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THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES

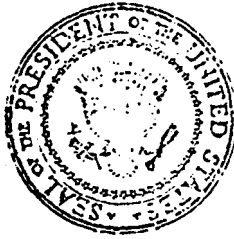
FINAL REPORT

TO

THE PRESIDENT



January 30, 1976



### Establishing the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees

Since the arrival of the first settlers on our eastern seaboard nearly 400 years ago, America has been a refuge for victims of persecution, intolerance and privation from around the world. Tide after tide of immigrants has settled here and each group has enriched our heritage and added to our well-being as a nation.

For many residents of Southeast Asia who stood by America as an ally and who have lost their homeland in the tragic developments of the past few weeks, America offers a last, best hope upon which they can build new lives. We are a big country and their numbers are proportionately small. We must open our doors and our hearts.

The arrival of thousands of refugees, mostly children, will require many adjustments on their part and considerable assistance on ours. But it is in our best interest as well as theirs to make this transition as gracious and efficient as humanly possible.

I have determined that it would be in the public interest to establish an advisory committee to the President on the resettlement in the United States of refugees from Indochina.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the United States, and as President of the United States, it is ordered as follows:

**SECTION 1. Establishment of a Presidential Advisory Committee.** There is hereby established the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees, hereinafter referred to as the Committee. The Committee shall be composed of such citizens from private life as the President may, from time to time, appoint. The President shall designate one member of the Committee to serve as chairman.

**SEC. 2. Functions of the Advisory Committee.** The Committee shall advise the President and the heads of appropriate Federal agencies concerning the expeditious and coordinated resettlement of refugees from Southeast Asia. The Committee shall include in its advice, consideration of the following areas:

- (a) Health and environmental matters related to resettlement;
- (b) the interrelationship of the governmental and volunteer roles in the resettlement;
- (c) educational and cultural adjustments required by these efforts;
- (d) the general well-being of resettled refugees and their families in their new American communities; and

(e) such other related concerns as the President may, from time to time, specify.

The committee shall also seek to facilitate the location, solicitation, and channeling of private resources for these resettlement efforts, and to establish lines of communication with all concerned governmental agencies, relevant voluntary agencies, the Vietnamese-American community and the American public at large. The Committee shall conclude its work within one year.

**SEC. 3. Assistance, Cooperation, and Expenses:**

(a) All executive departments and agencies of the Federal government, to the extent permitted by law, are directed to cooperate with the Committee and to furnish such information, facilities, funds, and assistance as the Committee may require.

(b) No member of the Committee shall receive compensation from the United States by reason of service on the Committee, but may, to the extent permitted by law, be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law (5 U.S.C. 5703).

**SEC. 4. Federal Advisory Committee Act.** Notwithstanding the provisions of any other Executive order, the functions of the President under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. 1), except that of reporting annually to Congress, which are applicable to the advisory committee established by this Order, shall be performed by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare.

*Gerald R. Ford*

THE WHITE HOUSE,  
May 19, 1975.

PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES

Ambassador John Eisenhower  
Chairman  
Valley Forge, Pennsylvania

Honorable Joseph Alioto  
Mayor of San Francisco  
San Francisco, California

Reverend W. Sterling Cary  
United Church of Christ  
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Mr. Ashby Boyle  
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Mr. William Kuhfuss  
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225 Touhy Avenue  
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Parma, Ohio

Mr. John Denver  
P. o. Box 1587  
Aspen, Colorado  
(Resigned September 12, 1975)

Mr. Roger D. Semerad  
Executive Director  
White House  
Washington, D. C.

# PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The final report of the President's Advisory Committee acknowledges the magnificent efforts of the voluntary resettlement agencies and the cooperation and support provided by all of the member agencies of the Interagency Task Force on Refugees.

In support of the direct resettlement efforts of the operating agencies, members of the President's Advisory Committee visited the various resettlement camps and processing centers, participated in and organized regional meetings and conferences, undertook numerous speaking engagements, and served as contacts for individual case work problems.

The resettlement of the Indochinese refugees will not be fully completed until all of the refugees are able to survive independently of their sponsors and of governmental assistance. This process will take additional time but the dedicated efforts of the voluntary and governmental agencies have eased the way to permit the refugees to fully participate in American life.

The refugee resettlement program has evoked a sense of community spirit, generosity, fellowship and selflessness on the part of all who participated. The completion of this task marks a moment in our history in which we all can justly take pride.

# PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES

## FINAL REPORT

The final meeting of the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees took place on the 17th of December 1975. At that meeting it was the determination of the Committee that the preliminary placement of the refugees from Indochina had been completed. Accordingly, the Committee resolved to terminate operations and submit a final report.

In the Interim Report the Committee acknowledged the extraordinary efforts of the Department of Defense in providing for the physical needs of the refugees. No less important have been the efforts of the other agencies, Department of State; Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; Department of Justice; Immigration and Naturalization Service in attending to the welfare of the refugees. The swift resettlement of the refugees throughout America was facilitated by the dedicated efforts of the private voluntary resettlement agencies (VOLAGS), who brought their considerable experience and resources to this refugee resettlement program.

The Interagency Task Force, initially organized within the Department of State, and later moved to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, has served well in focusing the constructive efforts of the Federal establishment. Despite the problems of staffing and operations inherent in the operation of an ad hoc group, Ambassador Dean Brown and Mrs. Julia Taft have performed admirably in maintaining the momentum of the resettlement program. Great credit is due them and their staffs for their efforts.

While criticisms have been made about the efforts of the Federal Government, particularly in the areas of health care for refugees and aid to school districts with major enrollments of refugee youth, the over-all performance of the resettlement program has been positive and praiseworthy. Even in the areas in which there has been significant criticism, it is important to recall that many of the problems and social distortions predicted by some critics of the resettlement program have not materialized.

The President's  
Advisory Committee  
on  
Refugees



\* \* \* \* \* *January 1976*

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While criticisms have been made about the efforts of the Federal Government, particularly in the areas of health care for refugees and aid to school districts with major enrollments of refugee youth, the over-all performance of the resettlement program has been positive and praiseworthy. Even in the areas in which there has been significant criticism, it is important to recall that many of the problems and social distortions predicted by some critics of the resettlement program have not materialized.

It would be impractical to list the specific individual contributions or projects of the Committee members. Some Committee members will be mentioned in connection with specific major projects but it should be noted that each member of the Advisory Committee contributed to the refugee resettlement effort both as a member of the Committee and as a private citizen.

Members of the Advisory Committee (see Annex A) visited the various resettlement camps and processing centers, participated in and organized regional meetings and conferences, undertook numerous speaking engagements, and served as contacts for individual case work problems. In some cases where local governments or organizations adopted or enforced policies inimical to the resettlement program, Committee members served as advocates in an effort to secure a change.

Members of the President's Advisory Committee have dedicated their best efforts as private citizens and as leaders of various political, church, professional, business, trade or labor organizations to the refugee resettlement program. This combination of personal and organizational involvement has been of particular benefit in easing potential sponsorship problems and in eliminating problems associated with a lack of commitment to a particular governmental program by any large organization.

The following presents a comprehensive summary of the activities, program reviews, and recommendations of the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees. Abstracts of Advisory Committee meetings may be found at Annex A. A copy of the Interim Report to the President dated August 15, 1975 may be found at Annex B.

A. Sponsorship by State and Local Governments

In response to the letter from President Ford, the various mailings to the Governors (see Annex C) and the regional seminars conducted under the auspices of the Inter-agency Task Force, a number of state and local governments initiated sponsorship programs. Of particular interest is the first governmental sponsorship program

that was initiated by Committee member Governor Dan Evans of Washington. A comprehensive review of the State of Washington sponsorship program may be found at Annex D.

In all cases the sponsorship programs were accomplished with minimal disruption or impact on the other functions of the government. It was unfortunate that additional units of government did not participate in the sponsorship program. Perhaps a greater effort to provide information on sponsorship programs at the Mayors' Conference and at the Conference of Governors would have been beneficial.

Two examples of community involvement particularly worthy of mention are the efforts of the City of Dubuque, Iowa and the Town of Salem, Oregon. Both of these communities received sizeable numbers of refugees and made a commitment to welcome and assist those who have resettled in their communities.

At the June meeting of the National Association of Counties a resolution was adopted supporting the refugee resettlement effort and urging that the counties participate in the sponsorship of Indochina refugees. (see Annex E)

B. Liaison With Public Groups

At its second meeting the Committee instructed the staff to organize a meeting between the leaders of labor and management. The purpose of this meeting was to secure from these national organizations an endorsement of and support for employment opportunities for Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees. Such support was deemed essential to help create opportunities for employment that otherwise might not have been available. The meeting would also attempt to counter any bad publicity or resentment directed at the refugees.

The meeting took place on June 24, 1975 in a White House conference room. Representatives of the following management organizations attended: The United States Chamber of Commerce, the National Alliance of Businessmen and the National Association of Manufacturers. The following labor organizations were represented: AFL/CIO, the National Brotherhood of Teamsters, the United Auto Workers, and United Mine Workers. In addition, a representative of the Grace Foundation attended as an observer. A complete list of those attending is furnished in Annex F.

As a result of this meeting, the Chamber of Commerce sent a letter to all of their local chapters in cities with an unemployment rate of 9% or less. It was requested that affiliates contact local units for the purpose of coordinating and developing employment opportunities for refugees.

At the same time, Leo Perlis of the AFL/CIO, who served as Mr. George Meany's alternate on the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees, sent a letter to all labor affiliates in the targeted cities advising them of the Chamber of Commerce letter and requesting their cooperation in the employment effort. Copies of the Chamber of Commerce letter, the letter from AFL/CIO, and other documents pertaining to this project may be found at Annex F.

As a specific result of the Labor/Management meeting, the Advisory Committee's project in Houston for resettlement of refugees was developed.

C. Houston Project

Committee member Gaetana Enders organized a meeting in Houston which was hosted by the Chamber of Commerce during the latter part of July. The Mayor and representatives of the following organizations attended this meeting:

The Texas Employment Commission, DHEW Regional Office, Houston Department of Education, Houston Department of Human Resources, AFL/CIO, local Red Cross Chapter, and voluntary resettlement agencies. The meeting was conducted in the offices of the Chamber of Commerce. A full presentation was made of the resettlement and sponsorship program. After an extended discussion the decision was made "by the community leaders" to participate in a sponsorship project. Houston was an ideal choice as a sponsoring community because it had low unemployment and a vigorous community spirit.

The most significant aspect of this project was that all activities were closely coordinated. These included:

- a. Initial contact with the resettlement camps furnished through the voluntary agencies.
- b. Development of job requirements, numbers and availability and industry needs.
- c. Coordination of housing requirements.
- d. Sponsorship listings including preferences.
- e. School and language training.
- f. Close coordination of public information and media programs.
- g. Coordination of social services system.
- h. Dissemination of information on Medicaid programs.
- i. Uniform counseling of sponsors including a briefing of available community services.

As a result over three hundred refugee families were sponsored and resettled in the Houston metropolitan area.



The success of the Houston project amply demonstrated that significant numbers of refugees could be placed through local ad hoc alliances of public and private agencies and interested citizens. It is the view of the Committee that the rejection of the alternative placement method outlined earlier constituted a deficiency in the Government's management of the resettlement program.

D. Vietnamese/Cambodian Volunteer Group

One of the goals of the Advisory Committee was the development of ways to ease the assimilation of the refugees into our society.

To gain a clearer perspective of the difficult aspects of resettlement which faced the Vietnamese/Cambodian refugees, the Advisory Committee directed that an ad hoc volunteer group of Vietnamese/Cambodians be organized to provide recommendations and comments on ways to facilitate the assimilation process. Two full day meetings of the volunteer group were held and substantive recommendations were presented to the Advisory Committee. (See Annex G) These recommendations were:

- a. Follow-up assistance by the VOLAGS.
- b. Standardized assistance from VOLAGS.
- c. Service in the Armed Forces.
- d. Civilian employment opportunities.
- e. Language and skill training for professionals.
- f. Toll-free Telephone Information Service.

The discussions of the volunteer group and the deliberations and endorsement of the Advisory Committee served to focus attention on these specific areas.

The Advisory Committee reviewed these recommendations and directed the staff to transmit these suggestions to the Interagency Task Force and other appropriate organizations for consideration.

a. Follow-up Assistance by VOLAGS: The Interagency Task Force initiated a procedure whereby additional information on the refugee placement would become available so that the results of the voluntary agency placement program could be evaluated. Additionally, the voluntary agencies assumed the responsibility for follow-up action in the event that the original sponsorship match failed.

b. Standardized Assistance From Voluntary Agencies: The interest in providing uniform assistance from the various participating agencies stemmed not from a substantive difference or disagreement as to levels of assistance provided but from the common perception by the refugees that there were different levels of assistance being provided by each of the voluntary agencies.

