

The original documents are located in Box 122, folder “4/5/75 - Evacuation of Vietnamese Refugees (2)” of the John Marsh Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 3, 1975

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(San Diego, California)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE

EL CORTEZ HOTEL

5:07 P.M. PDT

Congressman Bergener, Congressman Van Deerlin, Congressman Ball, Mayor Pete Wilson, Mr. Cox of the San Diego Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Henning of the AFL-CIO, heads of the many other co-sponsoring organizations that have made this possible, ladies and gentlemen:

It is really a great privilege and honor for me to have the opportunity of joining in this obviously very successful conference.

I am especially delighted to be here again on the beautiful shores of San Diego Bay -- can I say this, I mean it -- America's cleanest bay in terms of size and traffic.

I am especially pleased because this is a showcase of what Americans can do on a local level to solve problems and to respond to the future with creativity and with confidence.

San Diego has demonstrated, Mayor Wilson, that environmental quality is good business, and I commend your carefully managed residential growth. San Diego, as I see it, is truly a city on which others could be modeled.

I am especially proud, however, of the role the United States Navy as a good citizen in San Diego -- I am proud of that role and I am proud of the contributions that the Navy makes. Obviously, all of you know that the Naval installations here are among the greatest in our total Navy complex. I pledge to you today, as one who once sailed from here in World War II, that I remain committed to a Navy second to none in readiness, capability, and dedication to our Nation's highest ideals.

MORE



I know, of course, that the concerns of this area go far beyond your vital Navy installations. Too many Americans are without employment. Prices and taxes are far too high. New sources of energy are absolutely essential.

I also know that local problems are best solved by local people. This Administration responded to your pioneering of growth management strategy to preserve the residential environment.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development has just approved San Diego's application for \$9.1 million under the historic new community development block grant legislation, and an hour or so ago I gave Mayor Pete Wilson the actual documents to know that he has got it in hand.

I don't know what he has done with it, but he had it. (Laughter)

This confirms upon San Diego the distinction of being one of the very first major cities to receive such assistance. Your able Mayor, my good friend, Pete Wilson, tells me that one of the ways that this grant will be used is to speed economic development by attracting new businesses and industries into the San Diego area.

Funds from this new block grant approach are available for the first time to prepare sites and, together with on-the-job training programs of the Department of Labor, offer an extra inducement for new enterprises to locate in your healthy, world-renowned climate.

This kind of local initiative and planning, as well, proves we are on the right track with block grants instead of trying to run everything from Washington, and demonstrates my firm conviction that the best features of community development should neither be sacrificed in the current economic climate, nor stifled by Federal red tape.

San Diego, I know from my many conversations with your several Members of the Congress, as well as by numerous visits to this great area -- San Diego is a showcase of the good neighbor policy.

The nearby Mexican border is the busiest international crossing in the world, making this a gateway city with a unique challenge. San Diego and Tijuana share the same air and water and seek joint efforts, joint solutions to problems that cross national boundaries.

MORE



I commend Frontaras 1975, the San Diego community's bicentennial project, jointly sponsored by the city and University of California at San Diego. This project that I have looked at and heard about will advance regional and international understanding, demonstrating to the world, as I think we must, the potential of creative cooperation and interdependence among sovereign nations.

Serious problems confront the American people at home. Yet, unemployment and the growth of the economy, as well as our national security, are directly related to the relations with the rest of the world.

In recent weeks we witnessed, unfortunately, discouraging and tragic events in the Middle East, on which we depend far too much for our energy needs. These developments dramatized the urgency of moving ahead in San Diego and throughout America with constructive action to make this Nation independent of foreign sources of energy.

Today, in the presence of three of my former colleagues, I renew the challenge to the Congress to enact before May 1 of this year a comprehensive energy program. It is essential to our national security, and it is more essential today than it was in January, when I proposed it.

The facts are, we can afford no more delays. I am an optimist. I think the Congress will do it. I would not be frank and honest with you if I were to ignore the serious setbacks we have suffered in very recent weeks in our quest for peace in the Middle East and more recently and more dramatically in Southeast Asia.

