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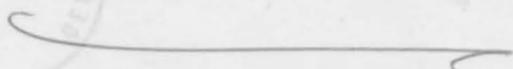
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There have been distinct <sup>and significant</sup> changes in the ~~structure~~  
of focus of ~~the program~~  
~~of go~~.



1. Extraction of people from Vietnam
2. Acceptance of people moving from Vietnam (9000 more this week)
3. Setting up of basic processing —  
— Clearances now expedited
4. ~~Creation of communities~~  
Establishing <sup>cities</sup> Vietnamese communities in processing centers
5. Movement into <sup>the US</sup> community  
18,432 have been released  
1100 have indicated desire to return to Vietnam

o Movement from  
international  
to  
domestic



→ Mack Taylor - Traveler Aid  
212 687-5958

→ Mrs Wells Klein - Am Council for Nationalities Sv.  
212 779-2715

Am. Council of VA -



et

593-4130

→ Rev. John Schaver - Church World Sv

→ Leonard Marks - Int. Rescue Comtee

5 → Harold Guines

Luzon Severance - Lutheran Comm & Refug  
Sv.

6 → Neal Bender

→ John Mc Carthy - Migrants & Refugee H

→ Charles Waters - U. S. Catholic Conference

→ Patricia Schaufuss - Solity Foundation

→ <sup>Teymarz</sup> E. Bagration

→ Ann Rabinovitz - United Hous Sv.

→ Sharon Bancroft - Am. Council of VA -

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20 WEST 40th STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10018  
TELEPHONE: 212 564-3272



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MAXWELL M. RABB

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES

MEETING #2

June 3, 1975 10:00 a.m.  
Room 4203 NEOB

AGENDA



1. Opening statement by Chairman Eisenhower.
2. Review of minutes of previous meeting.
3. Schedule of future meetings:  
    June 25, 1975  
    July 23, 1975
4. Interagency Task Force Report  
    Julia V. Taft, Acting Director
5. Voluntary Agency Report
6. Plans for refugee input to the Advisory Committee
7. Introduction of new Advisory Committee Staff.
8. Discussion of:  
    Briefing materials  
    Sponsor guidelines  
    Required information

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*Increased rate of ~~refugees~~ 500 per wk*  
*UNHCR - 200 per wk*  
*are repatriates - 200 per wk*  
*use of adults & children - reported from other?*  
*services to handle sponsor or parallel*  
*Management Union team*  
*st*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES

MINUTES OF MEETING #1

Friday, May 23, 1975  
New Executive Office Building Room 4203



Opening remarks by Dr. Theodore C. Marrs. He discussed the distinct phases in the processing of refugees - the extraction of people from Vietnam; the acceptance of people moving from Vietnam (9,000 increase during this week); setting up of basic processing; expediting clearances which were slow in the beginning; establishing Vietnamese communities in the processing centers; and the movement of the Vietnamese into the U.S. community. 18,432 have been released; 1,100 have indicated a desire to return to Vietnam.

The earlier phases were conducted under the State Department; at this point in time we are shifting to HEW. Ambassador L. Dean Brown has resigned and may be replaced by a representative from HEW to reflect the domestic instead of the foreign aspect.

Dr. Marrs expressed the President's appreciation for the Committee Members' prompt response in adjusting their schedules in order to accept their responsibilities on the Committee.

Swearing-In of Committee Members was administered by Mr. John J. Ratchford of the White House Staff.

Chairman John Eisenhower discussed future meetings. There will be a meeting every week or every two weeks at the start, then monthly. On that basis, the next meeting will be June 3 at 10:00 a.m.

In response to a question of schedule conflicts, Dr. Marrs stated that designating an alternate is acceptable.

Chairman Eisenhower opened discussion about a draft report to be sent to the President within the next couple of days on the Committee's trip to Ft. Chaffee. This will be distributed. Members are requested to call in their corrections and/or objections to Roger Semerad by Tuesday, May 27. Make sure that this is in accordance with the understanding of all members.

Dr. Marrs reported on the meeting with the Voluntary Agencies on May 22. Met with eleven agencies. The role of the Advisory Committee was explained. The group was asked for their professional advice and candid comments pertaining to the situation at present, based on their experiences in other refugee processing centers. Dr. Marrs highlighted the meeting report submitted to the Committee.

Mrs. Gaetana Enders reported on her visit to Camp Pendleton. During this past week the Camp was much better organized. The head of the Task Force, Nick Thorne, has done a fine job. Everybody agreed that the situation was unsatisfactory, but it is improving rapidly. Morale among the refugees is good. Recommend that Cambodian refugees should be kept together. They are very family oriented like the Vietnamese. The Vietnamese are more opportunity oriented than are the Cambodians.

Mrs. Enders suggested the development of a TV show - showing a sponsor and a refugee family, giving a detailed report on sponsoring, so that the public will not be confused as to their responsibilities.

Elder A. Theodore Tuttle reported that the Mormon organization has about ten times more sponsors than they have refugee families and forego the \$500 from the government.

Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin: The U.S. Catholic Conference has a rather extensive refugee program - very much aware of the problems, but are very optimistic as we all pull together. They have written to ask that a collection be taken up among their people and have established 158 resettlement offices throughout the country to be staffed by our service people in those areas.

Mr. Leo Perlis stated that the AFL/CIO had a representative at Camp Pendleton for four days and the report was rather positive. Watched the VolAgs work in Miami and they did a tremendous job. They are doing their day-to-day jobs, and in his opinion the Committee should consult with them more.

Mr. Philip Klutznick stated that the Advisory Committee is in a position to ask the service clubs to contribute and perhaps raise money on their own for this project. It might be good to designate members as liaison with the VolAgs.

There are considerable resources available in the service clubs and businessmen's clubs. The VolAgs need to know the interest of these organizations.

Chairman Eisenhower asked (1) if it would be a good idea to have a subcommittee of this Committee for liaison with the VolAgs; (2) would we want to recommend that the \$500 per person allotment be looked at with a view to raise it.

Mr. Klutznick suggested it would be better if we maintained individual relationships with the Voluntary Agencies.

Mr. Perlis recommended a rotating representative from the Voluntary Agencies to the Advisory Committee on a regular basis.

Chairman Eisenhower asked how many have direct contact with the VolAgs. There were seven.

Mr. David Ford mentioned that the Task Force meets with the VolAgs weekly.

Mr. Minor George: Organizations who will want to contribute will be calling and wanting information. Guidelines need to be set. VolAgs will be welcome at every meeting which will be held by the Committee.

Mr. Roger Semerad indicated they were invited to this meeting today and an open invitation would be extended.

Mr. George said that he has four requests for speeches and needs guidelines. Does not have enough information to use in talking to these organizations. People want definite work skills when they sponsor refugees.

Mrs. Enders: Women want to know if there are plans to establish a Subcommittee for Women. If the Committee thinks that this is good, she would be willing to start it.

Dr. W. Sterling Cary indicated that the Committee needs clarification of its role. It is being pressed for news, conferences and speeches.

Mr. Leo Perlis requested detailed information on the responsibilities of sponsorship. Would like to be able to send information to all the people who telephone, who want to participate -- questions such as who are the sponsors, what

does one have to do, who is the contact, and what about medical costs; all Committee Members ought to have this to send to our people.

Chairman Eisenhower requested the staff develop with the Task Force a set of guidelines establishing the responsibilities of sponsorship for distribution through the primary VolAgs. We should send out notification so that those 11 will know that they can attend every meeting we have.

The Chairman outlined a six part assignment:

1. The White House Staff will draw up guidelines for VolAgs with responsibilities for sponsorships.
2. Guidelines will include references to the agenda items of this Committee and VolAgs will be notified prior to each meeting.
3. As a matter of principle, we will express appreciation for help offered and request that as much as possible this help be directed through the 11 or 12 established VolAgs.
4. Reassessment of the \$500 per head.
5. Discrepancies between the May 2 and the May 19 instructions.
6. Ideas will be examined for a Women's Subcommittee to be discussed at the next meeting.

Dr. Malcolm C. Todd. An AMA representative visited Camp Pendleton and paid a great tribute to the Camp officials and the refugees.

Mr. Semerad indicated that it will take several days to get the Committee office set up. The travel accounts will be taken care of and a steady stream of informational material will be provided for the Members to use in their contacts.

Mr. Tuttle reported on his recent visit to Guam. The same conditions exist as at Camp Pendleton. They have done everything they could do in the time they have had. He has



done a lot of interviewing of refugees and knows their background and also interviews the sponsors about family, jobs, homes - what the family is like - in order to select the best sponsor. Placing a family with a sponsor must be done permanently; he stressed that it is a shortsighted process to hurriedly arrange a sponsor.

Chairman Eisenhower in going over the Roles and Objectives, the Committee is to:

1. Inform the President of things that come to the Committee's attention.
2. Stress public relations, public knowledge, and public understanding with emphasis on resettlement.

A great deal of understanding has been developed in a week, however, there is not going to be instant efficiency.

The Chairman extended his appreciation for the Members' cooperation.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

ATTENDING

Ambassador John Eisenhower, Chairman  
Archbishop Joseph Bernardin, Member  
Ashby Boyle, Member  
Dr. W. Sterling Cary, Member  
Mrs. Gaetana Enders, Member  
Minor George, Member  
Philip Klutznick, Member  
Clarke Reed, Member  
Dr. Malcolm Todd, Member

Rankin Lusby for Mr. Kuhfuss  
Leo Perlis for Mr. Meany  
Ralph Munro for Mr. Evans  
Carl Pagter for Mr. Kaiser  
Manolo Roboso for Mr. Ferre  
Dr. Ted Marrs, Special Assistant to the President  
Roger Semerad, Executive Director, PACR  
David Ford, Interagency Task Force

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 2, 1975



MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JOHN S. D. EISENHOWER JSDE

SUBJECT: Presidential Advisory Committee on  
Refugees Visit to Ft. Chaffee,  
Arkansas, May 20, 1975.

