

Immigrant Refugees Improve U.S. Quality of Life;

They'll Stay Forever

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To the Editor:

James R. Edwards Jr. (Op-Ed, Dec. 2) is correct in noting that the thousands of illegal **immigrants** from Central America covered by the amnesty Congress recently enacted "could return home today and face no threat of political persecution." Unfortunately, the politics surrounding this new amnesty make it clear that no migrant, once settled here, is ever going to go home.

With this fact in mind, the **United States** should never again embrace the mendacious notion of "temporary" refuge. We must understand that virtually everyone we admit for humanitarian reasons will **stay**. Thus, those whom we want to protect but do not want as permanent residents of our country must be sheltered in safe havens outside the **United States**, like the Guantanamo base in Cuba, and repatriated when the emergencies in their countries have passed.

MARK KRIKORIAN

Washington, Dec. 3, 1997

The writer is executive director, Center for Immigration Studies.

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