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Central
Files

5/6/75

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

To: The President

From: L. William Seidman

LWS

I just received the attached resolution adopted by the American Jewish Committee supporting the refugee program.

MR.

URGENT

From....

HYMAN BOOKBINDER

May 6, 1975

To: Bill Seidman

In light of the President's press conference tonight which is bound to deal with the refugee issue, he may wish to know that a major organization has just adopted a resolution favoring his program to welcome the refugees. Enclosed is the text of the statement just adopted by the American Jewish Committee. (You may recall that Max Fisher is one of our principal officers.)

With so much being reported about resistance to the program, it would be helpful to the President and to the American people to know that there is support too.

Needless to say, feel free to use the statement in any way you see fit.

Hyman Bookbinder



Washington Representative, American Jewish Committee
818 18th St., NW - - Washington, D.C. 20006
Tel: AC 202 -- 298-8787 .

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT ON INDO-CHINA REFUGEES

The American Jewish Committee views with profound concern the human tragedy that has unfolded in Indo-China, where the horrors of war, and social and political upheaval have once again claimed the innocent as victim. As an organization with a long-standing commitment to the principle of fundamental human rights for all people and to humanitarian relief wherever it is needed, we urge the United Nations to call upon the present governmental authorities in Indo-China to respect the right of every person to leave and to seek asylum and resettlement in the country of their choice. This basic human right is clearly enunciated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which guarantees to everyone "the right to leave any country, including their own," and in other international agreements.

We further urge the United Nations to call upon these governments to protect the peoples within their jurisdiction from reprisals and to admit a United Nations committee of impartial observers into the area.

We commend the United States Government for receiving those refugees of Indo-China who have sought admission as immigrants.
We hope that our government will continue to follow its traditional policy of granting such rights under the appropriate

provisions of our existing immigration statutes. And we also call upon other governments to open their doors to the new refugees.

We welcome the recently announced United States program to facilitate absorption of the new immigrants in a fair and compassionate manner and call upon our government to assist the agencies currently engaged in relief and humanitarian efforts in Indo-China.

We are confident that Americans will respond generously to those agencies' appeals for assistance. And we join with men and women of good will everywhere in the fervent desire for an end to the war and suffering in Indo-China and with it, true peace and reconciliation in the area.

Adopted by
For consideration at
69th Annual Meeting
American Jewish Committee
Waldorf Astoria
New York City
May 3, 1975

75-105-1