

COMMENTS BY  
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY  
TO REPRESENTATIVES OF AMERICAN COUNCIL  
ON VOLUNTARY AGENCIES  
IN INDIAN TREATY ROOM  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
DECEMBER 12, 1966

Mister Waters, my good friend, thank you very much. Herbert Waters and I have been long associated in government. It is a particular joy for me this morning to have a former associate and yet a very dear and close friend present me to this fine representation of the American Council of Voluntary Agencies.

May I say that I am very proud of the work that my sister, Frances Howard, does in liaison with the voluntary agencies. She is your constant advocate and reminds me repeatedly of the wonders and the work of the voluntary groups. I agree with her.

I want to add a word of tribute to Howard Kresge at AID for his work and to many others, in particular, to those of you that are here representing over twenty (I had one report which said 24!, another said 27) of the voluntary agencies.

Frank Goffio is your representative this year; he surely typifies the kind of selfless service that the voluntary agencies represent.

I am delighted to be in his presence and to express to him my thanks for all that he does and all that all of you do.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S APPRECIATION

I am particularly privileged to meet today on behalf of President Johnson because he would want me to convey to you his personal appreciation for your work. So, I meet today on his behalf with the leaders of America's voluntary organizations who are serving so well the innocent victims of war in Vietnam. I am not unmindful of the fact that these same agencies serve many other areas of the world; in fact, I don't know what we would do without you.

THE BEST "VOICE OF AMERICA"

And may I say before I forget that in my mind, the work of the voluntary agencies is the true "voice of America" and true spirit of this land. I know of the work of government, and I am proud to be in the service of government. I am particularly glad to be an officer of a representative government of the people, by the people and for the people.

THE STRENGTH OF AMERICA

But I also want the whole world to know that we in the United States do not rely on

government alone; in fact, government is but a part of the strength of this land and is not the major part. It is a significant part. But the real strength of America lies in its people and in the host of organizations that our people have created to carry out their purpose and their will. I see today members of many of those organizations.

Now it is particularly appropriate that, in this Christmas season, the time of giving and of thanksgiving that you who are giving so much to so many be recognized and be thanked by a grateful government that does represent the people. In giving and in helping as you are doing, you reaffirm in action President Johnson's pledge at the Manila conference -- the pledge to fight social misery, the pledge of freedom and of peace and of justice for the people of Vietnam, of Southeast Asia, and may I say, all over the world. Our sense of justice and our dedication to freedom are not limited by the boundaries of any one national state.

#### INDIVIDUAL CITIZEN RESPONSIBILITY

You continue by your work a tradition which is as old as this Republic -- citizen action to assist those in need at home and abroad.

Just the other day, I participated in a religious ceremony here in the community. I quoted from a Prophet who said, "Thou art the man" -- which was just another way of saying that anything that is worth doing, you must do. And if it is to be done, we must accept some individual responsibility for doing it. You are doing that in your work as individuals and representing agencies that are voluntary and free and independent.

#### OUR PEOPLE'S COMPASSION

Throughout the course of American history, the people of America have voiced a deep and abiding compassion for the sufferings of all mankind. There is no nation on the face of this earth that has as many organizations dedicated to the help of others as our blessed nation, and I mean, individual, private, voluntary organizations.

Throughout the years, the compassion of our people by individuals such as are represented here today and by your government has brought comfort to people in distress in many countries and under many and varied difficult circumstances. To come to the aid of the less fortunate is inherent in our belief in human dignity; therein lies the strength, of course, of our nation and a cornerstone of any great society. It is better to minister

than to be ministered to, and that is indeed what your agencies represent.

#### HARDSHIPS SUFFERED IN VIETNAM

In Vietnam, today, American voluntary agencies have once again stepped into the front lines of the fight against human suffering, and, my fellow Americans, what unbelievable suffering. I think of that country that has been under foreign rule for centuries and in constant war for a quarter of a century since 1940. Is it any wonder that there is pain and agony and suffering? Surely, you must feel in your own heart a sense of fulfillment and of joy that you can bring some relief to this suffering. Once again, you and the people you represent demonstrate the deep concern of the American people for their fellow men in all lands.