The suggestion was put forward that the voluntary agencies standardize assistance programs so that the differences in pocket money, travel funds, and post-placement financial assistance be eliminated.

c. Service in the Armed Forces: The Interagency Task Force stated that single refugees between the ages of 18 and 30 who had served in the Vietnamese or Cambodian Armed Forces were among the most difficult categories of refugees to sponsor and resettle. The Task Force estimated that there were 8,000 single males in this category. The Committee directed its staff to explore the opportunities which the Indochinese refugees may have in entering the United States Armed Forces.

The Interagency Task Force and Department of Defense were queried as to this possibility.

It was determined that individuals admitted as permanent residents would be eligible for enlistment in the regular and reserve forces and for appointment as officers in reserve forces.

The Department of Defense advised that former members of Cambodian and Vietnamese Armed Forces who had been trained by the American military and who met current service enlistment standards, including immigration status, would be given enlistment preference over other applicants who had not previously been trained by the American military.

In summary, there were extremely limited opportunities available to refugees to enter the United States Armed Forces.

The Interagency Task Force requested modifications in legislation so as to permit refugees to achieve a priority status in entering the Armed Forces. The Department of Defense did not concur since well qualified United States citizens were unable to find a place in the all volunteer Armed Forces.

The Committee considered and concurred with the position of the Department of Defense. It is the view of the Committee that legislative initiatives should be directed at permitting the refugees an earlier transfer from "parolee" to "resident" status. At the December meeting, the Committee endorsed an Interagency Task Force proposal to seek early Congressional action on this matter. Additionally, the emphasis should also be directed toward civilian training for refugees to make them better able to compete for either civilian or military employment. (see Annex H)

d. Civilian Employment Opportunities: The Committee directed that employment opportunities in the civilian sector be explored with particular emphasis on any opportunities within the Federal Civil Service.

In general, only a United States citizen or one who owes permanent allegiance to the United States may be appointed in the competitive civil service.

It is apparent that with a very few exceptions there are minimal opportunities for the refugees for employment with the Federal Government. (see Annex I)

e. Language and Skills Training for Professionals: The Advisory Committee sought assistance from the American Medical Association, the American Nurses Association and other national health organizations in developing programs to aid refugees in resuming careers in these fields. The American Association of State Colleges and Universities offered its services in helping to establish the academic credentials of refugees.

The American Anthropological Association presented a proposal on how to deal with the Vietnamese refugee resettlement situation in the most effective manner possible. The Association of American Geographers, the American Historical Association, the American Psychological Association and the American Sociological Association are also cooperating to aid wherever necessary in the process of refugee resettlement.

f. Toll-Free Telephone Information Service: The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare awarded a six-month contract to the Center for Applied Linguistics. The Center has been acting as a national clearinghouse in providing information to the Indochinese refugees in the areas of language, culture, and education. The information collected, analyzed and disseminated by the clearinghouse demonstrated a highly professionalized effort on behalf of the refugees.

Additionally, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare awarded a grant to a Georgetown University to operate a telephone



"Hotline". This national information center is staffed by Vietnamese and Cambodians to answer questions on post-secondary education opportunities by use of a toll-free telephone.

These two grants have proven to be effective ways of resolving some of the educational and cultural confusions cited by the volunteer group members in their meetings.

E. Project FRIENDSHIP

Committee member Ashby Boyle proposed a national youth program to aid in the assimilation of refugee youth. The intent of this program, entitled Project FRIENDSHIP, was to coordinate the efforts of 40 national youth organizations concerned with the Indochinese young people. Youth groups were asked to extend a hand of friendship to these newcomers and help them in adjusting to their new surroundings and culture. Significant events in Project FRIENDSHIP have been a press conference at Camp Pendleton on youth resettlement, and participation in the Vietnamese Catholic Students Association Conference in Worcester, Massachusetts. Various national youth groups have supported this program through the inclusion of articles on Project FRIENDSHIP in monthly magazines, adoption of resolutions to institute Project FRIENDSHIP and person-to-person contact in the communities where refugee families were located.

President Ford endorsed the efforts of Project FRIENDSHIP and a copy of his letter has appeared in many youth-oriented publications. (see Annex J)

F. Sponsorship of Student Nurses

In mid-June the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees became aware of a serious problem associated with Vietnamese student nurses in training in the United States under the sponsorship of the Department of Defense

(Military Assistance Program Funds). These student nurses were to be reclassified as refugees on June 30, 1975 and removed from their courses of study and escorted to the nearest refugee resettlement center unless valid sponsors could be found for them.

Through the intercession of Committee member, Dr. Malcolm Todd, the American Nurses Association (ANA) accepted the responsibility for the sponsorship of the refugee student nurses. All of the student nurses were sponsored prior to the June 30 deadline and funds were authorized for the remainder of their training.

G. Sponsorship Information Campaign

During the second meeting of the Committee, a full discussion of the need for a public information program was conducted. It was the view of the Committee that to ensure the successful completion of the refugee resettlement effort, a comprehensive and innovative public information program should be initiated in the media. The Committee endorsed a proposal to take an active role in explaining the requirements for sponsorship, the need for additional group sponsors and other public information activities. It was felt that the public information function was a most appropriate activity for the Committee. Since several of the members of the Advisory Committee were national figures, it was thought that an appeal by such public figures would be very helpful.

The Committee staff completed preliminary review of the proposed work with the National Advertising Council. Proposals were requested from the Advertising Council and from private contractors. After a review of costs and qualifications, preliminary commitments were made with an outstanding group of professional writers and photographers. The required funds were to be secured from the Department

of Health, Education, and Welfare. By June 30, 1975, the main contract arrangements had been agreed upon.

Although this program of public information was to be conducted in close coordination and with the assistance of the Interagency Task Force, this proposal was ultimately rejected and funding withheld by the Director of the Interagency Task Force for reasons with which the Committee did not concur. It was the opinion of the Interagency Task Force that the sponsorship mechanism could best be facilitated through the Voluntary Agencies and participating government agencies at the state and local levels and that the proposed public information campaign would misdirect the public.

The Committee believes this was an unfortunate decision since no substitute public information program was developed by the Interagency Task Force. The need for such a program has been demonstrated by the number of regional sponsorship information efforts and the great interest of the Public Broadcasting System in developing a variety of programs dealing with all aspects of refugee resettlement. However, the Committee felt that a comprehensive public information campaign organized and conducted by the Committee during the months of July, August and September would have greatly increased public awareness of the problem and thereby hastened the resettlement and assimilation of the refugees into American society.

In our Interim Report, the Committee cited this turn of events as an unfortunate development since it terminated what might have been the Committee's most effective public relations function. This situation highlighted the problems of the relation of this Committee with the Interagency Task Force.

A memorandum for the record concerning this question may be found at Annex K.

## H. Expanded Sponsorship

In our Interim Report the Committee noted that an effort to provide expanded sponsorship roles for organizations such as the Red Cross and the United Way had not been successful. At that time it was the view of the Committee that alternative sponsorship arrangements beyond the existing voluntary agency organizations would be necessary to bring the resettlement program to an expeditious completion.

This suggestion was transmitted to the Interagency Task Force and was in no way intended as a criticism of the voluntary agencies' efforts.

The Committee knew that the voluntary agencies were doing an excellent job, yet the Committee considered it wise to encourage additional participation to provide support to the voluntary agency efforts and to serve as a standby placement system in case of specific problems or requirements. The difficult placement cases - single men and very large families - were so far removed from the ordinary placement programs of the voluntary agencies that unique arrangements had to be made in virtually every case. The failure to expand the sponsorship network made the placement of these problem groups more difficult.

## I. Organization and Administration

The President's Advisory Committee on Refugees was fortunate to have the support of a fine professional staff, under the direction of Roger D. Semerad, which was most responsive to the needs and direction of the Committee members. Effective staff management was made possible by the dedication and energy of its personnel.

The staff was recruited during the latter part of May and early June 1975. Staff



members included career civil servants, Schedule C appointees, and volunteers. Staff members were acquired from Department of Defense, Housing and Urban Development, Veterans Affairs, Treasury Department, Department of Interior and Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. (See Annex A)

In addition to the responsibilities associated with providing information and administrative support to the members of the Committee, the staff dealt with White House inquiries and correspondence on refugee matters and organized or participated in numerous conferences and meetings throughout the nation. Staff members were assigned to the President's Advisory Committee for periods ranging from 30 to 90 days.

Because the individuals selected were normally involved in priority projects for their agencies and absence from their normally assigned positions would result in the loss of some degree of management capability, there was some reluctance on the part of these agencies to detail the selected employees to the Committee. The limited duration of some details presented unnecessary staff management problems.

In the future, in order to assure the assignment of staff for duty with activities or committees such as the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees, increased emphasis should be placed on initial longer term personnel assignments.

By agreement between the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees, Interagency Task Force, and Health, Education, and Welfare, arrangements were made to administer the \$60,000 allocated for Committee operations and expenses. The staff at HEW was most cooperative in providing the technical assistance necessary to ensure that all legal

requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act were fulfilled. The State Department performed as comptroller and purchasing agent for the Committee. With the assistance of Dr. Ted Marrs and Dr. David Hoopes, a workable arrangement was established within the White House staff.

In reviewing the activities of the President's Advisory Committee it becomes apparent that the limitations on role of the Committee in the policy or advisory process can best be explained in terms of the placement of the Committee within the Executive Office of the President.

The President's Advisory Committee was organized and positioned within the Executive Office of the President, and with the exception of some administrative logistical requirements, was independent of both the White House decision-making apparatus and the several Cabinet agencies charged with resettlement responsibilities.

This organizational choice denied the Advisory Committee clear lines of authority within the White House for refugee matters and at the same time divorced the day-to-day activities of the operating agencies from those of the Advisory Committee.

Should a similar situation develop, it is suggested that consideration be given to a different organizational framework. Specifically, we would recommend either of the following alternatives be considered in the organization and placement of such an advisory committee within the Executive Branch.

- a. An advisory committee can be established within an operating agency or inter-agency task force and yet serve essentially as a Presidentially appointed board of directors. Such an arrangement

would have the advantage of making very clear the responsibility on the part of any operational department to seek the guidance and counsel of the committee on policy questions. It would have had the advantage of unifying both the advisory and operational functions. Included within this option would be the requirement that the director of the operational element also serve as the executive director of the committee.

- b. Such a committee could be organized within the White House with overall management responsibility and serving as the focal point to receive reports to the President and through which the President could make his wishes known to any of the Federal agencies on any specific matters. This alternative would present a clear identification with the President and at the same time serve to promote a unity in reporting, planning and management. This role was assumed by the Office of Management and Budget several months into the project.

The President's Advisory Committee on Refugees was not well positioned and as a consequence the advice and counsel of the Advisory Committee was not sought on a regular basis.

The inability of the Committee to make more significant contributions to the various programs and policies stemmed from the fact that there were no clear procedures by which the Advisory Committee's advice should have been sought. Nor were there any methods by which this advice could have been authoritatively presented.

An informal communication process was developed so that suggestions from the Advisory Committee were communicated by memoranda and interstaff arrangements with the Interagency Task Force. The Committee believes a formal channel of communications would have enhanced its effectiveness. There was no responsibility on the

part of the Interagency Task Force or of any Federal or voluntary agency to act in accordance with Committee advice.

It has been urged that the Interagency Task Force should have dealt with operational matters dealing with refugee resettlement while the Advisory Committee should have dealt with non-operational questions of an advisory nature. In practice the problems and time limitations prevented such easily defined roles. A purely deliberative advisory role in such a rapidly changing program would have effectively denied any significant role to the Advisory Committee.

If the Advisory Committee were dealing with the development of policies that were to take effect at some time in the future, then such a deliberative, non-operation role, might have been feasible. However, in this case such a time lag was not available between policy considerations and implementation.

In summary, it would be fair to say that the lack of clearly defined organizational position diminished the potential impact of the Advisory Committee on the refugee resettlement effort.

