

TEXT OF SPEECH MR. DAVID VIRADET KRENG ADDRESSED THE INTER AGENCY
RESETTLEMENT FORUM RE. CAMBODIAN REFUGEES IN THAILAND, MARCH 23, 1976

Mr. Kreng is the Cambodian community representative and Co-Chairman of Southeast Asian Refugee Council (SARC), 1851 South Westmoreland Avenue, Los Angeles

Distinguished Members of the Forum,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a pleasure for me to be here today and to have the opportunity to express our thoughts to the Inter Agency Forum on Resettlement who have done a great deal for all refugees in Los Angeles county.

Here are the problems that concern us.

We received numerous letters from refugees in Thailand, appealing to us to help evacuate them from there; the refugee living conditions are deplorable, almost unbearable; in addition, harrassment from Thai authorities is a painful reality; and reportedly, seven (7) to twenty (20) people die every day.

That's the reason that brings me here, to ask you for help on their behalf. Our proposal is as follows (see attached copy of proposal).

The Asian Protestant group has kindly offered to pay the cost of telegrams.

In conclusion, in the name of the Cambodian community consisting mostly of refugees that you helped resettle, I like to express our sincere thanks to you (the Forum) for your commendable efforts in caring for human beings and alleviating their problems. And I thank you for your time, your interest and your help.

3/23/76