



RELEASE

Foundation for the Release of American Prisoners of War Remaining
in Southeast Asia and for the Repatriation of Amerasian Children.

*** Amerasian Children ***

When Americans left Vietnam they left behind sons and daughters. One of the greatest lingering tragedies of the Vietnam War is the large number of Amerasian children left behind by the departing American forces. These children were born as a result of love affairs between American servicemen and Vietnamese women. Most of the mothers and fathers of these children were not married, and when the war ended the fathers simply abandoned their illegitimate children and returned to the United States. Even many of the Americans who did marry the Vietnamese sweethearts were ordered to leave Vietnam and eventually abandoned both their wives and children.

The tragedy involved in this aspect of the war's aftermath is that the Amerasian children have not been accepted by the rest of the Vietnamese society. The children have become complete outcasts who are forced to beg in the streets in order to stay alive. Most of the children are in orphanages. They were abandoned by their mothers because Amerasian children are "nobody". At the orphanages the children get treated very badly. They sleep on wood boards and receive small portions of food with no meat at all. Amerasian children are called half-breed and "dust of the Earth."

"The Amerasian presence is a national problem for Vietnam", says an official with the Vietnamese mission to the United Nations in New York. "It is not national policy to segregate, but Vietnam is an old country with an old culture." Thus, the Vietnamese look down at Amerasians because they were fathered by "round eyes".

Now it has been over a decade since the United States withdrew its troops from Southeast Asia. Since that time the United States repatriated about 3,700 first generation Amerasians before the Vietnamese stopped the process in early 1986. For Amerasian children it is quite difficult to get to America. The weakness of the law requiring proof of American parentage caused U.S. lawmakers to set up an immigration category for Amerasian children. They were given a special refugee status. Now the child's eligibility doesn't depend on the father's acceptance. Essentially, the children are now accepted on the basis of their appearance.

During September 1987 a U.S. delegation reached an agreement with the Vietnamese during talks held in Hanoi concerning the resettlement of Amerasian children in the United States.

The Orderly Departure program was suspended in 1986 by the Vietnamese resulting in the further detention of 8,800 Amerasian children and 18,000 of their relatives who had filed application for departure. The revised departure program could be ready in the next few months. Hopefully, State Department bureaucracy and baffle and communist intransigence and deceit will not interfere with the repatriation of the more than 12,000 Amerasian children remaining in Vietnam. These children are now at least twelve years of age and for their entire lives they have not benefitted from their American citizenship.

This photo appeared in the New York Times on Friday, May 8, 1987

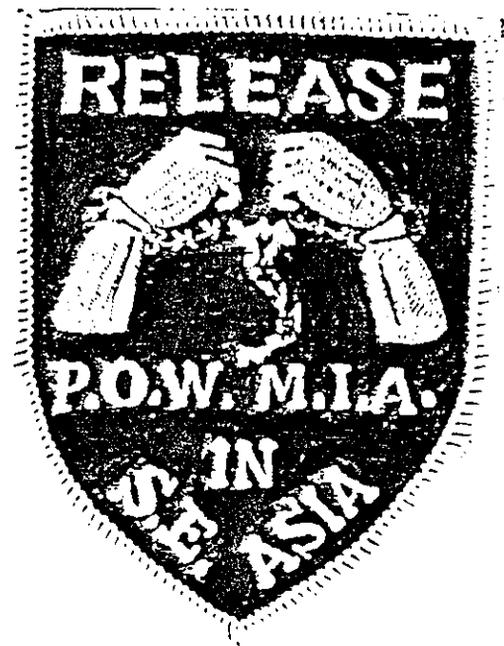
If you have any doubts that there are Americans in distress consider the following:

2400+ Americans held prisoner or missing in Southeast Asia

8179 Americans missing in Action from the Korean War - 389 known to have been POW's

15,000 Amerasian children - still in Vietnam unable to enjoy the benefits of their American citizenship

DON'T JUST READ ABOUT IT AND SAY "That's too bad. I'm glad someone is doing something about it." INACTION IS CRIMINAL ONCE YOU HAVE INFORMED. AMERICAN SERVICEMEN ARE HELD AGAINST THEIR WILL BY THE COMMUNISTS - ABANDONED BY THE NATION WHOM THEY SERVED. HELP THEM BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!



ALL THE POWs ARE NOT HOME YET! 