

May 23, 1995

The Honorable Christopher H. Smith  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman Smith:

This is further to our discussion of earlier today regarding certain provisions of Section 2104 of H.R. 1561 which is presently under consideration by the House of Representatives.

I am writing as Chair of InterAction's Committee on Refugee and Migration Affairs (CMRA). I am joined in signing this letter by the Co-Chairs of the Committee's Working Group on the Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA).

The CMRA held an emergency telephone conference today to discuss its approach to the debate which would be taking place in the House of Representatives relating to Section 2104 of H.R. 1561. Taking part in this discussion were representatives of approximately a dozen CMRA member agencies, many of which have long been involved directly in advocacy on behalf of and/or in resettlement of refugees from Southeast Asia.

I am able to inform you that there were a variety of views expressed by the participants in the telephone conversation regarding the language contained in Section 2104 of H.R. 1561 as reported out of the International Relations Committee to the House floor and the language proposed in your draft Amendment. At the same time, a consensus was quickly reached among all the participants in the telephone conference that the proposed Amendment to strike Section 2104 of H.R. 1561 being offered by Congressman Doug Beureuter and others should not prevail. A consensus also existed which welcomed the constructive approach you are taking in proposing to restore \$30 million in non-earmarked funds to the Department of State's MRA Account.

The CMRA and its member agencies look forward to working closely with you in the coming weeks as the legislative process proceeds to achieve our common objectives.

Sincerely,

*Martin A. Wenick*

Martin A. Wenick  
Chair, InterAction Committee on Refugee and Migration Affairs  
Executive Vice President, HIAS Inc.

*Lionel Rosenblatt by name*

Lionel Rosenblatt, Co-Chair, InterAction CMRA CPA Task Force  
President, Refugees International

*Dr. Le Xuan Khoa by name*

Dr. Le Xuan Khoa, Co-Chair, InterAction CMRA CPA Task Force  
Executive Director, Southeast Asia Resource Action Center