The Cold War and the Refugee Assistance: A Case Study of Aid Refugee Chinese Intellectuals, 1952-1959

Ena Chao

Abstract

Aid Refugee Chinese Intellectuals, Inc. (ARCI), a voluntary agency established in 1952 under the leadership of Congressman Walter Judd of Minnesota, was organized to offer assistance to some 25,000 displaced Chinese intellectuals who had fled the Communist mainland to seek refuge in Hong Kong and Macao. ARCI saw the Chinese refugee situation in Hong Kong as singnifying the U.S. neglect of refugee and migration problem in the Far East, while resources were being devoted to the alleviation of similar conditions in Europe and the Near East. Failing to raise enough funds from private sourses, ARCI had to rely on the financial support of U.S. Escapee Program to conduct its resettlement projects. In the 1950s, ARCI resettled approximately 14,000 Chinese intellectuals to Taiwan, the United States, and South East Asia. ARCI's work was part of the U.S. global effort to use philanthropic work to achieve her anti-Communist goal.

Key Words: Aid Refugee Chinese Intellectuals, Cold War, Hong Kong, refugee assistance, psychological warfare