Even as I speak, the dimensions of the human catastrophe in Southeast Asia increase. Whether from your evening news shows or morning headlines, or from my top secret reports, which I receive on a daily basis, it is impossible not to be moved and shaken by the sudden and tragic developments in South Vietnam.

All Americans, regardless of how they may have felt in months or years in the past, are shocked and saddened and wondering what we can do.

First, we are taking all the humanitarian measures we can to relieve the innocent civilian refugees in South Vietnam, whose plight touches the heart of all Americans. At the same time, we are providing for the safety of all Americans who, from a deep sense of duty, might be endangered by swift changes in the battle zone.

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Second, as the Congress returns next Monday and I have an opportunity to address them, I will ask the Members of Congress for a firm American commitment to humanitarian assistance for the hapless victims of North Vietnamese aggression in flagrant violation of the Paris accords which sought to end the suffering and bloodshed on a civilized basis.

Finally, I must say with all of the certainty of which I am capable, no adversary or potential enemies of the United States of America should imagine that America can be safely challenged and no allies or time-tested friends of the United States should worry or fear that our commitments to them will not be honored.

The unfortunate confusion and changing situation in Southeast Asia should not give encouragement to our adversaries nor apprehension to our friends. We stand ready to defend ourselves and support our allies as surely as we always have.

As it always has, adversity is creating a new sense of national unity among Americans in these sad and troubled times. I will not engage in recriminations or attempt to assess the blame, nor should any of us. Not all of the facts are known. When they are, the American people will be the jury for the present and historians will write the story for the future.

What is essential now is that we keep our nerve and our essential unity as a powerful, but peace-loving Nation.

As President and Commander-in-Chief, it is my sworn duty to maintain and strengthen the power for peace which the United States possesses, both at home and abroad. The military strength of this Nation depends, as it always has, on its economic strength and the willpower and self-discipline of all of its people.

The credibility of the United States, our credibility throughout the world, both among our allies and our adversaries, depends upon their assessment of our moral, economic and military strength and staying power. All of these elements are extremely essential.

Let me consider briefly the problems of insuring and increasing our economic strength. In this, the obvious priority is to get out of the recession we have been experiencing, and particularly to increase employment and to get the jobless back into productive jobs. That is our highest priority.

But along with that urgent goal goes another priority, less obvious to some, which is to end the recession without adding unnecessarily to the inflationary pressures which have plagued us for many years prior to the recession and which, quite frankly, helped to bring it on. We must make more jobs and reverse the recession without recklessly inviting a new round of double-digit inflation, rising interest rates and higher prices which we all know, in the long run, would cancel out whatever stimulus and expansionary incentive we can apply to the economy in the short-run.



That is why I am personally determined to hold the line on all massive Federal spending programs which are in various stages moving through the Congress. That is why I have drawn the line at a maximum budget deficit of \$50 billion, which is where we stand at the present time, and it is as far as we dare to go without endangering economic recovery.

I am gratified that many of the responsible Members of the Congress, House and Senate, on both sides of the political aisle, have spoken out publicly of the danger of more massive Federal deficits.

Not merely the Administration, but the country, needs their help, and will need their votes when the showdowns come. But, I have no wish to wage a veto war with the Congress. Quite frankly, we have enough real wars and rumors of wars without getting into one of those.

What I would prefer is for the Congress to exercise its constitutional power of the purse with the responsibility and prudence that the people expect of it.

Congress must cut rather than spend. It must reduce existing programs, instead of creating new ones. As I look at the horrendous figures, I just cannot go on giving away more and more government benefits without considering how to pay for them and the damage that will be done by borrowing to pay for them.

When the American people individually and collectively -- all over the country -- are tightening their belts to get through the worse recession of recent times, because in large part by decades of deficits and ever-growing governmental programs, the Congress should not ask them to suffer consequences of more of the same fiscal folly.

