The American people have been relatively sympathetic to the plight of the "boat people", largely because there has been extensive coverage of their plight in the media. The enormity of the catastrophe that faces the Cambodian people has yet to penetrate either the American psyche, or this country's mass media. Given the realities of the electronic age, it

appears inevitable that this issue must first become a media priority before it makes its way into the consciousness of Americans generally.

Biafra, Bangladesh, and -- after the fact, the Holocaust -- became part of America's consciousness. Cambodia must become an instantly recognizable name in the same way, if we are to help avert the destruction of that nation. Nothing less than the obliteration of a human community is at stake, and the public must learn about it as quickly and as completely as possible.

(6) Organizing a campaign directed at "world opinion", focused to put pressure on Hanoi, Peking, Moscow, Cambodia's neighbors, the U.N., etc. to become actively involved in the famine relief effort and/or making it easier for relief channels to be established.

The Washington Post editorialized on August 10, "Neither Hanoi nor Peking is likely to be totally impervious to the united force of world opinion." The suggestion has been made that pressure should be directed at Peking to induce the Pol Pot leadership to request international aid -- a move which might in turn make it possible for the Red Cross, UNICEF, and/or other agencies of the U.N. to come to the aid of the people in those parts of Cambodia that Pol Pot's army controls. ^{*/}

Recently it appeared that the Thai authorities were being skittish about allowing relief flights destined for Phnom Penh to originate in Bangkok. In this instance, arguments based on

^{*/} There have been indications in recent days that such channels are beginning to open up.

"moral pressure" can legitimately be coupled with an appeal to self-interest: as the Thais are well aware, the Cambodian famine threatens to result in thousands of new Cambodian refugees moving towards the Thai border in search of food. Granted that Thailand is fearful of Vietnamese control of their neighbor to the east, there are still good reasons for Thailand to desire that famine in Cambodia be averted.

(7) The creation of "holding camps" in Thailand. As conditions deteriorate in Cambodia, it is expected that tens of thousands of Cambodians will attempt to cross the border into Thailand in search of food, medical care, or an escape from the warfare in their country. According to a recent article in the New York Times (9/27/79), about 130,000 Cambodians, many of them starving, have already massed along the Thai border. Several Indochina analysts have estimated that as many as 1 million people might be driven by famine to attempt to cross over into Thailand.

The Thai government is desperately fearful of such a possibility, and feels acutely the need to find a solution. One idea that has been proposed (not by the Thai government, but by knowledgeable sources in the United States) is the creation of "holding camps" in Thailand -- temporary camps set up to provide food, shelter, and medical care until a further solution to the desperate plight of these people could be found. Proponents of this idea envision the possibility that at some point the political and/or military situation in Cambodia might stabilize -- at least to the extent that international aid channels would open up sufficiently for the inhabitants of "holding camps" to return

home. They argue that this approach would prevent the making of permanent refugees out of people who did not wish to leave their homeland, but merely needed food, shelter, and medical care.

This idea suggests that sponsorship and funding for these camps might best be provided by the United Nations, and that international voluntary and religious organizations might wish to play a role in administering and staffing them. Of course, the entire program would require the full support and cooperation of the Thai government; whether this is a practical possibility is not known at this point.

(8) The establishment of food and medical distribution centers in Thailand. This idea is a variation on the "holding camps" concept discussed above, the difference being that it does not envision the providing of a place of shelter (or at least the providing of shelter for any significant length of time). It is predicated on the assumption that the Thai authorities might reject the idea of holding camps, but might accept distribution centers established to provide aid to Cambodians who crossed the border for a few hours or days, in order to receive food or medical care, but then returned to the Cambodian side.

IX. CONCLUSION

Beginning with the bombing raids in 1969, Cambodia has experienced a decade of war, violent revolutionary upheaval, almost unparalleled assaults on modern civilization, the destruction of virtually its entire culture, religion, and social structure,

the loss of half of its population, and now, unless help comes soon, a famine which will kill more than 2 million of its people.

The political and physical obstacles to massive relief are nearly overwhelming, and the solutions are incredibly complex. But a few million people are literally crying for life. We must not ignore their cries.





Thailand

Laos

Vietnam

Gulf of Thailand

Kampuchea (Cambodia)

- International boundary
- ⊙ National capital
- Railroad
- Road
- - - Trail

0 50 Kilometers
0 50 Miles

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CITIZENS COMMISSION ON INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

CARE OF INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE, INC.

