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## 'Hmong deserve better'

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When our government needed help in Vietnam, the Hmong people responded with valor and unquestioned loyalty. When we evacuated the last Americans from the roof of our embassy, we left the Hmong people behind to be persecuted by a hostile government. Eventually, we brought more than 200,000 of them to the U.S., but not before most of them had to spend years in refugee camps.

For the most part, they have assimilated admirably, many of them rising rapidly to highly respected roles in our communities, their children becoming valedictorians at our schools.

The historical legacy imprinted upon the Hmong people during Vietnam, and the oppression that followed, continues to echo in the actions and attitudes of segments of this dynamic community. If there is veracity to the charges that have been leveled against Gen. Vang Pao and his 11 alleged accomplices, would it not have been fairer, and more respectful of the past service of the Hmong people to this country, for the U.S. government to simply have issued a cease and desist order some time ago?

The Hmong people deserve better from a country they once fought to protect.

Peter E. Weber

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