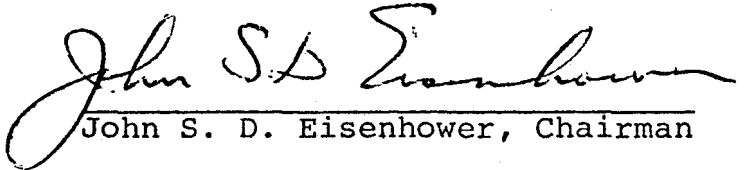
Throughout its deliberations, the Advisory Committee has consistently sought to offer advice that would aid in maintaining the cultural identities of the Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees in the American society. The influx of this relatively small number of people into our society has had no adverse effects on the current economic situation. Nor have most of the fears some Americans voiced at the original news of the refugee resettlement become realities. Rather, the entire effort has brought about a sense of community spirit, fellowship and selflessness on the part of Americans. Individuals and groups alike have assisted in the resettlement process. Major organizations that were contacted by the Committee were also very responsive. (see Annex L)

The Advisory Committee realizes that resettlement will not be accomplished until all refugees are able to function independently of their sponsors. This process

will be longer in coming than the initial placement but hopefully the path that the refugees have chosen will ensure their opportunity to fully participate in American life.

The refugees are faced with the challenging problems of functioning within a different culture. It has been the goal of the Advisory Committee to help ensure that this new culture is not a hostile one. But, this adjustment has been and will continue to be one in which America, with its long tradition of acceptance of refugees and immigrants, can be justly proud.

For the Committee

  
John S. D. Eisenhower, Chairman

ANNEX A

EXHIBITS

Staff of the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees

Abstracts of Committee Meetings

Fort Chaffee Visit, May 20, 1975

May 23, 1975

June 3, 1975

June 25, 1975

July 23, 1975

December 17, 1975

PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES

STAFF

ROGER D. SEMERAD, Executive Director  
Domestic Council  
White House

WALTER V. KALLAUR, Deputy Director  
Federal Disaster Assistance Administration  
Department of Housing and Urban Development

JAMES J. DELANEY II, Deputy Director  
Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Department of Defense

NOEL C. KOCH, Special Consultant  
Volunteer

FRANK W. DANIEL, Associate Director  
Department of Treasury

LINDA S. SMITH, Staff Assistant  
Department of Interior

CAROLYN AKIN, Administrative Assistant  
Veterans Affairs  
White House

MARIE DENE, Secretary  
United States Air Force  
Department of Defense

MAUDE A. BOWIE, Secretary  
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare

JEAN RICE, Secretary  
Federal Energy Administration

NINA GUTHRIE, Secretary  
Volunteer

D. DAVID MORIN  
White House Summer Intern - 1975

SARAH MASON  
White House Summer Intern - 1975

Abstracts of Committee Meetings

Fort Chaffee Visit, May 20, 1975

May 23, 1975

June 3, 1975

June 25, 1975

July 23, 1975

December 17, 1975



EISENHOWER REPORT TO PRESIDENT ON COMMITTEE VISIT  
TO FORT CHAFFEE

MAY 20, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 21, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT  
FROM: JOHN EISENHOWER  
SUBJECT: Presidential Advisory Committee  
on Refugees Visit to Fort Chaffee,  
Arkansas, May 20, 1975

The Advisory Council visited Fort Chaffee, Arkansas on Tuesday, May 20, 1975 to observe firsthand the accommodations and processing system established at Fort Chaffee for approximately 24,000 Vietnamese refugees. The Committee was accompanied by Ambassador Dean Brown and representatives of the Interagency Task Force who have provided the Committee extensive briefings on the current refugee relocation activities.

The Committee was impressed by the close cooperation between the U.S. Army and the Interagency Task Force officials providing the management and administrative support to this effort. The voluntary assistance of the surrounding Arkansas community was very much in evidence and certainly represented the best of American hospitality.

The Refugee resettlement of our Center at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, has three major tasks:

A. To receive the Vietnamese refugees and to complete the processing which will enable them to be authorized for resettlement;

B. To run a small city of 24,000 individuals; and

C. To facilitate the careful placement of 24,000 refugees throughout the United States. Currently 25,814 refugees have arrived and had initial processing. 18,500 have completed processing with approximately 2,500 having been released to bona fide sponsors. Commitments for over 6,000 placements have already been made.

The Advisory Committee observed refugees at the various administrative steps including: preliminary processing, comprehensive medical evaluation, immigration and naturalization screening, social security registration, Social Rehabilitation Services, final processing from the Immigration and Naturalization Service including security clearance and the departure services provided by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. These administrative activities appear to be proceeding in an efficient, well-organized manner with initial security clearance delays now being diminished as the computerized refugee records are becoming more available. The participating federal agencies are attending to their areas of responsibility in a most cooperative and outstanding fashion.

Through the cooperation of the military and civilian organizations the administration of this "City" encompasses all the usual logistical requirements and problems of

community management. To facilitate a local government each of the 236 barracks groups has elected a representative to a Council which meets nightly. They have elected a Vietnamese "Mayor" who meets in council each evening and have formed a subcommittee structure which works closely with the voluntary agencies in providing the various services to the refugee population. For example, the education committee has 16 buildings set aside for school. Presently over 234 classes being conducted each day enrolling 7,000 children. The school system is being run by the Southern Baptist Conference and includes the Vietnamese and the civilian teachers and ranks as the 12th largest school system in the State of Arkansas.

A Vietnamese newspaper is being prepared and circulated daily with the help of the military Public Affairs unit.

There is a 15 minute daily broadcast in the Vietnamese language which informs them of news of the world as well as notice of particular matters of immediate importance to them.

It is interesting to note that there has been no major crime problem with only a few misdemeanors requiring action.

The placement function is the primary responsibility of 10 major American voluntary agencies which historically

have facilitated the resettlement of millions of displaced persons. These voluntary agencies are under preliminary contract with the Federal Government to effect these placements in a responsible and compassionate way. Their dedication and expertise is impressive and they stress that the primary criteria for placement in an American community is the impact on that community, the individual sponsor's capability and understanding of the obligations which they are incurring, the availability of jobs for those refugees requiring work and of course the health and welfare of the refugees. It is interesting to note that the Department of Labor Employment Service will have ten specialists working with the voluntary agencies to avoid placement of these individuals in communities with extraordinarily high unemployment rates or with no probable utilization of the refugees' skills. Careful screening of sponsors through a network of community volunteer agencies is the critical activity. Each voluntary agency has a social service structure which attends to all the needs and problems of the individual refugee or family unit. It was recommended that the Advisory Committee could provide invaluable assistance in providing the civic clubs throughout the United States with concrete instructions and procedures for sponsorship and identify the local

participating voluntary agencies for channeling the legitimate requests for sponsorship through the organizational network to the respective relocation centers. It is important to continuously re-emphasize that resettlement is primarily and most appropriately a local function.

We must make every possible effort in avoiding any prolonged encampment of the refugees which will further delay their assimilation into the American community.

Those refugees who wish to return to Vietnam are coming forward as they are assured that that is possible and will be handled compassionately. In the approximate 100 cases Fort Chaffee the refugees are predominantly men wishing to search for or rejoin their families who could not escape with them.

Our conclusion after reviewing the refugee resettlement center at Fort Chaffee would indicate that the proper mechanisms have been set in motion by both federal agencies and the private sector which address the special needs of the refugees and the concerns of the communities receiving them. Within very rigid time constraints the refugees' personal welfare is being well attended to and their natural anxieties are being abated as they learn that we do have a place for them and that the system for effecting their

ultimate move into the community is working in their best long term interest.

Under your leadership, the efforts of this Committee, the Interagency Task Force and the voluntary agencies; continued education of the American community will help disspell most of the public misconceptions and apprehensions regarding acceptance of refugees in our society. We will be developing in the days to come ways to better facilitate the work of the voluntary agencies, civic groups, and government agencies which minimize any negative aspects of this entire Vietnamese refugee resettlement effort. We will also be addressing some of the longer term problems and determining countermeasures to them.

## COMMITTEE MEETING #1

Friday, May 23, 1975

Dr. Theodore C. Marrs, Special Assistant to the President, opened the first Committee meeting by discussing the distinct phases of refugee processing procedures in addition to providing the members with a statistical update. He made special mention of the President's appreciation of the Committee members' promptness in accepting their new responsibilities.

Committee members were sworn in at this time.

Chairman Eisenhower discussed the future meeting schedule and then opened a discussion about a draft report to be sent to the President on the Committee's trip to Fort Chaffee the previous day. He requested comments on the roles and objectives of the Committee. The concensus seemed to be a need for guidelines when talking to the public about the refugee resettlement program in addition to a need for detailed information on the responsibilities of a sponsor. These comments were useful in identifying the role the Committee should assume in the overall refugee program. Chairman Eisenhower summed them up as follows: To inform the President of things that come to the Committee's attention and to stress public relations, public knowledge and public understanding with emphasis on resettlement.

The Committee members placed particular emphasis on the proper maintenance of communication with the Voluntary Agencies. The efforts of the Voluntary Agencies were commended and it was stressed that they should be invited to participate actively in each Committee meeting.

Meeting was adjourned and next one scheduled for June 3, 1975.

## COMMITTEE MEETING #2

Tuesday, June 3, 1975

Committee members and their alternates were present. Dr. Theodore C. Marrs, Special Assistant to the President, and Julia V. Taft, Acting Director of the Interagency Task Force, were present as guests. Also present were representatives of the Voluntary Agencies (VOLAGS).

Chairman Eisenhower, in his opening remarks, reiterated the role and mission of the Committee, stressing the importance of working closely with the VOLAGS.

Mrs. Taft reported on the activities of the Interagency Task Force and reviewed the major problem areas. After quoting weekly statistics and explaining the computer data system, Mrs. Taft stressed the need to both generate widespread interest in the resettlement program and to increase the number of sponsorship offers. She discussed the need to bridge the cultural gap and made reference to some of the operation materials available now and in the future for this purpose for both the refugees and their sponsors.

Mr. John E. McCarthy of the U.S. Catholic Conference, Acting Chairman of the Committee on Refugees and Migrants for the American Council of Voluntary Agencies, presented a report on the activities of the VOLAGS. He expressed confidence that the VOLAGS will be able to successfully accomplish the job of effective resettlement through a sponsorship effort. He introduced each VOLAG representative, to give a brief report on the activities of his particular organization.

Dr. Marrs raised the issue of the lack of information from the refugees themselves in the resettlement program. He suggested that a volunteer group, comprised of appropriate Vietnamese and Cambodian representatives, be formed.

Committee member, Ashby Boyle, offered his services in coordinating a national youth project to enlist the support of young people in the resettlement process.



The major concern of the meeting was sponsorship and employment. Chairman Eisenhower strongly urged each Committee member to view his role as that of a catalyst in encouraging sponsorship nationwide.

The meeting was adjourned and the next one scheduled for June 25, 1975.

### COMMITTEE MEETING #3

Wednesday, June 25, 1975

Committee members and their alternates were present in addition to four representatives of the Vietnamese/Cambodian Volunteer Group.

In his opening remarks, Chairman Eisenhower provided all attendees with a brief report on the status of refugee resettlement. He voiced concern over the lack of sponsors and felt this necessitated increased publicity. He also felt that more emphasis should be placed on group sponsorship to alleviate some of the strains placed on individual sponsors. He requested clarification of new regulations concerning medicaid and welfare payments to refugees.

There were numerous questions and various requests for clarification. Mr. Kelly, Associate Director for Refugee Resettlement, provided this pertinent information according to recent DHEW policy statements. It was mentioned that the major health organizations were examining methods to sponsor physicians, dentists and various health professions. Of particular note was the cooperation of the American Nurses Association who arranged sponsorship for those Vietnamese student nurses in this country.

Committee member, Ashby Boyle, explained the goals of Project FRIENDSHIP, our efforts to coordinate the major national youth organizations in promoting programs of awareness and direct assistance to young refugees. The Committee unanimously approved the project.

Mr. Leo Perlis of the AFL/CIO reported on a Labor/Management Meeting which took place June 24, 1975. The unanimous recommendations resulting from the meeting was that management and unions work jointly to make available jobs for the refugees. He explained plans for the Chamber of Commerce to send a letter to cities with low unemployment to encourage a similar labor/management meeting at local levels in order to find the best manner to help refugees.

Chairman Eisenhower complimented Governor Evans of the State of Washington on the State's accomplishments as a VOLAG. Governor Evans stressed that the program was not intended to replace the efforts of the VOLAGS, rather it was suited specifically to what Washington as a State could do within its governmental structure. After describing in detail his State's program and providing background material, we agreed to send a letter to all Governors informing them of the actions of the State of Washington.

The first meeting of the Vietnamese/Cambodian Volunteer Group was explained and four representatives of the group gave short presentations. These members voiced concern over the policy on refugee enlistment in the United States Armed Forces, lack of educational information and opportunities, lack of standardized information and assistance, Medicaid and insurance and need for additional English lessons and textbooks to aid in this learning process.

The meeting was adjourned and the next one scheduled for July 23rd.

## COMMITTEE MEETING #4

Wednesday, July 23, 1975

Committee members, their alternates, Vietnamese/Cambodian Volunteer Group representatives and staff members were present.