The Advisory Committee visited Ft. Chaffee, Arkansas, to observe first hand the accommodations and the processing systems established at that relocation center, which is currently handling approximately 24,000 Vietnamese refugees.

The Committee was accompanied by Ambassador L. Dean Brown and other representatives of the Interagency Task Force.

All were impressed by the close cooperation between the local Interagency Task Force officials and the supporting Army contingent. In addition, the voluntary assistance of the surrounding Arkansas community was very much in evidence, due largely, in our opinion, to strenuous public relations efforts on the part of the civilian coordinator, Mr. Donald MacDonald.

This refugee resettlement center has defined its tasks as three-fold: (a) to receive and process the Vietnamese refugees, (b) to run a small city, population 24,000, and (c) to facilitate the careful placement of refugees throughout the United States.

Since the beginning of May, 25,814 people have arrived, mostly from South Vietnam. All have undergone initial processing, and 18,500 have completed processing to the point where they can leave as soon as sponsors are found. Approximately 2,500 have come and gone. Commitments for over 6,000 additional placements have been made.

The Advisory Committee observed refugees going through the various administrative stages which include preliminary processing, medical evaluation, immigration and naturalization screening, social security registration, social rehabilitation services, security clearance from INS, and the departure services provided by HEW. We were advised that these administrative activities are proceeding in an efficient, well-organized manner. The security clearance delays experienced at first are now being diminished as the computerized refugee records become more available.

Through the cooperation of the Task Force and Army personnel the administration of this "city" encompasses all the usual aspects of community management. The refugees participate actively. To maintain local government, each of the 236 barracks have elected a representative to a council, which has in turn elected a Vietnamese "mayor." The mayor meets with the council each evening, and a sub-committee structure has been formed to work closely with the voluntary agencies.

The Education Committee has been allocated sixteen buildings for schools. Presently over 200 classes are being conducted each day, enrolling 7,000 children. This school system is being run by the Southern Baptist Conference and includes Vietnamese and American teachers. It ranks as the sixth largest school system in the State of Arkansas.

The morale and participation of refugee volunteers is exceptional, some of whom are Vietnamese-Americans, United States residents for as long as sixteen years.

A newspaper in the Vietnamese language is circulated daily, and a local civilian radio station is providing a fifteen minute daily broadcast in Vietnamese. Subject matter encompasses news of the world, stressing those items of particular importance to the people in the center.

No major crime problem has occurred; even small misdemeanors requiring action have been rare.

Although the reception of refugees and the administration of the "city" are proceeding in admirable fashion, the ultimate task, that of placement, is only beginning. This



function is a primary responsibility of ten major American voluntary agencies (VOLAGs), which historically have facilitated resettlement of millions of displaced persons. (See attached list.) These voluntary agencies are under preliminary contract with the Federal Government.

The voluntary agencies are in operation. They stress that the primary criteria for placement in an American community are the impact on that community, the quality of the individual sponsors, and the availability of jobs. The Employment Service of the Department of Labor will provide ten specialists to work with the VOLAGs in an effort to avoid placement of individuals in communities with extraordinarily high unemployment rates. Further, they will endeavor to correlate the skills of the refugees with the local situation. Careful screening of sponsors, through the network of community volunteer agencies, is a critical activity.

The Advisory Committee asked the local officials how we could best assist in this effort. The consensus was that we could (a) help to educate the civic clubs throughout the United States regarding the requirements for sponsorship and (b) identify the local participating voluntary agencies for channeling the legitimate requests for sponsorship. It was also suggested that the Advisory Committee become well acquainted with the roles and problems of the volunteer agencies. (A useful meeting of the VOLAG representatives with Committee and White House Staff has already been held and future meetings scheduled.)

Although resettlement is primarily a local function, the Committee must make every possible effort to help shorten the time of encampment for the refugees. No delay in their assimilation into the American community can be tolerated.

Those refugees who wish to return to Vietnam are beginning to come forward, and all have been assured that return is indeed possible in accord with existing international procedures. The one hundred refugees who are interested in returning to Vietnam from Fort Chaffee are predominantly men wishing to rejoin their families.

After reviewing this refugee resettlement center we believe that the proper mechanisms have been set in motion and there is accumulating evidence that progress is taking place. Within a remarkably short time the personal welfare of the refugees is being well attended to. Their natural anxieties are being abated as they learn that we do indeed have a place for them in our society and that all concerned are working in their best long term interest. Their confidence is being enhanced by their own participation in the administrative and governing processes.

Under your leadership the efforts of this Committee, of the Interagency Task Force, and of the voluntary agencies will hopefully dispel public misconceptions and apprehensions regarding acceptance of refugees in our society. We will also be addressing some of the longer term problems with a view to determining preventive measures.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

10%

*Administration*



**YOU** are the link



**CHURCH WORLD SERVICE**

475 Riverside Drive

New York, New York 10027

## CHURCH ATTENDANCE

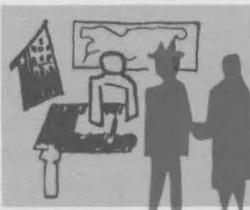
Some new arrivals would like to attend your church, especially if it may be the only Protestant church in the vicinity. Take them with you. Invite them to group meetings at church. They may feel too shy at first to attend by themselves.



If they are members of a church not your own, make a definite appointment to take them to their own church. They should feel free to join the church of their own choice.

## LEGAL FACTORS

The newcomers need to know their rights, privileges, and obligations, and how and when they may become citizens.



They have been furnished some information about their responsibilities to report addresses, register for the draft, carry alien registration cards if over 18 years. In routine matters, the nearest office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the U.S. Department of Justice may be consulted. Wherever helpful, suggest that people consult an immigrant welfare agency, like International Institutes, Foreign Secretaries of YWCA's or YMCA's, or write to your denominational headquarters which will consult with Church World Service. Explain our tax laws and procedures. There are laws in many states restricting aliens' rights to certain kinds of employment or public assistance. But, in many places, public spirited groups have worked to secure equal rights for citizens and aliens alike. We suggest you secure a copy of "How to Become a Citizen of the United States," American Council for Nationalities Service, 20 West 40 Street, New York, New York 10018.

## SOCIAL SERVICES

If problems emerge, we suggest you consult your minister, or your Council of Churches, or Council of

Social Welfare Agencies about local or nearby organizations which offer guidance and help to new arrivals.

Explain about medical services in the community and about health and hospitalization insurance.

## EDUCATION

Help your new people enter the children at school; explain about school lunches. Help the adults find opportunity to learn English or improve their knowledge of it. Your public schools, YWCA or YMCA, or International Institute probably have classes. Your State University sometimes has correspondence courses in citizenship. And, of course, they should learn about libraries, museums, free lectures, etc. You will want to counsel and cooperate with your people about educational and vocational training, and other ways of improving themselves in this new land of freedom and opportunity.

Many sponsors and churches have found that working with and for a newcomer has brought real blessings and a broadening experience to the church and to the community. We are confident it will to you.



## SPONSORS, your refugees look to you —

You are the link for them between their old life and their new.  
Your Christian concern makes it possible for them to come.

### WHO ARE THE REFUGEES?

They represent all types of people from all walks of life. Many of them are victims of oppression or calamity—who, like our own ancestors, seek a new life of freedom, opportunity and purpose in America.

### SELECTION

Your church is represented through Church World Service and the World Council of Churches in a score of overseas countries where there are refugees with but one hope: a permanent home. Competent World Council of Churches staff members counsel these refugees and, where possible, help them prepare the considerable documentation required by our government from prospective immigrants. The CWS office in New York receives a dossier with background information and photograph on each applicant. These dossiers are carefully distributed among our cooperating national Protestant and Eastern Orthodox resettlement offices, which, in turn, arrange local sponsorships across the U.S.A. Each denominational resettlement office or its regional branch renders the very personal service which the "matching" of refugee and sponsor entails.

### DO ENOUGH BUT NOT TOO MUCH

Once you know that a refugee or refugee family will be coming through your sponsorship, the biggest thing you can do is to help these people become established again so they can make their own decisions, make their own way, and make their own contribution in their new community.

### THEY ARE PEOPLE OF DIGNITY AND WORTH

You can find at your public library books on the achievements, the heroes, the customs, the literature,

the religious practices of the heritage to which your new arrivals belong. They, too, have been reading about life in the United States, our climate, geography, customs and churches.

Both you and they will be making realistic adjustments in the expectations of each other based on what you thought in advance and what they had dreamed about for so many years. With vision, imagination, strength, and patience you will achieve mutual understanding which is the key to successful resettlement.

### PLANS FOR ARRIVAL

You will receive notice from CWS or your denominational headquarters giving expected date of arrival at port of entry and asking for inland transportation funds to be advanced at that time in order that all arrangements for their transportation can be made before they arrive. This notice usually reaches you two to four weeks in advance. Sometimes the refugees may write the good news to you before CWS is able to get it to you.

CWS will meet your people at the port of arrival (usually New York City for those coming from Europe and San Francisco for those coming from the Far East). Plan to meet them at your own local station. The arrivals from Europe usually speak their own language and frequently some German and a little English. If you can take someone with you to the station who can speak their native language, so much the better. Watch for their CWS badge. Learn to greet them by their names.