I would like the Congress to fix an absolute ceiling on Federal spending for the coming year, the ceiling where I drew the line. To do this effectively and with meaning, the Congress must go one step further.

Here is my suggestion: You have three Members of Congress here. Put the already enacted procedure of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Act of 1974 into effect a whole year ahead of schedule, starting this July 1.

Under the current circumstances, when the legislation was passed last year, it was expected that it would not go into effect until fiscal year 1977, and that during this interval, between last year and a year and one-half from now, there would be sort of a practice run.

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I think the urgency of Congressional action to establish a ceiling and to orient priorities requires that Congress do it this year. We don't need a practice session. We need full participation in the ball game, and I hope and trust that Congress will do that. That will be the best evidence that I know of, their total dedication to handling your tax money or the government's borrowing in a responsible way.

In the face of a huge deficit that could reach \$100 billion, if my budget is overridden, it is hard for me to see how the Congress can refuse to move up the implementation date of the Budget and Impoundment Act of 1974. Excessive Federal spending for years has fueled the fires of inflation and imposed the unfair tax of all on the American people, robbing retired people of their pensions, the elderly of their Social Security, the hard-working majority of their paychecks, full value in the supermarket.

Runaway inflation can ruin the productive growth and essential strength of the free enterprise system and cripple our entire American economy.

That is why my economic policy recommendations contain two elements, each one of them essential to its success:

One, a quick, one-time tax cut to stimulate buying power and new development by business and job producing expansion. The other, spending cuts and a one-year moratorium on new spending by the government, except for energy and emergency needs.

Federal tax cuts alone will not work without simultaneous Federal spending restraints. I am deeply concerned, quite frankly, that some elements of the Congress will try to pay for additional spending programs by dangerously stripping billions from the defense budget.

At a time like this, nothing could be more short-sighted or devastating to our security. Individually, many of the domestic spending programs proposed in the Congress have most attractive aspects. They provide help for some worthy group. It is hard for Members of Congress to oppose those programs.

MORE



It will be very, very hard for me to veto them, if Congress enacts them. But, it is not the individual programs that are unacceptable, but the sum total of them, adding up easily to \$30 billion or more to bring the deficit into the \$100 billion area.

Defense spending, on the other hand, provides no benefits, except the most precious benefit of all -- the freedom of our country and the last hope for peace in the world.

As President Eisenhower so wisely observed, only the strong are free. Certainly we have ample reason to believe this truth today. My budget recommendations for national defense are the minimum, I believe, essential for our safety. It is now a popular idea that because Americans are not fighting anywhere, because we are seeking to broaden every avenue of peace, that we can expand social benefit programs and pay for them out of defense cutbacks.

Simple arithmetic proves otherwise. I have seen careful mathematical projections that show if welfare and other transfer payments continue moving at their present rate of growth, about 9 percent annually for the past 20 years, half of the American people will be living off the other half by the year 2000.

Except for vastly increasing taxes on those who work, the only way such payments can be continued indefinitely is to take them away from our national defense. Other superpowers, I can assure you, are doing nothing of that kind.

I pledge to you today that I will resist stripping America's defense capability in every legal way available to me. If the men and women you send to the Congress fail to face up to these inescapable realities, refuse to accept the balanced judgment of their own new budget committee, which has been set up to enforce the same overall limitations that I had to work with, then -- and this is hard to believe, but it mathematically works out -- by simple arithmetic it will only be a few short decades before our defenses will be down to a single soldier with a single rifle with a single round of ammunition.

That is not good for America and freedom throughout the world. Frankly, I don't think that is going to happen, because I have more faith than that, that America won't tolerate it, and I mean the 213 million Americans of all faiths, all political parties, all backgrounds, and so forth.

My former colleagues in the Congress know I have always been an optimist, and whenever I can get away from Washington and see Americans as they really live and work and play and plan for their children, my sense of what is right with our country is recharged and reinforced.

I am very pleased to be here today in what I found to be an optimistic atmosphere and problem-solving climate of Southern California, and I am delighted to be among people with great experience and great courage in building a great part of our country.