386 PARK AVENUE SOUTH • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016

TEL (212) 679-0010 • CABLE: INTERESCUE, NEW YORK

DATE: October 18, 1979

TO: Members of the Citizens Commission on Indochinese Refugees

FROM: Leo Cherne

This is a hasty, and almost certainly too-brief a summary of developments involving and affecting the Commission. We are once again in an exceptionally active time and this is an effort to inform you of the most immediate developments.

We reached the conclusion a couple of months ago that the scope of the refugee crisis throughout Southeast Asia required us to increasingly direct our efforts toward the community of nations. In this connection, we have, as you know, invited former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, and former Commissioner of Immigration Leonel Castillo, to join our midst. They have both, to our great pleasure, accepted.

As a second step we have invited the following distinguished individuals to join the Citizens Commission:

Professor Raymond Aron
Former Chancellor Willy Brandt
Madame Simone Weil, President of the
European Parliament
Dennis Healey and Winston Churchill III
of Great Britain, and
Mr. Kiichi Miyazawa, former Economics
Minister of Japan

We have not thus far received replies to our invitation, but will inform you when we do.

As a third step to enlarging the dimensions of our work, we are planning to participate in a two-day conference in Paris on December 1 and 2 with as many as thirty-eight European Voluntary Agencies. A number of that group feel they and

their governments thus far have not been sufficiently responsive to the Southeast Asian tragedy, and we hope to encourage their efforts.

We will report to them on the situation in Southeast Asia, the United States resettlement program, what the Voluntary Agencies are doing, what the needs are, and suggest areas of urgent need to which they may want to respond.

Bill Casey, Bayard Rustin and I plan to attend this meeting along with staff from the International Rescue Committee with particular experience in resettlement.

Our greatest concern, however, is the Cambodian tragedy, in particular the crisis on the Thai-Cambodian border. In response to this, we are planning a Cambodian Border Mission for the very near future.

This Mission was stimulated by a number of recent developments, including a visit from U. S. Ambassador to Thailand Mort Abramowitz, urging us to become involved. His personal observations include the following and these should be regarded as confidential:

He thought it likely that over 200,000 Cambodians, starving and in desperate need of medical attention, would cross the border into Thailand; 90,000 already have to this date. Thailand will not confer refugee status on them and, therefore, they will not be eligible for the help the UNHCR would otherwise give. Thailand's purpose is to retain the option of encouraging them to return to Cambodia when things quiet down. In addition, of course, they maintain total control. The presence of those fleeing Cambodians has already begun to displace Thai villagers and an estimated 10,000 to 20,000 of them will also require help.

As a result of the understanding between U.N. Secretary General Waldheim and the Vietnamese Delegation to the Geneva Conference, Vietnam has closed the gates against further flight from that country. Nevertheless, an estimated 15,000 a month are still risking their lives in an attempt to flee by boat. Roughly half that number have been arriving each month in one of the increasingly-reluctant sanctuaries in Asia.

There is an additional anxiety about which we shall seek to learn more. China may feel compelled to respond to developments in Cambodia, including the threatened extinction of her Pol Pot allies. Any new Chinese military moves against Vietnam would almost surely result in Vietnam's resuming what is essentially a remunerative expulsion of her remaining Chinese population. This, then, threatens a return to the 50,000 a month level of departure of Boat People. There is also the real prospect of an enlarged hemorrhage of Lao and Hmong refugees into Thailand, and the possibility that Thailand may push some portion of them back to Laos.

These present and threatened events make it urgent for us to quickly assemble a group of Commission members to go to Southeast Asia for the purpose of looking into

these problems and somehow coming up with policy recommendations directed towards our government, the government of Thailand, International Agencies and other nations.

Bayard Rustin, Cecil Lyon, Warren Meeker and possibly Marc Tanenbaum will join me and Louis Wiesner on this mission. Bill Casey cannot go on the dates we have agreed upon - November 2 to 9 - but may be able to go a few days earlier. Following the trip, Warren Meeker will go on to Taiwan in hopes of encouraging a larger resettlement effort and a possible continuation of their grant to the IRC for its humanitarian work in Southeast Asia.