Boats and planes usually land in the morning. It often takes half the day to complete immigration formalities. If possible, CWS will put your new arrival on the train or bus the same day. To avoid an expensive stopover in New York, you therefore may be inconvenienced by an early morning or late night arrival.



### SOMETHING OLD — SOMETHING NEW

New arrivals generally are mature people with considerable successful experience. They bring with them quite firm ideas about satisfying life's daily needs. You, too, know a great deal about meeting the problems of daily life in this country. Maybe all the solutions the new arrivals bring along are not appropriate or practical for new conditions in this country. In the main, it is wise to let them find this out for themselves. Encourage them to weigh and test. Maybe you, too, will learn new ways to do things, how to cook a tasty dish, or how to decorate a room with charm. They may at first appear to be "slow" only because of a language barrier.

### LET THEM CONTRIBUTE

Your newcomers will have really "arrived" only when they have begun to contribute themselves. This means not only in their jobs, but also in the community. Find out if they have talents to use in a folk festival, a holiday celebration, a musical, dancing, culinary skills, arts and crafts, the life of the church.



### HUMAN FACTORS

Sometimes, although not often, sponsors find that some advance information on their case was in error. This probably happened only because someone unintentionally misinterpreted what was said overseas.

Occasionally a newcomer family may wish to go to another city to be with relatives or friends. There is no way, of course, in which they can be held against their will. The sponsorship accepted by them is not a contract. But before encouraging them to move, it will be well for you to cooperate with them by finding

out from a minister, a family service agency, or a Council of Churches in that locality whether there really is a place and a job for them. If they go to a new sponsor, you are immediately relieved of your own responsibilities. We suggest that if you are able to do more, you offer to take a substitute from your denominational refugee committee. Make the adjustment in a way fair to yourself as well as to your refugees.

Keep your temper, your humor, your love!

### EMPLOYMENT

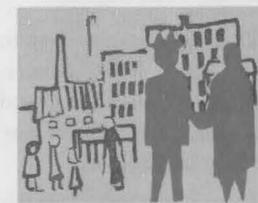
Help your new arrivals get their Social Security numbers. The address of your nearest Social Security office can be secured from the Post Office, or from the telephone book under: "U.S. Government, Department of Health, Education and Welfare."

Go with them, by public transportation, to their new jobs, explaining carefully and slowly about bus names, numbers, and letters, fares and transfers, starting and stopping points both coming and going. Write down on a slip of paper the location of job, bus route, address and phone where you can be reached.

Explain carefully their duties, hours, wages, pay-days, pay roll deductions, and everything pertinent to the job. They will want to know if they can join a company health insurance plan.

### JOB PROMISE IS NOT A CONTRACT

Your new refugees have accepted the moral obligation to try their best to fulfill the jobs found for them. But they are free, by law, to improve their lot by accepting more favorable employment. Employers, too, by law, are free to hire or fire new arrivals under exactly the same conditions as any other employee.



Persons or congregations desiring further information or wishing to explore the possibility of undertaking sponsorship of refugees should communicate with their National Denominational Resettlement Office.



**CHURCH WORLD SERVICE**  
**Immigration and Refugee Program**  
**475 Riverside Drive**  
**New York, N.Y. 10027**

Understanding the  
**REFUGEES**  
from  
**VIETNAM**

BY DOUGLAS R. BEANE



At this writing, both the total number and composition of the Vietnamese refugees to be resettled in the U.S.A. were still somewhat uncertain. The Ford administration has just presented to Congress a fund request covering 150,000 refugees, but when all the Vietnamese fleeing on ships are finally counted the grand total may be closer to 200,000. Many of these Vietnamese are legitimate relatives of U.S. citizens and can thus count on their assistance in the resettlement process. Until the initial screening procedures are completed, we cannot be certain about the composition of the remaining Vietnamese who do not have relatives in the U.S.A. One IBM computer projection has already estimated that there may be only 30,000 heads of household among the approximately 150,000 refugees accounted for so far.

Because the social, religious and geographical (i.e., northern, central, southern VN) composition cannot yet be ascertained, this paper will of necessity be very general in scope. Hopefully, however, it will serve as a basic introduction to the Vietnamese for sponsoring families and churches throughout the country. Despite the hundreds of millions of words about Viet-Nam which have been published during the last 20 years, only a small percentage has dealt with the Vietnamese as people. Who the Vietnamese people are and what makes them tick is an extremely complex subject to which I cannot begin to do justice here. One can begin to understand the Vietnamese, however, if one tries to comprehend that whereas we Americans tend to base our approach to life on reason, the Vietnamese place their primary emphasis on sentiment.

Another aspect of the Vietnamese personality is a Confucian belief in the value of harmony in social relations, for only by achieving harmony in social relations (father-son, husband-wife, employer-employee, etc.) can one achieve tranquility of the soul. If Americans working in Viet-Nam had been better able to understand these aspects of the Vietnamese personality, many of the mutual misconceptions and misunderstandings between our two peoples could perhaps have been avoided.

After the confusion and turmoil of their departure from Viet-Nam, hours of mind-numbing sea or air travel, processing through various camps, and arrival at their new home, a Vietnamese family is very apt to be emotionally exhausted, whether the members openly display these feelings or not. It is very important, therefore, that the Americans who come into contact with the family upon its final arrival realize the trying period the family has just experienced and react sensitively to the situation. I do not recommend brass bands, large crowds, banners

or welcoming speeches. These would only add to the confusion and perhaps create a false atmosphere accompanied by false expectations. A quiet, simple welcome by the few people who will assume primary responsibility for the family will be meaningful enough for them. It is after all, their needs, rather than our own, with which we should be concerned. One of the first problems which may arise with the Vietnamese family is the matter of communications. It will be very helpful if the sponsors can determine in advance whether anyone in the family speaks English. If there is no English-speaking family member, the sponsors should make arrangements to have either an English-speaking Vietnamese or American on hand when the family first arrives. This will greatly facilitate the initial settling-in process for both parties. If the family does have an English-speaking member, it is very possible that he/she will not be fluent or have instant hearing comprehension. If this is the case, the sponsors will find it useful to speak distinctly and a bit slowly (not so slowly, however, as to appear condescending!) and to ask occasional discreet questions to determine whether previous conversation has been understood. The latter is necessary because many Vietnamese are very reluctant to admit that they don't comprehend something. Consequently, they will nod their heads as if everything is crystal clear, when actually they may understand little or nothing of what has been said.

Other aids to better communication will be to speak in a normal tone, avoid excessive boisterousness, and above all avoid losing one's temper, shaking one's finger in a Vietnamese family member's face, laying unfriendly hands on a family member, etc. (remember the harmony in social relations!!).

Besides the language problem, the Vietnamese family will probably have major adjustments to make regarding both climate and food. Most of the Vietnamese being received in the U.S. will have been used to a monsoon climate with rather consistent average temperatures of 77°-86°. In some sections of the U.S. (Florida, California, etc.) adjusting to the climate will not present much of a problem. In others (New England, Mid-West, etc.), however, Vietnamese families will have to make a major adjustment to the climate, particularly during the winter months. Sponsors in these regions should make sure that the Vietnamese know what types of clothing are required for the different seasons. Sponsors should also pass on the many little tips for getting along during seasonal changes which

Americans take more or less for granted; e.g., wearing slippers when the floors are cold, not going outdoors on a cold day without a jacket, not letting a child stand around wet after taking a hot bath on a cold day, etc.

Sponsors may find that a Vietnamese family will have difficulty adjusting to the typical American diet. In Viet-Nam, as in most of Asia, rice is the staple food. Other standard foods include fish, pork, tongue, heart, stomach and a variety of intestines, various soups with plenty of noodles, spices, hot peppers, fish sauce, soy bean sauce, fresh fruits and vegetables. Sweets are usually made from rice glutine, fruits, seeds, spices or coconut. Most of these foods are available to one degree or another throughout the U.S., particularly in or near cities which have Chinese sections. The Vietnamese way of preparing food is very time-consuming and the smells can be pretty hard for Americans to take. We should grin and bear it, though, for if the Vietnamese can occasionally prepare the food they like in the way they're used to, the overall problems of adjustment will be a lot easier for them.

As American churches will be playing an important role in the resettlement of Vietnamese families, it seems appropriate to include here a few words about religion in Viet-Nam. The population of the former Republic of Viet-Nam is between 18-19 million. Of this number, approximately 2 million are Catholics, 2 million followers of an indigenous religion called Cao Dai and one million followers of an indigenous religion called Hoa Hao. Estimates of the number of Protestants vary considerably, but there are probably around 150,000, counting children. The great majority of these Christians belong to the Evangelical Church of Viet-Nam (affiliated with the Christian and Missionary Alliance, headquartered in Nyack, N.Y.), with much smaller numbers belonging to the Mennonite, Southern Baptist, Seventh Day Adventist, and several other denominations.

Viet-Nam has often been referred to as a Buddhist country. There is no doubt that in the former RVN, Buddhist influence was widespread, particularly in central Viet-Nam. Estimates of the number of fervent Buddhists and nominal followers, however, also vary widely. For comparison's sake, we can perhaps say that among the 18-19 million population there may be between 5-7 regular practicing Buddhists and as many nominal followers.

Another pervasive influence in Viet-Nam, particularly among the older generation, is Confucianism. More a

way of life involving a code of ethics and morals than a religion, Confucianism was introduced into Viet-Nam by the Chinese during the first centuries of the Christian era. The Vietnamese belief in harmony in social relations is rooted in this Confucianism as is the practice of ancestor worship, Confucianism's most important ritual. Many Vietnamese followers of other religions also practice Confucianism in some form or other.