We can meet this test only by reducing vulnerability to weaknesses in our economy and energy capacities. That is why an adequate security program goes hand in hand with sound, economic policies and prompt, effective energy legislation.

America has the will. America has the resources. America has the knowhow, and America has the faith.

I share, as I look around this room, your belief in America. If you despaired of this Nation and its future, you would not be here today. Together, with the billions like you all over this great country, we will build a new and better tomorrow.

Thank you very much.

END (AT 5:27 P.M. PDT)

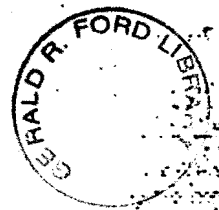


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nation's character for 200 years. That has been the American way to success, and the American way is going to be much needed if we are to master the difficult times ahead.

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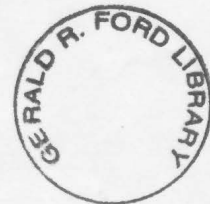


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FM THE SITUATION ROOM

TO DICK CHENEY/SAN DIEGO

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ WH50611

APRIL 3, 1975



MEMORANDUM FOR: DICK CHENEY

FROM: JACK MARSH

ATTACHED IS A QUESTION AND A PROPOSED RESPONSE WHICH I HAVE PREPARED ON THE VIETNAM MATTER WHICH I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR BRINGING TO THE PRESIDENT'S ATTENTION FOR HIS CONSIDERATION.

BY WAY OF BACKGROUND, YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT I HAVE RUN THIS BY BUCHEN, ROURKE, WOLTHIUS AND CANNON WHO CONCUR IN THE RESPONSE.

I HAVE ALSO SHOWED IT TO HENRY WHO GOES WITH THE FIRST PARAGRAPH OF THE RESPONSE BUT TAKES STRONG EXCEPTION TO THE SECOND PARAGRAPH WHICH HE FEELS SHOULD BE MODIFIED TO BE LESS CONCILIATORY. HE MAKES SEVERAL POINTS WHICH I FEEL I SHOULD PASS ON.

1. HENRY FEELS THAT A STATEMENT OF NOT TRYING TO ASSESS BLAME AS TO WHAT WENT WRONG IS APPROPRIATE.
2. HE FEELS A FIRM RESPONSE IS NECESSARY BY THE PRESIDENT THAT DOES NOT PERMIT THE CONGRESS TO ESCAPE RESPONSIBILITY. HE FEELS THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO RECOUNT A NUMBER OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS IN RECENT YEARS THAT LEAD TO THE STRAW THAT BROKE THE CAMEL'S BACK. FOR EXAMPLE, THE BOMBING HALT, THE STEADY CUTS IN AID, OTHER CONGRESSIONAL LIMITATIONS.

IN SUMMARY, HIS VIEW IS THAT THE CONGRESS FAILED TO MAKE THE HARD CHOICES AND ACCEPT THE RESPONSIBILITIES REQUIRED OF THE SITUATION.

BRENT'S VIEW WOULD BE TO TAKE THE FIRST PARAGRAPH OF THE RESPONSE ON NORTH VIETNAMESE AGGRESSION AND USE THE RESPONSES TO SIMILAR

*****WHSR COMMENT*****

MARSH

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~~*****CONFIDENTIAL*****~~ COPY

QUESTIONS ALREADY FORWARDED BY NSC FOR THE SECOND PORTION. I FEEL YOU SHOULD HAVE THE BENEFIT OF THESE VIEWS RECOGNIZING THAT THE QUESTION HE RECEIVES IS NOT LIKELY TO BE IN THE FORM ANY OF US HAVE PROPOUNDED AND THE RESPONSE HE GIVES MIGHT REFLECT A NUMBER OF INPUTS.

