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Document Confirms Viet-Crime Story

ast March, I had a run-in with CBS's super sleuth, Mike Wallace, who challenged a column I had written about the Vietnamese underworld. I charged that some South Vietnamese generals, whom the U.S. Army had saved from the communists and had airlifted to the United States, are now operating a Mafia-like organization that is preying upon Vietnamese communities here.

Wallace followed up my investigation with his TV cameras, viewing the goings-on through rose-tinted lenses. "All the Vietnamese we talked with," he told his vast "60 Minutes" audience, "agree . . . that Anderson's story and others like it that focus on crime in the Vietnamese refugee community are distortions and ignore the fact that most Vietnamese are law-abiding, hard working and grateful to the United States"

In fact, I stressed that most Vietnamese refugees are not only good citizens but, indeed, are the victims of the Vietnamese underworld. I also added that: "Though the vast majority of the refugees are law-abiding, they are reluctant to talk to police."

Apparently, they were also reluctant to talk to Wallace, who was a bit naive to expect them to confirm my allegations on coast-to-coast television.

The President's Commission on Organized Crime recently produced a witness but kept him behind a screen and assigned a dozen federal marshals to guard him. This witness confirmed my story.

Meanwhile, an intelligence document on Vietnamese crime, stamped "For Official Use Only," has been distributed to a few key police departments throughout the country. My associates Donald Goldberg and Corky Johnson obtained a copy. Here are the highlights:

- Vietnamese criminals are subtle extortionists.

 According to the manual, "individuals representing themselves as members of Vietnamese resistance organizations or political groups have approached businesses for donations to the cause, warning that refusal to cooperate will result in being denounced as a communist, or in direct violence."
- The Vietnamese fear Vietnamese criminals above all others, "because of a perceived potential for senseless violence." Often "the victim's entire family will be held at gunpoint and the house ransacked. In several noteworthy cases, the victims of such robberies have been killed "
- "Prostitution is one of the most serious crime problems to afflict the Vietnamese community," the manual notes. Young women are often forced into prostitution and "engage in such activity with a great deal of reluctance and shame. Suicide following an arrest for soliciting is not uncommon." Vietnamese prostitution rings also engage in "illegal currency transfers, narcotics, gambling and violence."
- The manual also warns that, "There are indications of a growing awareness of the possibilities for illicit gain afforded by organized insurance fraud involving refugee insurance agents, lawyers and doctors."

Apparently, the United States is still paying the price for the Vietnam War. Mike Wallace could serve the public better by exposing rather than defending the imported criminals.