Douglas R. Beane served with Viet-Nam Christian Service from 1 June 1967 to 17 April 1975, when he, his Vietnamese wife and their three children departed from Viet-Nam. Mr. Beane's last position with VNCS was as Director of Personnel and Special Projects. He is presently serving as Indochina Consultant to Southern Asia/Church World Service.



Some recent newspaper reports have indicated that 10% of the new Vietnamese refugees are Catholics. Sources for this information have not been named, however, so only when the screening process has been completed and the results tabulated will we know exactly what the religious breakdown among the refugees is.

Living in their own country, the Vietnamese expected Americans working in Viet-Nam to make an effort to learn and abide by Vietnamese customs—and rightly so. The Vietnamese—even those with regular American contacts—were not always so tolerant about ignorance of or failure to abide by these customs. Consequently, misunderstandings, hard feelings, or loss of friendship between Americans and Vietnamese often occurred. The Vietnamese are in many ways, however, a very practical people. Accordingly, I think that most of them are aware that in the U.S.A. they must be the ones to adapt to American customs rather than to continue expecting Americans to adapt to theirs. The actual adaptation process may be difficult for the Vietnamese and some American understanding of their customs will help to make the transition process somewhat easier. I cannot go into these customs in great depth, but will try to mention some things which should help to promote smoother two-way communication.

Handshaking has gained wide acceptance among men in Viet-Nam. It is probably best, though, not to shake hands with a woman unless she offers her hand first. Vietnamese names nearly always consist of a family name, middle name and given name, in that order (this is the reverse of our custom, where the given name comes first and the family name last). The terms Mr., Mrs., Miss are used with the given name rather than the family name. Again, this is the opposite of our custom. Thus, DUONG VAN MINH is addressed as Mr. Minh and NGUYEN THI BINH as Mrs. Binh. It is best to call to people in a quiet voice. Waving, beckoning or snapping the fingers to get someone's attention is considered very impolite.

Americans feel that looking straight into someone's eyes while we are talking to them is a sign of straightforwardness. Don't expect the Vietnamese to do this and don't misunderstand when they don't. Traditionally, in conversation, the Vietnamese don't look into the eyes of those whom they respect or who are superior in rank to them. This is an indication of politeness, not deviousness. Similarly, the Vietnamese smile does not always mean the same thing as an American smile. This is particularly

true when the Vietnamese are talking to someone whom they regard as their superior. A smile may mean tolerance of an error or misunderstanding, submission to an unjust situation, acceptance of guilt, or embarrassment. It does not necessarily mean the Vietnamese thinks that someone or something is funny.

Vietnamese usually take an indirect approach in their conversations or dealings, particularly when they involve unpleasant matters. Americans often regard this as unnecessary beating around the bush, but the Vietnamese consider it a tactful, delicate approach toward the achievement of the previously mentioned harmony in social relations. In the same vein, Vietnamese will say yes to things when they really mean no. This, again, is not deviousness, but a desire not to hurt feelings or cause unpleasantness. In dealing with Vietnamese, Americans will achieve better results if they are pleasant, quiet and patient, avoiding talking in loud tones and, especially, losing their tempers.

"Dutch treat" is not a Vietnamese custom. In a restaurant situation, one member of the party pays for all. If an American and a Vietnamese happen to be eating in a restaurant and the Vietnamese offers to pay, the American should let him do so, even if the Vietnamese is obviously less able to afford it than the American. For the American to pay despite the Vietnamese offer would be considered a rejection of the latter's hospitality and a reflection upon his ability to pay.

The foregoing is not intended to be a complete guide to understanding the Vietnamese people. The thoughts expressed here are merely a brief introduction to the Vietnamese, an introduction which hopefully will spur sponsoring American families to seek additional information from their local libraries or other sources. In conclusion, I would like to add one of my own deeply held feelings: the Vietnamese are people, just like we Americans are people. Although their thoughts, actions, customs and physical appearance may differ from ours, the Vietnamese have feelings and emotions, just as we Americans have feelings and emotions. When dealing with the Vietnamese, therefore, Americans should sensitively treat them as human beings worthy of the same human dignity with which we would expect to be treated if the situation were reversed. The Vietnamese are not "gooks" and it demeans us more than them to regard them in such an ignorant way. The Vietnamese, Christian

or non-Christian, are also children of God and we should treat them as God expects all His children to be treated: equally without prejudice; lovingly without hate; sincerely without condescension.



Persons or congregations desiring further information or wishing to explore the possibility of undertaking sponsorship of refugees should communicate with their National Denominational Resettlement Office.



**CHURCH WORLD SERVICE**  
**Immigration and Refugee Program**  
**475 Riverside Drive**  
**New York, N.Y. 10027**

MAY 24 1975

AUTHORIZATION BILL

That this Act may be cited as "The Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975".

SEC. 2. (a) Subject to the provisions of subsection (b) there are hereby authorized to be appropriated, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes, \$455,000,000 for the performance of functions set forth in the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962 (76 Stat. 121), as amended, with respect to aliens who have fled from Cambodia or Vietnam, such sums to remain available in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section.



(b) None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act shall be available for the performance of functions after June 30, 1976, other than for carrying out the provisions of clauses (3), (4), (5), and (6) of section 2(b) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as amended. None of such funds shall be available for obligation for any purpose after September 30, 1977.

SEC. 3. In carrying out functions utilizing the funds made available under this Act, the term "refugee" as defined in section 2(b)(3) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as amended, shall be deemed to include aliens who (A) because of persecution or fear of persecution on account of race, religion, or political opinion, fled from Cambodia or Vietnam; (B) cannot return there because of fear of persecution on account of race, religion, or political opinion; and (C) are in urgent need of assistance for the essentials of life.

SEC. 4. (a) The President shall consult with and keep the Committees on the Judiciary, Appropriations, and International Relations of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Foreign Relations, Appropriations and Judiciary of the Senate fully and currently informed of the use of funds and the exercise of functions authorized in this Act.

(b) Not more than thirty days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall transmit to such Committees a report describing fully and completely the status of refugees from Cambodia and South Vietnam. Such report shall set forth, in addition--

(1) a plan for the resettlement of those refugees remaining in receiving or staging centers;

(2) the number of refugees who have indicated an interest in returning to their homeland or being resettled in a third country, together with (A) a description of the plan

for their return or resettlement and the steps taken to carry out such return or resettlement, and (B) any initiatives that have been made with respect to the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees of the United Nations; and

(3) a full and complete description of the steps the President has taken to retrieve and deposit in the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts all amounts previously authorized and appropriated for assistance to South Vietnam and Cambodia but not expended for such purpose, exclusive of \$98,000,000 of Indochina Postwar Reconstruction funds allocated to the Department of State for movement and maintenance of refugees prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) Supplementary reports setting forth recent information with respect to each of the items referred to in this section shall be transmitted not more than ninety days after the date of transmittal of the report referred to in subsection (b) of this section and not later than the end of each ninety-day period thereafter. Such reports shall continue until September 30, 1977, and a final report shall be submitted no later than December 31, 1977.

An act making appropriations for special assistance to refugees from Cambodia and Vietnam for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1975, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for special assistance to refugees from Cambodia and Vietnam for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1975, and for other purposes; namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OTHER

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES FROM CAMBODIA AND  
VIETNAM

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, for the relocation and resettlement of refugees from Cambodia and Vietnam, \$305,000,000 to remain available until June 30, 1976.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND

WELFARE

SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICE

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES FROM CAMBODIA AND  
VIETNAM IN THE UNITED STATES

For assistance to refugees from Cambodia and Vietnam in the United States, to remain available for obligation through June 30, 1976, \$100,000,000.

TITLE II

GENERAL PROVISION

SEC. 201. No funds appropriated in this Act shall be used, directly or indirectly, to aid the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) or the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG), nor shall any funds appropriated under

this Act be channeled through or administered by the DRV or the PRV, nor shall any funds appropriated under this Act be channeled through or administered by international organizations or voluntary agencies to aid the DRV or the PRG.

Passed the House of Representatives May 14, 1975.



GUIDELINES ON INS CLEARANCES

JUL 26 1975

The following was provided by INS as clarification of INS security procedures:

Effective immediately and superceding all previous instructions regarding security clearance, the following definitions are applicable and refugees meeting the definitions are eligible for parole under the Vicom Program.



"Relatives" are the spouse, child, parent, or parent of a spouse of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident alien.

"Extended relations" are also within the program, and include any person regardless of age or sex who is related to a qualified "relative" and is traveling with the qualified "relative".

Return of security checks need not be awaited for "relatives" or for "extended relatives". Furthermore, return of security checks need not be awaited for a former United States government employee where former United States government employment has been verified by a United States government agency and the United States government agency has certified that security checks were conducted during or prior to such United States government employment. Also, return of security checks need not be awaited for "extended relatives" of such former USG employees. "Extended relatives", here, are persons regardless of age or sex who are related to such former USG employees and who are traveling with the former USG employee. Form G-325 and the affidavit form G-646 must be executed for every refugee 14 years of age.

Refugee who meet the foregoing definitions, however, may be released immediately provided that they have the required assurances and the security returns may be received at a later date.

All other persons must await the return of security checks unless under age 17. Unusual cases involving humanitarian factors, may be phoned to central office INS for guidance, coordinated with Deputy Commissioner Green.

Summary for Civil Coordinator:

IATF interprets foregoing instruction as follows: members of following five groups may leave camp before completion of security clearance.

- A) Spouse, child, parent, or parent of spouse of AMCIT.
- B) Spouse, child, parent, or parent of spouse of lawful permanent resident alien.
- C) Former U.S. or VN U.S. government employees who have had U.S. security check verified by employer.
- D) People related in any way to member of any of above categories and who are traveling with them.
- E) People under 17.