I CONCUR WITH THE ARGUMENT THAT HENRY IS MAKING ON PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP AND CALLING ON THE NATION TO PULL TOGETHER TO MAKE TOUGH CHOICES AND ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITIES AS A WORLD LEADER. I THINK THIS SHOULD BE THE THRUST OF NEXT WEEK'S CONGRESSIONAL MESSAGE AND INSUING SPEECHES IN THE DAYS AND WEEKS AHEAD. IN THIS THE CONGRESS WILL HAVE TO BE CHALLENGED, AND IN A CHURCHILLIAN SENSE.

WHERE I THINK WE DIFFER IS HOW WE POINT OUT THESE CONGRESSIONAL INACTIONS IN VIETNAM THAT CONTRIBUTED TO DEVELOPMENTS THERE. I THINK THE PRESS CONFERENCE FORUM IS NOT THE BEST PLACE TO MAKE THE POINTS THAT NEED TO BE MADE.

QUESTION:

MR. PRESIDENT, THERE HAS BEEN MUCH DISCUSSION AS TO WHO IS TO BLAME FOR THE DISASTROUS TURN OF EVENTS IN VIETNAM. THERE HAS BEEN SOME REFERENCE TO YOUR VIEW THAT THE CONGRESS IS AT FAULT FOR FAILING TO PROVIDE THE RECENT REQUEST FOR \$300 MILLION IN AID. WHO DO YOU FEEL IS TO BLAME?

ANSWER:

LET'S REMEMBER THE REAL SOURCE OF THE PROBLEM IN VIETNAM IS THE FLAGRANT AGGRESSION AND VIOLATION OF THE PARIS PEACE ACCORDS BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE. THEY HAVE INVADDED SOUTH VIETNAM, THEY ARE THE AGGRESSORS. THEY ARE CAUSING THE REFUGEE PROBLEM. IF THEY WOULD WITHDRAW AND STOP THEIR AGGRESSION AND THEIR ATROCITIES, THE SITUATION IN THAT COUNTRY WOULD STABILIZE. NORTH VIETNAM IS WHERE THE BLAME LIES BY IGNORING THE PEACE AGREEMENT THEY SIGNED.

NOW AS TO WHAT'S HAPPENED BECAUSE OF THE AGGRESSION THAT IS MORE COMPLEX INVOLVING MANY FACTORS HERE AND IN VIETNAM. AS YOU KNOW, I HAVE HAD A LONG RECORD OF SUPPORTING OUR EFFORT THERE. NATURALLY, I AM SORRY THAT I DID NOT RECEIVE THE RESPONSE THAT I HAD HOPED FOR IN MY REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL AID AND ASSISTANCE. LIKE MANY OTHERS, I AM DISAPPOINTED THAT OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS THERE HAS BEEN BOTH A DIMINUTION AND LIMITATION ON OUR ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH VIETNAM BUT IT IS NOT UP TO ME TO BECOME INVOLVED IN A NATIONAL DEBATE AS TO WHO IN AMERICA IS AT FAULT. MY HOPE IS THAT THE CONGRESS WILL JOIN WITH ME IN DOING WHATEVER WE MIGHT TO BE OF HELP AND ASSISTANCE TO THIS BESIEGED COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE.

IT IS A TRAGIC SITUATION. I AM DEEPLY TROUBLED BY WHAT HAS HAPPENED BUT MY SUPPORT FOR THEM HAS NOT CHANGED AND I AM GLAD THAT I

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DID WHAT I DID TO TRY TO OBTAIN FOR THEM THE HELP I FELT THEY NEEDED.
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FROM: JACK MARSH
TO: DON RUMSFELD

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 3, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: DON RUMSFELD
FROM: JACK MARSH

It appears there are emerging two principal areas where there is likely to be assigned a special Administration responsibility on the Vietnam matter. These are refugee assistance and the safety of U.S. citizens who are "in country." The latter has not moved into the forefront but will be of increasing Congressional attention by next week in my opinion.

Collateral to the refugee problem is intense interest in the "Baby-lift." Considerable White House effort was devoted to this by Phil Buchen and Dr. Ted Marrs. Ted directed a great deal of the work that was done on this matter at the White House level yesterday. I have requested a summary of this effort be sent to you immediately, and Bill Roberts will transmit the same.

