

Jack Anderson's Washington Merry-go-round

WASHINGTON — A Los Angeles scrap-metal magnate has brought pressure on U.S. authorities to admit Lt. Gen. Dang Van Quang, the former notorious South Vietnamese intelligence chief, into the United States.

The metals magnate, Sam Jaffe, has offered Quang a job with his corporation, Stelex International. According to confidential government memos, Jaffe explained that he wanted the controversial Quang because of his political connections.

"You must be politically oriented to do business in Southeast Asia," one memo quotes Jaffe as saying. "There is no way to do business in any of these countries without paying off."

Quang's skills in the art of corruption are well-documented. He was associated in Saigon with heroin smuggling, extortion and torture. He sold exit visas, for example, to panicky South Vietnamese refugees trying to flee ahead of the Communists. One refugee has told of a \$10,000 payment that Quang extorted.

These charges have been largely substantiated by the Canadian government, which now has Quang on its hands. He has been ordered deported as an "undesirable person," with permission to remain in Canada only until he can find another country that will take him.

As chief of South Vietnam's Central Intelligence Agency and a close confidante of President Nguyen Van Thieu, Quang was formerly a power in Saigon. He abused his power with a viciousness that has made him a target of a South Vietnamese vengeance squad called the Black April Committee. According to government memos, he stands "accused of torturing and killing Vietnamese nationals."

Jaffe succeeded in endearing himself to Quang during the intelligence chief's glory days. The relationship helped Jaffe wangle a contract to buy scrap metal from the former Saigon government. "After all," he explained recently to U.S. officials, "the country had been at war 30 years, and there was a lot of scrap around."

Quang escaped from Saigon just ahead of the city's downfall in April 1975. He turned up at Fort Chaffee, Ark., as a faceless refugee. But other refugees recognized him and threatened retaliation. Less than two weeks after his arrival, he fled for his life from the refugee camp.

Against Jaffe's advice, Quang kept going until he reached Montreal, Canada. But he found no peace in Canada, where other Vietnamese refugees spotted him and disclosed his dark past to the Canadian authorities. In desperation, the deposed mogul sought to return to the United States.

This required an employment certificate and an immigration visa. Jaffe came through with a ringing character endorsement, which we found in government files.

"I have known Dang Van Quang for about two years," Jaffe swore in an affidavit dated Aug. 19, 1975. "He would make a good citizen of the United States ... He is known to me to be an honest man of great integrity."

Quang's reputation as a torturer and killer, however, raised doubts that he would make a good U.S. citizen. His labor certificate, therefore, was turned down.

Now the scrap-metal dealer is making another, more intensive effort to break down the immigration barrier for Quang. In another appeal for a labor certificate, Jaffe told the Los Angeles office of the Labor Department that Quang "should have been president of Vietnam."

As recounted in a confidential memo, Jaffe also told the labor officials that Quang "was a victim of a Communist plot in Montreal." The metals magnate added meaningfully: "There are an awful lot of Communists in the Montreal area."

It was left for Quang's attorney, Michel Shore, to do the final arm twisting. A memo on Shore's intercession refers to his "intimidation

—with Les Whitten

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and insinuations." Shore also indicated that Quang was "a former high level Vietnam officer who also had very high level friends in the State Department and was a former CIA employe."

The application for a labor permit, nevertheless, was quietly denied last month.

Footnote: Our reporter Don Canova spoke to Jaffe about his friendship with Quang. "He arranged meetings with people I ordinarily wouldn't be able to meet," said Jaffe. "I never gave him money for bribes to help out my deals. Our relationship was more social than anything."

Jaffe insisted that his notorious friend "lived humbly and had very little... Quang is also a very religious person, a devout Catholic. Once he was going to steal a Bible from a hotel, but instead I gave him one."

Neither Quang nor his attorney could be reached in Montreal for their comments.

DEAD DUCKS — A Taiwanese company is trying to sell the United States new Christmas tree ornaments, which look like stuffed ducks, wobble like stuffed ducks and, indeed, are stuffed ducks.

The company first crushes a live duck, then removes its insides. Then the duck is stuffed and decorated. The Humane Society, in high dudgeon, is seeking to stop the importation.