The essentiality of helicopter transport to the Border dictates the wisdom of limiting the numbers. Nevertheless, if you are free to go, please let me know. I have also cabled an invitation to the non-U.S. Members who were invited to join the Commission just in the event one of them might be free to join us. The importance of that is, I think, evident in the light of our widened thrust.

Let me say in this connection, that if Bill Casey doesn't go, I am hoping he will head up a second mission from one to three months later. The picture by then will be substantially clearer and an entirely new set of circumstances should make a second trip desirable. Those Members of the Commission who are not part of this November trip may, it is hoped, choose to go at that time. Please let me know so that we can crank that into our plans.

Warmest regards,



P.S. I just learned that Bill Casey will not be able to go on the Cambodian Border Mission, but I continue to hope he will lead a second mission a few months hence.

Milwaukee
CC: Elmer Winter
Bob Brill
E. DuBois
I. Silverman
✓ S. Bahat

XCC:

✓ Marc Timorbaum
Harold Appelbaum
Susie Schindl

10/11/1979

Bruce Fetter, Chapter President
S. Weber - Milwaukee

Second Follow-up Meeting on Boat People - Milwaukee Community Project
Initiated by Elmer Winter and Bruce Fetter - held on 10/9/79 at the
Lutheran Social Services Bldg., 3200 W. Highland, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Attending:

Lewitt Grosvolt, Dir. Prof. Projects L.S.S.
Louiz Salazar, United Way
Marian Jaskinsky, Catholic Social Services
Dennis Hibner, Dir. International Institute
Leah Kniaz, Budgeting and Planning Dir. Milw. Jewish Federation
Sylvia Weber, Area Dir. AJC

A previous meeting (to which AJC had inadvertently been left off the mailing list) was held on Oct. 4., dealing with coordination of activities to forestall duplication of community services, was continued.

Areas of activity were defined as follows:

1. Identification of sponsors and volunteers
2. Housing
3. Education/P.R. (preparation for positive approach re mutual responsibilities of refugees and communities)
4. Job development (training/screening)
5. English as a second language
6. Socialization (Americanization/maintenance of group culture at an International center/recreation/ group activities/ camping-youth, adults)
7. Social Services (direct)
 - a) mental health
 - b) dental "
 - c) clothing/furnishings (see 10)
 - d) interpreting
 - e) day care
 - f) dealing with bias and stereotype problems
8. Immigration (citizenship/status adjustment/processing)
9.
 - a) legal and technical problems
 - b) citizenship classes
9. Staffing (community organizations/bilingual, agencies)
 - a) recruitment
 - b) orientation
10. Furniture, Clothing, etc.
 - a) initial food supply
 - b) interim housing
11. Advocacy Roles
 - a) federal grants
 - b) medicaid
 - c) education
 - d) refugees themselves helping others to resettle.

Funding - update of information needed

1. United Way

Boat People Project - 2

- a) "Joint Venture" - Coordinating office (proposal being written up)
- b) other proposals for grants

How AJC can Function in a Supportive Role

- a) E. Winter - get private sector more involved in job development
- b) P. R. - jointly with United Way, Rotary, etc.

Numbers of families coming not yet confirmed; probably in the neighborhood of 1000
It was emphasized that P.R. deal with the term "families" not hard numbers, since communities are threatened by such depersonalization--; there does not seem to be as much of a problem in relating to families on a personalized basis as there is when figures are used.

Minutes will be mailed to all agency and organization participants.
Another meeting will be called as soon as certain details of information are obtained. Louis Solazar will start putting the proposal together immediately.



THE WEEK IN RELIGION

BY RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE

RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE
43 West 57th Street
New York, New York 10019

FOR RELEASE: Weekend of
Oct. 19, 1979

CAMBODIA: POWER POLITICS HAS MADE IT A GREAT HUMAN TRAGEDY OF MODERN TIMES

A man-made famine of major proportions is threatening Cambodia.

Some 2.5 million of its people -- perhaps half of the surviving population of that ravaged land in southeast Asia -- will die unless massive help from outside can get to them.

This is the assessment of the harrowing situation by relief workers who have recently visited the country.

After studying various intelligence reports, U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance told the United Nations General Assembly: "Vigorous and large scale international action is required to bring relief to the starving in Kampuchea (Cambodia), now facing one of the great human tragedies of modern times."

According to experts, it would take an airlift of 600 tons of rice a day to check the widespread starvation and malnutrition in Cambodia.

