

The original documents are located in Box 5, folder “Indochina Refugees” of the Richard B. Cheney Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Low
PRECEDENCE

Unclass
CLASSIFICATION

FOR COMM CENTER USE ONLY

FROM: Jack Marsh
TO: Dick Cheney

DEX _____

DAC 0302

GFS _____

LDX _____

PAGES 4

TTY _____

CITE _____

INFO:

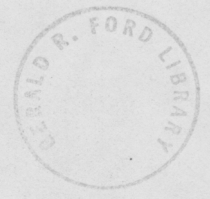
DTG: 030200 Z

RELEASED BY:
DA

TOR: 030215Z UP

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1975 MAR 3 02 00



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 2, 1975

TO: DICK CHENEY
FROM: JACK MARSH

A representative of Senator Helms staff delivered this to the White House at 9:00 p.m. for transmission to the President. You can expect press inquiry on the attached tomorrow.

Please call to Nesson's attention.

①



12-11-1012-12-11

S O M	WIRE NO.	<input type="checkbox"/> INTER <input type="checkbox"/> INTRA <input type="checkbox"/> ALASKA	<input type="checkbox"/> INTL <input type="checkbox"/> CAN <input type="checkbox"/> MEX	<input type="checkbox"/> FH <input type="checkbox"/> NL <input type="checkbox"/> LT	<input type="checkbox"/> DPH <input type="checkbox"/> NPR <input type="checkbox"/> POM	<input type="checkbox"/> REG <input type="checkbox"/> PRESS <input type="checkbox"/> CODE <input type="checkbox"/> GOVT	BR. ID.	POINT OF ORIGIN	WORD CNT.	DATE 4-2-75	FILE TIME ⏪
	<input type="checkbox"/> PMS <input type="checkbox"/> FON <input type="checkbox"/> INT	<input type="checkbox"/> TWX <input type="checkbox"/> TLX <input type="checkbox"/> DCS	ROUTING INDICATOR (PHONE OR TWX/TLX NO.)				<input type="checkbox"/> COLLECT <input type="checkbox"/> RPDLRS	⏪			
NAME TO The Honorable Gerald R. Ford							<input type="checkbox"/> DLR <input type="checkbox"/> CC DLR <input type="checkbox"/> CC	DLY INSTR. ⏪			
STREET ADDRESS The White House ⏪											
CITY, STATE, ZIP OR COUNTRY Washington, D. C. 20500										(EOA) ⏪	
R U E A D W W											
<p>The on-going tragedy in Vietnam demands action without delay. I believe that you should immediately assign to the Commander of the U.S. 7th Fleet, Vice Admiral George Steele, the mission of utilizing the Fleet for the purpose of evacuating every refugee who wants to leave Vietnam.</p> <p>Our facilities at Con Son Island off the Vietnamese coast, on Okinawa, at Clarke Air Force Base and Subic Bay in the Phillipines, and American bases in Guam, Taiwan and Thailand, should be utilized for emergency refugee processing centers. The United States should immediately dispatch emergency military medical teams from Hawaii.</p> <p>The whole operation can be carried out by the U.S. Navy and CINCPAC. My personal inquiries ascertain without question that the 7th Fleet can perform the task of total evacuation of two million refugees or more within seven days. I am informed that the availability of emergency refugee centers and of military medical teams is beyond any doubt. Furthermore,</p>											
SIGNATURE Senator Jesse Helms										COL ⏪	
(EOM) SENDER'S NAME / STREET ADDRESS / CITY, STATE, ZIP / ⏪											
Senator Jesse Helms / 5107 Dirksen Building / Washington, D.C. 20510 / ⏪											
<input type="checkbox"/> PD <input type="checkbox"/> COLLECT <input type="checkbox"/> DTR <input type="checkbox"/> (OTHER)		TEL. OR ACCT. NO. GDC 8082949		OPER. SIGN.		<input type="checkbox"/> OTC <input type="checkbox"/> MPU <input type="checkbox"/> TEL		<input type="checkbox"/> WUX <input type="checkbox"/> FAX <input type="checkbox"/> TLX		RATING CODE / AGENCY I.D. ⏪	



S O M	WIRE NO.	<input type="checkbox"/> INTER	<input type="checkbox"/> INTL	<input type="checkbox"/> DFR	<input type="checkbox"/> DPR	<input type="checkbox"/> REG	BR. ID.	POINT OF ORIGIN	WORD CNT.	DATE	FILE TIME
		<input type="checkbox"/> INTRA	<input type="checkbox"/> CAN	<input type="checkbox"/> NL	<input type="checkbox"/> NFR	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESS					
		<input type="checkbox"/> ALASKA	<input type="checkbox"/> MEX	<input type="checkbox"/> LT	<input type="checkbox"/> POM	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVT					<≡
<input type="checkbox"/> PMS		<input type="checkbox"/> TWX		ROUTING INDICATOR (PHONE OR TWX/TLX NO.)				<input type="checkbox"/> COLLECT			
<input type="checkbox"/> FON		<input type="checkbox"/> TLX									
<input type="checkbox"/> INT		<input type="checkbox"/> ICS		NAME TO				<input type="checkbox"/> DLR			
				STREET ADDRESS <≡				<input type="checkbox"/> CC DLR			
				(EOA) <≡							

Page 2

the Vietnamese Navy has 90 blue water ships and 2,000 smaller crafts which also can be used for this mission.