Chairman Eisenhower noted that the responsibility of the Task Force's operation had been transferred from the State Department to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and that Mrs. Taft had been appointed permanent Director of the Task Force. He explained that funding in the amount of \$225,000 for a public information campaign to boost sponsorship had been blocked by the Task Force.

For reasons of convenience and expenses involved, the Chairman did not endorse the suggestion to hold the September meeting at a refugee camp. He did suggest, however, that a vote be taken at that time to determine whether or not to terminate the activities of the Committee at a specific time this year once the resettlement efforts have been completed. Mr. Semerad noted that if the Committee has done an effective job by the projected termination date, he saw no reason to continue operations.

Dr. Marrs conveyed a brief message of appreciation from the President to Chairman Eisenhower and Mrs. Taft. Mrs. Taft commended the Committee members and the VOLAGS for their contribution and provided a statistical update of the total resettlement program. She discussed recent efforts to expand sponsorship, including state and local governments, Federal regional councils and the military sponsorship program. She felt that the public media campaign, proposed by the Committee, would have resulted in increased single sponsorships. She announced the scheduling of ten regional conferences to coordinate the activities of voluntary agencies, state and local officials and community leaders and workers.

Mr. John McManus, of the AFL/CIO, announced that labor leaders from nine states have been invited to visit Indiantown Gap to discuss initiation of sponsorship programs. He informed the attendees that both the AFL/CIO and the Chamber of Commerce have urged community groups and members of organized labor to participate in relocation activities.

Four representatives of the Vietnamese/Cambodian Volunteer Group explained the recommendations resulting from their last meeting. The recommendations were: establishing cultural centers, setting up a national toll-free number for refugee counseling and guidance on a non-profit basis and setting up a program whereby resettled refugees return to the camps to talk informally with their fellow refugees to advise them of what to expect once they are resettled. The Committee voted unanimously to endorse the national toll-free telephone number and the establishment of cultural centers in addition to endorsing the continuation of the group and the authorization of such staff assistance as required and payment of related travel.

Mr. Semerad suggested the possibility of the Committee and its staff playing somewhat of an ombudsman role, where informal meetings could be arranged to discuss problem areas with various organizations. He also discussed the proposed interim report to the President.

It was announced that the National Association of Counties passed a resolution urging county governments to assist in the resettlement effort in any way possible. The difficulties of enlistment in the U.S. Armed Services was explained briefly. It was also reported that Civil Service restrictions dealing with the competitive service limit entry in the competitive service to American citizens.

It was noted that the national youth groups have demonstrated much interest in participating in Project FRIENDSHIP.

There was a concensus among VOLAG representatives that more information must be made available as to what assistance is available to a refugee. This widespread lack of information results in less sponsors coming forth because of lack of awareness of available governmental support.

COMMITTEE MEETING #5

Wednesday, December 17, 1975

Prior to the scheduled final Committee meeting, Committee members, their alternates and the staff attended a meeting with the President in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

The regular committee meeting in the New Executive Office Building proceeded as scheduled. Chairman Eisenhower asked Mrs. Julia Taft to provide the Committee members and all present with an overview of the refugee resettlement program. Mrs. Taft commended the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees and the American people for their help, particularly in this period of economic uncertainty. She discussed various problems still facing the refugees, but announced that the Task Force would be closing down its operations on December 31, 1975. Primary responsibility for the follow-up will be with Health, Education and Welfare, where the refugees and resettlement program will be monitored and coordinated with the voluntary agencies.

The meeting then turned to a discussion of the final report to the President, its contents, submission to the National Archives and its potential usefulness to future committees. The historical importance and the practical usage of this document were of principal concern throughout the discussion, and the Committee members requested additional time to review the draft report and submit comments.

Certificates of Appreciation, signed by the President, were presented to the staff by Chairman Eisenhower.

Archbishop Bernardin suggested that the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees endorse an early adjustment of the status of the refugees. Mrs. Taft supported this position and indicated that she planned to recommend that the Administration take action on this question. All members present were unanimously in favor of this recommendation.

Chairman Eisenhower thanked the members of the Committee and staff and adjourned the final meeting of the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees.

ANNEX B

Interim Report to The President



THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES

INTERIM REPORT

TO

THE PRESIDENT

August 15, 1975

## THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES

### INTERIM REPORT/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with the expressed wishes of President Ford and consistent with the Committee Charter, The President's Advisory Committee on Refugees has undertaken activities in a great number of areas. To meet the urgent problems of refugee employment, the Advisory Committee has organized meetings between representatives of various union and employer groups. A Vietnamese/Cambodian subcommittee has been organized under the sponsorship of the Advisory Committee to provide information on the reaction of refugees to the resettlement program. To help resolve problems encountered in refugee resettlement and encourage sponsorship, Committee members and staff have served in a liaison capacity with many national public and private groups. Where appropriate, the Committee referred problems or concerns to the Interagency Task Force for consideration. Additionally, the Committee has endorsed a program called Project FRIENDSHIP to encourage the participation of American youth groups in establishing early communication with refugee youth.

To insure a successful conclusion to the refugee resettlement effort, an aggressive public information program should be instituted, and additional organizations may need to become involved with the sponsorship program. More significant participation by state and local governments will be required in the areas of direct refugee sponsorship and in making available the various private and public resources that will facilitate resettlement and cultural adjustment.

It is the view of the Committee that while much has been accomplished, significant problems remain in the resettlement of the refugees from Indochina. In a period of declining national interest, the successful resettlement of the refugees still in camps and of those yet to arrive from other countries, may involve the identification and resolution of a different order of complex issues. The expedient measures adopted to place the first groups of refugees may well be inadequate to complete the entire resettlement program on a timely basis.

# THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES

## INTERIM REPORT

The President's Advisory Committee on Refugees has met on six occasions. In addition to the organizational meeting of May 19 and the trip to Fort Chaffee on May 22, the President's Advisory Committee has met on May 23, June 3, June 25, and July 23. At these meetings members of the Advisory Committee have reported on their visits to the refugee resettlement camps in the United States and in Guam, and a great number of individuals and organizations have presented reports or suggestions dealing with the refugee resettlement program.

The following presents a comprehensive summary of the activities, program reviews, and recommendations of The President's Advisory Committee on Refugees:

### A. Performance of the Department of Defense

The Advisory Committee wishes to commend the Department of Defense for its excellent work in arranging for the reception, care, and movement of the refugees from the Pacific to the United States. Members of the Advisory Committee who have visited the refugee camps in the United States have reported very favorably on the efforts of the military in providing for the physical needs of the refugees. The efforts of the Department of Defense which are continuing to this day, reflect great credit upon the military establishment and clearly deserve special recognition.

### B. Refugee Sponsorship

#### 1. Public Information

The Advisory Committee discussed and endorsed a proposal to take a role in explaining the requirements for sponsorship, the need for additional sponsors, and other such public information activities. The Committee



believed that the public information function was a most appropriate activity for the Committee, particularly since several of the members of the Advisory Committee were national figures, and that an appeal by such public figures would be very effective.

Although this program of public information was to be conducted in coordination with the Interagency Task Force, it did not meet with the approval of the Acting Director of the Interagency Task Force and was unilaterally rejected.

The Committee believes this decision to have been most unfortunate in that no substitute public information program has been implemented by the Interagency Task Force. It is the view of the Committee that even at this late date there exists a requirement for an aggressive public information program dealing with sponsorship.

2. Expanded Sponsorship Verification

The Advisory Committee urged that the Interagency Task Force explore an expanded role in refugee sponsorship by reputable national social organizations. This was done in the belief that additional agencies and organizations needed to become involved in sponsor identification and verification in order to place the maximum number of refugees within the shortest possible time.

This suggestion was not intended as a criticism of the voluntary agencies' efforts. The Committee recognized that the voluntary agencies were doing an excellent job within the limits of their resources, yet wished to encourage additional participation in this area in order to provide support to the voluntary agency efforts and to serve as a standby placement system in case of specific problems or requirements. A number of organizations, most notably the American Red Cross

and the United Way, indicated an interest in participating in such an effort, in addition to discharging their other responsibilities.

The United Way has become active in encouraging the participation of local organizations in the sponsorship program. The Red Cross offered to assume a larger role in the sponsorship effort. However, following some preliminary discussions between the representatives of the Task Force and the Red Cross, the Task Force rejected the Red Cross' offer. This was a particularly discouraging development in that the Red Cross was the major secular agency with strong local identification that could have served as the focus of an effort to expand the sponsorship program.

The wisdom of the decisions to neither initiate a program of greater information concerning sponsorship nor to broaden the sponsorship mechanism remains to be seen.

C. Liaison With Public Groups, National Organizations

The Advisory Committee has coordinated a number of meetings between the representatives of the National Alliance of Businessmen, the National Association of Manufacturers, the Chamber of Commerce, the AFL/CIO, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the United Auto Workers, the United Mine Workers Union, and other public groups concerned with employment. The purpose of these meetings has been to secure from these national organizations a widespread endorsement and support for employment opportunities for Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees. This type of support was considered essential to create opportunities for employment that otherwise might not have been available.

In response to these efforts the Chamber of Commerce has completed a mailing to all of its local chapters in cities with an unemployment rate of 9% or less, asking that these chapters contact the unions for the purpose of coordinating and developing employment opportunities.

Concurrently, Mr. Leo Perlis of the AFL/CIO, Mr. Meany's alternate, has sent out a letter to all AFL/CIO member organizations advising them of the coordination role to be assumed by the Chamber of Commerce and requesting that all AFL/CIO affiliates cooperate in the employment search.

D. Voluntary Agencies

It should be noted that the voluntary agencies who have performed the bulk of the placement work, have been the targets of much criticism.

The isolated and broadly publicized cases of sponsorship breakdowns, problems or abuses should be considered within the context of the thousands of placements that have been made, and with the understanding that these voluntary agencies have important programs other than the resettlement of refugees from Indochina. It is to the great credit of the voluntary agencies that the instances of breakdowns and problems have been few in number.

The principal concern expressed by the Advisory Committee in regard to the efforts of the voluntary agencies is that it may be to the detriment of the government resettlement program to rely almost exclusively on these voluntary agencies.

E. Liaison Activities

The Advisory Committee has also acted in a liaison capacity with various public groups, professional organizations, ethnic groups and ad hoc committees who offered their services in the refugee resettlement program but were not able to identify or to assume a role within the formal governmental mechanism of the Interagency Task Force. The Committee staff has also been able to discourage less capable organizations and charlatans attracted to this program for questionable reasons.

F. Vietnamese/Cambodian Refugee Advisory Group

One of the initial criticisms of The President's Advisory Committee on Refugees was the absence

therein of Vietnamese and Cambodians. Recognizing the validity of this criticism and wishing to draw information from the groups most clearly concerned with the refugee resettlement program, the Committee has established an advisory group of Vietnamese and Cambodian nationals for the purpose of providing the Advisory Committee information and recommendations on the resettlement program. The Advisory Group is composed equally of refugees who have been processed through the resettlement program and of Vietnamese and Cambodians who have resided in the United States over a period of years.

The deliberations and recommendations of the Vietnamese/Cambodian Refugee Advisory Group have been particularly useful to the Committee in that they have provided a source of immediate information on the refugee reaction to the government's resettlement program. In some areas the comments of the Advisory Group have been in praise of the efforts of the government, the military and the voluntary agencies. In other cases, there have been rather strong, but constructive, criticisms. Very briefly, the major subjects discussed by the Advisory Group and the recommendations are outlined here.

1. Follow-up Assistance by the Voluntary Agencies

The Advisory Group pointed out that in some cases a family that had been placed with a sponsor was not provided with counseling or follow-up assistance by the voluntary agency. Accordingly, minor maladjustments or problems have resulted in a breakdown of the sponsorship effort. The Refugee Advisory Group recommended that the voluntary agencies be encouraged to provide follow-up assistance in all cases rather than only in those cases where an actual breakdown or serious sponsor-refugee problem has developed.

2. Standardized Assistance From Voluntary Agencies

The Refugee Advisory Group was particularly critical of the lack of uniformity in the

types of assistance offered by the various voluntary agencies. The most immediate and most readily identifiable lack of uniformity was in the amounts of pocket money made available to the refugee upon departure and the financial assistance during the period following placement. The Advisory Group recommended that every effort be made to standardize the assistance to preclude the problems that arise from such variations.

3. Service in the Armed Forces

The Advisory Group noted that a great number of young unmarried males were present in the camps. This group of refugees has been identified by the voluntary agencies as one of the groups that will pose very difficult placement problems. Generally these men were members of the armed forces of Vietnam and Cambodia and escaped alone and not as members of any family group.

