

Letter sent

Ans. 3/9

Vietnam
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PRIME MINISTER

Vietnamese Refugees

I attach letters describing two cases involving Vietnamese refugees and giving rise to the question of whether or not the Government should give a guarantee of eventual resettlement in the United Kingdom. As you will see from the letters, it has only become apparent in the course of the day that a decision will be required in one case and may be required in the other over the weekend.

In the first case, that concerning the BP super-tanker the "British Resolution", our decision ought to be communicated to the Singaporean authorities in the course of tomorrow. The Lord Privy Seal believes that "we have no option" but to give the requested guarantee.

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The second case, that of the "Rudd Bank", is slightly less clear-cut. Nonetheless it looks very much as though we shall be asked to give a resettlement guarantee. The Lord Privy Seal believes that, if so asked, we should agree promptly.

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delayed
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It would be helpful if your decisions could be given to the Duty Private Secretary for onward transmission to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office as soon as possible.

Agreed with - but

Ans

hope that Rudd Bank decision
can be delayed as long as possible.

31 August 1979

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