Today, my office has received reports from Saigon by telephone. These reports may be summarized as follows:

"There is total chaos in Saigon, panic that cannot be described, chaos that borders on anarchy. People are committing suicide. This morning over the loudspeakers and megaphones the people of Saigon were advised to get on any kind of boat or sampan and get out to the South China Sea where they will be picked up by American ships. In the countryside, civilians by the thousands are being slaughtered by the Communists while attempting

<≡ (SP) (SP)

SIGNATURE		SENATOR JESSE HELMS <≡≡ COL							
(EOM)	SENDER'S NAME	STREET ADDRESS	CITY, STATE, ZIP						
<input type="checkbox"/> PD	<input type="checkbox"/> COLLECT	TEL. OR ACCT. NO.	OPER. SIGN.	<input type="checkbox"/> OTC	<input type="checkbox"/> WUX	RATING CODE	AGENCY I.D.	<≡	
<input type="checkbox"/> QTR	<input type="checkbox"/> (OTHER)			<input type="checkbox"/> MPU	<input type="checkbox"/> FAX				
				<input type="checkbox"/> TEL	<input type="checkbox"/> TLX				



S O M	WIRE NO.	<input type="checkbox"/> INTER <input type="checkbox"/> INTRA <input type="checkbox"/> ALASKA	<input type="checkbox"/> INTL <input type="checkbox"/> CAN <input type="checkbox"/> MEX	<input type="checkbox"/> FR <input type="checkbox"/> NL <input type="checkbox"/> LT	<input type="checkbox"/> DPR <input type="checkbox"/> NPR <input type="checkbox"/> POM	<input type="checkbox"/> REG <input type="checkbox"/> PRESS <input type="checkbox"/> CODE <input type="checkbox"/> GOVT	BR. ID.	POINT OF ORIGIN	WORD CNT.	DATE	FILE TIME	
	<input type="checkbox"/> PMS <input type="checkbox"/> FON <input type="checkbox"/> INT	<input type="checkbox"/> TWX <input type="checkbox"/> TLX <input type="checkbox"/> ICS	ROUTING INDICATOR (PHONE OR TWX/TLX NO.)				<input type="checkbox"/> COLLECT <input type="checkbox"/> APDLAS					
NAME TO							<input type="checkbox"/> DLR <input type="checkbox"/> CC DLR <input type="checkbox"/> CC	DLY INSTR.				
STREET ADDRESS												
CITY, STATE, ZIP OR COUNTRY												

Page 3

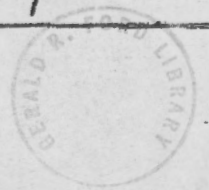
to flee. Other thousands are floating helplessly on small craft and logs off the coast of Vietnam."

Mr. President, these are not soldiers of war I am talking about. These refugees are war's tragic victims, helpless in the face of the onslaught before them.

In the name of God and humanity, Mr. President, we must act now.

(SP) (SP)

SIGNATURE		SENATOR JESSE HELMS		COL
(EOM)	SENDER'S NAME	STREET ADDRESS	CITY, STATE, ZIP	
	Senator Jesse Helms	/ 5107 Dirksen Building	/ Washington, D.C. 20510	
<input type="checkbox"/> PD <input type="checkbox"/> COLLECT <input type="checkbox"/> OTR <input type="checkbox"/> (OTHER)	TEL. OR ACCT. NO.	OPER. SIGN.	<input type="checkbox"/> OTC <input type="checkbox"/> MPU <input type="checkbox"/> TEL	<input type="checkbox"/> WUX <input type="checkbox"/> FAX <input type="checkbox"/> TLX
	GDC 8082949			RATING CODE AGENCY I.D.



FLASH

UNCLAS

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

REFERENCE

CLASSIFICATION

DEX

Gen Scowcroft

DOC

NO

✓ DICK CUNNEY

BDX

PAGES

FOR NELSON

San Diego

BY

DATE

INFO

DTG

031230Z

RELEASED BY

FOR

031259Z

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS

REF DEX 008

CORRECTION TO DEX 008



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 3, 1975

MOX URGENT FLASH

TO: RON NISSEN
 DICK CHENEY

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

Phil Buchen recommends that President's
statement re Vietnamese refugees be
changed as follows:

Second paragraph, 4th line, to read:
"...to permit these innocent people to
leave, and we are calling on North
Vietnam..."



THE WHITE HOUSE .

WASHINGTON

April 17, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

PHILIP BUCHEN
JOHN MARSH
GENERAL SCOWCROFT

Section 212(d) (5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act provides inter alia that "The Attorney General may in his discretion parole into the United States temporarily under such conditions as he may prescribe for emergent reasons or for reasons deemed strictly in the public interest any alien applying for admission to the United States...."

A history of the use of this authority is provided at Tab A.

From April 3 through April 15, 1,703 orphans have been flown out of Vietnam/Cambodia. The parole process has been applied in these cases. An updated report of this action is attached at Tab B.

