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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 5, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JULIA VADALA TAFT  
THROUGH: JAMES T. LYNN  
FROM: JAMES E. CONNOR *JEC*  
SUBJECT: Status Report on the Indochina  
Refugee Resettlement Program

The President reviewed your report of October 31 on the above subject and made the following notation:

"Excellent"

cc: Dick Cheney



THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....  
INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE FOR INDOCHINA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520

October 31, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT  
THROUGH: Mr. James T. Lynn, Director,  
Office of Management and Budget *Ohlin*  
FROM: *Julia 2/18* Julia Vadala Taft, Director,  
Interagency Task Force  
SUBJECT: Status Report on the Indochina  
Refugee Resettlement Program

Attached is the status report on the Indochina Refugee  
Resettlement Program through October 30, 1975.

Attachment:  
As stated.

*Excellent*  
*MR-1*

cc: Secretary Mathews  
Dr. Marris  
Mr. Eisenhower  
Mr. Semerad  
Mr. Cannon  
Mr. Oaxaca  
Mr. Puritano  
Mr. Barri

STATUS REPORT ON THE INDOCHINA REFUGEE  
RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM - OCTOBER 30

REFUGEE STATUS (as of October 30)

Total Refugees entered US System	140,158
Total Released	124,265
Total Remaining in US System	15,893

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Total Released	124,265
US	116,293
Third Countries	6,426
Repatriated	1,546
(Requesting Repatriation - 194)	

Average Daily Releases		Total Releases (for the week)
Week ending 10/30	518	(3,628)
Week ending 10/23	513	(3,590)
Week ending 10/16	456	(3,193)
Week ending 10/9	490	(3,432)
Week ending 10/2	498	(3,486)

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Total Remaining in US System	15,893
Total in the Pacific	726
Guam	142
Thailand	584
Total US	15,167
Fort Chaffee	10,760
Camp Pendleton	274
Indiantown Gap	4,133
In Transit	0

## PROBLEMS RESOLVED AND MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Transfer of Funds to HEW

I have received legal opinions from the Departments of State and HEW that there is no legal barrier to the transfer of funds to HEW which were appropriated to the State Department to assist refugees from Indochina. Accordingly, after the close out of the Task Force, I plan to request that the State Department transfer any unobligated funds remaining in the original appropriation of \$305 million to HEW for post-resettlement activities.

### Phaseout of Military Airlift Activities

In view of the previous Task Force decision announcing October 31, 1975, as a cutoff date for Indochina refugees entering IATF reception centers, ICEM (Intergovernmental Committee on European Migration), in coordination with the U.S. military, has made a major effort to ensure that refugees who were cleared for entry into the U.S. could depart by this date. Subsequent movements of refugees from third countries to individual sponsors will be handled by ICEM on scheduled commercial airlines. Execution of plans phasing the U.S. military out of refugee airlift activities is being directed today. I would like to strongly commend JCS for successfully concluding the largest airlift operation of this nature in history.

### Meeting with UNHCR

On October 31, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadruddin Aga Khan, met with Task Force and State Department officials to discuss repatriation and third country resettlement. The UNHCR has been requested by Vietnamese authorities to provide assistance to the 1546 repatriates who sailed from Guam and safely landed in Vietnam. No U.S. funds will be used for this purpose; however, the High Commissioner agreed to provide the assistance. The major agreement reached during today's meeting was a commitment that the UNHCR will accept full responsibility for Cambodian repatriates

in our camps who have refused sponsorship. UNHCR will provide half-way house arrangements in the U.S. for them until, and if, repatriation is possible.

### Camp Closings

Effective October 31, the refugee centers at Camp Pendleton and in Guam will be closed! The last two centers, Indiantown Gap and Fort Chaffee, will remain in operation probably through December.

### PROBLEMS PENDING

#### Tunney-Cranston Bill Passes Senate

The Tunney-Cranston bill was passed by voice vote in the Senate on Wednesday, October 29. The Administration opposes this bill which would authorize \$141.9 million over a three-year period to provide full cost of instruction for Indochinese refugee elementary and secondary students, and to provide special adult education programs for refugees. A hearing will be held next Wednesday, November 5, on a House bill which is similar to the Senate bill. I will keep you advised on the progress of this legislation.

#### Staff Visit to Thailand

In light of the October 31 phase-over to the State Department of remaining refugee parole matters, I sent a Task Force representative to Thailand for a first-hand assessment of camp conditions and refugees remaining in that country.

There are close to 70,000 refugees in Thailand in over ten camps. New refugees are arriving every day from both Laos and Cambodia at a rate which varies from 50 to over 100 per day. Camps are maintained by the Thai Government using funds provided by the UNHCR, a substantial portion of which are contributed by the U.S. Government.

For the most part, the refugees are being maintained on a bare subsistence diet but with only a few

cases of malnutrition observed. Exceptions to this may exist in north Thailand where some Meo refugees are believed to be close to starvation outside official camps. Sanitation and medical treatment are primitive and serious health problems could arise at any of the camps.

There are about 1,000 refugees remaining in Thailand for whom the Embassy in Bangkok has requested parole authority. There are other refugees who are ineligible due to technicalities and the Embassy would like these cases reviewed. A substantial number are the subject of Congressional and private inquiries.

Of the 70,000 refugees remaining in Thailand, about 10,000 represent solid, high risk refugees, i.e. those closely associated with the U.S. Government or former regimes. These people have not been processed because priority was given to immediate relatives and former U.S. government employees, with only exceptional high risk cases receiving parole.

We will be working in support of the State Department's effort to develop options for this particular class of refugees.

Refugee Resettlement Summary

As of:  
30 OCT 75

Total Repatriated  
(1,546)

Total Released  
to Third Countries  
(6,426)

Total Released  
to US Society  
(116,293)

Total Programmed To  
Enter US System  
(1,232)

Total Remaining  
in US Camp System  
(15,893)