Since these individuals will be very difficult to place in a conventional sponsorship arrangement, the voluntary agencies have suggested that an alternative to sponsorship for these individuals could be service in the U.S. Armed Forces. This alternative could only be possible if the various legal barriers to military service by parolees could be waived and appropriate legislation passed. The Task Force has requested the Department of Defense to prepare legislation to permit the enlistment of refugees in the Armed Forces.

This question has been discussed with representatives of the Department of Defense and it would seem that since each branch of the Armed Forces is in a reduction posture both in enlisted and officer ranks, service in the Armed Forces for the refugees under any exemption category is unlikely in the near future.



4. Language and Skill Training for Professionals

The Advisory Group noted that remedial language training would be necessary for many individuals in order for these individuals to resume their professional careers in the United States. Committee staff reviewed this question and determined that programs of training and language education were available to all Americans and that any expanded opportunities for Indochinese refugees must necessarily be at the expense of others who were also attempting to establish their professional credentials in the private sector.

5. Return Visits to Camps

The Advisory Group noted that an increasing number of refugees were apprehensive about leaving the apparent security of the refugee camps and attempting to establish themselves in the American society. These fears were due in part to misinformation and rumors that refugees had been maltreated upon departing the camps. To reassure the refugees still in camps, it was decided to endorse a program by which selected refugees who had been processed through the resettlement camps and had been placed with a sponsor, could return to the camps to explain what had happened in the period of time since they had left camp. It was felt that former refugees who had been processed through the resettlement camps would be the most credible spokesmen on this subject.

6. Toll-Free Telephone Information for the Refugees

It was recommended that the toll-free information services be expanded to include Vietnamese

and Cambodian operators, who would be able to answer questions from refugees throughout the country. This particular resource would be very valuable since it would provide an authoritative source of information available both to sponsors and refugees and might preclude a significant number of problems.

#### 7. Cultural Centers

The Committee endorsed a proposal by the Refugee Advisory Group to encourage the establishment of cultural centers in areas with major concentrations of refugees.

The President's Advisory Committee has found the Advisory Group to be particularly useful in determining the views and reactions of Vietnamese and Cambodians involved in the resettlement effort.

Information on the deliberations of the Advisory Group and any attendant endorsements by the President's Committee, have been transmitted to the Interagency Task Force. Of necessity, the evaluation of these proposals or suggestions and any subsequent implementation has been left to the Interagency Task Force.

#### G. Letters to Governors

On June 27, 1975, I wrote to all of the Governors encouraging them to follow the example of the State of Washington, and offering whatever assistance necessary in order to permit state governments to effect this form of sponsorship. I am disappointed to report that only a few Governors have expressed an interest in establishing sponsorship programs similar to that of Governor Evans of Washington.

#### H. Project FRIENDSHIP

Committee Member, Ashby Boyle, proposed, and the Advisory Committee endorsed, a program to establish direct contact between American youth groups and

the refugee youth. Mr. Boyle has written to various youth groups and national organizations soliciting their support and asking that these youth groups make a concerted effort to identify refugee youth in their communities and make every effort to include these refugees in the various activities of the clubs or groups. The response from the various national organizations has been very encouraging.

#### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS


As of the date of this report, over half of the refugees who were evacuated from Southeast Asia have been resettled. In general, those who have been resettled were relatives or friends of American citizens, or possessed language or other skills and could be readily integrated into American society. When compared with those who have already been resettled, the refugees remaining in camps are at a significant disadvantage. Thus, while much has been accomplished, much more remains to be done. It is far too early to offer congratulations or commendations.

With reference to potential problem areas, there is no assurance that difficulties will not develop for some of the refugees who have already been placed. The commitments of the voluntary agencies to continue placement efforts for refugees who might suffer an initial sponsorship breakdown could significantly delay the departure of those refugees still in the camps. Thousands of refugees are in other countries and their status has not been decided. A great number will be admitted into the United States and these refugees will pose an additional burden on the existing placement program.

Accordingly, it would seem reasonable to expect that the placement of refugees will slow down to some extent and greater difficulty will be encountered in placing those refugees who are still in camps. In a period of declining national interest, the placement of these refugees will pose significant problems.

It would seem useful from both an administrative and public information standpoint to focus on the possible problems and orient the planning to a worst case approach, rather than project program completion as though few, if any, problems

will develop. The expedient measures adopted to place the first groups of refugees may well be inadequate to complete the entire resettlement program on a timely basis. Optimistic predictions as to the rapidity with which this resettlement can be accomplished can only damage the credibility of the resettlement effort and reflect unfavorably upon the praiseworthy efforts of your administration.

  
John S. D. Eisenhower, Chairman

ANNEX C

John Eisenhower's letter to Governors

## EISENHOWER LETTER TO GOVERNORS

### THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20506

June 27, 1975

AMBASSADOR JOHN EISENHOWER  
CHAIRMAN

MAYOR JOSEPH ALIOTO

ARCHBISHOP JOSEPH BERNARDIN

MR. ASHPY BOYLE

DR. W. STERLING CARY

MR. JOHN DENVER

MRS. GATTANA ENDERS

GOVERNOR DANIEL EVANS

MAYOR MAURICE FERRE

MR. MANDER GEORGE

MR. EDGAR KAISER

MR. PHILIP KLUTENICK

MR. WILLIAM J. KUHFUSS

MR. GEORGE MEANY

MR. CLARENCE REED

DR. MALCOLM TODD

ELDER A. THEODORE TUTTLE

MR. ROGER D. SENERAD  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
(202) 456-7034

Dear Governor Carey:

On May 19, 1975, President Ford appointed a seventeen member advisory committee to assist him in resettling the Indochina refugees. These families are presently located at military camps here and on Guam. Most have arrived with little more than the clothes on their backs.

The task of resettlement must not and need not be an occasion for prolonging the fear, uncertainty and despair which have clouded the lives of these people for so long. Their number is small, their needs are minimal. But if the job is to be done, it will depend upon the good will of all Americans, and the direct assistance of some.

In order to move these refugees out of the camps and into our national life, it will be necessary to obtain sponsors for them. Families, civic groups and institutions may all sponsor refugee families. The burden of sponsorship can be eased, however, if State and local agencies are committed to assist in this endeavor.

I am enclosing the details of the resettlement program undertaken by Governor Dan Evans of Washington. It is simple, comprehensive, easily implemented, and effective. Obviously, New York would have to tailor a plan to fit its own unique administrative structure and its resources.

If you wish, Governor Evans' Office of Emergency Services is prepared to assist your designated representative in any way you may require. Their number is (206) 753-5255.

I am also enclosing a policy instruction of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, which details Federal assistance available to State and other agencies engaged in refugee resettlement. Included with this policy instruction is information pertaining to the availability of medical assistance for the refugees.

I am confident that the President can count on you and the people of New York for your help in the resettlement effort.

Sincerely,

John S. D. Eisenhower  
Chairman  
President's Advisory Committee  
on Refugees

Honorable Hugh L. Carey  
Governor of New York  
Albany, New York

Enclosures

Identical letter sent to the following:

Governor George Wallace - Alabama  
Raul Castro - Arizona  
David Pryor - Arkansas  
Edmund G. Brown, Jr. - California  
Richard D. Lamm - Colorado  
Ella T. Grasso - Connecticut  
Sherman W. Tribbitt - Delaware  
Reubin Askew - Florida  
George Busbee - Georgia  
George R. Ariyoshi - Hawaii  
Cecil D. Andrus - Idaho  
David Walker - Illinois  
Otis R. Bowen - Indiana  
Robert D. Ray - Iowa  
Robert F. Bennett - Kansas  
Julian Carroll - Kentucky  
Edwin W. Edwards - Louisiana  
James B. Longley - Maine  
Marvin Mandel - Maryland  
Michael S. Dukakis - Massachusetts  
William G. Milliken - Michigan  
Wendell R. Anderson - Minnesota  
William L. Waller - Mississippi  
Christopher S. Bond - Missouri  
Thomas L. Judge - Montana  
J. James Exon - Nebraska  
Mike O'Callaghan - Nevada  
Meldrim Thompson, Jr. - New Hampshire  
Brendon T. Byrne - New Jersey  
Jerry Apodaca - New Mexico  
James E. Holshouser, Jr. - North Carolina  
Arthur A. Link - North Dakota  
James A. Rhodes - Ohio  
David Boren - Oklahoma  
Robert W. Straub - Oregon  
Milton J. Shapp - Pennsylvania  
Philip W. Noel - Rhode Island  
James B. Edwards - South Carolina  
Richard F. Kneip - South Dakota  
Ray Blanton - Tennessee  
Dolph Eriscoe, Jr. - Texas  
Calvin L. Rampton - Utah  
Thomas P. Salmon - Vermont  
Mills E. Godwin - Virginia  
Arch A. Moore, Jr. - West Virginia  
Patrick J. Lucey - Wisconsin  
Ed. C. Herschler - Wyoming





ANNEX D

State of Washington  
Vietnamese Refugee Resettlement Program

STATE OF WASHINGTON -- REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM



STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OLYMPIA

DANIEL J. EVANS  
GOVERNOR

VIETNAMESE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM

In late April, Governor Daniel Evans was contacted by the United States State Department about the possible relocation of up to 500 Vietnamese refugees in the State of Washington. The refugees were among several thousand being temporarily housed at Camp Pendleton, California. The Governor had previously indicated the state's willingness to participate in the resettlement effort and, at a scheduled news briefing on May 8, 1975, announced his intention to bring the refugees gradually into the State of Washington.

Before making the formal public announcement, Governor Evans appointed Tom Pryor, Director of the State Department of Emergency Services, overall coordinator of the newly created Washington State Vietnamese Refugee Resettlement Project. A Vietnamese Assistance Center was immediately established in the Camp Murray National Guard Armory near Tacoma, Washington. Temporary living units for the refugees were made available at the National Guard facility by refurbishing 10 cottages, designed to house a maximum of 100 refugees, on the 300-acre site. Within days after the Governor's announcement to the people of the State of Washington, the Vietnamese Assistance Center was prepared to house the first group of refugees from Camp Pendleton.

Three Washington State agencies became directly involved in the re-

the responsibility for maintaining and coordinating activities at the Vietnamese Assistance Center and the cluster of cottages that became the refugee camp. The Department of Social and Health Services was designated to recruit, screen and assign American sponsors to each refugee family, and DSHS personnel were temporarily assigned to the center to determine the specific social and economic needs of each refugee family as well. The Department of Employment Security was called upon to interview the head of each refugee household for complete employment history evaluation and possible job placement once housing was secured.

L. Dean Brown, director of the President's Indochina Interagency Task Force, informed the Governor by telegram that all costs to the state for resettlement, to include health, income maintenance and social services, would be reimbursed by the federal government.

#### Washington State Department of Emergency Services

Once the formal announcement of refugee resettlement was made by the Governor, Pryor detached a staff representative from his office and a representative from the Department of Social and Health Services to Camp Pendleton to assist in the processing of the 500 refugees that would gradually be arriving in the state. An invitation was issued by the state's representatives to refugees quartered in one of the eight "tent cities" established at Camp Pendleton. Within two hours well over 1,000 refugees applied for permanent placement in Washington State. The selection of 500 of the 1,000 applicants was made at random and transportation plans were made to bring them to the state in groups of 100.

Personnel from Emergency Services, working in cooperation with the Office of the Governor, the Salvation Army, Washington National Guard, American Red Cross and other community agencies, supply the refugees temporarily housed at Camp Murray with food, laundry facilities, recreation equipment, transportation, security, staff support, medical assistance and general resettlement counseling.

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

Each Vietnamese family receives an American sponsoring family or organization before its departure from Camp Murray. Sponsors are being recruited to meet specific needs of adjustment for the Vietnamese as they settle permanently in the state. Social and Health Services personnel in public assistance offices were alerted to process inquiries for sponsorship from individuals and organizations (church, community and civic groups).

The types of sponsorships needed are as follows:

1. Those that provide complete support; i.e., subsistence, housing assistance and employment;
2. Moral support -- taking the role of a friend in helping to locate employment, housing and community resources;
3. Contributions of specific goods and/or services.

Refugees with insufficient incomes or resources to meet their needs can apply for direct assistance (financial, medical and related social services) in the Vietnamese Center at Camp Murray. Once the refugee family is placed with a sponsor, all records are transferred to the public assistance office nearest their new permanent home and

sponsor. Each office has also designated a caseworker to work with sponsors and refugee families throughout the resettlement process. In all cases it has been made very clear that a sponsor has no legal responsibility for the refugee. Sponsors may also designate a time frame during which sponsorship will be assumed. A significant majority of the refugees currently at the camp and those who are awaiting transfer from Camp Pendleton are skilled administrators, craftsmen, professionals and clerical support personnel. It is not anticipated that they will remain on assistance for an extended period of time.

