



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

SUBJECT

cc: Lord Privy Seal. *259*

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T41/79T

6 July 1979

Thank you for writing to me on 19 June, of your concern for Vietnamese refugees now in Malaysia. This is indeed a tragic aspect of the problem created by the expulsion of refugees from Indochina. I agree that a major international effort is needed, to relieve the problems of the refugees and of recipient countries in South East Asia and - somehow - to convince the Vietnamese to moderate their inhumane policies.

I proposed that a conference should be held under UN auspices because I thought this would be the best way to arouse the conscience of the civilised world and to involve the international community as a whole in practical measures for the refugees' benefit.

Dr. Waldheim has now called a conference in Geneva, and I assure you that we shall play our full part. I hope that it will lead to effective action to solve this appalling human predicament. Meanwhile, I have no doubt that the volume of international disgust at Vietnamese policies will grow: and it is my hope, as it must be yours, that this will cause the Vietnamese to think again.

(SGD) MARGARET THATCHER

His Excellency Mr. Menachem Begin

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