On April 13, authorization for movement of families accompanying U. S. citizens returning from Vietnam was given. Parole is being used in this action. It is estimated that between 3,000 and 5,000 persons are involved.

It is now essential to consider additional actions:

1. There are 1,000 Cambodians now in Thailand who were evacuated as part of "Eagle Pull" and who may wish to come to the United States. The Thai Government has made it clear that it urgently desires their onward movement. State and Justice request your authorization to proceed with parole for these persons. We recommend your approval.

AGREE

CRZ

DISAGREE _____



2. There are about ²⁵⁰100 South Vietnamese at Clark Air Force Base whose presence is straining our relationship with the Philippine Government. Those who qualify for immigrant status under the INA should be paroled into the United States as soon as possible. State recommends that the remainder also be paroled. INS agrees "provided that the number admitted is subtracted from the total number of parolees finally admitted." We recommend parole without caveat.

AGREE

DISAGREE

3. There are approximately 3,000 Vietnamese relatives of American citizens or permanent resident aliens in the United States for whom petitions for entry have already been filed and who would otherwise be admissible in due course under normal immigration procedures. State and INS recommend the use of parole to permit their processing to be completed while they are in the United States. Their status will then be converted to the appropriate INA preference as soon as feasible after their arrival here as parolees. We recommend your approval.

AGREE

DISAGREE

4. There are also Vietnamese nationals (estimated to number between 10,000 and 75,000) who are immediate relatives of American citizens and permanent residents and for whom petitions have not as yet been filed. The number of those who would and could accept an offer of parole is unknown. State and Justice both recommend parole. We recommend your approval.

AGREE

DISAGREE

5. Approximately 5,000 Cambodian diplomats and other refugees in third countries may face forcible return or expulsion, as in India. If the worst should come to pass, the same parole authority will be required for Vietnamese diplomats and other refugees in third countries, also roughly estimated at 5,000. State will make every effort to assist and persuade the UNHC for Refugees to arrange for the relocation of refugees throughout the world, but State also wishes the President to request the Justice



Department to authorize entry into the United States of all such persons by parole whenever State determines that the efforts of the UNHC for Refugees are not successful.

We recommend that the State Department position be accepted.

AGREE

DISAGREE

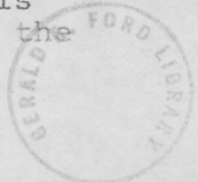
6. Planning is also now required for the potential evacuation of certain high risk Vietnamese. These include U. S. employees, labor leaders engaged in the free trade labor movement (particularly those who have worked with U. S. unions), governmental personnel and others along with their dependents. There is no clear indication of just how great the number will be. Every effort will be made to involve third countries, both directly and through international mechanisms such as the UNHCR and the International Committee for European Refugees. Nevertheless, it is apparent that a large number will wish to come to the United States. This will require the Attorney General's use of parole.

State and INS agree that parole should be exercised for such Vietnamese, but differ sharply as to numbers.

State believes that we should take our fair share of refugees who are unable to be settled elsewhere, and recognizes that the total number, given logistical and political limitations could be approximately 200,000. INS would limit the use of parole to 50,000 or 40% of the total number to be evacuated, whichever is less. It is their view that (1) the domestic impact on our society of admitting a large number is undesirable and (2) the Cuban experiences, wherein the President permitted 675,000 persons to enter the United States, should not be repeated. The INS also believes that it may be necessary to publicly announce this limit to prevent a mass exodus based on false hopes.

The State Department has now accepted the INS limitation based upon presently perceived political problems with the U. S. Congress.

We recommend that planning begin at once to process parole candidates from the category of "high-risk" Vietnamese but that we not attempt to set a limit now. When planning is completed and when efforts of International cooperation have gone further you will better be able to determine what is possible. Practically, it may not be possible to reach the



level of 200,000 that the State Department originally fore-
saw.

AGREE

DISAGREE

7. We recommend that you direct establishment of a small full-time task force with the necessary authority to improve your decision making data base, assume interdepartmental coordination, and advise you in this emergency. This task force should include high level representatives from the Departments of State, Justice, Labor, HEW and HUD.

AGREE

DISAGREE



HISTORY OF THE USE OF PAROLE

Parole is a device by which an inadmissible alien seeking entry is permitted to proceed into the United States, but in contemplation of law is considered to be standing at the water's edge. He is not deemed to be in the United States within the meaning of the expulsion provisions or other provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Standing at the water's edge, as it were, he may be removed only in exclusion proceedings.

Parole is resorted to only in exceptional situations such as emergent medical treatment, avoiding unwarranted detention, and prosecution of criminals returned to the United States. It has also been used for refugees and orphans.

The first express statutory authorization for parole appeared in the Immigration and Nationality Act which became effective December 24, 1952. 1/ The statute provides that the Attorney General in his discretion may parole any alien seeking admission for emergent reasons or for reasons deemed strictly in the public interest.