In addition, huge amounts of medical supplies would have to be sent in, along with large teams of doctors and relief workers, and hundreds of trucks to distribute relief supplies.

Some relief efforts have been mounted, but political obstacles have prevented any major international aid operation.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) of the U.S. Catholic community and Oxfam, the private British-based development agency, have been providing limited organized aid to some of the thousands of Cambodian refugees along the Thailand-Cambodia border.

But the Heng Samrin government, installed in Phnom Penh, the Cambodian capital, by Soviet-supported Vietnamese forces in January, threw up road blocks against any full-scale outside aid for the famine-stricken country.

The Samrin regime angrily denounced the distribution of food by Oxfam and CRS at the Thai border to Cambodian civilians who are not under its control.

On Oct. 4, the Vietnam-backed government denied that it had authorized the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to set up offices in Phnom Penh or agreed to a large scale relief operation in the country. Both organizations had announced, Sept. 26, that they had received permission to open offices in Phnom Penh.

A Cambodian foreign ministry spokesman said, however, that the government was ready to sign an agreement with the two relief agencies once they met certain conditions laid down by Phnom Penh. These included avoiding all intervention in Cambodia's "internal affairs" and any attempt to aid supporters of the Chinese-backed Pol Pot regime ousted in January.

The signs are growing that Vietnam is using starvation as a weapon in the effort to destroy the remnants of Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge forces and consolidate its hold on Cambodia.

Vietnam wants any Western aid for Cambodia to come through its agents and be distributed to those within its control.

The effect would be to abandon to starvation the large areas where its control is contested -- as much as 80 percent of the country, according to some reports.

The political cynicism of this ploy has shocked the world. One Western diplomat, who insists on remaining anonymous, says: "The trouble is that there are people on both sides of the fence willing to play politics with the suffering and death of millions of Cambodians and who are really making it impossible for those of us who simply want to save human beings, to do our job -- and this is, indeed, shocking."

Unfazed by the stalling tactics of the Phnom Penh regime, however, the ICRS and UNICEF announced Oct. 5 that they were prepared to launch a stepped-up six-month, \$100 million emergency food and medicine program for Cambodia.

And on Oct. 10, the U.S. State Department pledged an initial grant of \$7 million in emergency Cambodian aid.

A bill pending in Congress would authorize a \$30 million disaster-relief assistance to Cambodia.

Representative John B. Anderson, Republican of Illinois, co-sponsor of the bill, said, "If we fail to act, if we fail to mobilize the resources of the world, we will be guilty of the crime of silence as we stand by and watch the condemned people of Cambodia march through what has been termed the Auschwitz of Asia on the road to death."

The people of Cambodia, nearly all Buddhists, who have been called the "gentlest people in the world," have been under terrible suffering for the last 10 years.

They were first driven from their lush, green fields into cities by the carpet bombing of U.S. planes during the Indochina war. Then, they were driven from the cities by the Communist regime of Pol Pot, which took over the country in April 1975.

By the time the Vietnamese, with Soviet backing, invaded the country in January 1979, more than a million people -- out of an estimated seven million or so -- had died from forced marches, wholesale massacres, disease, or starvation.

The Pol Pot regime's "de-Westernization" drive effectively wiped out hospitals, schools, postal services, banks, currency -- all institutions sacrificed to rigid ideological goals.

Intellectuals were systematically purged. Of the more than 500 doctors known to have been practicing in Cambodia before 1975, only 40 remain, according to relief officials.

Now Mr. Pol Pot and his followers have been driven to the borders of Thailand by Vietnamese soldiers.

The devastation these events have caused has been captured by U.S. satellite photos. They show that only five percent of the arable rice land is under cultivation, with about 95 percent lying fallow. Dikes for irrigation have crumbled. Terraces for cultivation have fallen away.

Aid experts say that most of the Cambodian population is subsisting on a rice ration of 4.5 ounces per person per day, a level below that needed for survival. Many of the people have been driven to eat seed they were supposed to plant.

"We are dealing with people who are dying," says Henry R. Labouisse, executive director of UNICEF. "I think a lot of people are going to die of hunger. A grave famine is likely."

"There are 2.5 million people starving to death (in Cambodia)," says Dr. Joseph Short, executive director of Oxfam-America.

"The country's agriculture has been destroyed, along with its entire system of social and human services, including hospitals and schools."

"What we see in Cambodia is a people and a civilization on the edge of extinction."
