

U.S. Criticizes Waldheim Over Appeal on Refugees

Special to The Washington Post

UNITED NATIONS, April 1—The United States complained today that Secretary General Kurt Waldheim has not gone far enough in appealing to Hanoi to allow the evacuation of hundreds of thousands of South Vietnamese refugees caught behind Communist lines in Danang and elsewhere.

"Apparently, the U.N. is only sensitive to the Communist view," an American official complained, "and is only willing to exercise its pressure to help the South Vietnamese as captives."

U.S. Ambassador John Scali called on Waldheim to express the Ford administration's displeasure that the Secretary General did not speak out more strongly on the refugee issue.

Waldheim issued a statement last night appealing "to the governing authorities concerned on all sides of the fighting" to make "effective efforts to limit the suffering of innocent people, especially women and children."

The secretary general also asked for more humanitarian aid, and suggested that it be channeled through the U.N. Children's Fund and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. Each has aid programs on "both sides of the conflict."

Scali, emerging from his meeting with Waldheim, said that the U.N. appeal "was good as far as it went," but noted that he had asked Waldheim "on behalf of my government" to appeal as well "to all parties to avoid interference in a mass evacuation of the hundreds of thousands of innocent women, children and civilians who want to leave danger areas."

Scali said, without using Waldheim's name, that he should not "sit by idly and watch hundreds of thousands suffer without responding as the conscience of mankind dictates."

The statements by Scali and other U.S. officials indicated that Washington is becoming increasingly distrustful of Waldheim's at-

titude toward the United States and, in the American view, far too submissive to pressures from Communist and Third World nations.

The public U.N. response was silence. Privately, U.N. officials complained that they had been subjected to pressure from all sides, not just the United States.

The North Vietnamese and Vietcong have apparently made it clear to the United Nations that a public statement calling for the evacuation of refugees would be considered a "hostile act."

The Geneva liaison office of the Vietcong, or Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam, had indicated that it would be making "whopping requests for much larger scale humanitarian operations." This would involve U.N. officials inspecting Vietcong areas to see that aid is distributed.

The United Nations has been in continuous touch with the Geneva office of the Vietcong, and a UNICEF representative arrived in Hanoi today to discuss increased aid programs.

[In Geneva, a spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees specified that aid to the areas now taken over in South Vietnam "will be moved through the North Vietnamese government," Reuter reported.]

UNICEF is stockpiling supplies in Singapore to launch new relief operations, and the refugee agency has been asked by the Vietcong to provide aid for 500,000 persons in the areas that have just come under its control.