Before 1952, parole was utilized as an administrative expedient. 2/ Its peculiar status was recognized by the Supreme Court 50 years ago in the case of Kaplan v. Tod. 3/

There has never been any question concerning the authority to parole individual aliens. However, questions have been raised by the Congress concerning authority to parole groups of aliens. For example, a question was raised after 224 Russian Orthodox Old Believers were paroled into the United States in June 1963. In the House Report on the 1965 Amendments, which established permanent Legislation for the conditional entry of refugees, the following statement was made: "The parole provisions were designed to authorize the Attorney General to act only in emergent, individual and isolated situations, such as the case of an alien who requires immediate medical attention, and not for the immigration of classes or groups outside of the limit of the law." 4/

Nevertheless, under the general parole authority of the 1952 Act, large numbers of refugees have been allowed to come into the United States after, as well as before publication of the House Report. 5/ These include:

Over 30,000 refugees from the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, by direction of President Eisenhower.

Over 600,000 refugees from Cuba who began to come to the United States in an almost unbroken stream for more than a decade after the Castro takeover in 1959. (In 1965 when



he signed into law the abolition of the National Origins System, President Johnson revived the Cuban parole program despite the House report.)

15,000 Chinese refugees from Hong Kong, by direction of President Kennedy in 1962.

6,500 Czechoslovak refugees after the Soviet invasion of that country in 1968, at the urging of Congress.

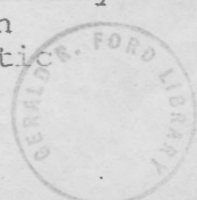
Several hundred Soviet Jews and other minorities in the U.S.S.R., at the urging of Congress in 1971.

1,000 stateless Ugandan-Asians, authorized in 1972, at the urgent request of the State Department.

Following the suppression of the abortive Hungarian revolt in the Fall of 1956 over 200,000 Hungarian refugees fled the country, especially to Austria (180,000) and to Yugoslavia (20,000). Resettlement missions from many countries were eager to accept Hungarian refugees, and the asylum countries -- especially Austria -- served as staging areas. President Eisenhower and the American people in general were eager to accept a generous quota of the Hungarians. Fewer than 7,000 refugee visas remained available, however, under the Refugee Relief Act of 1953 as amended. These were quickly used for Hungarians. At this juncture the decision was made to invoke Section 212 (d) (5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act in order to parole larger numbers of Hungarian refugees into the United States.

The sympathetic 85th Congress enacted P.L. 85-559, which provides for adjustment of status of paroled Hungarians to that of permanent immigrants to the U.S. The majority of the refugees were brought in from Austria into a U.S. staging area, in Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, administered by the Department of the Army. The refugees were resettled from Camp Kilmer, primarily through the efforts of interested voluntary agencies. A total of 30,701 Hungarian refugees regularized their status in the United States under P.L. 85-559 during 1958-59. This represented the overwhelming majority of the Hungarian refugees who were paroled into this country.

The Cuban refugee situation differs from others in that the United States was the country of first asylum. From 1957-72 this country admitted 621,403 Cuban nationals who fled from Cuba. That exodus was generally divided into three distinct periods: from the advent of the Castro government in 1959 to the breaking of diplomatic relations in January 1961; from 1961 until the end of commercial travel in October, 1962; the subsequent period. While diplomatic



relations existed, Cubans who wanted to leave Cuba went to the consulate in Havana. They were issued B-2 (tourist visas) which documented them and enabled commercial carriers to bring them to the United States. On arrival (usually Miami) the B-2 visa was cancelled by the Immigration Service (INS) and they were paroled into the United States under the parole provisions of the Immigration Act. The B-2 visa was "pro-forma" documentation to enable travel to commence.

After the break in diplomatic relations, the United States initially avoided the use of parole for Cubans fleeing the island the resorted to the device of waiving the visa requirement on a mass basis on the theory that each case represented an unforeseen emergency because of the unavailability of consular services in Cuba. This program largely terminated at the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 because travel out of Cuba became impossible.

In October 1962, all commercial transportation between Cuba and the U.S. ended. The Cuban refugee flow was reduced to a trickle. In December 1962 the American Red Cross began sponsoring airlifts and vessels which brought Cuban refugees to the United States, primarily relatives of Cubans already here and prisoners from the "Bay of Pigs" invasion. These people were directly paroled.

In 1965, Castro announced that certain Cubans who wanted to leave were free to do so. President Johnson responded that the U.S. would accept all. Direct parole was the method of entry. Some Cubans went to third countries (primarily Spain) as they were unable to get places on the airlifts. Those with close relatives in the U.S. were given "pre-parole" documentation (medicals, affidavit of support, security clearance) by our consulate in Madrid. When they arrived at the U.S. port of entry, they were paroled into the U.S. by INS. In October, 1973, the Attorney General agreed to a one year parole program for those without close relatives here. Documentation was prepared by the consulates as with the pre-parole program, but INS personnel interviewed and issued the actual parole document in Madrid. Cubans in the U.S. were received and processed by the Cuban Refugee Center in Miami run by HEW. The Act of November 2, 1966 enabled Cuban refugees to adjust status to permanent residents.



16 April 1975

Point Paper for the Special Assistant to the Secretary and
Deputy Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT: Orphan Evacuation Program - Vietnam/Cambodia

MAIN THRUST OF POINT PAPER

- Provides an update on the orphan evacuation program.