Prior to departure of these people from camps, all other processing, including verified sponsorship, must be completed.

## PROCESSING OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

This message establishes guidelines and procedures for processing Indochinese refugees quickly through the reception areas in the United States while still insuring that the refugees are properly resettled and that the possibility of their becoming a public charge is reduced. The goal is to make Indochinese refugees self-supporting members of their communities in the shortest possible time.

### GENERAL:

The guidelines and procedures set forth in this message should be followed at each processing center. However, the Senior Civil Coordinator may modify these procedures to fit his particular needs. He should notify the Inter-Agency Task Force, Washington, D.C., of major changes.

Processing should be accomplished expeditiously. Arriving refugees should begin processing as soon as practicable. The elements of processing are: (A) Reception; (B) Immigration and Naturalization Service In-Processing; (C) Issuance of Social Security Numbers; (D) Health, Education Welfare, Health and Social Services Counselling; (E) Sponsorship Verification; (F) INS Final Processing (Security Check Verification); (G) Final Outprocessing and Travel.

### SECURITY CLEARANCES:

Results of security checks are required before release from refugee camps for all refugees 17 and over except: (A) relatives of either American citizens or permanent resident aliens; and (B) former U.S. Government employees having had valid security clearances. Security checks on persons in these categories will be performed after they have arrived at their final destination.

### SPONSORSHIP- (SEE ANNEX D ALSO):

With certain exceptions, refugees require sponsors to assist in insuring that the refugees do not become public charges and to help each refugee make the transition from refugee status to status as a self-sufficient member of his community.

Sponsorship can take the form of an offer of support, employment or both. However, the sponsor must also be ready to help the refugee with some of the less tangible aspects of resettlement such as adjustment to a new culture, acquainting the refugee with American law and requirements. Sponsorship is not a formal, legal commitment. However, the sponsor undertakes a clear moral commitment to help the refugee to the best of his ability.

SPONSORSHIP REQUIREMENTS:

A sponsor, in conjunction with an appropriate Volag, will be expected to:

1. Receive the refugee and his family;
2. Provide shelter and food, until the refugee becomes self-sufficient. Shelter need not be in the residence of the sponsor but must be adequate;
3. Provide clothing and pocket money;
4. Provide assistance in finding employment and in school enrollment for children;
5. Cover ordinary medical costs or medical insurance.

Once employment is obtained, the sponsor will assist the refugee to locate permanent housing, acquire minimal furniture and arrange for utilities.

PROCESSING OF REFUGEES BY CATEGORY:

The following procedures will apply for the processing of various refugee categories:

1. Refugees without sponsors:

Voluntary agencies will play the major role in resettling refugees by matching them with specific sponsors by obtaining the pledges of individuals, churches or community groups to resettle the refugees and by matching other offers of sponsorship that are not specific as to persons or family. (ANNEX A).

The Department of State has received a number of offers for sponsorship, employment, housing and material assistance. These offers will be made available to the Volags for verification and follow-up. Similar offers received at the reception centers should be referred to Voluntary Agency representatives at the centers.

2. Refugees specifically named by a sponsor:

Offers to sponsor a named individual or family which can be matched with refugees of the same name at the camps should be referred to a Volag for verification. Because of the similarity of Vietnamese names, the Volag should first verify that the correct refugees have been located. In cases where a sponsor has named a specific family or the refugee has named a proposed sponsor, the Volag will make appropriate inquiries of the sponsor to confirm his willingness to help the refugee and to verify the plans for resettling the refugee. The responsibilities the sponsor is assuming will be explained to the sponsor. As required, the Volag will arrange for a local check to determine insofar as possible whether the sponsor has the means needed for sponsorship.

Prospective sponsors should be requested to send a statement or telegram to the individual refugee in care of the American Red Cross at the local camp or to certify to the Volag representative in the sponsor's locality that he understands the obligations of sponsorship and will make every effort to provide or assist the named refugees in obtaining housing, employment and other assistance which will lead to self-sufficiency. Statement should be signed and contain address and telephone number of sponsor. We are asking the Volags to publicize the availability of their direct-name sponsorship service. (ANNEX B).

If the sponsor is determined to be responsible by the Volag, INS will authorize the release of the refugee from camp. Those cases considered doubtful by the Volag will be rejected and the refugee will be resettled by other voluntary agency efforts.

3. Refugees with independent means.

Certain refugees may have access to personal resources which will enable them to be self-sustaining. These refugees may require only brief counselling to direct them to a resettlement location. A single adult or family with

at least one adult with facility in English, vocational skills and a general idea of a resettlement location can meet the self-sustaining test if the family has average resources of \$4000 per capita, exclusive of transportation. A board at each camp comprised of officials of State, INS and HEW will make the determination of self-sufficiency and authorize release from camp. Refugees determined to have adequate personal funds should not be maintained at camps at USG expense once security checks are completed.

The board will interview the refugee and determine whether he can adequately meet the above test of self-sufficiency. If he does, he will be certified for departure from camp without referral to a Voluntary Agency and without the requirement for sponsorship.

4. Relatives of American citizens and permanent aliens:

HEW, with the assistance of the Red Cross, will verify the willingness and ability of the named relative to "sponsor" and resettle the refugee. Once confirmed, INS will release those refugees without an additional sponsorship requirement. If HEW decides the sponsor is unable to care for the refugees, the case will be passed to an accredited Voluntary Agency for processing. "Relatives" of U.S. citizens includes spouse, parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, unmarried siblings and handicapped dependents.

5. Offers by former employers:

If sponsorship is offered by a former employer, the offer will be reviewed by the board established under Section 3, and if the former employer is deemed to be responsible - a major corporation, charitable group or USG - the refugee will be released to the employer without Voluntary Agency assistance. If the employer cannot offer the full range of sponsor services, he should be put in touch with an approved resettlement Voluntary Agency.

If an employer proposes to send the refugee outside the United States to work, the refugee should consult with INS to ensure that appropriate travel and re-entry documents are issued.



6. Travel:

The refugee may travel at his own expense, the expense of his sponsor, or government expense. Government-paid travel should not be relied upon and at a minimum, partial payment by the sponsor or refugee should be attempted. However, government-paid travel is preferred over jeopardizing sponsorship or depriving the refugee of essential funds required for resettlement. In order to determine eligibility for government travel expenses, the assets of the refugee or sponsor should be verified by HEW before travel is authorized at government expense. Documentation of the lack of ability of the refugee or sponsor to finance travel is required. Attached at ANNEX C is a sample form which may be used by the refugee or sponsor to authenticate the requirement for travel at government expense.

CLEARANCES:

This message has been cleared with the appropriate government agencies and has been discussed with the Voluntary Agencies.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS --

AND THEIR ANSWERS

Q. How long will the reception centers be in operation?

A. Those in the Western Pacific will close out as the last refugees leave for the United States, third countries or, at their own request, return to Indochina.

The four reception centers in the continental U.S. are planned as flow-through facilities through which the refugees may be properly security-checked and processed before joining their sponsors. The time involved is currently taking longer than it should, a problem the Task Force is working hard to resolve. If we are successful, the reception centers' life span may range from 90 days to perhaps six months.

Eglin Air Force Base in Florida will have the shortest use; it will be phased out just as soon as the speed-up processing permits.

Q. Will there be a fifth reception site in the U.S.?

A. We do not envision that the necessity will arise. In fact, we are planning to phase out Eglin AFB as early as it may prove feasible and to continue to refine our procedures at Pendleton, Chaffee and Indiantown Gap so as to be able to manage with three reception centers only.

Q. Will one camp be established for "residual" refugees -- hard-to-place, unskilled, illiterate, or even excludable by INS?

A. No such facility is envisioned or planned. The voluntary agencies will continue to seek sponsors for all refugee families. The search may take longer for some families than for others but it is extremely doubtful that the numbers will be high enough to require the indefinite management of a Defense Department installation.



The Immigration & Naturalization Service will be judging each excludable refugee on a case-by-case basis and will determine its own requirements. It should be noted that INS has found fewer than 30 refugees to be undesirable out of the first approximately 50,000 that have been checked.

Q. What is a Sponsor? What are his responsibilities?

A. A Sponsor may be an individual, a family, a church, a service or other organization, or a business firm which has made a moral commitment to do everything possible to help a refugee family from the moment it arrives in the community until such time as the family is self-supporting. The Sponsor provides or arranges for shelter, food, counselling, job-seeking and assimilation into American life. In so doing, the Sponsor has the cooperation of a Voluntary Agency.

Q. What is the role of the Voluntary Agencies?

A. The traditional voluntary agencies (see attached list) are responsible for the actual resettlement of the refugee families. They locate sponsors, investigate the willingness and capability of sponsors to undertake the necessary commitment, interview families and attempt to match sponsors and families in the most felicitous arrangement. Voluntary Agencies also stand ready to assist sponsors financially (with funds made available to them under the terms of their contracts with the USG) and to find secondary sponsors in the unhappy event that the original choices do not work out.

Q. What is the role of State and local governments?

A. State and local governments may act as sponsors by applying directly to the IATF and indicating how many refugee families they believe they are in a position to assist. Funds will be made available for this purpose by the IATF, which will provide the same sum per resettled refugee as is given to the VOLAGS, i.e., \$500.

Q. What about those who want to go home?

A. The United States believes in freedom of movement; those Vietnamese or Cambodians who indicate a desire to return to Indochina are free to do so. Since the USG is not in a position to fly repatriates back to Indochina, it has called upon the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to assume his traditional role in these instances. The IATF is providing the UNHCR with the names and locations of all refugees who have expressed a wish to return. The UNHCR, or its assigned representative, will interview each one to insure that the decision has been made voluntarily, will forward the papers to its Geneva headquarters, conduct the negotiations for the returnees with the authorities in Vietnam and Cambodia, and arrange for their flights through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and/or the Inter-Governmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM), each also taking up its traditional role.

