

FORD
ADMINISTRATION

December 1975

Dear Friend:

The American Committee is fighting to save the lives of 700 Haitian refugees. Until now the Immigration Service and the State Department have turned a deaf ear to their pleas for asylum under the refugee law. Never before in U.S. history, as far as we know, has so large a group faced such grave harm from a decision by U.S. officials to return them to a repressive regime from which they fled at risk of their lives.



The American Committee's General Counsel, Ira Gollobin, is serving as voluntary co-counsel for the National Council of Churches in representing the refugees. He was a part of a Delegation of clergymen which met in Washington on October 8th with the Congressional Black Caucus and three South Florida Congressmen.

The Delegation urged a Congressional Inquiry into the treatment of the refugees (see details in the enclosed press release and in the representative refugee affidavit). Many refugees are presently being held in Florida jails for criminals, receiving a shockingly inadequate diet and allowed no outdoor exercise time. Some were maced for protesting unhealthy floor bedding.

In another area of immigration policy, the American Committee has repeatedly opposed lawless dragnet raids (on streets, factories and homes) against dark-skinned persons who "look" Latin American. The American Committee favors amnesty and opposes the repressive scapegoat Rodino - Eilberg bill H R 8713. A brief account of some Committee activities during this past year is given on the reverse side of this page.

Our Committee is waging a good fight to defend the foreign born, a front-line of defense for the rights of the native born. The attacks against the foreign born are intensifying so that the work of our Committee is more important than ever. Will you help as generously as you can, so that we can carry forward this work and meet the challenges ahead? Thank you!

Sincerely,

Paul Lehmann

Dr. Paul Lehmann, Chairman

Lee H. Ball

Rev. Lee H. Ball, Treasurer

Louise Pettibone Smith

Professor Louise Pettibone Smith, Honorary Chairman

A limited number of copies of the MEMORANDUM for a CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY (with accompanying affidavits by Haitian refugees) are available on request. Please help to cover reproduction and mailing expense.

HIGHLIGHTS of American Committee activities Nov. 1974 - Nov. 1975.

ON HAITIAN REFUGEES

Washington, Nov. 20, 1974: Demonstration in front of White House, march to the Capitol, public meeting on Capitol steps -- addressed by five Congressmen -- and meetings with Congressmen and Senators.

March 15, 1975: Demonstration at New York City office of State Department, march to Haitian Consulate, and rally in front of Consulate.

May 19, 1975: Mailing to every member of Congress, with letters from the National Council of Churches, the Archbishop of Miami, the American Jewish Congress, the Dade County (Miami) Federation of Labor (AFL-CIO) and Christian Community Service Agency of Miami.

May 31, 1975: Demonstration at New York City office of State Department, march to Herald Square, and rally at Herald Square.

The American Committee's General Counsel helped to organize and was a participant in a Washington, D. C. meeting on October 8, 1975 with the Congressional Black Caucus and three Florida Congressmen.

ON PERSONS WITHOUT DOCUMENTS ("ILLEGAL ALIENS")

January 4, 1975: Picketing of New York Times for publishing a series of articles stirring up hostility against "aliens". These articles depicted the foreign born as having major responsibility for high unemployment, high welfare, health and education costs. The article suppressed the fact that the Social Security Law amendment effective Sept. 1973 bars the issuance of social security cards to persons unauthorized to work.

Speech of Ira Gollobin at Feb. 1975 National Lawyers Guild Conference on the Bill of Rights and the Foreign Born was published by the Guild, reprinted in Worldview, magazine of the Council of Religion and International Affairs, and in Grass Roots Forum, a California publication as well as others.

Brochures: (1) THE ANTI-ALIEN HOAX and (2) THE RIGHTS OF EMPLOYERS AND NONCITIZENS.

PLUS... many press releases, action memos and other actions.

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