DISCUSSION

- On 3 Apr 75, DOD developed procedures for orphan evacuation.
State/AID wholeheartedly concurred.

-- All orphans, upon verification by US Embassy in Vietnam
and Cambodia, would be airlifted on first available
military or commercial contract aircraft to Clark AB:

-- At Clark AB medical evaluation would be made to determine if
orphans should be hospitalized, proceed on normal airlift,
or be medically evacuated.

-- Flights then proceed to San Francisco or Los Angeles with
Seattle as backup where military and volunteer agency
personnel would further process them.

- From 3 through 15 April a total of 1703 orphans (52 Cambodians)
have been flown out of Vietnam/Cambodia. Military Airlift Command
(MAC) transported 883 through Clark AFB, Philippines, of which 43
are currently enroute. Non-DOD carriers, chartered by private
arrangements, transported the balance of 820 orphans.

-- 914 orphans have been moved to San Francisco.

-- 330 orphans have been moved to Los Angeles.

-- 409 orphans have been moved to Seattle.

-- 201 orphans have been moved to Fort Benning, Ga.

(These figures do not total 1703 due to double handling, i.e.,
L.A. and Benning)

- Number and location of orphans currently being processed:

-- Clark AB, Philippines - 5 hospitalized.

Hickam AB, Hawaii - 5 hospitalized.

San Francisco - 65

Los Angeles - 87

Seattle - 18

Fort Benning - 170 (14 hospitalized)



- Enroute - 43 from Clark AB to Los Alamedas Air Station, Ca.
- Deaths:
 - 5 April crash of C-5 - 190 (figure not final)
 - One died enroute to Clark AB - cause of death, extreme dehydration. (Infant)
 - One died at Clark AB Hospital - cause of death, sepsis (absorption of pathogenic microorganisms into blood stream). (Infant)
 - One died enroute to Los Angeles - cause of death, pneumonia, dehydration and prematurity. Reported 24 days old.
 - Prognosis - No more deaths expected.
- Future orphan airlift requirements:
 - Known - zero - original "Reported 2000" all processed
 - Possible - 80 (Vietnam) Rumors of 500 to 5000 more. Tracking this.
- Problems:
 - Despite the official State/AID/DOD system, certain individuals have operated as free agents making arrangements for contract flights and direct liaison with the orphanages.
 - This has caused considerable confusion and resulted in less than desirable service for the orphans.
 - News reporters covering commercial arrivals at San Francisco and Seattle (outside the State/AID/DOD system) cited health problems with orphans on these flights.
- Current funding status (funded by State/AID):
 - Airlift \$1,156,772
 - Medical 166,938
 - Support 71,916
 - Total obligated as of 15 Apr - \$1,395,626

Prepared by: MGEN M.F. Casey, USAF
 DOD Orphan Lift Coordinator
 OX 74121



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Refugee Com.

John E.
Luby Bird

Memo to D.R.
5/10/75

ORIGINAL RETIRED TO
SPECIAL DOCUMENTS FILE

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 6, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

RON NESSEN

SUBJECT:

Talking points for your news conference
and Cabinet Meeting on refugee aid.

1. We have a moral obligation to help these refugees resettle and begin new lives in the United States. They fled from South Vietnam for two reasons: They feared that they would be killed if they stayed and they did not want to live under a Communist system of government.
2. By helping these refugees, many of whom fled their native land with nothing but the clothes on their backs and a few small parcels, we are living up to our heritage as a charitable and compassionate people. I have spoken out strongly on this issue because I believe strongly that we must do the right thing morally. We are a nation of immigrants and I believe the inscription on the Statue of Liberty, which enunciates our finest qualities as a people should be our guidepost in this tragic situation.
3. The maximum number of refugees expected is 150,000 at the most and it probably will be less. Sixty percent of that number are children, the innocent victims of this war who deserve a chance to live their life in freedom and will certainly not be taking anyone's job away. Only 35,000 refugees are heads of households who will be ~~look~~ looking for jobs; but many of these have skills which will enable them to find employment. The number of job seekers is a tiny fraction of 1% of the labor force in the U.S. Even without the Vietnamese refugees, the U.S. has been opening its doors to 400,000 immigrants a year without any impact on the job market. Since the end of World War II, almost 1,400,000 refugees from Europe, Asia, Hungary and Cuba have fled oppression and sought freedom in the United States. They have made a rich contribution to our culture and our economy and we expect the Vietnamese will do the same.
4. Many of the Vietnamese refugees coming here have close relatives or sponsors in the United States so they will be no burden to the government. Ambassador Brown's office at the State Department is using a computer to match up the refugees job skills with the available jobs. The re-settlement program is being carried out in such a way that the refugees will be spread throughout the country without a heavy concentration in any one area.

