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# Viet Refugees Can't Send Money Home

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San Diego

Indochina refugees are being warned against sending money home to friends and relatives because of the Trading with the Enemy Act.

This information has been given to Southern California refugee groups including the Orange County Forum and the San Diego Refugee Coalition. Earlier, local Vietnamese language newspapers published a warning that federal law forbids the money gifts.

A maximum fine of \$10,000 and ten years in prison could be involved, the newspapers said.

An unidentified U.S. official said sending money to Vietnam or Cambodia "is against the law and refugees should be advised of that."

There was no indication of how much money has been sent back.

The foreign-language papers speculated that the Communist governments in Indochina might open the mail and keep the money. When the law was enacted some 20 years ago, Chinese living in the United States were receiving letters from the mainland demanding money to protect their relatives, but no such letters have been reported from Indochina, refugee spokesmen said.

The Trading with the Enemy Act forbids sending cash in such foreign mail without a license from the U.S. Treasury Department, which has issued licenses to U.S. citizens to send money to dependents in Indochina countries. But a government spokesman said no such licenses have been issued to refugees.

*Associated Press*

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