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FG 10-1

5/7/75

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *by*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

To: The President

From: L. William Seidman *LWS*

I just received the attached statement by the AFL-CIO Executive Council on the Vietnamese Refugees which George Meany felt would be useful for you to be aware of prior to your press conference this evening.

MEY

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

GEORGE MEANY

PRESIDENT

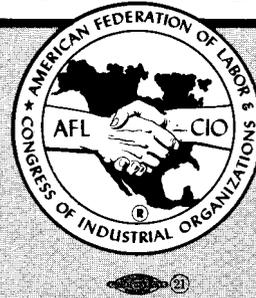
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GLENN E. WATTS



815 SIXTEENTH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

(202) 637-5000

May 6, 1975

Dear Bill:

Enclosing copy of a statement on Vietnam Refugees which was adopted by our Executive Council this morning.

Inasmuch as the President is holding a press conference this evening, I thought he would be interested in having this information.

Sincerely,

President

Mr. William Seidman,
Assistant to the President
for Economic Affairs
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Statement by the AFL-CIO Executive Council

on

Vietnamese Refugees

Washington, D.C.
May 6, 1975

The United States has an inescapable moral responsibility to do all that it can to aid the Vietnamese refugees who are now entering our country, just as we have opened our doors to Hungarians and Cuban refugees from Communist totalitarianism. We cannot turn our backs on those who have fought for freedom without making a mockery of the principles upon which our nation was founded and by which it has served for centuries as a haven for people of all nationalities who seek liberty.

We recognize that the Vietnamese arriving on our shores will face many difficult and unique problems. But we have faith that those problems can be overcome by the good will and generosity for which the American people are justly known throughout the world. Recent statements by some politicians suggesting that the Vietnamese refugees are not welcome here bespeak a meanness of spirit unworthy of the American people. It is a meanness in which the American labor movement will not partake.

The AFL-CIO Executive Council calls upon our members to make these refugees of Communist aggression welcome in their communities.

We call upon the Congress to appropriate without delay sufficient funds to facilitate the resettlement of the Vietnamese refugees in the United States without placing an undue burden upon the already hard-pressed resources of our state and local governments.

Finally, we call upon the AFL-CIO Community Services Department, the Human Resources Development Institute, and our International Affairs Department to cooperate fully with government and voluntary programs to assist the refugees to find jobs and housing, to obtain needed social services, and to become integrated into the American way of life.