Q. What about refugees who may prefer to go to third countries?

A. Even before April 29, the USG had begun to internationalize the resettlement of the refugees, through bilateral discussions and through the UNHCR and ICEM. Several countries, notably Canada and France, have sent immigration officers to Guam and/or the reception centers. As of 26 May, close to 2,000 refugees have gone to other countries, Canada, the Philippines, Okinawa and Guam taking the largest numbers.

Q. What is the legal status of a refugee in the U.S.?

A. The refugees from Indochina are entering as "parolees", under Section (d) (5) of the Immigration and Naturalization Act. INS is issuing each one an I-94 which identifies the holder as a legal alien with authority to work. In two years, the refugee may seek to change their status to permanent resident or to immigrant and to begin the procedure leading to citizenship.

The Vietnamese and Cambodians who were already in this country when their governments fell, and who wish to remain, may change the status under which they entered (such as students or visitors) to the above. In any case, they will not be forcibly returned to their homelands.

Q. To what public assistance benefits are the refugees entitled?

A. All benefits to which U.S. citizens are entitled, provided they meet the same eligibility requirements. The assistance would be provided through established State and local welfare and health agencies and would include financial and medical assistance and related social services. The Federal Government (HEW) will reimburse the States 100% for any sums spent in this manner.

Q. Is there a locator?

A. We hope to have an efficient locator system no later than the first week in June which will help to find individual refugees in the restaging or reception sites. It will not be possible to locate a family once it has left USG control and joined its sponsor, however.

Q. Is there a profile of the refugee community? What is known about skills, occupations, literacy, etc.?

A. No one has yet been able to answer that question on the basis of a valid scientific sample. Again, by the first week in June, we hope to have enough information from the extended biographic sheets the refugees are now required to fill out to draw a definite picture of a representative number of refugees for the first time.

Q. How is the program being funded?

A. By the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975, signed into law by the President on May 24. It provides 405 million dollars which will be spent as follows: \$155 million for daily maintenance



at the restaging and reception centers; \$65 million for the Airlift; \$70 million for resettlement costs (furnished to Volags); \$100 million for subsequent welfare and medical services; \$15 million for the movement of refugees to third countries. And additional \$98 million, made available for previous Foreign Assistance Act funds, has paid for the evacuation sea and airlift and for the opening up of the restaging and reception sites.



OFFICE MEMORANDUM ③

TO : Dr. Paul McCleary

DATE: May 21, 1975

FROM : John W. Schauer

SUBJECT: Indo-China Evacuees (Refugees)

On April 22, CWS and representatives from the resettlement agencies met with Ambassador Francis Kellogg, Special Assistant to the Secretary of State from Refugee and Migration Affairs to discuss the resettlement of Cambodian Evacuees (Refugees) in Thailand and Vietnamese Evacuees (Refugees) in U.S. Territories (Guam, Wake, Clark Air Force Base).

CWS at this meeting and subsequent meetings insisted that any program for the resettlement of Evacuees must include all evacuees, if not, CWS would not participate in the program. Subsequent U.S. government definitions have included all evacuees (refugees) from Indo-China.

At a special meeting of IRPCOM on April 24, the following actions were taken:

1. Cambodian Evacuees (Refugees):

"In view of the urgent request from the United States Government directed to the U.S. voluntary agencies to assist in the immediate resettlement of approximately 1500 Cambodian evacuees (refugees) now in Thailand, and

Whereas Church World Service expressed its unwillingness to take action in this matter as long as only former U.S. Government employees and dependents were involved, and

Since the proposed program has been expanded to include Cambodian evacuees (refugees) of all categories without limitation on prior status or employment, and

In keeping with the Christian imperative upon the Immigration and Refugee Program Operating Committee of Church World Service to assist refugees in need regardless of faith, race or political persuasion,

The Immigration and REFugee Program Operating Committee of Church World Service resolves to assist in the orderly and responsible resettlement of at least 250 Cambodian evacuees (refugees) now in Thailand."

2. Vietnamese Evacuees (Refugees):

"In view of the continuing concern of Church World Service



for the displaced and refugees on all sides of the battle lines in Indo-China, as expressed particularly in its support of the World Council of Churches Fund for Reconstruction and Reconciliation in Indo-China, and considering the present needs of the evacuees (refugees) from Vietnam and in keeping with the Christian imperative upon the Immigration and Refugee Program Operating Committee of Church World Service to assist refugees regardless of faith, race, or political persuasion,

The Immigration and Refugee Program Operating Committee of Church World Service resolves to assist in the orderly and responsible resettlement of Vietnamese evacuees (refugees) commensurate with the capability of Church World Service and its member Communions."

"Pursuant to the resolution concerning the Vietnamese evacuees (refugees), the Immigration and Refugee Program Operating Committee authorized the Immigration and Refugee Program Director to begin arrangements to resettle 500 - 2,000 units (10,000 persons)."

As the director of the Immigration and Refugee Program I was invited to appear before the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Refugees and Escapees on Friday, April 25, and to testify about the program developments and relationships of the Voluntary Agencies with the U.S. Government Interagency Task Force for Indo-China Refugees. As a result of these hearings, and at the insistence of the Chairman, Senator Edward Kennedy, the first meeting with the Voluntary Agencies was held on April 26. Subsequent meetings have been held on May 2 and again on May 8.

Staff has been in contact with the Task Force and the Civilian Coordinators of the Reception/Processing Centers at Camp Pendleton, Fort Chafee, and Eglin Air Force Base.

CWS has called upon the Churches to provide sponsorships for the Cambodian Evacuees (Refugees) and Vietnamese Evacuees (Refugees) and at this time have received approximately 200 church sponsorships. CWS Resettlement offices were staffed and operational on April 30, at Camp Pendleton, at Fort Chafee on May 5, and at Eglin Air Force Base on May 12.

CWS has been informally advised that a fourth camp is to be opened (possibly Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania) and steps are underway to staff a CWS Resettlement office as soon as possible.

On May 19, President Ford by Executive Order appointed an Advisory Committee for Indo-China Refugees. Dr. Sterling Carey, President of NCC is a member. Dr. Eugene Stockwell represented him at the White House and on a field trip to Fort Chafee on May 20. Among those present at the White House Meeting with the President and the briefing by Ambassador L. Dean Brown, Director, Interagency

Task Force for Indo-China Refugees, were Dr. Paul McCleary, Dr. James Thomas, and John Schauer.

The Director will attend a meeting at the White House Executive Office with Dr. Marrs (Director, President's Advisory Committee on Indo-China Refugees).

JWS:gg

Attachments

cc: CWS Dept.  
IRPCOM  
Field Offices

Q. How long will the reception centers be in operation?

A. Those in the Western Pacific will close out as the last refugees leave for the United States, third countries or, at their own request, return to Indochina.

The four reception centers in the continental U.S. are planned as flow-through facilities through which the refugees may be properly security-checked and processed before joining their sponsors. The time involved is currently taking longer than it should, a problem the Task Force is working hard to resolve. If we are successful, the reception centers' life span may range from 90 days to perhaps six months.

Eglin Air Force Base in Florida will have the shortest use; it will be phased out just as soon as the speed-up processing permits.

Q. Will there be a fifth reception site in the U.S.?

A. We do not envision that the necessity will arise. In fact, we are planning to phase out Eglin AFB as early as it may prove feasible and to continue to refine our procedures at Pendleton, Chaffee and Indiantown Gap so as to be able to manage with three reception centers only.

Q. Will one camp be established for "residual" refugees -- hard-to-place, unskilled, illiterate, or even excludable by INS?

A. No such facility is envisioned or planned. The voluntary agencies will continue to seek sponsors for all refugee families. The search may take longer for some families than for others but it is extremely doubtful that the numbers will be high enough to require the indefinite management of a Defense Department installation.



The Immigration & Naturalization Service will be judging each excludable refugee on a case-by-case basis and will determine its own requirements. It should be noted that INS has found fewer than 30 refugees to be undesirable out of the first approximately 50,000 that have been checked.

Q. What is a Sponsor? What are his responsibilities?

A. A Sponsor may be an individual, a family, a church, a service or other organization, or a business firm which has made a moral commitment to do everything possible to help a refugee family from the moment it arrives in the community until such time as the family is self-supporting. The Sponsor provides or arranges for shelter, food, counselling, job-seeking and assimilation into American life. In so doing, the Sponsor has the cooperation of a Voluntary Agency.

Q. What is the role of the Voluntary Agencies?

A. The traditional voluntary agencies (see attached list) are responsible for the actual resettlement of the refugee families. They locate sponsors, investigate the willingness and capability of sponsors to undertake the necessary commitment, interview families and attempt to match sponsors and families in the most felicitous arrangement. Voluntary Agencies also stand ready to assist sponsors financially (with funds made available to them under the terms of their contracts with the USG) and to find secondary sponsors in the unhappy event that the original choices do not work out.

Q. What is the role of State and local governments?

A. State and local governments may act as sponsors by applying directly to the IATF and indicating how many refugee families they believe they are in a position to assist. Funds will be made available for this purpose by the IATF, which will provide the same sum per resettled refugee as is given to the VOLAGS, i.e., \$500.

