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# Quakers Get Approval for Vietnam Aid

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The American Friends Service Committee was notified over the weekend that the State Department, in a policy reversal, has granted the Quaker agency permission to send self-help supplies to Vietnam war victims.

Last Monday several hundred Quakers and sympathizers demonstrated at the White House to protest the denial by the State Department of licenses to ship fish nets, small agricultural equipment, wood screwmaking machinery and acrylic yarn for making children's sweaters.

Quaker officials had said they would break the law if necessary to carry out their program of aiding war-ravaged areas in North and South Vietnam.

According to Rep. G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery (D-Miss.), of the House Select Committee on Missing Persons in Southeast Asia, the State Department has agreed to grant church agencies licenses for "broad categories of assistance" to Vietnam as a "good-will gesture" in response to Hanoi's release last month of nine American prisoners.

The prisoners, most of whom are missionaries, had been held since the fall of the Thieu regime and the withdrawal of American forces from South Vietnam last spring.

The AFSC, an outspoken foe of the Vietnam war, carried out humanitarian aid program in North and South Vietnam during the hostilities, as did other church groups.

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