It is my view, shared by others, that a question at the news conference is likely on any of the matters mentioned above.



Determined to be Administrative M. King
Date 4/28/98 By KBH

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FROM: BILL ROBERTS

TO: DON RUMSFELD / PALM SPRINGS

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WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM



PLEASE L D X TO PALM SPRINGS

TO: DON RUMSFELD

FROM: Bill Roberts



PLEASE LDX TO SAN DIEGO

TO: RON NESSEN

FROM: Brent Scowcroft

NOTE: PLEASE PROVIDE COPIES TO THE FOLLOWING:
THE PRESIDENT
BOB HARTMANN

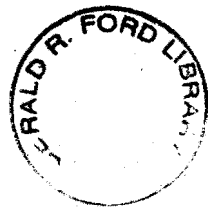
DICK CHENEY
JACK HUSHEN

FROM BRENT SCOWROFT

We are seeing a great human tragedy as untold numbers of Vietnamese flee the North Vietnamese onslaught. The United States has been doing and will continue to do its utmost to assist these people.

I have, for example, directed all available naval ships to stand off Indochina to do whatever is necessary to assist. We have appealed to the United Nations to use its moral influence to permit these innocent people to leave, and we call on North Vietnam to permit the movement of refugees to areas of their choice.

The requirements for the care and ultimate disposition of all those who are fleeing from the war will be heavy. Because of the large numbers involved and the overwhelming need for assistance, I will soon be asking the Congress for additional funds to meet this humanitarian requirement. We will as well be working with the humanitarian agencies to do everything humanly possible to relieve the tragic plight of these refugees.



The following agencies with branches ~~are~~ in Vietnam are active in intercountry adoption work. All are either licensed or in the process of being licensed by the Ministry of Social Welfare of the Republic of Vietnam to handle such adoptions.

Prospective adoptive parents should contact one of the following agencies:

Holt Children's Service
P.O. Box 2420
1195 City View Street
Eugene, Oregon 97402
Telephone: (503) 687-2202

TAISSA (Traveler's Aid--International
Social Services of America)
345 East 46th Street, Room 715
New York, New York 10017
Telephone: (212) 687-2747

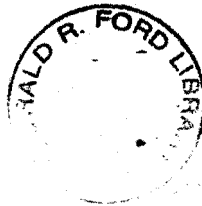
Friends For All Children
445 South 68th Street
Boulder, Colorado 80303
Telephone: (303) 494-7305

United States Catholic Conference
201 Park Avenue, South
New York, New York 10003
Telephone: (212) 475-5400

Friends of Children of Vietnam
600 Gilpin
Denver, Colorado 80211
Telephone: (303) 321-8251 or 8262

Pearl S. Buck Foundation
2019 DeLancey Place
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103
Telephone: (215) 732-1030

World Vision Relief Organization
919 West Huntington Drive
Monrovia, California 91016
Telephone: (213) 357-1111



FROM DR. TED MARRS

A.I.D. is working with the Republic of Vietnam to expedite transportation to the United States for about 2,000 Vietnamese orphans now in Saigon. I have directed that funds from a \$2 million children's assistance allocation be used to airlift them in suitable and safe aircraft as soon as possible, and that the USAID Mission in Saigon move immediately to cut through any red tape or bureaucratic obstacles.

These orphans are now in the custody of licensed adoption agencies operating in Vietnam. They were already in the process of adoption by American families living in various parts of the United States. Those few who do not have families arranged will be placed with families now on waiting lists of the agencies.

We do not now need foster care homes or additional sponsoring families. Adoption agencies involved which have U.S. offices will be contacting the prospective parents.

Inquiries from families in the U.S. who are in the process of adopting Vietnamese children should be made to the appropriate adoption agencies. (A list is attached).

A.I.D. has been working with the Government of Vietnam and U.S. voluntary agencies in Vietnam for two weeks to expedite the transportation and placement of these orphans in U.S. homes, because of the overloading of voluntary agency facilities in Saigon caused by the refugee situation.

