



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

30 May 1979

Dear Mr. Moynihan

I was glad to receive your letter of 26 May about the plight of the refugees aboard the MV Sibonga now in Hong Kong harbour.

I am very aware of the acute difficulties facing these unfortunate people. As I am sure you appreciate, the whole problem of refugees from Indo-China needs to be pursued urgently within the international community and this the Government fully intends to do. In the meantime, however, you will now no doubt have seen that I announced yesterday that we have decided, on humanitarian grounds, to accept responsibility for the refugees from Vietnam on board the MV Sibonga.

In the light of this I am pleased to accept your offer that you will "accept the responsibility of looking after and rehabilitating the children and their families for the period of resettlement". I have asked the Home Secretary to pursue with the utmost urgency the task of finding suitable accommodation and he now has this in hand. His officials will be arranging a very early meeting of the principal refugee organisations and they will be getting in touch with you in the course of today to invite you to take part.

Yours sincerely

(Sgd)

Margaret Thatcher

N.H. Moynihan, Esq.

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