



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 18, 1976

I welcome the opportunity to commend all the citizens of Iowa who ensured the success of this First Annual Tai Dam Festival.

All of us can take pride in the extraordinary efforts that have been made throughout our country to welcome Indochinese refugees and to help them establish new lives in America. Iowa deserves national recognition for its exemplary contribution to this important humanitarian mission.

I am especially pleased to applaud Governor Ray who initiated this outstanding program and the members of his Task Force who worked long and hard to make it a reality.

The spirit of the Iowans who opened their hearts and homes to these needy refugees was in the best American tradition. During our Bicentennial year their example is the tallest tribute that can be paid to the vitality of our democratic way of life.

Ronald R. Ford

- in response to what