

VIET NAM—SUGGESTED ACTION TO AID VIETNAMESE  
DESIRING TO COME TO CANADA

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. As a number of Canadians volunteered to stay behind and as a Canadian Hercules aircraft is in Hong Kong, will the minister show the same humanitarianism he showed in similar situations, such as the Chilean one, send that aircraft back to Saigon with Canadian personnel to discharge our obligation to the Vietnamese in Saigon who worked for Canada and eliminate some of the shame we have covered ourselves with in this situation.

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, the situation is clear. There is a list of 14,000 sponsored or nominated relatives of Canadians of Vietnamese or Cambodian origin. We dispatched the information to our officials, to our immigration officers in Saigon. Over the last several weeks they have been making a sincere effort to get in touch with the people whose names are on this list. Some of them they found, and those people were issued Canadian visas. That meant that we had cleared their entry to Canada without any red tape, on the basis of that information which had gone over. The problem was that the South Vietnamese government would not grant authority for those people to leave South Viet Nam; and if the hon. member will explain to me how Canadian officials in Saigon could force the South Vietnamese government to issue those visas, and we put all the heat, all the pressure on that we could, and we were as persuasive as we could be in getting visas for those people—

**An hon. Member:** How come the Americans did it?

**Mr. Andras:** Don't talk about the Americans until you know the facts.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

● (1130)

**Mr. Andras:** My understanding is that the best information available to us is this. On the last day when that aircraft was leaving Saigon, any effort to take Vietnamese people out, even with our full blessing in terms of entry to Canada with Canadian visas, would have been stopped by the Vietnamese authorities who had check-points set up at several points along the road to the aircraft and were in fact searching and taking people out of cars. They have the military force and police to do it, if those people do not have exit visas. Consequently, I would like the hon. member to explain how we could have done more.

I might say that in so far as immigration presence there is concerned, we did contact these people. We sent out 1,908 letters to the heads of families on that list, which to the best of our knowledge includes all the names sent over to us. They have in their hands that authority to come to Canada. However, we cannot force the issue in so far as the ability of their getting out of Saigon is concerned.

**Mr. McGrath:** In view of the fact we have nothing to fear from either the PRG or the Viet Cong, and in view of the fact this is a rapidly changing situation and the au-

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thority of the Saigon government is rapidly diminishing, does the minister now intend to despatch immigration officers to Saigon, Hong Kong or elsewhere in the area to discharge our obligations to the Vietnamese? I ask this in light of the changing situation in that place.

**Mr. Andras:** Mr. Speaker, if there were an arrangement by which those people could get out of Viet Nam, the people to whom I am referring, particularly the sponsored and nominated relatives and Vietnamese working for the embassy, we would not need an immigration officer, although I would be quite prepared and have been discussing on a contingency basis sending back an immigration officer. That is not the problem. The problem is how do you collect them, get them to the airport and get them out without Vietnamese authority because that government still exists. That government is preventing people from getting to the airport.

VIET NAM—ALLEGATION MIKE DUFFY OF CBC HELPED  
VIETNAMESE LEAVE COUNTRY

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Manpower and Immigration whether it is true that Mike Duffy of the CBC has been able to get certain persons out of Saigon since the embassy was closed? If so, will he be named an immigration officer or chargé d'affaires?

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, in the last week or so some Vietnamese to whom we have issued visas were able to get out on commercial flights. However, whether it is Mr. Duffy or anybody else, and I have no criticism of him, it is one thing to get people out on a commercial flight. It is quite a different thing for our embassy in Saigon to try to fight their way through check-points with military personnel of the South Vietnamese government and the police preventing them from taking people to aircraft, if they do not have exit visas.

VIET NAM—REASON FOR FAILURE TO WITHDRAW CBC  
PERSONNEL—POSSIBILITY OF VOLUNTEERS FROM EXTERNAL  
AFFAIRS RETURNING TO SAIGON

**Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, I will address my question to the Acting Prime Minister. In light of the fact the government believes the threat to the lives of Canadians is so acute in South Viet Nam that our embassy personnel had to be withdrawn before attending to a number of Vietnamese who are fearing for their lives and are anxious to immigrate to Canada, why have reporters of the CBC, who have fulfilled their job with courage and efficiency, also not been withdrawn to Canada?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, that is the responsibility of the broadcasting companies. I am sure the hon. member will agree they are there on a voluntary basis. Our embassy officials are there on instructions. We have a special responsibility toward our personnel not to expose them to unnecessary danger.