5. We are working with other countries to resettle perhaps as many as 20,000 of the refugees outside the United States. Canada is welcoming some. Some French-speaking countries in Africa have indicated that they will take some.
6. I have received communications from Pope Paul, George Meany, and other leaders praising the refugee resettlement program and urging that the United States do everything it can to help these people. I want to compliment the Members of Congress, the Governors, the private refugee relief organizations, and the members of the public who have spoken out and acted to help the refugees begin a new life in the United States.
7. I want to emphasize one point. It is my intention that none of the aid money I am requesting from Congress will be spent by the United States Government to help the Communists of North and South Vietnam. I believe it is the responsibility of the nations which sent weapons of war to the Communists to come forward now to repair the damage.
8. Let me emphasize once more my deep moral commitment to help these refugees resettle and begin new lives in the United States. Despite the opposition of a few, I believe the majority of the American people want to live up to the finest traditions of our history and welcome these new immigrants as we have welcomed so many immigrants to our bountiful land in the past. We will be a better country and a better people for doing it.
9. I know Americans want to forget the Vietnam war. But we must not take out our frustration and anger on the innocent victims of that war. To do so would dishonor the sacrifices America has made in good faith throughout this long war.

VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

Question

Mr. President: How have State and local leaders reacted to your call for humanitarian assistance for the Vietnamese refugees?

Answer

I have received very positive communications from several Governors and Mayors supporting the thrust of my request for humanitarian assistance and stating a position of readiness and willingness on the part of State and local governments to help in this regard.

This has not been a partisan response, Governor Askew of Florida, Governor Pryor of Arkansas, and Governor Aryoshi of Hawaii are some of the Democrats; Governor Evans of Washington is one of the Republicans and Governor Longley of Maine, who is of course, an independent have all stated in eloquent terms their willingness to help these displaced Vietnamese.


Mayor Alioto of San Francisco, Mayor Lugar of Indianapolis and Mayor Fasi of Honolulu have likewise volunteered.

Federal efforts will be fully coordinated with State and local efforts to assure that our efforts are not in vain.

Note: Samples of correspondence attached.

Mayor Alioto (D), San Francisco
Governor Longley (I) Maine

JHF - 5/6/75





STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04330

JAMES B. LONGLEY
GOVERNOR

April 30, 1975

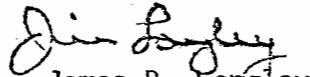
Gerald E. Ford, President
United States of America
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Ford:

This is a difficult day in Southeast Asia but the great hope and faith in the world, I feel, is still America and men like President Ford. I simply want you to know that I am not writing as Governor of Maine but as an individual citizen of the United States to tell you that my thoughts and prayers were with you in church this morning as they are with you each and every day to help lighten your load and give you and Betty moments of happiness which you so richly deserve.

Once again, there isn't anything you can ask me to do to help you help this country that I wouldn't try to do.

Very truly yours,


James B. Longley

JBL:bh



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04330

JAMES B. LONGLEY
GOVERNOR

April 30, 1975

*Summer
Fund*

Gerald E. Ford, President
United States of America
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Ford:

The State of Maine wants to do whatever it can with summer camp availability to serve as a temporary bed and board situation for any displaced Vietnamese children. As Governor of the State I pledge the resources of the state to help these young orphans.

Very truly yours,

James B. Longley
James B. Longley

JBL:bh

The White House
Washington

WHD026 YAG133(1753)(1-040357C125)PD 05/05/75 1755

ICS 17MSFSG:SGO

1975 MAY 5 PM 7 19

07037 SANFRANCISCO CA 1975-05-05 247P PDT

PHS THE HONORABLE GERALD R FORD

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON DC

MY DEAR MR. PRESIDENT, WHILE IN EUROPE LAST WEEK, I READ WITH DISHAY SOME OF THE AMERICAN OBJECTIONS TO THE RESETTLEMENT OF THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN THE UNITED STATES. I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT YOUR HUMANITARIAN POLICY REPRESENTS THE BEST IN OUR CONSTITUTIONAL TRADITION AND WE SUPPORT IT VERY STRONGLY. SAN FRANCISCO IS WILLING TO DEMONSTRATE ITS SUPPORT BY TAKING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN IMPLEMENTING YOUR POLICY. HISTORICALLY WE HAVE HAD THE LONGEST EXPERIENCE

WITH ASIANS AND A SUBSTANTIAL ELEMENT OF THIS COMMUNITY IS, IN FACT, A MESAJOF MANY ASIAN NATIONALITIES. WE BELIEVE THAT THE RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AS GROUPS IS THE MOST DESIRABLE APPROACH. IT WILL ALLOW THEM TO RETAIN THEIR CULTURE AND CUSTOMS WITHIN A FRAMEWORK OF LOYALTY TO THE UNITED STATES, AS THEY DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS OF ENTERING THE MAINSTREAM OF AMERICAN LIFE. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE FEDERAL PROPERITIES AVAILABLE IN THE AREA WHICH MIGHT BE UTILIZED ON AN INTERIM BASIS FOR THIS PURPOSE. IN SAN FRANCISCO THE MAYOR'S OFFICE WILL BE PLEASED TO TAKE THE LEAD IN DISCUSSING THIS MATTER WITH WHOMEVER YOU DESIGNATE. KIN??/XXXXXXX KINDEST REGARDS AND ALL BEST WISHES

JOSEPH L ALIOTO MAYOR OF SAN FRANCISCO

NNNN



September 4, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: PAUL O'NEILL

FROM: DICK CHENEY

Paul, the President has reviewed your memo on the proposal to provide for military enlistment for Vietnamese Refugees.