#### APPRECIATION TO DONORS

Now these organizations, your organizations, are supported by the voluntary contributions of Americans everywhere. And I think it is fitting and appropriate that we thank these fellow Americans. But I also think it is appropriate that we ask them for their continued help and even more generous help. Their work is carried out by individual Americans who have volunteered to serve the cause of humanity in Vietnam. And in this manner, the people of our country are expressing their compassion

for the helpless in Vietnam who seek just a little security and their freedom. Through the voluntary agencies' donations of money and of gifts in kind, food, clothing and technical services are reaching the innocent victims of aggression in Vietnam.

#### WE AMERICANS CARE

But I want to add there is another factor that is even more important than the money or the technical services or the food and the clothing. It is that you care. It is that we Americans demonstrate to the world that we really care about people. We care about life-saving. I want America to be known as the nation that saves lives, not takes lives; a nation that builds and helps other people, not destroys. You carry that message. But the most important message that you carry is the fact of your presence, that you do care. And there is the great power of love, manifested by your actions and your presence.

#### OUR MESSAGE TO OUR PEOPLE

Our President Johnson has asked you to come to our nation's capital so that we might thank you and commend you and your voluntary organizations and the millions of people you represent.

On behalf of the President, I ask you to take this message of thanks back to your people.

You know the Vice President can fill in for the President; (sometimes --only, may I say, at his discretion.) He is a very busy man, and this is an exceedingly difficult time for him as we prepare the new budget and we come to grips with some of the most difficult international problems that have ever faced our nation -- in the Middle East, Europe, Southeast Asia and Latin America.

#### THE AMERICAN TEAM

I hope you understand that, today, the team is at work -- the President, the Vice President, members of the Cabinet and agencies of government; we are all on the same team.

I can assure you of the continuing support and cooperation of our government in everything that you seek to do -- in your efforts to shelter the homeless, to feed the hungry and to heal the sick. What noble goals. I always feel better just when I say them, and I know how much better you must feel when you accomplish these objectives.

#### OUR GOALS FOR VIETNAM

Our common goal is freedom -- freedom for the people in Vietnam, freedom from oppression, freedom from fear, freedom from hunger, freedom to harvest their crops, freedom to raise their children

in an atmosphere of peace and tranquility and in a land which, we hope and pray, will be at peace in the days ahead.

I conclude by saying we do pray for peace. I am reminded of the Scriptures which say, "Blessed are the peace-makers" -- not just the wishers. And we must make peace. You are doing it in every effort that you contribute to help an innocent victim of war as a "building block" of making peace, a great cathedral of peace.

So, keep at it and, believe me when I tell you that I come to you with a heart filled with gratitude and, frankly, emotion, because I know of no group of people who do a better job than those that I see here this morning.

#### APPRECIATION TO AGENCIES

I want to commend you, Mister Waters. Our AID Agency doesn't get many pats on the back, these days.

I want to commend the Food for Peace program, and its Director who is with us here this morning, Dick Reuter.

And I want to commend all of those in the government who have helped us in -- what we call -- the "other war" against social misery,



the war for a better life.

"TROOPS" FOR "THE OTHER WAR"

I think that Mr. Waters would be the first to agree with me that the "troops" in this war, this war of peace, are in your hands. You represent those forces.

So, give more; will you just give more?

Please take this message as a challenge-- not just as a message of thanks. Redouble your efforts. Ask your people to do more. Ask them to do more every day in every way.

They will do it if they are asked, and if they are challenged.

Thank you very, very much.

