

The original documents are located in Box 10, folder “Indochina Refugees - Meeting with Voluntary Agencies, 5/22/75” of the Theodore C. Marrs Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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May 21, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

BILL GEMMELL

FROM:

TED MARRS

I would appreciate your providing conference table placards for the following list of people who will attend a meeting in the Roosevelt Room at 11:00 a.m., May 22, 1975, on the President's program for refugees:

**Mr. Gerald E. Connolly
Mr. Mack Taylor
Mr. Wells Klein
Reverend John Schauer
Mr. Leonard Marks
Mr. Harold Grimes
Ms. Susan Severance
Mr. Neal Brenden
Mr. John McCarthy
Mr. Charles Wooters
Ms. Tatiana Schaufuss
Mr. Teymares Bagration
Ms. Ann Rabinowitz
Mr. Theron Bascoter**

**Dr. Theodore C. Marrs
Mr. Roger Semerad
Mr. Barry Roth**

Please call Mrs. Shelton, Ext. 2735, for pick up.

Thanks.

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Ms. Tatiana Schaufuss
Mr. Teymures Bagration
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May 22, 1975



MEETING WITH VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, ROOSEVELT ROOM

Church World Services - The Reverend John Schauer

**International Rescue Committee - Mr. Leonard Marks
Mr. Harold Grimes**

**Lutheran Immigration and Service - Ms. Susan Severance
Mr. Neal Brenden**

**Migration and Refugee Office - U. S. Catholic Conference - Mr. John McCarthy
Mr. Charles Wooten**

**Tolstoy Foundation - Tatiana Schaufuss
Teymarez Bagration**

United Hias Service - Ann Rabinowitz

American Council of Voluntary Agencies - Theresa Banskoter

Travelers Aide - MackdTaylor

American Council for Nationalities Service - Wells Klein

U. S. Committee for Refugees - Gerald E. Connolly

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 22, 1975



MEMORANDUM FOR: President's Advisory Committee on Refugees

FROM: Ted Marrs
Roger Semerad *JMS*

SUBJECT: Meeting with Voluntary Agencies, May 22, 1975

Eleven major voluntary agencies were represented in a meeting on May 22, 1975 conducted by Dr. Ted Marrs and Roger Semerad for the purpose of determining the problems being faced by these voluntary agencies in their current refugee relocation activities and to develop effective and close working communications.

The role of the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees was explained with emphasis on its direct advisory responsibility to the President and its wish to be of any assistance which would contribute to the smooth completion of our national refugee settlement program. The group was asked for their professional advice and candid comments pertaining to the situation at present. The highlights of this discussion are as follows:

- Based on the voluntary agencies experience in other refugee processing centers, it is apparent that the Fort Chaffee operation is superior when compared to the refugee operations at Camp Pendleton, California and most definitely the initial processing center on Guam. Conditions at Camp Pendleton were described as deplorable, inadequate, and inhuman. However, all agreed that the military had done an outstanding job. The overcrowding and temporary nature of the facilities was unsatisfactory. They recommended a special effort to quickly process the entire refugee population of 18,000 to their new residences and close down the Camp Pendleton operation entirely. It was not recommended that the refugees be placed in an alternative intermediate location. Because of the availability of permanent buildings and other facilities at Fort Chaffee it rated superior.



- It was made very clear that while this group of voluntary agencies would be happy to meet together and cooperate as far as any decision making was concerned that each agency would have to speak for themselves and that it was not possible to have a single spokesman or representative from the group represent the views of the group. A variety of disagreements among the groups were articulated and it was apparent that a united singular approach was not feasible at this time.

- The voluntary agencies represented expressed displeasure with the lack of consultation with them as the government's efforts through the Interagency Task Force began to be planned and implemented. They stressed the need for and requested regular meetings with the Advisory Committee and White House staff, as well as the participating Federal agencies. We agreed to do everything possible to ensure closer communications and review their policy and operations suggestions which they agreed to submit in writing in the next few days.

- There was considerable discussion regarding the circumstances under which the voluntary agencies are now operating in lieu of definite contractual agreements with the Federal Government for relocation services they are already performing. They claim that the \$500 allocation per refugee as presently suggested is insufficient to properly fulfill their relocation obligations. They expressed dissatisfaction with what they termed "inadequate" direction from the government.

- The delays in out-processing refugees because of the lack of security clearances was particularly distressing to the voluntary agencies. For the refugees to have been completely processed and the voluntary agencies having completed their placement but then not be able to move the refugee family was a source of great frustration and anger. Because of the great emphasis placed on this particular problem, the staff has checked with the Immigration and Naturalization Service and received assurances that records obtained in initial interviews on Guam will be forwarded with the refugee groups to the processing centers and therefore facilitate considerably more rapid processing at the State side locations.



- The voluntary agencies would appreciate having the President's Advisory Committee use any mechanism available to direct public contributions and other resources through their local networks to be transmitted to the main organizations.

- Because of the lack of direction and adequate funds some of the voluntary agencies did not seem comfortable with their abilities to deal effectively with the large number of refugees requiring service. They attribute this mainly to the short time available to gear up and the fact that their regular financial resources were already committed to other activities. However, no group estimated their existing capabilities to be less than resettling approximately 10,000 people. The agencies apparently are awaiting clarification of the government's policy for utilization of recent appropriations. They will then be in a better position to formulate overall objectives and negotiate the required contracts with the government.

- A majority of the agencies indicated that no special fundraising appeal would be made on the basis of support for Vietnamese refugee efforts but that of course they would accept any funds which were directed to them. It was not recommended that the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees get involve with solicitation, receiving, or distribution of public contributions.

General observations on this meeting would indicate that those voluntary agencies participating were pleased to be approached for their contributions and ideas at the policy level and had adequate opportunity to express their ideas and grievances as to the refugee resettlement program to date. They pledged to cooperate in every way possible with the White House and the President's Advisory Committee and looked to the Committee for support, focus, and coordination of this National effort. We agreed to seek clarification when required, review constructive alternatives to existing procedures and to generally cooperate in all ways as required within the limits of our Presidential mandate.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 22, 1975



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International Rescue Committee - Mr. Leonard Marks
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EXECUTIVE PROTECTIVE SERVICE



To: Officer-in-charge
Appointments Center
Room 060, OEOB

Please admit the following appointments on May 22, 19 75

for Theodore C. Marrs of WH Staff
(Name of person to be visited) (Agency)

11:00 a.m.

- ~~Reymures Bagration~~
- Theron Banskoter
- Neal Brenden
- Gerald E. Connolly ✓
- Harold Grimes
- Wells Klein ✓
- Leonard Marks
- John MacCarthy
- Ann Robinowitz
- John Schauer
- ~~Tatiana Schaufuss~~
- Mack Taylor ✓
- Charles Wooters
- Susan Severance ✓

Mr. Dale De Haan

Mr. Gerry Zinker

MEETING LOCATION

Building WW

Requested by Velma H. Shelton

Room No. Roosevelt Room

Room No. 103 Telephone 2735

Time of Meeting 11:00 am.

Date of request May 21, 1975

Additions and/or changes made by telephone should be limited to three (3) names or less.

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