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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

4 July 1979

Dear Bryan

INDO-CHINESE REFUGEES

On 2 July you asked for advice for the Prime Minister in replying to two telegrams from Dr Waldheim:

- i) inviting the Government to be represented at the meeting on 20 July in Geneva, and
- ii) replying to the Prime Minister's message to Dr Waldheim of 17 June.

I enclose drafts. Mr Hurd will be seeing Dr Waldheim in Geneva at 1800<sup>\*</sup> hours this evening. If the Prime Minister agrees the drafts, these could be telegraphed in time for him to hand the replies to Dr Waldheim at that meeting.

There will be an opportunity to discuss the political aspects of the problem when Dr Waldheim is here for consultations on 12 July.

I am sending copies of this letter and enclosures as well as the texts of Dr Waldheim's messages to Tony Butler (Home Office), Tony Harris (DOT), Bill Beckett (Attorney-General's Office), and Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever  
Stephen Gomersall.

S J Gomersall  
Private Secretary to the  
Lord Privy Seal  
(Sir Ian Gilmour)

B G Cartledge Esq  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

\* 1700 London time

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-4 JUL 1979



File No. ....  
 Department SEAD  
 Drafted by A M SIMONS  
 (Block Capitals) .....  
 Tel. Extn. 233 3078

OUTWARD  
 TELEGRAM

Security Classification RESTRICTED
Precedence
DESKBY .....Z

FOR  
 COMMS. DEPT.  
 USE

Despatched (Date) ..... POSTBY .....Z  
 (Time) .....Z

PREAMBLE

(Time of Origin) ..... Z (G.M.T.) (Restrictive Prefix) .....  
 (Security Class.) RESTRICTED (Caveat/  
 Privacy marking) .....  
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TO ..... UKMIS GENEVA Tel. No. ....of .....  
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*Four pages.*

[TEXT]

INDO-CHINESE REFUGEES

MIPT

1. Please pass the following message from the Prime Minister to Dr Waldheim in response to his personal message.

Begins:

"Thank you for your message of 1 July, in which you replied to my letter of 17 June about the Indo-Chinese refugee problem. I have replied separately to your invitation for the British Government to be represented at the meeting in Geneva on 20 July. We shall of course attend and ~~hope to~~ play a constructive rôle.

"I agree that there is an urgent need to find solutions of a humanitarian nature for the

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/refugees'

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*[Handwritten signature]*

B



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refugees' plight. But like you, I consider that the root cause of the problem must also be dealt with. The Vietnamese Government has a responsibility to conduct its affairs in a way that does not condemn part of its own population to such suffering as the world now witnesses.

"I was glad to see that you had been in touch with representatives of the governments most directly concerned. I am well aware of the difficulties.

"I greatly look forward to discussing this and other matters with you in London on 12 July."

[Ends]

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

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File No. FA 243/1  
Department SEAD  
Drafted by A M Simons  
(Block Capitals)  
Tel. Extn. 233 3078

OUTWARD  
TELEGRAM

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PREAMBLE

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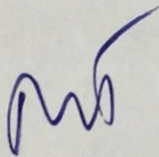
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[TEXT]

Indo-Chinese Refugees

1. Please pass the following message from the Prime Minister to Dr Waldheim.

[Begins]

"Your Excellency,

"I accept your invitation for the British Government to be represented at the meeting at Geneva on 20 July, ~~and can let you know that~~ The British representation will be at Ministerial level.

"Like you, I consider it essential for the meeting to produce concrete results and for this to be done by means of careful advance preparation.

"The British representative will take a constructive part in the discussions".



Yours sincerely.

"Margaret Thatcher"

[Ends]

2. Please see MIFT.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN