

**The original documents are located in Box 10, folder “Indochina Refugees - Interagency Task Force: Transfer to HEW” of the Theodore C. Marrs Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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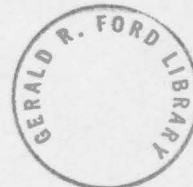
DRAFT

*Refugee  
File*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: PHILIP BUCHEN  
JOHN MARSH

SUBJECT: Transfer of Interagency Refugee  
Resettlement Task Force



We concur in the recommendation of the Secretary of State calling for the transfer of prime responsibility for the resettlement of refugees from State to HEW, while maintaining the interagency task force at the White House level.

To date, the task force has served as an excellent vehicle for not only coordinating actions by the concerned agencies, but also in resolving the disputes that have arisen as the result of overlapping jurisdictions and the interests of individual agencies. We remain unconvinced that any of the options offered by Secretary Weinberger would be an improvement upon that of Secretary Kissinger.

Operational activity of this nature, even at the task force level, should not be placed within the White House. (Ted Marris and Barry Roth of our staffs have provided White House over <sup>view</sup>sight and guidance to the Task Force, as necessary.) ~~White~~ OMB remains available to assist in resolving disputes that might arise, most disputes can continue to be handled by the task force. Finally, in view of our mutual goal that a White House task force be

terminated by the end of this calendar year, it would be unnecessarily burdensome and bureaucratic to formalize the task force as a special agency.

If you agree with Secretary Kissinger, the central decision remaining is who should be the director of the task force. On his resignation, Ambassador Brown <sup>designated</sup> ~~appointed~~ Julia Taft, Deputy Assistant Secretary for \_\_\_\_\_, HEW, ~~and~~ who had been serving as his deputy, to be the Acting Director of the task force. (Mrs. Taft's resumé is attached at Tab A) Due to her relative inexperience and her lesser stature than Ambassador Brown, some persons have questioned whether you should appoint her as the new director.

In view of Secretary Weinberger's request to meet with you concerning the transfer of the task force, we recommend that <sup>if</sup> such a meeting <sup>is necessary</sup> be held as soon as possible next week. It should be attended by Secretaries Kissinger and Weinberger, ourselves, and Ted Marrs and Barry Roth. At this meeting, Secretary Weinberger should be asked to recommend either Mrs. Taft or someone else for this position, in order that <sup>you</sup> ~~the White House~~ can make the necessary announcement by week's end.

*Early stability of structure is essential to expedite the remaining settlement of refugees.*

**MEMORANDUM  
OF CALL**

TO: \_\_\_\_\_

YOU WERE CALLED BY—       YOU WERE VISITED BY—

OF (Organization) \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CALL → PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
CODE/EXT. \_\_\_\_\_

WILL CALL AGAIN       IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL       WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

Dr. Marrs:

Has been sent to NSC. It has been agreed by Messrs. Theis, Buchen and Marrs.

MIF

| RECEIVED BY | DATE | TIME |
|-------------|------|------|
|             |      |      |

*n-File*



PRESIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

I am today announcing the transfer of the Interagency Task Force for the resettlement of refugees of Indochina from the Department of State to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

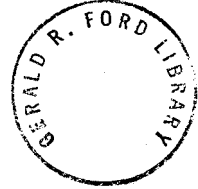
Since I formed the Task Force in April, the resettlement of refugees has become primarily a matter of domestic rather than foreign affairs' concern. A great deal has been accomplished in evacuating, caring for, and resettling refugees from Indochina. However, much remains to be done. I ask all Americans to open their hearts to these refugees as we have to others throughout our history.

Mrs. Julia Taft, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, will continue to serve as Acting Director of the Task Force. All decisions and activities regarding the domestic and international resettlement of refugees from Indochina will be coordinated by her. She will act under my direction and in close coordination with the Secretary of HEW and the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees. Mrs. Taft's responsibilities involve numerous departments of government, and I am directing each of them to offer her their full cooperation and support in this important task.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

May 14, 1975

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT  
From: Henry A. Kissinger <sup>K</sup>  
Subject: Transfer of Indochina Task Force

The evacuation of refugees from Indochina has been essentially completed and, as the flow of refugees enters the United States, the national security aspects of the operation are receding.

The time has come to focus on the long term resettlement issues which could be with us as long as one year. I believe that new organizational arrangements must be established to deal with this different set of problems, once Congress has completed action on your request for funds.

Specifically, I recommend that the Department of Health, Education and Welfare assume overall responsibility for the resettlement operation, and the operations of the present Task Force be physically moved to that Department. In order to ensure high level attention and inter-agency cooperation in the days ahead, I would further recommend that the new Task Force remain at the White House level. This arrangement could be reexamined in six months.

The new Inter-Agency Task Force would include the interested Departments and Agencies which are presently working on the problem -- DOD, Justice, INS, Interior, Labor, HUD, AID and State. State would be charged with handling the international aspects of resettlement and State/AID/USIA would continue to provide personnel support to the reception centers and the Task Force, as determined by the Director of the Task Force.

If we take this step, I am confident we will have created the proper mechanism for coping with the resettlement of refugees, which has become an essentially domestic issue and concern.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5

NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines  
By WFM, NARA, Date 11/21/00

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

Should you agree to my recommendation, I will instruct Ambassador L. Dean Brown to make arrangements for the transfer directly with Secretary Weinberger with the understanding that HEW will request White House approval for the new Director of the Task Force.

Recommendation:

That you approve the transfer of responsibility for the resettlement to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, while maintaining the Task Force at a White House level.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

Attachment:

Draft Presidential Announcement.

CONFIDENTIAL

PRESIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

I am today appointing \_\_\_\_\_  
as my Special Representative and Director of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the resettlement of refugees from Indochina. The Task Force, which will be located in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, will be responsible for all aspects of the domestic and international resettlement of refugees from the states of Indochina. The Task Force director will work under my direction and in close coordination with the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare. His responsibilities will involve all interested departments of government.

The new Task Force will continue the work which Ambassador L. Dean Brown launched under my direction. The resettlement problem now has a decidedly domestic orientation and is no longer primarily a subject of national security concern.

I wish to congratulate Ambassador Brown and the Task Force which worked for him for their achievements. In the short period of a month they successfully supervised the evacuation of our Mission in Viet-Nam and almost 50,000 endangered Vietnamese. About 60,000



other refugees were rescued at sea. Staging areas in the Pacific were constructed; three reception centers in the United States prepared; a program of United States' and third country resettlement was launched. I would like to express my particular gratitude to Ambassador Brown and his Task Force and to our armed forces which responded so quickly and effectively, often in the face of great danger.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

May 14, 1975



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Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

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THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20201

May 17, 1976



MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Indo-China Refugee Resettlement Task Force  
(Memorandum on the same subject to you from  
the Secretary of State).

The Secretary of State has proposed to you that in view of the essentially domestic character of the resettlement effort which must now be made through the summer and fall, the State Department is no longer the appropriate agency to lead the task force which has been developed to deal with this subject. He suggests that HEW instead assume the responsibility for leading the task force; the director of the task force would remain as a Presidential appointee, under the Secretary's proposal, though I understand that a replacement for Ambassador Dean Brown will have to be found.

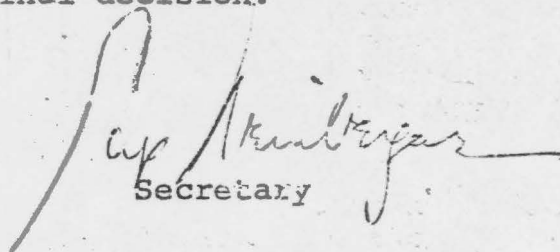
I agree with Secretary Kissinger that a domestic orientation of the task force is now appropriate. I also join him in recommending that a Presidential appointee lead this effort. I understand that the staff of the task force is already in place and that logistical support is ongoing; what is needed is only a change in leadership. I believe careful consideration should be given to identifying a new director and a new lead agency responsible for coordinating the task force's activities.

Certainly, Secretary Kissinger's suggestion that HEW take the lead is one option. We are an agency with direct operating responsibilities across the nation, and our programs have special relevance to the needs of the refugees and the concerns of the communities receiving them. While we do not deliver many services directly, we give financial support to virtually every entity that does. If we were given this responsibility, we would, of course, do everything we could to carry it out effectively, as we have attempted to give all the support needed to the existing task force under State's leadership.

There are, however, other options which have advantages of their own and which should be considered. Three in particular suggest themselves.

- The White House. Obtaining the effective cooperation of many agencies and the needed assistance from private organizations can best be done at this level. Also, the need to act quickly and the temporary nature of the program would be emphasized.
- The Office of Management and Budget. This office has experience in coordinating government-wide activities. It is in a good position to arbitrate differences between operating agencies.
- A Special Agency. On the model of the Energy Agency, this office would have a single mission to which it could devote all its efforts.

Our objective in this effort is to place virtually all the refugees in ongoing communities by year's end. By far the largest number of these placements will be in the United States. Each of the options presented, including the HEW option, has its advantages and drawbacks in achieving this objective. I believe that all should be considered before a decision is reached. I would like to discuss this with you or your staff prior to a final decision.

  
Secretary

bcc: Honorable Theodore Marrs

May 17, 1975



MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Indo-China Refugee Resettlement Task Force  
(Memorandum on the same subject to you from  
the Secretary of State).

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I agree with Secretary Kissinger that a domestic orientation of the task force is now appropriate. I also join him in recommending that a Presidential appointee lead this effort. I understand that the staff of the task force is already in place and that logistical support is ongoing; what is needed is only a change in leadership. I believe careful consideration should be given to identifying a new director and a new lead agency responsible for coordinating the task force's activities.

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ray K. ...".  
Secretary

[June 1975] x2397  
Barry Roth  
OJ/PAF. PBL

PRESIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

I am today ~~authorizing~~ <sup>Announcing</sup> the transfer of the Interagency Task Force for the resettlement of refugees of Indochina from the Department of State to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Since I formed the Task Force in April, the resettlement of refugees ~~is~~ <sup>has become primarily</sup> a matter of domestic rather than ~~of~~ foreign affairs concern. A great deal has been accomplished in evacuating ~~and~~, caring for and resettling ~~the~~ <sup>from</sup> refugees ~~in~~ Indochina;

however, much remains to be done. (I ask all Americans to open their hearts <sup>(our)</sup> to these ~~peoples~~ <sup>refugees as we have in that other country</sup> ~~in the same way~~ our ~~has~~ <sup>done</sup> throughout ~~its~~ <sup>our</sup> history. ~~continued for over 300 years.~~ I am also appointing Mrs. Julia

Taft, Deputy Assistant Secretary <sup>of Health, Education and</sup> ~~for Education Development~~ <sup>Welfare</sup> ~~of~~ the Department of HEW, as Acting Director of the Task Force.

All decisions and activities regarding the domestic and international resettlement of refugees from Indochina will be through the Acting Task Force Director. She will act under my direction and in close coordination with the Secretary of HEW and the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees. Mrs. Taft's responsibilities involve numerous departments of government and I am directing each of them to offer her their full cooperation and support in this important task.

MEMORANDUM

*A/C*  
NATIONAL SECURITY

June 9, 1975

*File copy only*

MEMORANDUM FOR: TED MARRS  
FROM: Jeanne W. Davi *JWD*  
SUBJECT: Transfer of Task Force on  
Indochina Refugees



May we please have your clearance and/or comments on the attached.

Also, will you please check with HEW to see if Secretary Weinberger's views are still as expressed in his May 17 memorandum, if he wishes to add anything to that memorandum, and if he still wishes to discuss the matter with the President or his staff prior to a decision.

We would also appreciate your comments on the selection of the Task Force Director and any alternate candidates you may wish to suggest.

Attachment

*Concern  
Subject to  
help have  
discussions  
JWD*

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

3406  
ACTION

CONFIDENTIAL

June 7, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: SECRETARY KISSINGER  
FROM: Jeanne W. Davis  
SUBJECT: Transfer of Task Force on  
Indochina Refugees



Your May 14 memorandum to the President (Tab B) recommended transferring responsibility for the Inter-Agency Task Force from State to HEW. This was, I understand, largely prompted by Dean Brown's desire to relinquish the Task Force directorship, the increasing domestic emphasis of the program, and State's desire to recover personnel and facilities loaned to the Task Force.

OMB supported your proposal (see Tab D). Secretary Weinberger was not opposed, but suggested other options of putting the Task Force under the White House or OMB or establishing it as an independent agency (see Tab C). He asked also to discuss the matter with the President or his staff before a final decision was made.

Since your memorandum was drafted, Dean Brown has been replaced as Task Force Chairman by HEW Deputy Assistant Secretary Julia Taft and, in the absence of suitable space in HEW, plans have been made to move the Task Force to rental space in a non-governmental building. This gives HEW a leading role and gets the Task Force out of State.

Mrs. Taft has argued strongly for independent status with direct White House support on the grounds that she needs such stature if she is to continue to get the necessary support from the bureaucracy. We agree with OMB, however, that the necessary White House leadership can be maintained by having the Task Force Director designated by and reporting to the President, in close coordination with the Secretary of HEW,

CONFIDENTIAL (GDS)

KBH 12/19/83

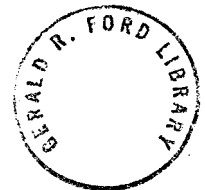
and that we should avoid establishing another independent agency. There is concensus that Mrs. Taft, who from all reports is doing an excellent job, should remain as Director.

At Tab I is a memorandum to the President which explains the situation and recommends that he issue an announcement (Tab A) indicating the shift to a domestic orientation and formally naming Mrs. Taft as Task Force Director.

Dick Smyser concurs.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the memorandum to the President at Tab I.



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

3406  
ACTION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER

SUBJECT: Transfer of Task Force on  
Indochina Refugees

In the memorandum to you at Tab B, I recommended that the Inter-Agency Task Force on Indochina Refugees (IATF) be moved from the Department of State to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and that the latter Department assume overall responsibility for the resettlement problem. The IATF would, however, remain at the White House level and would continue to have representatives from various Departments and Agencies. This shift from State is dictated by the growing predominance of the domestic US aspects of the refugee program.

Secretary Weinberger, in the memorandum at Tab C provided assurances of HEW's cooperation should it be given responsibility for the Task Force, but suggested as possible alternate options placing the Task Force directly under the White House or OMB or making it a special agency. He did not express any preference among those options, but asked to discuss the matter with you or your staff before a final decision was taken.

OMB supports the recommendations in my memorandum (Tab D), noting that this arrangement preserves the paramount White House role while keeping the Executive Office of the President out of operations and avoiding the establishment of another independent agency.

Since my initial memorandum was drafted, Ambassador Brown has been replaced as Task Force Director by Mrs. Julia Taft, Deputy Assistant Secretary of HEW. In the absence of suitable space in HEW, plans are being made to transfer the Task Force from the State Department

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (GDS)

KBH 12/14/89



to rental space in a non-governmental building. With a senior HEW officer directing the Task Force, a leading HEW role is now assured.

Since creation of the original Task Force was the subject of a Presidential announcement, I believe a new Presidential statement is appropriate to indicate the shift to a domestic orientation, to designate a new Director, and to enlist the full cooperation of all involved Departments and Agencies in providing necessary support and personnel. A proposed announcement, which has been approved by OMB, is at Tab A.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you approve the Presidential announcement at Tab A which shifts the focus of the Task Force to domestic concerns, names Mrs. Taft as its Director, and requests the full cooperation of Federal Agencies in providing the necessary support.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_

Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

PRESIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

I am today appointing Mrs. Julia Taft, Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, as my Special Representative and Director of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the resettlement of refugees from Indochina.

The new Task Force will continue the work which Ambassador L. Dean Brown launched under my direction. The resettlement problem now has a decidedly domestic orientation and is no longer primarily a subject of national security concern. All decisions and activities regarding the domestic and international resettlement of refugees from the states of Indochina will be coordinated through the Task Force Director who will work under my direction and in close coordination with the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare. Mrs. Taft's responsibilities will involve all interested departments of government and I will expect that she will receive full cooperation and support from all departments.

I wish to congratulate Ambassador Brown and the Task Force which worked for him for their achievements. In the short period of a month they successfully supervised the evacuation of our Mission in Vietnam and almost 50,000 endangered Vietnamese. About 60,000 other refugees were rescued at sea. Staging areas in the Pacific were constructed; three reception centers in the United States





prepared; a program of United States' and third country  
resettlement was launched. I would like to express my particular  
gratitude to Ambassador Brown and his Task Force and to our  
armed forces which responded so quickly and effectively, often  
in the face of great danger. "

THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

May 14, 1975

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT  
From: Henry A. Kissinger  
Subject: Transfer of Indochina Task Force

The evacuation of refugees from Indochina has been essentially completed and, as the flow of refugees enters the United States, the national security aspects of the operation are receding.

The time has come to focus on the long term resettlement issues which could be with us as long as one year. I believe that new organizational arrangements must be established to deal with this different set of problems, once Congress has completed action on your request for funds.

Specifically, I recommend that the Department of Health, Education and Welfare assume overall responsibility for the resettlement operation, and the operations of the present Task Force be physically moved to that Department. In order to ensure high level attention and inter-agency cooperation in the days ahead, I would further recommend that the new Task Force remain at the White House level. This arrangement could be reexamined in six months.

The new Inter-Agency Task Force would include the interested Departments and Agencies which are presently working on the problem -- DOD, Justice, INS, Interior, Labor, HUD, AID and State. State would be charged with handling the international aspects of resettlement and State/AID/USIA would continue to provide personnel support to the reception centers and the Task Force, as determined by the Director of the Task Force.

If we take this step, I am confident we will have created the proper mechanism for coping with the resettlement of refugees, which has become an essentially domestic issue and concern.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5  
NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines  
By WAM, NARA, Date 11/21/00

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

Should you agree to my recommendation, I will instruct Ambassador L. Dean Brown to make arrangements for the transfer directly with Secretary Weinberger with the understanding that HEW will request White House approval for the new Director of the Task Force.

Recommendation:

That you approve the transfer of responsibility for the resettlement to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, while maintaining the Task Force at a White House level.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

Attachment:

Draft Presidential Announcement.

CONFIDENTIAL



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20201

May 17, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Indo-China Refugee Resettlement Task Force  
(Memorandum on the same subject to you from  
the Secretary of State).

The Secretary of State has proposed to you that in view of the essentially domestic character of the resettlement effort which must now be made through the summer and fall, the State Department is no longer the appropriate agency to lead the task force which has been developed to deal with this subject. He suggests that HEW instead assume the responsibility for leading the task force; the director of the task force would remain as a Presidential appointee, under the Secretary's proposal, though I understand that a replacement for Ambassador Dean Brown will have to be found.

I agree with Secretary Kissinger that a domestic orientation of the task force is now appropriate. I also join him in recommending that a Presidential appointee lead this effort. I understand that the staff of the task force is already in place and that logistical support is ongoing; what is needed is only a change in leadership. I believe careful consideration should be given to identifying a new director and a new lead agency responsible for coordinating the task force's activities.

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Ray K. ...', is written over the typed name 'Secretary'.

Secretary



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

MAY 27 1975 .

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Transfer of Interagency Indochina Task Force

Background

The Interagency Indochina Task Force was established April 18, 1975, "...to coordinate for the President all U.S. Government activities concerning evacuation of United States citizens, Vietnamese citizens, and third country nationals from Vietnam as well as humanitarian assistance to Vietnam and refugee and resettlement problems relating to the Vietnam conflict." Ambassador Dean Brown was appointed the Special Representative of the President to head the Task Force, and worked under the direction of the President and the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs. Ambassador Brown has tendered his resignation within the last few days.

Secretary Kissinger's Recommendations

1. "HEW assume overall responsibility for the resettlement operation."
2. "State would be charged with handling the international aspects of resettlement...."
3. "The operations of the Task Force be physically moved to that Department (HEW)."
4. "The new Task Force remain at the White House level. This arrangement could be re-examined in six months."
5. "The new Interagency Task Force would include the interested Departments and Agencies which are presently working on the problem--DOD, Justice, INS, Interior, Labor, HUD, AID and State."

## Discussion

The role of the Task Force in the evacuation of Vietnamese refugees has essentially ended with virtually all refugees accounted for, either in American possessions in the Pacific or in reception centers on three military bases in the continental U.S. Most Americans and their dependents have already been processed to their homes in the U.S.

The most difficult management task remaining to be accomplished is not running the centers (in the short run a relatively routine base operations job financed by State and executed by DOD) nor is it providing social and economic assistance services in the refugees new communities (financed by HEW and done by State and local agencies) but rather it is promoting and facilitating the sponsorship and physical resettlement of the refugees from the centers to their new communities. This is to be financed by the State Department and done by volunteer agencies and by State and local governments. It is this task, which requires sensitive but firm management effort, for which Secretary Kissinger recommends HEW assume overall responsibility.

There is essential agreement on items 2, 4 and 5 of Secretary Kissinger's recommendations. White House level authority would appear necessary at least in the short run to resolve problems within the Federal Government and between Federal and non-Federal agencies. The physical location of the Task Force (item 3) should be consistent with which agency has overall operational responsibility for the domestic resettlement operation. However, we should be very careful of not disrupting the continuity of existing support efforts.

Secretary Weinberger has recommended that two other options be considered before you decide: (1) placing the Task Force in the Executive Office of the President (White House or OMB); and (2) establishing a new separate agency.

## Recommendation

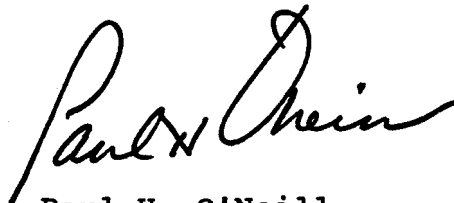
That you approve Secretary Kissinger's proposal for the following reasons:

- the most difficult remaining management task (domestic resettlement) requires close working relationships with State and local agencies, and with your new Advisory Committee on Refugees. This role closely parallels HEW's basic responsibilities and capabilities.

- the needed leadership and coordinating authority of the White House could be maintained by having the Task Force Director designated by and reporting to the President in close coordination with the Secretary of HEW.
- avoids enmeshing the Executive Office of the President in immediate operational problems and decisions.
- allows State and Defense to continue to carry out their related responsibilities for international resettlement and base operations.
- avoids the establishment of another independent agency to address the problem of refugees.

I would also recommend revising the draft Presidential announcement to make it reflect specifically the coordinative role of the Task Force consistent with the wording of the April 18 memorandum which established the Task Force. (See attachment)

Finally, in order to enhance the Task Force Director's ability to gain interagency cooperation an explicit decision is needed on who in the White House staff should be the focal point for communications with the President.



Paul H. O'Neill  
Deputy Director

Attachment



PRESIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

I am today appointing \_\_\_\_\_  
as my Special Representative and Director of the Interagency Task Force for the resettlement of refugees from Indochina. The Task Force will be located in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. All decisions and activities regarding the domestic and international resettlement of refugees from the states of Indochina will be coordinated through the Task Force Director who will work under my direction and in close coordination with the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. His responsibilities will involve all interested departments of government,

The new Task Force will continue the work which Ambassador L. Dean Brown launched under my direction. The resettlement problem now has a decidedly domestic orientation and is no longer primarily a subject of national security concern.

I wish to congratulate Ambassador Brown and the Task Force which worked for him for their achievements. In the short period of a month, they successfully supervised the evacuation of our Mission in Vietnam and almost 50,000

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*The use of \$ on  
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evacuation of our Mission in Vietnam and almost 50,000

endangered Vietnamese. About 60,000 other refugees were rescued at sea. Staging areas in the Pacific were constructed; three reception centers in the United States prepared; a program of United States' and third country resettlement was launched. I would like to express my particular gratitude to Ambassador Brown and his Task Force and to our armed forces which responded so quickly and effectively, often in the face of great danger.

Because of the momentum and quality  
of the movement of the Task Force  
to date and the reorientation of the problem  
to the domestic scene, the proposed  
action is timely. For the same reasons  
~~I think~~ that it would be counter-productive  
to replace Mrs. Jett as Director of the  
Interagency Task Force.

The importance of a clear  
designation of the necessary W.O. credits  
cannot be overestimated and could  
well be a part of the President's  
announcement.

The relationship of the Pres. Adv.  
Council on Refugees should be  
referenced.

This Task Force will be responsive  
to the requirements.

## NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

*Copy Sent to Domestic Council*

URGENT  
ACTION

June 24, 1975 .

## MEMORANDUM FOR:

Mr. Paul O'Neill, OMB  
Mr. Steven Kurzman, HEW  
Mr. Philip Buchen, WH  
Mr. James Connor, Domestic Council  
Mr. Theodore Marrs, WH ✓  
Mr. Paul Theis, WH

## FROM:

Jeanne W. Davis *JWD*

## SUBJECT:

Announcement on Indochina  
Refugee Task Force

The President has approved the shifting of management responsibility for the Indochina Refugee Task Force from the Department of State to HEW and the appointment of Mrs. Taft as Acting Director.

We have prepared an announcement of this decision which we hope to release tomorrow, June 25.

Accordingly, I would appreciate receiving your clearance and/or comments on the attached text by telephone (395-3440) by close of business today.

Attachment

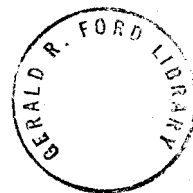
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## PRESIDENTIAL ANNOUCEMENT

I am today appointing Mrs. Julia Taft, Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, as Acting Director of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the resettlement of refugees from Indochina.

The new Task Force will continue the work which Ambassador L. Dean Brown began under my direction. The resettlement problem is now largely a domestic, rather than a foreign affairs, concern. A great deal has been accomplished in evacuating, caring for and resettling refugees from Indochina; however, much remains to be done to ensure a complete and early resettlement of all refugees.

All decisions and activities regarding the domestic and international resettlement of refugees from the states of Indochina will be coordinated through the Acting Task Force Director who will work under my direction and in close coordination with the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare and the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees. Mrs. Taft's responsibilities will involve all interested departments of government and I will expect that she will receive full cooperation and support from every department.



**June 26, 1975**

**MEMORANDUM FOR:**

**JEANNE DAVIS, NSC**

**FROM:**

**PHILIP W. BUCHEN**

**THEODORE C. MARRS**

**SUBJECT:**

**Proposed Presidential Announcement  
on the Indochina Refugee Task Force**

**The President's decision to transfer the Task Force from the State Department to HEW was announced by Bill Greener of the White House Press Office yesterday afternoon. No additional announcements by the White House of this transfer would appear to be necessary.**



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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

*Refugee  
Task Force*

June 26, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR

The Secretary of Health, Education  
and Welfare  
Lawrence Eagleburger, Deputy  
Under Secretary for Management  
Department of State  
Mr. Paul O'Neill, OMB  
Mr. Philip Buchen, WH  
Mr. James Connor, WH  
Dr. Theodore Marrs, WH  
Mr. James Cavanaugh, WH  
Mr. Paul Theis, WH

FROM:

Jeanne W. Davis *JWD*

SUBJECT:

Revised Presidential Announcement  
on Indochina Refugee Task Force

I attach a revised draft Presidential announcement on the transfer of operational responsibility for the Indochina Refugee Task Force to HEW.

Since we hope to make the announcement tomorrow, I would appreciate your telephoned clearance and/or comments by 9:30 a. m. , Friday, June 27.

Attachment





## PRESIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

I am today announcing the transfer of principal operational responsibility for the Interagency Task Force for the resettlement of refugees from Indochina from the Department of State to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Since I formed the Task Force in April, the resettlement of refugees has become primarily a matter of domestic rather than foreign affairs concern. A great deal has been accomplished in evacuating, caring for, and resettling refugees from Indochina. However, much remains to be done. I ask all Americans to open their hearts to these refugees as we have to others throughout our history.

Mrs. Julia Taft, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, has been acting as Director of the Task Force since the departure of Ambassador Dean Brown and will continue to do so. All decisions and activities regarding the domestic and international resettlement of refugees from Indochina will be coordinated by her. She will act under my direction and in close coordination with the Secretary of HEW and the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees. Mrs. Taft's responsibilities involve numerous departments of government, and I am directing each of them to offer her their full cooperation and support in this important task.