Q. What about those who want to go home?

A. The United States believes in freedom of movement; those Vietnamese or Cambodians who indicate a desire to return to Indochina are free to do so. Since the USG is not in a position to fly repatriates back to Indochina, it has called upon the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to assume his traditional role in these instances. The IATF is providing the UNHCR with the names and locations of all refugees who have expressed a wish to return. The UNHCR, or its assigned representative, will interview each one to insure that the decision has been made voluntarily, will forward the papers to its Geneva headquarters, conduct the negotiations for the returnees with the authorities in Vietnam and Cambodia, and arrange for their flights through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and/or the Inter-Governmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM), each also taking up its traditional role.

Q. What about refugees who may prefer to go to third countries?

A. Even before April 29, the USG had begun to internationalize the resettlement of the refugees, through bilateral discussions and through the UNHCR and ICEM. Several countries, notably Canada and France, have sent immigration officers to Guam and/or the reception centers. As of 26 May, close to 2,000 refugees have gone to other countries, Canada, the Philippines, Okinawa and Guam taking the largest numbers.

Q. What is the legal status of a refugee in the U.S.?

A. The refugees from Indochina are entering as "parolees", under Section (d) (5) of the Immigration and Naturalization Act. INS is issuing each one an I-94 which identifies the holder as a legal alien with authority to work. In two years, the refugee may seek to change their status to permanent resident or to immigrant and to begin the procedure leading to citizenship.

The Vietnamese and Cambodians who were already in this country when their governments fell, and who wish to remain, may change the status under which they entered (such as students or visitors) to the above. In any case, they will not be forcibly returned to their homelands.

Q. To what public assistance benefits are the refugees entitled?

A. All benefits to which U.S. citizens are entitled, provided they meet the same eligibility requirements. The assistance would be provided through established State and local welfare and health agencies and would include financial and medical assistance and related social services. The Federal Government (HEW) will reimburse the States 100% for any sums spent in this manner.

Q. Is there a locator?

A. We hope to have an efficient locator system no later than the first week in June which will help to find individual refugees in the restaging or reception sites. It will not be possible to locate a family once it has left USG control and joined its sponsor, however.

Q. Is there a profile of the refugee community? What is known about skills, occupations, literacy, etc.?

A. No one has yet been able to answer that question on the basis of a valid scientific sample. Again, by the first week in June, we hope to have enough information from the extended biographic sheets the refugees are now required to fill out to draw a definite picture of a representative number of refugees for the first time.

Q. How is the program being funded?

A. By the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975, signed into law by the President on May 24. It provides 405 million dollars which will be spent as follows: \$155 million for daily maintenance

at the restaging and reception centers; \$65 million for the Airlift; \$70 million for resettlement costs (furnished to Volags); \$100 million for subsequent welfare and medical services; \$15 million for the movement of refugees to third countries. And additional \$98 million, made available for previous Foreign Assistance Act funds, has paid for the evacuation sea and airlift and for the opening up of the restaging and reception sites.



MAY 28 1975

The following was provided by INS as clarification of INS security procedures:

Effective immediately and superceding all previous instructions regarding security clearance, the following definitions are applicable and refugees meeting the definitions are eligible for parole under the Vicom Program.

"Relatives" are the spouse, child, parent, or parent of a spouse of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident alien.

"Extended relations" are also within the program, and include any person regardless of age or sex who is related to a qualified "relative" and is traveling with the qualified "relative".

Return of security checks need not be awaited for "relatives" or for "extended relatives". Furthermore, return of security checks need not be awaited for a former United States government employee where former United States government employment has been verified by a United States government agency and the United States government agency has certified that security checks were conducted during or prior to such United States government employment. Also, return of security checks need not be awaited for "extended relatives" of such former USG employees. "Extended relatives", here, are persons regardless of age or sex who are related to such former USG employees and who are traveling with the former USG employee. Form G-325 and the affidavit form G-646 must be executed for every refugee 14 years of age.

Refugee who meet the foregoing definitions, however, may be released immediately provided that they have the required assurances and the security returns may be received at a later date.

All other persons must await the return of security checks unless under age 17. Unusual cases involving humanitarian factors, may be phoned to central office INS for guidance, coordinated with Deputy Commissioner Green.



Summary for Civil Coordinator:

IATF interprets foregoing instruction as follows: members of following five groups may leave camp before completion of security clearance.

- A) Spouse, child, parent, or parent of spouse of AMCIT.
- B) Spouse, child, parent, or parent of spouse of lawful permanent resident alien.
- C) Former U.S. or VN U.S. government employees who have had U.S. security check verified by employer.
- D) People related in any way to member of any of above categories and who are traveling with them.
- E) People under 17.

Prior to departure of these people from camps, all other processing, including verified sponsorship, must be completed.

## PROCESSING OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

This message establishes guidelines and procedures for processing Indochinese refugees quickly through the reception areas in the United States while still insuring that the refugees are properly resettled and that the possibility of their becoming a public charge is reduced. The goal is to make Indochinese refugees self-supporting members of their communities in the shortest possible time.

### GENERAL:

The guidelines and procedures set forth in this message should be followed at each processing center. However, the Senior Civil Coordinator may modify these procedures to fit his particular needs. He should notify the Inter-Agency Task Force, Washington, D.C., of major changes.

Processing should be accomplished expeditiously. Arriving refugees should begin processing as soon as practicable. The elements of processing are: (A) Reception; (B) Immigration and Naturalization Service In-Processing; (C) Issuance of Social Security Numbers; (D) Health, Education Welfare, Health and Social Services Counselling; (E) Sponsorship Verification; (F) INS Final Processing (Security Check Verification); (G) Final Outprocessing and Travel.

### SECURITY CLEARANCES:

Results of security checks are required before release from refugee camps for all refugees 17 and over except: (A) relatives of either American citizens or permanent resident aliens; and (B) former U.S. Government employees having had valid security clearances. Security checks on persons in these categories will be performed after they have arrived at their final destination.

### SPONSORSHIP- (SEE ANNEX D ALSO):

With certain exceptions, refugees require sponsors to assist in insuring that the refugees do not become public charges and to help each refugee make the transition from refugee status to status as a self-sufficient member of his community.



## Continued - Processing of Indochinese Refugees

Sponsorship can take the form of an offer of support, employment or both. However, the sponsor must also be ready to help the refugee with some of the less tangible aspects of resettlement such as adjustment to a new culture, acquainting the refugee with American law and requirements. Sponsorship is not a formal, legal commitment. However, the sponsor undertakes a clear moral commitment to help the refugee to the best of his ability.

### SPONSORSHIP REQUIREMENTS:

A sponsor, in conjunction with an appropriate Volag, will be expected to:

1. Receive the refugee and his family;
2. Provide shelter and food, until the refugee becomes self-sufficient. Shelter need not be in the residence of the sponsor but must be adequate;
3. Provide clothing and pocket money;
4. Provide assistance in finding employment and in school enrollment for children;
5. Cover ordinary medical costs or medical insurance.

Once employment is obtained, the sponsor will assist the refugee to locate permanent housing, acquire minimal furniture and arrange for utilities.

### PROCESSING OF REFUGEES BY CATEGORY:

The following procedures will apply for the processing of various refugee categories:

1. Refugees without sponsors:

Voluntary agencies will play the major role in resettling refugees by matching them with specific sponsors by obtaining the pledges of individuals, churches or community groups to resettle the refugees and by matching other offers of sponsorship that are not specific as to persons or family. (ANNEX A).

The Department of State has received a number of offers for sponsorship, employment, housing and material assistance. These offers will be made available to the Volags for verification and follow-up. Similar offers received at the reception centers should be referred to Voluntary Agency representatives at the centers.

2. Refugees specifically named by a sponsor:

Offers to sponsor a named individual or family which can be matched with refugees of the same name at the camps should be referred to a Volag for verification. Because of the similarity of Vietnamese names, the Volag should first verify that the correct refugees have been located. In cases where a sponsor has named a specific family or the refugee has named a proposed sponsor, the Volag will make appropriate inquiries of the sponsor to confirm his willingness to help the refugee and to verify the plans for resettling the refugee. The responsibilities the sponsor is assuming will be explained to the sponsor. As required, the Volag will arrange for a local check to determine insofar as possible whether the sponsor has the means needed for sponsorship.

Prospective sponsors should be requested to send a statement or telegram to the individual refugee in care of the American Red Cross at the local camp or to certify to the Volag representative in the sponsor's locality that he understands the obligations of sponsorship and will make every effort to provide or assist the named refugees in obtaining housing, employment and other assistance which will lead to self-sufficiency. Statement should be signed and contain address and telephone number of sponsor. We are asking the Volags to publicize the availability of their direct-name sponsorship service. (ANNEX B).

If the sponsor is determined to be responsible by the Volag, INS will authorize the release of the refugee from camp. Those cases considered doubtful by the Volag will be rejected and the refugee will be resettled by other voluntary agency efforts.

3. Refugees with independent means.

Certain refugees may have access to personal resources which will enable them to be self-sustaining. These refugees may require only brief counselling to direct them to a resettlement location. A single adult or family with

at least one adult with facility in English, vocational skills and a general idea of a resettlement location can meet the self-sustaining test if the family has average resources of \$4000 per capita, exclusive of transportation. A board at each camp comprised of officials of State, INS and HEW will make the determination of self-sufficiency and authorize release from camp. Refugees determined to have adequate personal funds should not be maintained at camps at USG expense once security checks are completed.

The board will interview the refugee and determine whether he can adequately meet the above test of self-sufficiency. If he does, he will be certified for departure from camp without referral to a Voluntary Agency and without the requirement for sponsorship.

4. Relatives of American citizens and permanent aliens:

HEW, with the assistance of the Red Cross, will verify the willingness and ability of the named relative to "sponsor" and resettle the refugee. Once confirmed, INS will release those refugees without an additional sponsorship requirement. If HEW decides the sponsor is unable to care for the refugees, the case will be passed to an accredited Voluntary Agency for processing. "Relatives" of U.S. citizens includes spouse, parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, unmarried siblings and handicapped dependents.

