

that because the medical system in Vietnam is operated by the state, your contribution of medical assistance was "aiding a foreign government." We protested this decision pointing out the similarities between what the Bach Mai Fund sends and UNICEF's and Red Cross's relief. Congresspeople like Drinan, Abzug, and Harrington joined our challenge.

But our words fell on deaf ears. The government is fully aware that without tax-deductibility we cannot possibly get foundation grants. . .that without large amounts of money we cannot possibly fulfill our goal.

Despite the government's unrelenting harassment, the Bach Mai Fund has raised money . . .the hard way, in small contributions. And, we are happy to tell you that to date \$1,083,479.12 of life-saving medical supplies have been purchased and shipped to Indochina (see the list on the back page)!

Children, especially, have taken the brunt of the long war. You have helped send over \$80,000. of medical equipment to the Institute for the Protection of Mothers and Newborn. This hospital specializes in diseases of the unborn; diseases caused by the years of defoliation, herbicide, and chemical bombings.

Even though the war has ended, children's need for medical assistance has not. The destruction of villages in the south of Vietnam created sickness as well as suffering. Millions of children are afflicted with rickets, malaria, and intestinal diseases like typhoid and dysentery. A recent \$50,000. emergency shipment of drugs will treat the sick - but the need far outweighs our current purchasing capabilities.

In addition to disease, each day brings new "war" injuries. By the Defense Department's own estimates, there are still 2-4 million unexploded bombs hidden in the soil of Vietnam. These bombs are unknowingly detonated by children, adults and animals. In our last report to you, we told you about 12-year-old Nguyen Hung who accidentally detonated one of these bombs. The ex-

plosion severed one hand and blinded one eye. His remaining hand and eye, and in fact his life, were saved by surgery with equipment sent by you and Bach Mai Fund.

This is what the Bach Mai Fund is all about. A life was saved because you cared and you acted!

The new Bach Mai Hospital pictured on the right is symbolic of what your help has allowed the Bach Mai Fund to accomplish all over Vietnam. The rebuilt hospital makes us proud, as we are sure you must be. . .proud to know that lives injured and almost destroyed by war are being cared for and saved.

We need your help again to continue what we have all begun. The U.S. government in Article 21 of the Paris Peace Accords promised to "heal the wounds of war" with reconstruction aid to all of Vietnam. The promises were lies. There has been no aid, just harassment of us who have tried to help. And of the sixty American relief agencies that helped Saigon, only three continue to help Vietnam. . .and all to lesser extent than before, while the need remains as great as ever.

Therefore we come back to you - you who have helped and been so generous before. Please give again, so we can finish what we all worked for: a Vietnam at peace, united and reconstructed!!!

Sincerely,

Morris Simon

Foran Weiss

Lillian Shirley

Peter Huelff

Tom Davidson

Doug Hostetter

(please turn page)