



I am submitting this statement of explanation in the knowledge that, should I fail to get the two-year foreign residence requirement waived, it would impose great hardship on my wife and have a disastrous effect on both our lives.

My wife, Ann Sostor, is a citizen of the United States and has resided here all her life. It is presently impossible for my wife to return to Indonesia with me. The reasons are multiple. Financially, both of us having been students, there is no way I can accumulate the passage money (more than \$600 for my wife alone). Within Indonesia itself, economic crisis is so widespread at the present time that the salary of even a college graduate provides a standard of living bordering on poverty. Most importantly, anti-American feeling has reached a feverish pitch under the direction of the Indonesian communist party, and I have been advised by both family and friends in Indonesia that it would be dangerous to endeavor to return with my wife at the present time. Of secondary importance is the fact that my wife does not yet speak Indonesian. Not only would she be forced to cut short her college education, but she would be left in a position of isolation in the community.

Failing a waiver, then, my only alternative would be to leave my wife on her own and return alone to Indonesia. But this too is filled with difficulties. My wife has had no work experience and, her education being still incomplete, she is ill-prepared to be self-supporting. Yet,

at a distance of Indonesia, I would be helpless to contribute to her support. With my strong ties in the United States, I would meet with much prejudice myself in seeking employment. And, with the present devaluation of the Indonesian rupiah, a possible salary for a college graduate amounts to less than two dollars when translated into American currency. Many, many otherwise honorable men have been forced to turn to opium just to keep food in their families' mouths. Hence, there would be no appreciable amount of cash available for me to send my wife. Other sources of income in Indonesia have likewise been cut off to me. Even business to my family has already been investigated by the government as a part of a communist bank reorganization. Further, I have been advised by Indonesian nationals who have recently arrived from Jakarta that any small amount of property that I might take back to Indonesia would be confiscated at the docks by the Communist trade unions, responsible only on payment of heavy bribes (1-2 million rupiahs).

My wife is extremely anxious about the impending separation, as I myself am. Complicated internal problems are causing the Indonesian government to crumble rapidly. The anti-Western forces are gaining in strength and have brought about government convictions of all United States industry in Indonesia as well as seeking of United States Embassy and banning and speaking of United States Information Service broadcasts. The United States Peace Corps has recently been asked to leave because the Indone-

nesian government is no longer able to guarantee the safety of corps members. It seems probable that warfare in Indonesia cannot be avoided much longer. I am a trained geographer with a special background in mapping and air photo interpretation. I have traveled throughout the Indonesian islands and have detailed knowledge of each of the major areas and their resources. Due to my former compulsory association with the Indonesian army while still a student, it is quite probable that I would be placed on the front lines doing reconnaissance work in Indonesia's current campaign against Malaysia and the British forces. Aside from both my wife's and my distaste for this campaign, my wife is distraught for my safety. No reassurances that I have been able to offer her have alleviated her nervous and upset condition. I have been advised by our doctor that a prolonged separation under these circumstances would endanger my wife's health and mental outlook.

In the light of these considerations, I ask you to please waive the 2-year foreign residence requirement in our case.

Rob Sostor

