



UNITED CAMBODIAN COMMUNITY, INC.
(NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION)

May 31, 1978

Mr. Richard Kocher
American Embassy in Bangkok
Refugee Section
APO San Francisco
96346

Dear Mr. Kocher:

It was a pleasure for me to meet you and your associates at the Bangkok office and I appreciate the opportunity to discuss Cambodian refugee problems. My visits to Camp Dindang and Camp Aranyaprathet make me realize the refugees' delicate situation and their need for help in finding a new homeland.

I am hereby submitting an official request to you on behalf of the Cambodian community in California and in the United States. This request pertains to the admission to the United States of two Cambodian buddhist priests, Venerable Buth Ngoy and Venerable Ing Sambo who are presently staying at Wat Kok in Aranyaprathet. As you know, nearly 100% of Cambodians are buddhist. In America, although this new community has more or less adjusted to its new homeland, the absence of Cambodian buddhist figures, in the long run, may prove to be a deterrent to its good mental health. There are few buddhist churches in Los Angeles County, but realistically, communication between churchgoers and priests cannot be fully established due to language barrier. For instance, the Vietnamese refugee community has its own churches and priests for several years now, but Cambodian churchgoers are unable to relate to these priests because of language gap; the same goes for other Asian buddhist churches. I constantly hear the regret expressed by Cambodians in California of not having our own church and priests like these minority groups. We have formed a Committee on Religious Affairs within our Association and already we have raised enough funds enabling us to commence the edification of a church. But our plan cannot be finalized as long as we are not certain there will be priests to handle the religious services.

Mr. Richard Kocher

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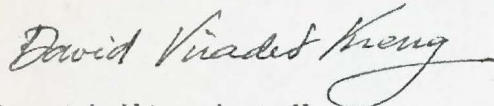
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A large number of Cambodian buddhist priests can be found in Thailand and India to our knowledge. The problem is basically the difficulty in obtaining permission from the United States Government to bring them over. We need these religious leaders so desperately to dispense the moral support to our community. Therefore, the United Cambodian Community will assume full responsibility for the sponsoring of Venerable Buth Ngoy and Venerable Ing Sambo once permission is given them to enter the United States. These priests will play a major role in the maintenance of good mental health of our community and consequently benefit us all in the foreseeable future.

We all appreciate what the United States has done for the refugees and we appeal to you once again to renew this compassionate gesture.

Respectfully,

UNITED CAMBODIAN COMMUNITY, INC.



David Viradet Kreng
Member, Board of Directors