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**The Cover**  
This busy waterway in Thailand is part of a vast network of canals called klongs that serve the people of coastal Southeast Asia as highways, as irrigation streams, and as homes. The same boats that transport food and other commodities throughout the area also house the families that operate them.  
Among the "boat people," as they are called, are more than 100,000 refugees who have fled from their original homes in the still-troubled nations of Vietnam and Cambodia. These floating fugitives arrive in such havens as Thailand and Malaysia at the rate of 1,000 to 1,500 a month—only to be told that they must move on to some country that will offer them permanent asylum. Several countries, including the United States, Canada, France, Australia, and Germany, have accepted some of them. The US received some 7,000 "boat people" in the last half of 1977 and expects to greet a like number in the next few months. Canada, the European countries, and Australia together have accepted perhaps another 3,000 refugees. The US State Department estimates that this international project will resettle about 20,000 Southeast Asians a year.  
In her article beginning on page 1901, Elizabeth Barrett-Connor, MD, points out that more than 150,000 Indochinese have already resettled in this country. To this number add the 3 million or more American soldiers and civilians who served there during the war years, and one comes up with a large and still expanding group of people who have been exposed to infectious diseases seldom seen in North America or Europe. Not all the imported diseases are exotic; tuberculosis, for instance, is the most common of them. However, some rare infections may mimic less exotic diseases, and Dr Barrett-Connor reminds physicians to be alert for them in treating this special group of people. (Photograph © H. Armstrong Roberts.)—PAUL SAMPSON

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