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Letters (1979): Correspondence 64

Claiborne Pell

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September 20, 1979

Ms. Joyce Smith
120 Congdon Street
Providence, RI 02906

Dear Ms. Smith:

Thank you very much for your recent letter and for bringing the fine work of the Hmong refugees to my attention. I agree with you that some way should be found to keep the unique skills of these people alive in this country.

You have already contacted many of the organizations that, I believe, could assist you in setting up a cooperative industry for the Hmong women. One office which may offer further information is the Community Services Administration at 1200 19th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20506. Support for craft cooperatives is available through the regional Community Action Agencies but in most cases, funding is directed toward combating rural and urban poverty.

Another outfit that has recently come to my attention is known as Artists Bettering Livelihood in Education, (ABLE). It is an organization that is eager to promote crafts in the New England area. The address is 62 Joyce Hayes Way, South Boston, Massachusetts. The phone number is 617 894-2636. The director of ABLE is Mr. Aiden Wamboldt. I believe it would be worth your while to contact him.

I hope this information will be of help to you, and I look forward to seeing the Hmong textiles sometime when I am in Rhode Island.

Warm regards.

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell

AC:CF