He indicated he agrees with you and Secretary Schlesinger. He does not want to lower our induction standards at all. He will, however, support legislation to waive the residency requirements, but under no circumstances should we do anything that would involve a reduction in standards.

PAUL R. FORD, JR.



THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE FOR INDOCHINA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520

July 18, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: Mr. James T. Lynn, Director, Office
of Management and Budget *Ohem*

FROM: Julia Vadala Taft, Director, Interagency Task Force *Julia Taft*

SUBJECT: Status Report on the Indochina
Refugee Resettlement Program

Attached is the status report on the Indochina
Refugee Resettlement Program through July 17, 1975.

Attachment:

As stated

cc: Dr. Marris
Mr. Eisenhower
Mr. Semerad
Mr. Cannon
Mr. Oaxaca
Mr. Puritano
Mr. Barri
Mr. Blaydon

STATUS REPORT ON THE INDOCHINA REFUGEE
RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM - JULY 17

REFUGEE STATUS (as of July 17)

Total Refugees Entered US System 130,851

Total Released 57,793

US	52,834
Third Countries	4,959
Repatriated	0
(Requesting Repatriation - 2,435)	

Avg. Daily Releases:

Week ending 7/17:	761
Week ending 7/10:	687
Week ending 7/3:	687
Week ending 6/26:	755
Week ending 6/19:	749
Week ending 6/12:	796

Total in US System 73,058

Total in the Pacific 13,197

Guam	6,707
Wake Island	6,024
Other Asian Bases	466

Total US 59,526

Eglin	4,427
Fort Chaffee	22,680
Camp Pendleton	17,084
Indiantown Gap	15,335

In Transit 335

PROBLEMS RESOLVED AND MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE IMMIGRATION SUBCOMMITTEE

On July 17, I testified for six hours before the House Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and International Law, chaired by Congressman Joshua Eilberg. Major issues covered were: the role of the voluntary agencies, their responsibilities in settling the refugees, particularly in the long run, and their funding; the employment outlook; the issue of military enlistment for refugees; actual and potential problems of sponsors; and press criticism of the resettlement effort.

GENERAL QUANG

General Chapman, who accompanied me during the testimony, told the Subcommittee that controversial Lieutenant General Dan Van Quang, former military assistant to Nguyen Van Thieu, will not be readmitted to the US refugee system, having voluntarily left it to enter Canada. If Quang wants to enter the US, he said, he will have to file for immigration and undergo the normal requirements of waiting his time for admission under the quota as well as completing the normal processing including rigorous screening.

ADDITIONAL REFUGEE ARRIVALS

We have sent new instructions to all overseas posts to facilitate the movement of processing of refugees stranded abroad, principally in Asia. We are mainly interested in reuniting immediate families and in bringing to the United States former employees of the U.S. Government.

INS Commissioner Chapman has sent a letter to the Chairmen of both the House and Senate Judiciary Committee indicating our plans for an additional 12,000 Vietnamese and Cambodians not now in the U.S. system. These refugees will include inter alia extended family members of Indo-chinese already here, as well as politically important Indo-chinese who cannot resettle in Southeast Asia. In discussions with Congressional Committees, we are reassuring them that no more than approximately 130,000 refugees will be permanently resettled in the United States.

PRINTED MATERIALS FOR REFUGEES

USIA has a number of materials that would be suitable for orientation of the refugees which cannot be used because of the statutory prohibition of domestic USIA activities. At our request, Congressman Hays is planning to introduce a joint resolution to allow the use of relevant USIA materials specifically for the refugees.

A number of magazines are providing complimentary subscriptions to the camps. The Governors' Conference and the National Geographic Society have donated maps, and we are soliciting more from the AAA, Rand McNally, and oil companies.

BREAKDOWNS

The press has recently focused on a number of breakdowns and implied that these are indicative of a weakness in the program, and, in particular, in the activities of the voluntary agencies. Our investigations have shown a remarkably low voluntary agency (VOLAG) breakdown rate, and concluded that many of the serious breakdowns have occurred among refugees who were either released directly from Travis AFB or who otherwise bypassed Volag processing. Volags have been for some time resolving such breakdown cases, and last month we issued guidelines authorizing reimbursement of costs up to \$500 per individual in such instances, providing that no previous payments were made.

STATES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Los Angeles' Mayor Bradley has expressed interest in sponsoring 2,000 refugees in addition to those who have already been settled in Los Angeles through private or organizational sponsorships. The Mayor may run into opposition on this proposal on the basis that California has already accepted more refugees than any other state, although his interest indicates a great deal of generosity and courage.

A contract is ready for signature with Jackson County, Missouri which will take 250 people. There have been new inquiries and expressions of interest from Illinois. Maine will accept all of its 300 refugees by August 7.

PROBLEMS PENDING

REPATRIATION EFFORT STILL STALLED

There has still been no repatriation of refugees from the US system. The UNHCR has sent 600 applications to Saigon for would-be Vietnamese repatriates, and although it has received no response, remains confident that one will be forthcoming. UNHCR has not yet been able to contact Cambodian authorities regarding repatriation.