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*American Council of Voluntary Agencies*

REMARKS BY THE VICE PRESIDENT

MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF  
AMERICAN VOLUNTARY AGENCIES

DECEMBER 12, 1966

*Francis Howard*

*Howard Kresge*

*Frank*

*Goffio*  
*Gauffio*

*Herb Waters*

I AM PRIVILEGED TO MEET TODAY ON BEHALF  
OF PRESIDENT JOHNSON WITH LEADERS OF AMERICA'S  
VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS WHO ARE SERVING SO  
WELL THE INNOCENT VICTIMS OF THE WAR IN VIETNAM.

↳ IT IS, ~~THESE~~, SO VERY APPROPRIATE  
THAT IN THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON, ~~THIS TIME OF SELF-~~  
~~LESS GIVING,~~ <sup>WHO</sup> YOU ARE GIVING SO MUCH TO SO MANY,  
BE RECOGNIZED AND THANKED BY YOUR GRATEFUL  
GOVERNMENT.

↳ *giving helping*  
IN ~~DOING~~ SO, YOU REAFFIRM -- IN ACTION --  
OUR PRESIDENT'S PLEDGE AT THE MANILA CONFERENCE.  
YOU CONTINUE THEREBY A TRADITION WHICH IS AS  
OLD AS THIS REPUBLIC -- CITIZEN ACTION TO ASSIST  
THOSE IN NEED AT HOME AND ABROAD.

✓ THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF AMERICAN  
HISTORY, THE PEOPLE OF ~~THIS COUNTRY~~ <sup>America</sup> HAVE VOICED  
A DEEP AND ABIDING COMPASSION <sup>for</sup> ~~of~~ THE SUFFERINGS  
OF ALL MANKIND. ✓ THROUGHOUT THE YEARS, THE  
COMPASSION OF OUR PEOPLE -- BY INDIVIDUALS, BY  
PRIVATE GROUPS, SUCH AS ARE REPRESENTED HERE  
TODAY, AND BY OUR GOVERNMENT -- HAS BROUGHT  
COMFORT TO PEOPLE IN DISTRESS IN MANY COUNTRIES  
AND UNDER MANY AND DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES.

✓ TO COME TO THE AID OF THE LESS FORTUNATE IS  
INHERENT IN OUR BELIEF IN HUMAN DIGNITY --  
WHEREIN LIES THE STRENGTH OF OUR NATION AND A  
CORNERSTONE OF A GREAT SOCIETY.

✓ IN VIETNAM TODAY, THE AMERICAN VOLUNTARY  
AGENCIES HAVE ONCE AGAIN STEPPED INTO THE FRONT  
LINES OF THE FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN SUFFERING.

ONCE AGAIN THEY HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE DEEP  
CONCERN OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR THEIR FELLOW  
MEN IN ALL LANDS.

THESE ORGANIZATIONS ARE SUPPORTED BY  
THE VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICANS  
EVERYWHERE. THEIR WORK IS CARRIED OUT BY  
INDIVIDUAL AMERICANS WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO  
SERVE THE CAUSE OF HUMANITY IN VIETNAM. IN  
THIS MANNER, THE PEOPLE OF OUR COUNTRY ARE  
EXPRESSING THEIR COMPASSION FOR THE HELPLESS  
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AMERICAN DONATIONS OF MONEY, FOOD, CLOTHING,  
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OUR PRESIDENT HAS ASKED YOU TO COME TO  
OUR NATION'S CAPITOL SO THAT WE MIGHT COMMEND

*Yours*

← YOUR VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS AND THE  
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COOPERATION OF OUR GOVERNMENT IN YOUR EFFORTS  
TO SHELTER THE HOMELESS, TO FEED THE HUNGRY, TO  
HEAL THE SICK. OUR COMMON GOAL IS FREEDOM FOR  
THE PEOPLE OF VIETNAM -- FREEDOM FROM  
OPPRESSION ... FREEDOM TO HARVEST THEIR CROPS ...  
FREEDOM TO RAISE THEIR CHILDREN IN A LAND THAT  
WE HOPE AND PRAY WILL BE AT PEACE IN THE DAYS  
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Voluntary Agencies Transcript  
Monday, December 12, 1966