Washington State Department of Employment Security

Refugees who were employed while in Vietnam are being thoroughly interviewed by Employment Security counselors assigned to the Assistance Center during the resettlement program. A complete history is developed for each refugee interviewed to determine past employment experience and specific job skills. Counselors at the center also assist refugees with professional backgrounds in compiling resumes and help them prepare for job interviews.

Minority employment organizations, such as the Asian Placement Service, and volunteers are soliciting employers for jobs. Employment Security counselors are making every effort to match refugee skills with existing job listings and encouraging industrial employers to make positions available to qualified refugees.

Employment Security staff representatives estimate that approximately 50 jobs will be needed to support the 500 refugees coming to the state.

Washington State Vietnamese Refugee Resettlement Progress

From May 20 to June 7 there have been 40 Vietnamese families (150 refugees) placed in communities across Washington State. As a general rule, a family is placed in close proximity to another Vietnamese family for comfort and security. The news media have been particularly cooperative in the recruitment of potential sponsors and employment for the refugees through public service announcements and news coverage.

!!!

UP DATE AS OF 6/19

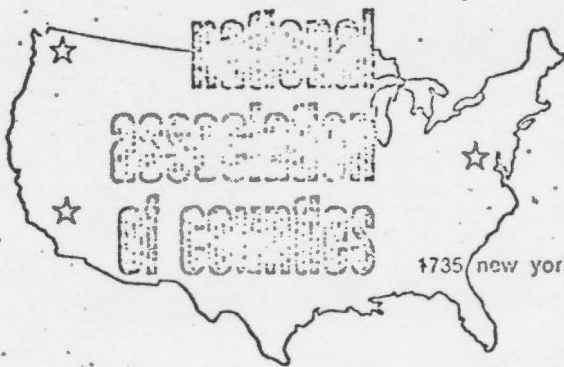
75 in camp  
338 placed w/ sponsors  
413 total arrivals

ANNEX E

Refugee Sponsorship Resolution

Adopted by

National Association of Counties



1735 new york avenue, n.w., washington, d.c. 20006

(202) 785-9577

REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP

RESOLUTION

ADOPTED BY

NACo MEMBERSHIP

June 25, 1975.  
Honolulu, Hawaii

The recent evacuation of large numbers of refugees from Indochina and their resettlement in the United States should be completed as rapidly as possible to minimize the disruption of their lives. County governments can assist in this effort by acting as sponsoring agencies for coordinating the placement of refugees through local voluntary community organizations.

Similarly, since county governments must bear a large share of the direct and indirect costs of refugee resettlement, they must be actively involved in any federal decisions respecting reimbursement.

Accordingly, the Health Steering Committee urges NACo to:

- (1) recommend that counties, on a voluntary basis, participate in the sponsorship of Indochina refugees, working through their local community organizations for their placement.
- (2) request that the federal government seek meaningful input from county officials, acting through NACo, into federal decisions on the determination of local costs and the method of reimbursement by the federal government for these costs.



ANNEX F

EXHIBITS

1. List of Attendees - Labor Management Meeting on the Resettlement and Employment of Indochinese Refugees.
2. Letter dated July 22, 1975, Leo Perlis, AFL/CIO.
3. Letter dated July 22, 1975, Richard L. Lesher, Chamber of Commerce.

MEETING AND CORRESPONDENCE ON LABOR-MANAGEMENT  
EFFORTS ON REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT

LABOR-MANAGEMENT MEETING  
ON THE RESETTLEMENT AND EMPLOYMENT OF  
INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

June 24, 1975

Dr. Theodore Marrs  
Special Assistant to the President

Leo Perlis  
Director  
Department of Community Services  
AFL-CIO

Donald J. Kroes  
Group Manager  
Human and Community Resources Group  
Chamber of Commerce

Thomas P. Walsh  
Associate Director  
Education and Manpower  
Chamber of Commerce

Major General John C. Condon  
President  
National Alliance of Businessmen

Forest I. Rettgers  
Senior Vice President  
Policy Program Division  
National Association of Manufacturers

Frank E. Fitzsimmons  
General President  
International Brotherhood  
of Teamsters

Walter J. Shea  
Administrative Assistant  
International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Stephen Schlossberg  
General Council  
United Auto Workers

John J. McManus  
Assistant Director  
Department of Community Services  
AFL-CIO

Charles Bradford  
Executive Director  
Human Resources Development  
Institute  
AFL-CIO

John R. Woodrum  
Administrative Assistant  
to the President  
United Mine Workers

Mr. William B. Seebeck  
Grace Co.

Roger D. Semerad  
Executive Director  
President's Advisory  
Committee on Refugees

James J. Delaney  
Deputy Director  
President's Advisory  
Committee on Refugees

July 22, 1975

Dear Sir and Brother:

Here is a copy of a letter from the U. S. Chamber of Commerce to their local organizations.

This letter was sent to communities with an unemployment rate of 9 percent and less.

At a recent meeting in the White House of labor and management representatives, the Chamber was asked to initiate this move, nationally and locally.

The reason is that the heart of the Vietnamese refugee resettlement program is jobs - and jobs are the responsibility of management.

We can help, of course. We hope, therefore, that you will participate in developing a community coalition to find jobs for the refugees. Lists of available jobs and skills will be matched so that resettlement efforts can be expedited.

You will be invited by the Chamber to attend a meeting for this purpose - and we hope that you and your representatives will attend.

I am asking our John McManus to follow through.

-With all good wishes,

Sincerely and fraternally,

  
Leo Perlis, Director  
Department of Community Services



LP:ma

Attachment

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



DR. RICHARD L. LESHER  
PRESIDENT

July 22, 1975

1615 H STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20062  
202/659-6207

x  
x  
x  
x  
x

Dear Mr. \_\_\_\_\_:

I am sure you will agree that success in finding employment for Vietnamese refugees depends on the support of the business community. This letter is to ask your leadership in working with your members and other organizations to help these refugees find their way in our society and economy.

Specifically, I would like to ask you to get in touch with local government officials, labor union leaders, and other business leaders to consider organizing an informal labor-management-government committee as a means of developing a cooperative approach to this problem now affecting many communities.

I make this request following a White House meeting sponsored by The President's Advisory Committee on Refugees. The meeting consisted of spokesmen for the National Association of Manufacturers, National Alliance of Businessmen, AFL-CIO, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, United Auto Workers, and the United Mine Workers. These organizations are urging their local leaders to cooperate with you in such an effort, if at all possible.

We are aware that many Americans cannot find suitable employment. The refugees will be seeking, for the main part, entry-level jobs or other positions which often go unfilled, or have high turnover rates. These positions are, therefore, frequently available, even in areas of rather high unemployment.

It may be helpful to understand the size of this task on a national basis. There were originally 131,000 persons to be resettled. Some are professional people, such as doctors and nurses, who are in demand and need no special help. About 5,000 will return to Vietnam. Some are expected to enlist in the U. S. military service. And over 60

percent of the refugees are women and children. This breakdown means, according to the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees, that only about 35,000 persons must have help in finding employment. This works out to about 10 jobs for each county though, of course, some counties will receive more families than others. Even so, it is expected that finding jobs will be a major problem primarily in areas of severe unemployment, and efforts are being made to locate families in more favorable areas.

I am enclosing material provided by President Ford's Inter-Agency Refugee Task Force, and hope that you will make this information available to your business leaders and leaders of other organizations. You will notice on pages 1 and 2 a list of the national voluntary agencies participating in this effort. These agencies are assuming primary responsibility for locating American families that will house Vietnamese families for the first few months. For additional information, you may want to call any of these national organizations, or their state or local chapter, or the toll-free number listed. You may also want to call your governor's office to learn which state government department is working with the voluntary agencies.

A question often asked is the status of Vietnamese with respect to affirmative action and other EEOC requirements. The Department of Labor has officially declared the Vietnamese as Oriental and, therefore, their employment may be in furtherance of an affirmative action program.

The AFL-CIO has asked its local councils to try to find employment for the refugees, but arrangements will have to be worked out on an individual basis by labor and management representatives. This can be one task of a labor-management-government committee.

Please let me know if there is more we can do to assist you from here. I will be interested in learning of your successes and problems.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Leshner

Enclosure

ANNEX G

EXHIBITS

1. Report of Vietnamese/Cambodian  
Volunteer Meeting in June 1975.
2. Report of Vietnamese/Cambodian  
Volunteer Meeting in July 1975.

REPORT OF VIETNAMESE/CAMBODIAN VOLUNTEER MEETING

JUNE 19, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE


WASHINGTON

June 24, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

CHAIRMAN EISENHOWER  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FROM:

ROGER D. SEMERAD 

SUBJECT:

REPORT OF THE VIETNAMESE/CAMBODIAN  
ADVISORY GROUP MEETING, JUNE 19, 1975

The purpose of the Vietnamese/Cambodian Advisory Group meeting was to acquaint the Committee with the observations and recommendations of a representative cross section of the Vietnamese and Cambodian population in the United States. Of the seventeen Vietnamese and Cambodian participants at the meeting, nine had been processed through the Stateside refugee camps; the others had either departed in advance of the mass evacuation or were long-term residents of the United States. Fifteen of the participants were Vietnamese and two were Cambodian.

The participants were fluent in English and would be characterized as members of the professional class. The group was concerned that the needs of the poorer and less well educated refugees must also be considered and suggested the broadening of the social base of the advisory group.

This report presents an abstract of the discussion by the Advisory Group of each particular problem or issue, followed by the solution recommended by the Advisory Group. Where appropriate, the recommendation also indicates Committee staff comments.

Copies of this report, minutes of the Advisory Group meeting, and any decisions or instruction of the Committee will be transmitted to the Interagency Task Force.

I. Refugee Processing/Camp Life

Discussion

The Vietnamese/Cambodian advisory group indicated an area in need of immediate attention concerned the initial phases of resettlement. There was general agreement that there was an overall lack of coordination and insufficient information available for



## II. Volunteer Agencies/Sponsorship

### Discussion

It was noted that numerous refugees who had sponsors were still in camps because of problems in security clearances, health checks, etc. In some cases the sponsorship offers have been pending for weeks.

The participants were concerned about the lack of uniformity in terms of the processing and procedural standards of the various volunteer agencies, the types of assistance afforded to the refugees, and the dollar amounts expended on behalf of the refugees.

Lack of follow-up by the volunteer agencies subsequent to placement was noted. This follow-up would involve additional work on behalf of the refugee and the sponsor that is not specifically requested by either the refugee or the sponsor. Knowledge of this lack of follow-up or "sponsor guarantee" has led to reluctance on the part of some refugees to accept sponsorship.

The question was asked: Could provisions be made for a pass-through of funds directly to the sponsor where there is direct sponsorship and no voluntary agency participation? Specifically, may the financial amount authorized to the VOLAG (\$500 per individual) be directly allocated to the refugee family and sponsor in those cases where there is no direct participation or intermediary sponsorship or support by the voluntary agencies?

### Advisory Group Recommendation

- That VOLAGS streamline their placement programs in order to avoid delays in those cases in which a sponsor has been identified.
- That the voluntary agencies be urged to standardize benefits in terms of what they offer the refugee families.
- That VOLAGS be encouraged to follow-up on all placements.
- That the requirements and duties of sponsorship be more clearly explained.

### Staff Comment

In the past, processing delays had been due in part to delays in securing security clearances. According to the IATF, security clearances are no longer a cause of delay. With reference to the pass-through of funds directly to the sponsor/refugee, a modified pass-through of funds is contemplated in the Red Cross sponsorship verification proposal.

### III. Education/Language/Vocational Training

#### Discussion

It was noted that the language training and orientation in camps has been done primarily by American volunteer teachers and that this instruction has not been sufficient. The language difficulties of the mass of refugees will not be significantly helped by these generally haphazard voluntary efforts.

The less educated refugees will be faced with the prospect of an uneasy resettlement unless they are better prepared.

#### Advisory Group Recommendations

- That a two- or three-month intensive language program be funded.
- That intensive, professionally-run, English language and cultural orientation classes be set up to provide:
  - a) language training for adults to build their confidence and knowledge for daily living,
  - b) technical language training for particular occupations, and
  - c) language training and other appropriate classes for children who will enter elementary or secondary schools in the fall.

Also, some special consideration need be given for home economics type training for mothers and other women in terms of educating them in pertinent American cultural standards.

- That some of the children be sent to summer camps so that they may associate with American children and more readily learn the language and American culture.
- That vocational orientation and training programs be set up in the camps to provide thorough preparation for resettlement of less educated and the unskilled.