5. Offers by former employers:

If sponsorship is offered by a former employer, the offer will be reviewed by the board established under Section 3, and if the former employer is deemed to be responsible - a major corporation, charitable group or USG - the refugee will be released to the employer without Voluntary Agency assistance. If the employer cannot offer the full range of sponsor services, he should be put in touch with an approved resettlement Voluntary Agency.

If an employer proposes to send the refugee outside the United States to work, the refugee should consult with INS to ensure that appropriate travel and re-entry documents are issued.

6. Travel:

The refugee may travel at his own expense, the expense of his sponsor, or government expense. Government-paid travel should not be relied upon and at a minimum, partial payment by the sponsor or refugee should be attempted. However, government-paid travel is preferred over jeopardizing sponsorship or depriving the refugee of essential funds required for resettlement. In order to determine eligibility for government travel expenses, the assets of the refugee or sponsor should be verified by HEW before travel is authorized at government expense. Documentation of the lack of ability of the refugee or sponsor to finance travel is required. Attached at ANNEX C is a sample form which may be used by the refugee or sponsor to authenticate the requirement for travel at government expense.

CLEARANCES:

This message has been cleared with the appropriate government agencies and has been discussed with the Voluntary Agencies.

AUTHORIZATION BILL

That this Act may be cited as "The Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975".

SEC. 2. (a) Subject to the provisions of subsection (b) there are hereby authorized to be appropriated, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes, \$455,000,000 for the performance of functions set forth in the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962 (76 Stat. 121), as amended, with respect to aliens who have fled from Cambodia or Vietnam, such sums to remain available in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section.

(b) None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act shall be available for the performance of functions after June 30, 1976, other than for carrying out the provisions of clauses (3), (4), (5), and (6) of section 2(b) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as amended. None of such funds shall be available for obligation for any purpose after September 30, 1977.

SEC. 3. In carrying out functions utilizing the funds made available under this Act, the term "refugee" as defined in section 2(b)(3) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as amended, shall be deemed to include aliens who (A) because of persecution or fear of persecution on account of race, religion, or political opinion, fled from Cambodia or Vietnam; (B) cannot return there because of fear of persecution on account of race, religion, or political opinion; and (C) are in urgent need of assistance for the essentials of life.

SEC. 4. (a) The President shall consult with and keep the Committees on the Judiciary, Appropriations, and International Relations of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Foreign Relations, Appropriations and Judiciary of the Senate fully and currently informed of the use of funds and the exercise of functions authorized in this Act.

(b) Not more than thirty days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall transmit to such Committees a report describing fully and completely the status of refugees from Cambodia and South Vietnam. Such report shall set forth, in addition--

(1) a plan for the resettlement of those refugees remaining in receiving or staging centers;

(2) the number of refugees who have indicated an interest in returning to their homeland or being resettled in a third country, together with (A) a description of the plan



for their return or resettlement and the steps taken to carry out such return or resettlement, and (B) any initiatives that have been made with respect to the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees of the United Nations; and

(3) a full and complete description of the steps the President has taken to retrieve and deposit in the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts all amounts previously authorized and appropriated for assistance to South Vietnam and Cambodia but not expended for such purpose, exclusive of \$98,000,000 of Indochina Postwar Reconstruction funds allocated to the Department of State for movement and maintenance of refugees prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) Supplementary reports setting forth recent information with respect to each of the items referred to in this section shall be transmitted not more than ninety days after the date of transmittal of the report referred to in subsection (b) of this section and not later than the end of each ninety-day period thereafter. Such reports shall continue until September 30, 1977, and a final report shall be submitted no later than December 31, 1977.

An act making appropriations for special assistance to refugees from Cambodia and Vietnam for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1975, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for special assistance to refugees from Cambodia and Vietnam for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1975, and for other purposes; namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OTHER

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES FROM CAMBODIA AND  
VIETNAM

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, for the relocation and resettlement of refugees from Cambodia and Vietnam, \$305,000,000 to remain available until June 30, 1976.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND

WELFARE

SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICE

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES FROM CAMBODIA AND  
VIETNAM IN THE UNITED STATES

For assistance to refugees from Cambodia and Vietnam in the United States, to remain available for obligation through June 30, 1976, \$100,000,000.

TITLE II

GENERAL PROVISION

SEC. 201. No funds appropriated in this Act shall be used, directly or indirectly, to aid the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) or the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG), nor shall any funds appropriated under

this Act be channeled through or administered by the DRV or the PRV, nor shall any funds appropriated under this Act be channeled through or administered by international organizations or voluntary agencies to aid the DRV or the PRG.

Passed the House of Representatives May 14, 1975.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 2, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JOHN S. D. EISENHOWER JSDE

SUBJECT: Presidential Advisory Committee on  
Refugees Visit to Ft. Chaffee,  
Arkansas, May 20, 1975.

The Advisory Committee visited Ft. Chaffee, Arkansas, to observe first hand the accommodations and the processing systems established at that relocation center, which is currently handling approximately 24,000 Vietnamese refugees.

The Committee was accompanied by Ambassador L. Dean Brown and other representatives of the Interagency Task Force.

All were impressed by the close cooperation between the local Interagency Task Force officials and the supporting Army contingent. In addition, the voluntary assistance of the surrounding Arkansas community was very much in evidence, due largely, in our opinion, to strenuous public relations efforts on the part of the civilian coordinator, Mr. Donald MacDonald.

This refugee resettlement center has defined its tasks as three-fold: (a) to receive and process the Vietnamese refugees, (b) to run a small city, population 24,000, and (c) to facilitate the careful placement of refugees throughout the United States.

Since the beginning of May, 25,814 people have arrived, mostly from South Vietnam. All have undergone initial processing, and 18,500 have completed processing to the point where they can leave as soon as sponsors are found. Approximately 2,500 have come and gone. Commitments for over 6,000 additional placements have been made.



The Advisory Committee observed refugees going through the various administrative stages which include preliminary processing, medical evaluation, immigration and naturalization screening, social security registration, social rehabilitation services, security clearance from INS, and the departure services provided by HEW. We were advised that these administrative activities are proceeding in an efficient, well-organized manner. The security clearance delays experienced at first are now being diminished as the computerized refugee records become more available.

Through the cooperation of the Task Force and Army personnel the administration of this "city" encompasses all the usual aspects of community management. The refugees participate actively. To maintain local government, each of the 236 barracks have elected a representative to a council, which has in turn elected a Vietnamese "mayor." The mayor meets with the council each evening, and a sub-committee structure has been formed to work closely with the voluntary agencies.

The Education Committee has been allocated sixteen buildings for schools. Presently over 200 classes are being conducted each day, enrolling 7,000 children. This school system is being run by the Southern Baptist Conference and includes Vietnamese and American teachers. It ranks as the sixth largest school system in the State of Arkansas.

The morale and participation of refugee volunteers is exceptional, some of whom are Vietnamese-Americans, United States residents for as long as sixteen years.

A newspaper in the Vietnamese language is circulated daily, and a local civilian radio station is providing a fifteen minute daily broadcast in Vietnamese. Subject matter encompasses news of the world, stressing those items of particular importance to the people in the center.

No major crime problem has occurred; even small misdemeanors requiring action have been rare.

Although the reception of refugees and the administration of the "city" are proceeding in admirable fashion, the ultimate task, that of placement, is only beginning. This

function is a primary responsibility of ten major American voluntary agencies (VOLAGs), which historically have facilitated resettlement of millions of displaced persons. (See attached list.) These voluntary agencies are under preliminary contract with the Federal Government.

The voluntary agencies are in operation. They stress that the primary criteria for placement in an American community are the impact on that community, the quality of the individual sponsors, and the availability of jobs. The Employment Service of the Department of Labor will provide ten specialists to work with the VOLAGs in an effort to avoid placement of individuals in communities with extraordinarily high unemployment rates. Further, they will endeavor to correlate the skills of the refugees with the local situation. Careful screening of sponsors, through the network of community volunteer agencies, is a critical activity.

The Advisory Committee asked the local officials how we could best assist in this effort. The consensus was that we could (a) help to educate the civic clubs throughout the United States regarding the requirements for sponsorship and (b) identify the local participating voluntary agencies for channeling the legitimate requests for sponsorship. It was also suggested that the Advisory Committee become well acquainted with the roles and problems of the volunteer agencies. (A useful meeting of the VOLAG representatives with Committee and White House Staff has already been held and future meetings scheduled.)

Although resettlement is primarily a local function, the Committee must make every possible effort to help shorten the time of encampment for the refugees. No delay in their assimilation into the American community can be tolerated.

Those refugees who wish to return to Vietnam are beginning to come forward, and all have been assured that return is indeed possible in accord with existing international procedures. The one hundred refugees who are interested in returning to Vietnam from Fort Chaffee are predominantly men wishing to rejoin their families.



After reviewing this refugee resettlement center we believe that the proper mechanisms have been set in motion and there is accumulating evidence that progress is taking place. Within a remarkably short time the personal welfare of the refugees is being well attended to. Their natural anxieties are being abated as they learn that we do indeed have a place for them in our society and that all concerned are working in their best long term interest. Their confidence is being enhanced by their own participation in the administrative and governing processes.

Under your leadership the efforts of this Committee, of the Interagency Task Force, and of the voluntary agencies will hopefully dispel public misconceptions and apprehensions regarding acceptance of refugees in our society. We will also be addressing some of the longer term problems with a view to determining preventive measures.