

Post
8/16/76

World Vision Denies CIA Connection

The charge made by an unnamed source in a story published August 9 that World Vision used street-boys cared for in our humanitarian programs in Saigon as information-collectors for the CIA is absolutely without foundation in fact and is categorically denied.

Journalistic fairness demanded a statement from World Vision in the context of the original story. The reporter, Brian Eads, admits he knew we had an office in Bangkok, yet he never contacted that office. Your own editorial office could easily have talked to our international headquarters in California. Let me state it without equivocation: World Vision has never gathered information for the CIA or any other intelligence agency. World Vision is an international Christian humanitarian organization, incorporated in the United States in 1950. We began our humanitarian and Christian ministry in South Vietnam, in 1960, and for 15 years we cared for thousands of orphans, built hundreds of homes for refugees, and worked closely with the evangelical church of that country.

Nearly 80 per cent of our present budget of \$24-million comes from

many thousands of American contributors and that the average gift to our ministries is \$19.58.

In March, 1976, I wrote an open letter to President Ford regarding the alleged use of Christian organizations and missionaries by the CIA. I said, in part: "The gospel of Jesus Christ is above cultures, above governments and above foreign policy. It must forever remain so. I urge you, Mr. President, to uphold the doctrine of church/state separation and to remove the cloud from our overseas missionary enterprises by directing the CIA to refrain from involving persons in Christian vocations in its intelligence activities."

I simply ask you if those sound like the words of an organization which would allow homeless children for whom it has provided love, a home and an education to be used as spies?

STANLEY MOONEYHAM,
President,
World Vision International.

Monrovia, Calif.

Editor's Note: We regret that a statement from World Vision was not included in The Post's original story.