### IV. Legal Status/Employment/Eligibility for Various Governmental Programs/Military Duty/Family Reunification

#### Discussion

There was considerable discussion as to the eligibility of parolees and permanent resident aliens for numerous governmental programs: business loans, housing loans, employment assistance, and other programs.

Since employment restrictions are in some cases applicable for parolees, but not for permanent resident aliens, can anything be done to accelerate the transition of the refugees to permanent resident aliens?

It was also noted that significant numbers of the refugees are unmarried males of military age. These men could face significant problems in receiving sponsorship and useful vocational training. Many refugees are concerned about the location and status of their relatives in other countries.

#### Advisory Group Recommendations

- That enlistment in armed forces be made available as an alternative to current sponsorship procedures.
- That representatives of the Office of Minority Business Enterprise, the Small Business Administration (HEW), Office of Education (HEW), Social Rehabilitation Service (HEW), Social Security (HEW), Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of Defense be invited to the next meeting to be available to answer questions to explain the assistance that is available to the refugees and that this information be distributed to both the camps and resettled refugees.
- That information be made available concerning those skill categories for which there is a demand in the United States.
- That information on the parole status on family members in third countries, as well as in Vietnam and Cambodia, be made available to the refugees in U.S. processing centers.

#### Staff Comment

The suggestion that military service be made available as an alternative to sponsorship is particularly noteworthy.

#### V. Other Items

##### A. Self-Help Programs/Communities

Would there be any governmental financial support available for any farming or fishing communities or any self-help programs that could be established to take care of large numbers of refugees?

##### B. Housing

In terms of housing and the availability of housing, considerable comments centered around the fact that the Federal and local governments hold title to numerous housing units. These units

6

are vacant, non-productive, and may be well utilized as temporary housing on a rent-free or some other basis by the refugees. This involves a short-term commitment with the understanding that the expenses and the costs of upgrading the housing would be borne by the sponsor or the refugee.

Staff Comment

Both questions are under review by the Committee staff and the Interagency Task Force.

REPORT OF VIETNAMESE/CAMBODIAN VOLUNTEER MEETING

JULY 17, 1975

THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

July 22, 1974

AMBASSADOR JOHN EISENHOWER  
CHAIRMAN

MAYOR JOSEPH ALIOTO

ARCHBISHOP JOSEPH BERNARDIN

MR. ASHBY BOYLE

DR. W. STERLING CARY

MR. JOHN DENVER

MPS. GAETANA ENDERS

GOVERNOR DANIEL EVANS

MAYOR MAURICE FERRE

MR. MINOR GEORGE

MR. EDGAR KAISER

MR. PHILIP KLUTZNICK

MR. WILLIAM J. KUHFUES

MR. GEORGE MEANY

MR. CLARKE REED

DR. MALCOLM TODD

ELDER A. THEODORE TUTTLE

MR. ROGER D. SEMERAD  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
(202) 456-7034

MEMORANDUM FOR:

CHAIRMAN JOHN EISENHOWER  
MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

FROM:

ROGER D. SEMERAD *RDS*

SUBJECT:

REPORT OF THE CAMBODIAN/  
VIETNAMESE ADVISORY GROUP  
MEETING, JULY 17, 1975

The second meeting of the Vietnamese/Cambodian Advisory Group focused on the problems of the refugees after departure from camp. Cultural adjustment, social problems, employment problems and eligibility for various Federal assistance programs were discussed. Representatives of various Federal Agencies explained and discussed the scope and eligibility of those governmental programs pertinent to the resettlement effort.

I. PROBLEMS OF TRANSITION FROM CAMP LIFE

The Vietnamese and Cambodian Advisory Group identified the lack of information dealing with what the refugees may expect to encounter upon release from a camp as a particularly significant problem. The Advisory Group contended that refugees are particularly vulnerable to rumors and misinformation since no authoritative source of information has been identified for the refugees. Additionally, problems of information are of greater significance for those refugees who are not resettled in areas containing concentrations of refugees.

A. The Vietnamese and Cambodian Advisory Committee recommended that a partial solution to the problems of isolation, misinformation, and cultural adjustment could be made if the

following three courses of action were endorsed by the Government:

1. Vietnamese and Cambodian Telephone Information Hot Line. The Vietnamese/Cambodian Advisory Group recommended that a toll-free telephone information number be established with Vietnamese and Cambodian operators available to provide general information concerning Government programs, other types of assistance, and contact with the voluntary agencies. If such a telephone number were available then any refugee who was stranded or found themselves in some manner of trouble would have an immediate resource to contact in order to find out what should be done, and possibly preclude these categories of problems or abuses which arise from linguistic difficulties.
2. Visits to the Camps. The Vietnamese/Cambodian Advisory Group recommended that the Federal Government both encourage and take an active role in sponsoring visits to the camps by refugees who have been resettled. The fears and apprehensions of those refugees still in camp may be lessened by contact with others who have gone through the resettlement system, have been well treated, have found employment, and have otherwise become established.
3. Cultural Centers. The Vietnamese/Cambodian Advisory Group recommended that the Federal Government encourage the establishment of cultural and information centers in areas with significant concentrations of refugees. (These centers could serve as a focal point for the exchange of ideas and information.) It is believed that contact with other refugees should be encouraged to minimize the social and cultural isolation common to any abrupt change in life.

B. At the conclusion of the session, the Vietnamese and Cambodian Advisory Group selected three representatives to represent the Advisory Group at this meeting of the President's Advisory Committee. The individuals selected were: Dr. Tran Dinh De, Miss Le Thi Ahn, and Mrs. Pan Sothi.

## II. FEDERAL AGENCY PARTICIPATION.

Representatives of eleven Federal Agencies or Administrations made presentations to the Vietnamese/Cambodian Advisory Group concerning the assistance programs available to resident aliens and parolees. The Advisory Group was particularly interested in a number of the programs and indicated that the presentations of the Federal Agency representatives were very helpful in understanding what forms of assistance could be available to the refugees. The fact-sheets and other documents provided by the Federal Agencies were made available to the editors of several of the Vietnamese and Cambodian periodicals, to be translated and distributed within the refugee community. Additionally, arrangements have been made to provide the Inter-agency Task Force with the same documents and materials so that an abstract of the various Federal Agency programs may be prepared for distribution within the camps.

## III. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

A. That the Committee endorse the continuation of the Vietnamese/Cambodian Advisory Group and authorize such staff support as required.

B. That the Committee authorize the payment of travel and other expenses for Vietnamese and Cambodian nationals engaged in public information activities or other appropriate activities, as directed by the Committee.

ANNEX H

Policy Statement on Refugee  
Service in United States Military



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE POLICY STATEMENT ON  
REFUGEE SERVICE IN U.S. ARMED FORCES

TAB A

Eligibility of Vietnamese and Cambodian Refugees for Enlistment or  
Appointment in the Armed Forces

Eligibility for Enlistment

Regulars

Army

10 U.S.C. 3253(c) -- To be eligible for an original enlistment in the Regular Army, applicant must be a citizen or lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

Navy and Marine Corps

No Applicable Statute -- There is no statute in the Navy requiring citizenship as a condition for enlistment. Accordingly, under the law, the Navy could enlist aliens. However, the Secretary of the Navy by regulation has the same rule as the Army -- i.e., applicant must either be a citizen or lawfully admitted for permanent residence -- except with respect to Filipino citizens, who are admitted under an existing treaty obligation.

Air Force

10 U.S.C. 8253 -- To be eligible for original enlistment in the Regular Air Force, applicant must be a citizen or lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

Conclusion: To be eligible for enlistment in the Regular components, except for the Navy and Marine Corps, applicant must either be a citizen or lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

Reserves

10 U.S.C. 510 -- Governs all Services with regard to eligibility for original enlistment in the Reserves. It provides that, in order to be eligible to enlist as a Reserve of any Service, applicant must either be a citizen or lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

Eligibility for Appointment As An Officer

Regulars

Army

10 U.S.C. 3285 -- To be eligible for original appointment in the Regular Army, except in the Medical or Dental Corps, applicant must be a citizen.

10 U.S.C. 2004 -- To be eligible for original appointment in the



### Navy and Marine Corps

10 U.S.C. 5571 -- To be eligible for original appointment in the Regular Navy or Marine Corps, including the Medical and Dental Corps, applicant must be a citizen.

### Air Force

10 U.S.C. 8285 -- To be eligible for original appointment in the Regular Air Force, except medical or dental officers, applicant must be a citizen.

10 U.S.C. 8294 -- To be eligible for original appointment in the Regular Air Force as a medical or dental officer, applicant must be a citizen.

### Reserves

10 U.S.C. 591 -- To be eligible for original appointment as a Reserve officer of any Service, applicant must be a citizen or lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

### Medical and Dental Officers -- Selective Service Act

Section 5(a)(1) of the Military Selective Service Act, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 455(a)(1)) -- when the draft was in effect, this provision permitted alien physicians and dentists to be drafted into, or voluntarily be commissioned in, the armed forces. However, this provision lost its legal effect along with the authority to induct on July 1, 1973, and no longer provides authority for aliens to become doctors in the armed forces (see attached memo dated August 21, 1973).

Conclusion: In order to be eligible for original appointment in a Regular component of any Service, the applicant must be a citizen. In order to be eligible for appointment as a Reserve officer in any Service, applicant must either be a citizen or lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

### Commissioning of Alien Medical and Dental Officers

The commissioning of alien physicians and dentists as reserve officers under 10 U.S.C. 591 is authorized providing they have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence.

Section 5 of the Military Selective Service Act did not expire on July 1, 1973; only the authority to induct, under section 17(c) of the Act, expired on that date. However, the provision in section 5 allowing the commissioning of alien physicians and dentists applied only to persons who are "liable for induction under section 4 of this title." Since there is no longer any authority to induct persons under the Act (except for those

previously deferred under the Act), there are no longer any new people "liable for induction." A person subject to the Act is liable after July 1, 1975, only for registering, taking his physical, and being classified (unless he was previously deferred).

Accordingly, with regard to Regular commissioned officers, there is no longer authority in the Military Selective Service Act or elsewhere to commission alien medical and dental officers as Regulars. In the absence of that provision, the permanent statutes in title 10 governing the qualifications for medical and dental officers in the Regular components become applicable. Those provisions require, with respect to Regular commissioned officers in all of the military departments, that the applicant be a citizen of the United States (10 U.S.C. 3294, 5571, and 8294).

However, there is still authority in title 10 to commission alien physicians and dentists as Reserve officers. 10 U.S.C. 591 provides that an applicant for a Reserve commission must either be a citizen of the United States or else have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence under chapter 12 of title 8. Alien physicians and dentists in the latter category are therefore eligible for Reserve commissions.

ANNEX I

Department of Labor Policy Statement of Licensing  
and Certification

EXHIBITS

1. Letter from Roger D. Semerad to William H. Kolberg,  
July 14, 1975
2. Letter from William H. Kolberg to Roger D. Semerad,  
July 22, 1975

Civil Service Commission Policy Statement on Refugee  
Employment as Federal Civil Servants

EXHIBITS

1. Letter from John S. D. Eisenhower to Robert E.  
Hampton, July 7, 1975
2. Letter from Robert E. Hampton to John S. D.  
Eisenhower, July 22, 1975

July 14, 1975

Dear Bill,

This letter is to request information on an issue concerning the settlement of the refugees from Vietnam and Cambodia.

At a meeting of The President's Advisory Committee on Refugees, it was reported that individuals admitted in the United States as "parolees" are excluded from employment in a number of industries, may not receive certain licenses or certifications and are otherwise prohibited from certain career fields.

If this is true then the bars to employment would appear to pose an obstacle to the successful integration of the refugees into American society.

In order for this question to be discussed and evaluated by the Committee, it is essential that additional information be made available concerning this question. For example: How widespread is this practice? Which industries, occupational groups, professional groups, or labor organizations are directly affected or involved? What is the legal basis for this practice?

Accordingly, could you explore these questions and advise me of your findings? If you determine that this is a widespread practice, your recommendations, including any steps that can be taken to correct or mitigate this practice, would be appreciated. The next meeting of the Advisory Committee is scheduled for July 23rd and I would be very grateful if you could furnish this information in time for that meeting.

2

In view of the brief period available, perhaps this information could be in the form of a progress report, preliminary findings, or even an oral presentation to the Advisory Committee. I have asked Mr. Walter Kallaur of my staff to work with your people in this matter.

