nist governments of South Vietnam and whose sermons on the immorality of the American commitment in Viet-
man received such widespread publici-
ty are silent about what have helped to
bring about. What is happening in Viet-
name is the ultimate test of what hap-
pened in many of the death camps of Nazi Germany. But those who could speak for hours on the alleged abuses of previous governments in Vietnam are
still silent in the face of torture. Both
physical and psychological, visited
upon innocent human beings. The hyp-
cocrisy of these people is astounding—
but it is not surprising.

At this point I wish to insert in the

(From Newsweek, May 3, 1982)

**VIETNAM'S POSTWAR HELL**

(By Ginetta Sagan)

April 30, 1982, marks the seventh anniver-
sary of the end of American involvement in that prolonged, nightmarish war, the war in Vietnam. All the events in the 20th century have so shaken and divided the American people. As a dark shadow of the past, the memory of the Congress, the media and the public. As a "lesson," it colors our lives, our perception of ourselves, and it is affecting our decision-
making process in international affairs.

Americans and Vietnamese are no longer dyng amid the temples of Hoa or in the jungles of the Mekong Delta. But tens of thousands of Vietnamese from all profes-
sions and religious persuasions are languish-
ing in a vast nationwide network of prisons and "re-education" camps.

Human rights in Vietnam is not a new concern to me. During the years before 1975 I met with representatives of the National Liberation Front who told me of their great concern for human rights in South Viet-
man. Where are these leaders today, and where are my colleagues in the peace move-
ment who had so strongly protested politi-
cal repression by the Thieu regime? While some of us remain in Vietnam, the violence and repression in Vietnam, many have remained silent. Others have even de-
defected to Vietnam as a "human alternative" to the blood bath that was predicted by the CIA.

**TAKEOVER**

But few in the peace movement believed that such a blood bath would occur with a communist takeover in South Vietnam, and many believed in the strong verbal commit-
ment made by the NLF leaders to human rights in South Vietnam. From the time it
was founded in 1960, the NLF presented itself as if its members were genuine civil libertarians and for the right of dissent, along with other democratic freedoms, for
the South Vietnamese people.

In the Peace Agreement was signed, establishing a framework for the eventual reunification of Vietnam, based on national reconciliation. Article 11 of this treaty in particular dealt with freedom of speech, press, movement and organization and freedom from prison for collaborating with one side or the other during the war. Article 11 was widely praised by leaders of the NLF and North Vietnam—until April 30, 1975.

In taking over control of the South at that time, the new regime proceed-
ed to tear up Article 11 by banning all non-
communist political parties and organiza-
tions, placing severe restrictions on religious groups, launching a campaign to destroy the "neoconservative" South and overthrowing hundreds of thousands of Viet-
namese into re-education camps. Political parties were placed into two basic cat-
egories: (1) former government officials, leaders of political parties and army officers who were arrested in June 1975 for having occupied positions of authority under the previous regime, and (2) writers, religious leaders, in-
tellectuals and other dissidents who have been arrested in subsequent years. Both cat-
egories of imprisonment directly violate Article 11.

No one knows how many political prison-
ners are in Vietnam today, but esti-
mates suggest there are more than 100,000. Most of them are detained in re-education camps, which are so labeled because the in-
mates are subjected to mandatory "confes-
sions," political indoctrination and forced labor. The length of their detention de-
depends on the degree to which they reform.

During the last three years and I have interviewed several hundred former prisoners on the camps as well as various reports of Amnesty International, and have studied official statements from Vietnamese Govern-
ment and its press on the re-education camps. The picture that emerges is one of severe hardship, where prisoners are kept on a starvation diet, overworked and harshly
punished for minor infractions of camp rules. We know of cases where prisoners have been beaten to death, confined to dark cells, kept in solitary confinement for days on end, imprisoned without trial, and executed.

Honor the outstanding work and con-
tribution that millions of largely invis-
ible groups are doing to this Nation.

Volunteers have become a major labor force in the United States, they are men and women who are out there everyday helping their neighbors and ours without salary nor payment and often without recognition of any kind. Volunteer work is absolutely essen-
tial to our society, they save our tax-
payers an enormous amount of money by performing services which the Gov-
ernment would otherwise have to pro-
vide. They represent the spirit of pri-
vate initiative and self-reliance on spe-
cially important trends in a society which today is recognizing the limits of government.

Very quietly and with little recog-
nition an estimated 40 million unsel-
shful individuals in this country contribute around $11 billion to this Nation measured in time and services. But its vital role is often ignored. Many would view as a disfiguring aspect of our society—health, educa-
tion, social services, culture, religion,
the arts and other.

But, the volunteers' contribution cannot be measured and should not be
measured in time and money alone, we
must also measure it in terms of the value system it represents; a sense of caring and a heartfelt motivation to make the world a just a little bit better.

I would like to encourage all my
colleagues to support and co-sponsor H.R. 4309 and 768, the volunteer mile-
age bill, introduced by Congresswoman BArbara A. Mikulski. The passage of this bill is a matter of justice to this
group of heroes of our society who are
as Government and profit making or-
ganizations has been affected by infla-

In these days in which the American people are suffering one of the largest

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**STATEMENT OF HON. BALTAŚAR CORRADA OF PUERTO RICO**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Tuesday, May 4, 1982**

Mr. CORRADA. Mr. Speaker, since last week we were celebrating the Na-
tion's Volunteers, I would like to make a brief note to recognize and honor the outstanding work and con-
tribution that millions of largely invis-
ible groups are doing to this Nation.

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HeinOnline -- 128 Cong. Rec. 8682 1982