The tugboat with 44 Vietnamese refugees which, as of last week's report, was missing after having been ordered to stand off the coast of Thailand, is still missing and is assumed to have gone to Vietnam.

MILITARY ENLISTMENT OPTION FOR REFUGEES

One of the major groups we have identified as being difficult to resettle is about 8,000 single young men, many of whom have only military experience. We have asked DOD to draft legislation to offer military enlistment as an option to these men. The legislation will have the following characteristics: the requirement for permanent resident alien status should be waived or granted; English language aptitude should not be a precondition of enlistment; and the special enlistment category should be large enough to include all potential recruits. In addition to the 8,000 men above, we have asked DOD to plan for an additional 2,000 married persons.

Congressman Rodino has also written to the House Armed Services Committee requesting similar legislation.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

MEMORANDUM FOR: DICK CHENEY
FROM: PAUL H. O'NEILL *O'Neill*
SUBJECT: Proposed Military Enlistment Option for
Vietnamese Refugees

*name
Standard
Scott bill,*

Senator Hugh Scott has submitted a bill (S. 2239) which would waive the residency requirement for Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees for enlistment in the U.S. Armed Forces. Julia Taft, we understand, has proposed that in addition to residency requirements, other induction criteria be waived for this group so as to permit enlistment of up to about 8,000 such refugees in the U.S. Armed Forces.

S. 2239

Most Cambodian and South Vietnamese have been admitted to the U.S. in a "parole" status. Aliens who entered the U.S. as "parolees" are not eligible for enlistment until their status is changed to permanent residence. By law one may not apply for resident alien status until two years after parole and then only under narrowly defined circumstances including proficiency in English.

Senator Scott's bill would waive the permanent alien residence requirement and permit these refugees to enlist in the Armed Services while they are still in a "parole" status. It would also, however, require that such aliens meet all other enlistment requirements. Both Defense and OMB would probably support such legislation.

Lower Induction Standards

Julia Taft apparently takes the position that English language aptitude should not be a pre-condition for enlistment. OMB and DOD oppose that viewpoint and take the position that waiver of residency requirements is acceptable only if:

. The military services are not required to lower physical, mental, and moral standards.

. The alien enlistee understands and speaks English to the same extent as other enlistees.

. No quotas are established as to the number of aliens who must be enlisted.

Comments and Analysis

It takes about eight months to educate and train an Indochinese soldier in the use of English. This would seriously prolong the trainee's unproductive time at additional cost while denying the admission of an applicant who would not have this language handicap. DOD would agree to give enlistment preference to refugees who have been trained by U.S. forces in certain critical military skills, as such persons can be utilized without much additional occupational training. However, DOD would find it difficult to accept some refugees now even though they possess military skills since they have surpluses in some skill areas and are therefore reducing the number of enlistments during the FY 1976 time period. The enlistment of such persons becomes further complicated by the fact that officers especially are being involuntarily separated and some enlisted personnel are not being permitted to reenlist in order to meet manpower ceilings.

Further, if Defense feels strongly against acceptance of personnel who cannot speak English and if such objections are overridden, then it would appear that preference should be given to American citizens (i.e., Puerto Ricans) who cannot speak and use the English language and are denied enlistment.

We support DOD in this matter. We agree that the Department of Defense should do its share in alleviating the Indochinese refugee problem. However, the Department should not be required to take actions which would result in lowering desirable military standards. The military services are now enjoying a period where they can attract and to some extent retain the quantity and quality of personnel desired. It would be regrettable to undermine this success.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 19, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT
THROUGH: DICK CHENEY
FROM: JACK MARSH *RKW for JOM*
SUBJECT: PROPOSED MILITARY ENLISTMENT
OPTION FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

As per the attached July 22 memo, you indicated your desire to expedite action on legislation that would permit the enlistment into the U. S. armed forces of certain Vietnamese refugees.

Previous inquiries by our office have indicated Jim Schlesinger's opposition to this proposed legislation.

In an effort to probe deeper into Jim Schlesinger's views on this subject, my office contacted the new Secretary of the Army, Marty Hoffman.

Hoffman, who incidentally agrees with Schlesinger on this point, indicates that Schlesinger's opposition is not a knee-jerk reaction to the proposal, but is a well-thought out decision.

Basically, it is Schlesinger's view that since we are experiencing little difficulty in filling our military quotas (we are, in fact, at a point where we are being very selective in accepting enlistments) the implementation of the proposed legislation would put us in the position of denying enlistment to highly-qualified American boys, for the sake of providing "another alternative in a refugee resettlement program".

Hoffman also indicated that we will be accepting only 80,000 enlistees in the Army this year. It was his view that this would further exacerbate the problem.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Jim Ryan

Let's get that
Armed Forces legislation
going.

ORIGINAL RETIRED TO
SPECIAL DOCUMENTS FILE

JUL 23 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 22, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JAMES LYNN

FROM:

JAMES CONNOR *jc*

SUBJECT:

Status Report on the Indochina Refugee
Resettlement Program

The President has reviewed the memorandum prepared by Julia Vadala Taft dated July 18, 1975 and made the following notation:

"Let's get that Armed Forces legislation going."

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Don Rumsfeld
Jack Marsh ✓
Max Friedersdorf