Your assistance and cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Warm personal regards,

Sincerely,

Roger D. Semerad

Mr. William H. Kolberg  
Assistant Secretary for Manpower  
Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Avenue  
Washington, D. C. 20210

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR POLICY STATEMENT ON  
LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR MANPOWER  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20210



JUL 22 1975

Mr. Roger D. Semerad  
Executive Director  
The President's Advisory  
Committee on Refugees  
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Roger:

In response to your letter of July 14, requesting information regarding the licensing and/or certification for "parolees" from Vietnam and Cambodia, there is no practical solution to the problem from a national level.

The problem itself, of course, is nationwide because it crosses many geographical, technical and professional areas of licensing such as for doctors, lawyers, health professions and gets into the trades as well. Each State, however, has specific and varying regulations and even the community or municipality may have its own additional code so the nationwide problem is one of non-uniformity.

Once a refugee parolee has been resettled, the sponsor and refugee should be working with the local associations of the professional or trade group for certification or licensing of the individual refugee. It may be helpful, for example, for the AMA to become involved and advise member organizations of the problem. Perhaps they could institute a program for refugees who are potential members of their profession. Some doctors have been employed (70 out of Fort Chaffee) as para-medics, who in many States do not require licensing as yet. This uses their medical training at least partially and also exposes them to daily use of the English language. As with the Cuban refugee program, it takes several years for many professionals to meet the additional requirements for certification, including speaking and writing the English language, which is also necessary in order to be certified.

As far as labor organizations are concerned, this again is a local issue which one of your members, Mr. George Meany, has addressed several times. Local labor-management contracts affect the ability of persons to enter the apprenticeable trades. Perhaps a study of the question of

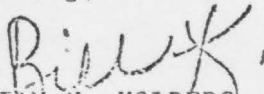
- 2 -

permitting special reciprocity for these refugees is one that your organization could promote with the trade unions.

Enclosed for your additional information are some statistics regarding occupational skills of the refugees who have been resettled and have appeared in local employment security offices for job search assistance.

My staff is willing to help you in any way possible. You may wish to contact James Klein directly for additional specific information. His telephone number is 376-6848.

Sincerely,



WILLIAM H. KOLBERG  
Assistant Secretary for Manpower

Enclosures



THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20506

JUL 7 1975

AMBASSADOR JOHN EISENHOWER  
CHAIRMAN

MAYOR JOSEPH ALIOTO

ARCHBISHOP JOSEPH BERNARDIN

MR. ASHBY BOYLE

DR. W. STERLING CARY

MR. JOHN DENVER

MRS. GAETANA ENDERS

GOVERNOR DANIEL EVANS

MAYOR MAURICE FERRE

MR. MINOR GEORGE

MR. EDGAR KAISER

MR. PHILIP KLUTZNICK

MR. WILLIAM J. KUHFUSS

MR. GEORGE MEANY

MR. CLARKE REED

DR. MALCOLM TODD

ELDER A. THEODORE TUTTLE

MR. ROGEE D. SEMERAO  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
(202) 456-7034

Dear Mr. Hampton:

This letter is to request information on an issue concerning the settlement of the refugees from Vietnam and Cambodia.

At a meeting of the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees, it was reported that individuals admitted in the United States as "parolees" are excluded from employment in a number of industries, may not receive certain licenses or certifications and are otherwise prohibited from certain career fields.

If this is true then the bars to employment would appear to pose an obstacle to the successful integration of the refugees into American society.

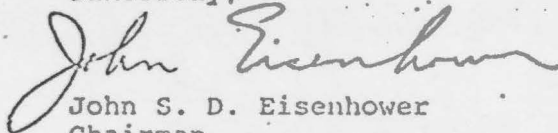
In order for this question to be discussed and evaluated by the Committee, it is essential that additional information be made available concerning this question. For example: How widespread is this practice? Which industries, occupational groups, professional groups, or labor organizations are directly affected or involved? What is the legal basis for this practice?

Accordingly, I am requesting that you explore this question and advise me of your findings. If you determine that this is a widespread practice, I request that you also advise of your recommendations, including any steps that can be taken to correct or mitigate this practice. The next meeting of the Advisory Committee is scheduled for July 23rd and I would be very grateful if you could furnish this information in time for that meeting.

In view of the brief period available, this information could be in the form of a progress report, preliminary findings, or even an oral presentation to the Advisory Committee. I have asked Mr. Walter Kallaur of the Advisory Committee staff to work with your agency in this matter.

Your assistance and cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



John S. D. Eisenhower  
Chairman  
President's Advisory Committee  
on Refugees

Honorable Robert E. Hampton  
Chairman  
Civil Service Commission  
1900 E Street  
Washington, D. C. 20415

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION POLICY STATEMENT ON  
REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT AS FEDERAL CIVIL SERVANT



UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20415

JUL 22 1975

YOUR REFERENCE

Honorable John S. D. Eisenhower  
Chairman, President's Advisory Committee  
on Refugees  
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This will confirm information provided to Mr. Kallaur by Mr. O'Connor of my staff, in response to your July 7 letter seeking information about employment obstacles which Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees in the United States may encounter.

The Commission can only speak to employment requirements within the Federal civil service. The Departments of Commerce and Labor would be in the best position to provide a general picture of employment requirements in private business and industry. Within the Federal service, the head of each agency has general authority to select and appoint his employees, subject to various statutes and regulations. When an agency appointing official wishes to employ a national of Cambodia or Vietnam, or any other noncitizen, there are two special requirements he must consider which do not apply to United States citizens--a general appropriation act pay restriction and a Civil Service Commission regulation.

The general appropriation act restriction, reenacted annually since the late 1930's, prohibits Federal agencies from using appropriated funds to pay the salaries of noncitizen employees if their post of duty is in the continental United States. Certain exceptions are provided to agencies in the appropriation act, for instance, nationals of countries allied with the United States in the current defense effort, translators for temporary periods, and emergency appointments not exceeding 60 days in the field service. Further, provisions in specific statutes directly grant certain agencies full or partial exemptions from the general appropriation act pay restriction. Exemptions include all positions in the Department of Defense, and expert, scientific, technical, or professional positions in the Energy Research and Development Administration. Each agency head is responsible for complying with the appropriation act restriction and related exceptions.

The other requirement a Federal official must consider before employing a noncitizen is the Civil Service Commission's longstanding regulation which prohibits noncitizens from admission to competitive examinations and, except in emergencies or other special circumstances, from appointment to jobs in the competitive civil service. The Commission is responsible for regulating employment in the competitive service, which comprises over 60 percent of the jobs in the total Federal civil service. The remainder, called the excepted service, is not subject to the Commission's employment regulations. Our regulations, including the one on citizenship, do not apply to the Postal Service, Tennessee Valley Authority, or other agencies excepted by or under statute from the competitive service. Agencies with positions in the excepted service determine their own appointing policies subject, of course, to appropriation act pay restrictions. The Postal Service, for example, has decided to permit its post offices to hire aliens in the absence of qualified citizens.

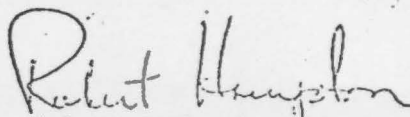
Under our regulations, employment of noncitizens is possible if no qualified citizens are available. Hiring an alien under this authority temporarily removes the position in which he is placed from the competitive to the excepted service during his occupancy. Under our regulations, we also can administratively except appointments from the usual competitive examining requirements when it is not practical to hold competitive examinations for certain types of employment.

After considering the needs of Federal agencies responsible for directly assisting the Indochina refugee program, we have authorized an exemption from competitive examination to permit those agencies to appoint for up to 2 years noncitizens previously employed by Federal agencies in Vietnam or Cambodia for work directly assisting the refugee program. In addition, we are exploring with the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare that agency's proposal to hire up to 25 Vietnamese physicians in the absence of qualified citizens.

With one possible exception, I do not anticipate any further change in the near future in the Commission's policy on employment of aliens in the Federal competitive service. There is a case, Hampton v. Mcng, which the Supreme Court plans to hear in the fall, concerning the constitutionality of our citizenship regulation for the competitive service. An unfavorable decision could significantly affect our policy. However, the general appropriation act restriction would remain since it is not at issue in the case.

The circumstances in which aliens can be employed in the Federal civil service are restricted by law and by regulation; but such employment is permitted under specific conditions. I hope the answers provided here will be sufficient to satisfy the Committee's need for information from the Commission for your July 23 meeting.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Hampton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Robert E. Hampton  
Chairman

ANNEX J

Letter signed by President Ford

September 22, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 22, 1975

I warmly encourage the young people of America to participate in Project FRIENDSHIP by extending a hand of welcome to the young refugees from Southeast Asia who will be your new classmates and neighbors.

These young people need friends to become acquainted with America's culture, customs and language. There is no one better able to help them than you who are in their age group.

Your assistance will reflect the warmth and friendship so typical of America which is known throughout the world as a Nation of Brotherhood.

*Richard M. Ford*

ANNEX K

Record of events pertaining to termination of  
President's Advisory Committee on Refugees  
public relations program.



RECORD OF EVENTS PERTAINING TO TERMINATION OF  
PACR PUBLIC RELATIONS PROGRAM

THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20506

AMBASSADOR JOHN EISENHOWER  
CHAIRMAN

MAYOR JOSEPH ALIOTO

ARCHBISHOP JOSEPH BERNARDIN

MR. ASHBY BOYLE

DR. W. STERLING CARY

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MR. WILLIAM J. KUFERS

MR. GEORGE HEANY

MR. CLARKE REED

DR. MALCOLM TODD

ELDER A. THEODORE TUTTLE

MR. ROGER D. SEMERAD  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
(202) 456-7014

July 16, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM: ROGER D. SEMERAD

SUBJECT: EVENTS LEADING TO CESSATION OF  
THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
ON REFUGEES PUBLIC RELATIONS/TV  
PROJECT BY INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE

- June 10 Delaney contacted The Advertising Council (TAC) on a national TV support campaign on sponsorship.
- June 11 TAC submitted material and proposal to Delaney. Campaign would not be ready until mid-September (most optimistic).
- June 25 Motion made and carried by The President's Advisory Committee on Refugees to implement TV media spot.
- June 26 Request made to the Interagency Task Force for TV spot funding (Semerad to Ford) - no reply. Proposals from Airline House/ESC/Tampene (unsolicited) received.
- June 27 Request from Semerad to R. DuBois, IATF (DOD) for TV spot funding - no reply.
- June 30 (a) PACR staff locate year-end funds at SRS, DHEW.
- (b) Educational Systems Corp (ESC) selected as contractor.
- (c) ASE, DHEW agree to let contract.

(d) All approvals secured and firm fixed price contract negotiated for \$225,000.

(e) Year-end funds changed from S&E to Special Refugee Appropriation.

July 1 DHEW (Wortman) - Project now requires clearance by Mrs. Taft. No problems expected.

July 2 Wortman to Semerad and Delaney. Mrs. Taft still had not cleared contract.

July 3 (a) (Noon) J. Taft and Semerad agree on TV spot contract. Mrs. Taft will "sign off on contract on recommendation of PACR." PACR staff will assume contract responsibility; however, program development and contract will be closely coordinated with the IATF.

(b) (6:00 p.m.) Delaney met with J. Taft and Gordon King (ESC) on the clearance of the contract. J. Taft requested a detailed budget and a demonstration of previous ESC filming accomplishments. J. Taft expressed concern over coordination with the IATF. Delaney assured her that this would be done.

July 7 J. Taft informed Semerad that IATF has second thoughts on contract and requires detailed budget and demonstration of ESC capabilities.

July 10 IATF meeting with J. Taft, F. Weisner, E. Green, J. Brady, Semerad and Delaney at State Department. TV spots pushing sponsorship is premature per J. Taft. IATF must develop a comprehensive public affairs plan prior to any P.A. campaign.

ANNEX L

Theodore C. Marrs/Roger D. Semerad letter  
to 340 National Service Agencies

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 16, 1975

Dear

I am sure you are supportive of the resettlement of Southeast Asian refugees. If we are to quickly assimilate those refugees into the American community, our National resettlement program will require the cooperation and assistance of organizations such as yours.

We are enclosing for your information background papers, guidelines and questions and answers that the President's Advisory Committee has prepared. Please disseminate this material as extensively as your resources permit.

Your support of this important effort is appreciated. If you wish to serve in a more definite way in the resettlement effort, please contact the Interagency Task Force on Vietnam, Operations Center, Department of State, Room 7516, Washington, D.C. 20520.

Sincerely,

Theodore C. Marrs  
Special Assistant to the President

Roger D. Semerad  
Executive Director  
President's Advisory Committee  
on Refugees

Letter sent to 340 service organizations and  
related individuals:

AFL/CIO  
ALCOA  
American Enterprise Institute  
American Field Service ...

... Volunteers of America  
Women in Community Service  
YMCA  
Zonta International