~~HUMPHREY.~~

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~~Waters, my good friend~~ Herbert Waters <sup>and 2</sup> we have been long associated  
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morning to have a former associate and yet a very dear and close  
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reminds me repeatedly of the wonders and of the work of the vol-  
~~unt~~untary groups. ~~and~~ I agree with her, ~~and~~ I want to <sup>add</sup> ~~say~~ a word  
of tribute to Howard ~~Presley~~ <sup>KRESA</sup> over at ~~the~~ AID for his word <sup>and</sup> and to  
many others ~~and~~ now in particular, to those of you that are here  
representing ~~over~~ over twenty, ~~and~~ I had <sup>what</sup> ~~one~~ report said 24, <sup>3</sup>  
another ~~that~~ said 27 of the voluntary agencies. <sup>Frank</sup> ~~Now~~ Frank Getto  
is your representative this year, ~~and~~ he surely typifies the kind  
of selfless service that the voluntary agencies represent. I  
am delighted to be in his presence and to ~~express~~ to express to  
him ~~my~~ my thanks for all that he does and all that all of you do.  
<sup>PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S APPRECIATION</sup>  
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what we <sup>when</sup> ~~do~~ do without you. <sup>the Best "Voice of America"</sup> And ~~can~~ I say before I forget that in  
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HUMPHREY:

government and I am proud to be in the service of government, <sup>glad</sup> and I am particularly to be an officer of a government of the people, and by the people and for the people, a representative <sup>THE STRENGTH OF AMERICA</sup> government, but I also want the whole world to know that we in the United States do not rely on government alone; in fact, ~~every~~ government is but a part of the strength of this land and is not the major part. It is a significant part. But the real strength of America lies in its people and in the host of organizations that our people have created to carry out their purpose and their will, <sup>many</sup> and I see today members of ~~some~~ of those organizations. Now it is particularly appropriate that at this ~~season~~ <sup>time</sup>, this Christmas season, the time of giving and of thanks giving that you who are giving so much to so many be recognized and be thanked by a grateful government that does represent the people. In giving and in helping as you are doing, you reaffirm in action President Johnson's pledge at the Manila conference ~~that~~ <sup>the</sup> pledge to ~~the~~ fight social misery, ~~that~~ <sup>the</sup> pledge of freedom and of peace and of justice for the people of Vietnam and Southeast Asia and may I say all over the world, ~~because~~ <sup>our</sup> our sense of justice and our dedication to freedom ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> not limited by the boundaries of any one national state. <sup>INDIVIDUAL CITIZEN RESPONSIBILITY</sup> You continue by your work a tradition which is as old as this Republic, citizen action to assist those in need at home and abroad. Just the other day, I participated in a religious ceremony here in the community and I quoted from the Prophet, ~~William~~ <sup>Isaiah</sup> who said, ~~as you may recall~~, thou art the man which was just another way of saying that anything that is worth doing you must do. And if it is to be done, we must accept some individual responsibility for doing it. ~~and~~ you are doing that in your work as individuals and representing agencies that are

HUMPHREY:

*OUR PEOPLE'S COMPASSION 3*

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*APPRECIATION  
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 Middle East and Europe and Southeast Asia and Latin America, <sup>and</sup>  
~~in the sub-continent.~~ I hope that you understand that today that  
 the team is at work. The President, and the Vice President, and

OUR  
 MESSAGE  
 TO  
 OUR  
 PEOPLE

THE  
 AMERICAN  
 TODAY

HUMPHREY:

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OUR  
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FOR  
VIETNAM

APPRECIATION

TO

Agency

"TROOPS"

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HUMPHREY: more } will you just give more, just take this message as a challenge  
not just as a message of thanks, redouble your efforts, ask your  
people to do more. Ask them to do more ~~XXXX~~ every day in every  
way. They will do it if they are asked, and if they are chal-  
lenged. ~~BT~~ Thank you very very much.

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