

Hanoi to Accept Refugees Now in Germany in Exchange for Aid

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Body

Germany said today that it would soon begin forcibly repatriating some of the 40,000 Vietnamese immigrants here illegally, and that **Hanoi** agreed to **accept** them by 2000 in **exchange** for increased trade and economic **aid**.

About 60,000 other Vietnamese whose status as **refugees** or immigrants has been recognized would not be affected, officials said.

The accord will eliminate a legacy of the cold war and enable **Germany** to compete more effectively with the United States and Japan in the emerging market economy in Vietnam, but officials rejected criticism that the agreement sacrificed human rights for business aims.

"There are about 20,000 Vietnamese whose applications for asylum have been rejected, and these would be the first to be considered for repatriation," said Bernd Schmidbauer, who helped negotiate the agreement. "We assume there will be some Vietnamese citizens who will want to go back voluntarily, but we do not know exactly how many there will be."

Phan Huy Oanh, a Vietnamese **refugee** who has lived in Europe for 20 years, said, "Only a small percentage want to go back voluntarily."

Long delayed by Vietnam's refusal to guarantee that the returnees would be welcome, the agreement commits **Germany** to provide \$130 million in **aid** over the next two years, part of it to help the **refugees** get a new start in Vietnam.

Bonn will also make available \$65 million next year to underwrite risk insurance for German investment projects and exports to Vietnam. Daimler-Benz A.G., the automotive giant, said today that it was planning to build a \$70 million bus factory in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon).

West **Germany** offered political asylum to thousands of Vietnamese during and after the Vietnam War, which ended with a Communist victory in 1975. Others were Vietnamese workers and their families brought in as laborers and students by Communist East **Germany** in the 1980's.

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There were about 62,000 Vietnamese in East Germany when Communism collapsed in 1989, and about 12,000 stayed after unification in 1990 despite a Government offer of a plane ticket and \$2,000 cash for every one who agreed to return home.

In 1993 Germany eliminated a constitutional guarantee of an asylum hearing for anyone who could get into the country and apply.

<rr>Old Glory in Hanoi

BANGKOK, Thailand, Jan. 11 (Special to The New York Times) -- United States diplomats say they are within days of raising an American flag over a modern nine-story office building in Hanoi, the Vietnamese capital, to mark establishment of limited diplomatic ties 20 years after the last American diplomats were forced to flee Vietnam.

The building is expected to be opened this month after the signing of an agreement on American and Vietnamese properties seized at the end of the Vietnam War.

"We've already got the flag here, and it's ready to go up," said an American diplomat in Hanoi, speaking on condition that he not be named.

The building is expected to be converted into an embassy when the two countries establish full diplomatic relations, although that move is thought by some diplomats to be months away, if not years. The United States has said that it will withhold full diplomatic relations until there is further progress in determining the fate of more than 1,600 Americans still listed as missing in action in Vietnam.

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