We presently are lining up one or two C-5A planes and equipping them to ensure safe transportation and care en route. We are also lining up alternative available planes. The flights will begin within the next 36 to 48 hours and possibly sooner. We are arranging to have the children met at Travis Air Force Base and/or other locations on the west coast and to be cared for upon arrival.



World Airways brought 57 orphans into Oakland last night at 11:30 p.m. This was an unauthorized flight because the South Vietnam Government, the FAA, and the U.S. Mission in Saigon considered the rice cargo plane to be unsafe and unsuitable for a long flight of infants across the Pacific. We would welcome World Airways participation as long as its flights are safe and appropriate arrangements for medical care made.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

pre notification
La Tiang
4-4-75



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

pre notification
Da Nang
4-4-75



Text of President's Message to the Speaker of the House and President
pro tempore of the Senate

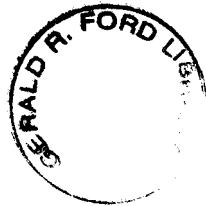
April 4, 1975

As you know, last Saturday I directed United States participation in an international humanitarian relief effort to transport refugees from DaNang and other seaports to safer areas farther south in Vietnam. The United States has been joined in this humanitarian effort by a number of other countries who are offering people, supplies and vessels to assist in this effort. This effort was undertaken in response to urgent appeals from the Government of the Republic of Vietnam because of the extremely grave nature of the circumstances involving the lives of hundreds of thousands of refugees. This situation has been brought about by large-scale violations of the agreement ending the war and restoring the peace in Vietnam by the North Vietnamese who have been conducting massive attacks on the northern and central provinces of South Vietnam.

In accordance with my desire to keep the Congress fully informed on this matter, and taking note of the provision of Section 4(a)(2) of the War Powers Resolution (Public Law 93-148), I wish to report to you concerning one aspect of United States participation in the refugee evacuation effort. Because of the large number of refugees and the overwhelming dimensions of the task, I have ordered U.S. Naval vessels to assist in this effort, including amphibious task group 76.8 with 12 embarked helicopters and approximately 700 Marines. These Naval vessels have been authorized to approach the coast of South Vietnam to pick up refugees and U.S. Nationals, and transport them to safety. Marines are being detailed to vessels participating in the rescue mission. The first vessel entered South Vietnam territorial waters at 0400 a.m. EDT on April 3, 1975.

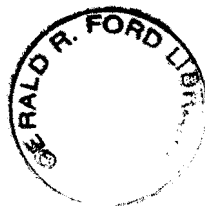
Although these forces are equipped for combat within the meaning of Section 4(a)(2) of Public Law 93-148, their sole mission is to assist in the evacuation including the maintenance of order on board the vessels engaged in that task.

As stated above, the purpose of the introduction of United States Naval vessels into Vietnamese waters is to assist in an international humanitarian effort involving vessels of several nations, including both military and civilian craft. The United States' participation in this effort includes the charter of commercial vessels, the use of military sealift command vessels with civilian crews, as well as United States naval vessels with military crews. This effort is being undertaken pursuant to the President's constitutional authority as Commander-in-Chief and Chief Executive in the conduct of foreign relations and pursuant to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, which authorizes humanitarian assistance to refugees, civilian war casualties and other persons disadvantaged by hostilities or conditions relating to hostilities in South Vietnam.



You will appreciate, I am sure, my difficulty in telling you precisely how long United States Forces may be needed in this effort. Our present estimate, however, is that this operation may involve the presence of United States Naval vessels in Vietnamese waters for a period of at least several weeks.

/s/ GERALD R. FORD



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 4, 1975

Dear Mr. Speaker:

As you know, last Saturday I directed United States participation in an international humanitarian relief effort to transport refugees from Danang and other seaports to safer areas farther south in Vietnam. The United States has been joined in this humanitarian effort by a number of other countries who are offering people, supplies and vessels to assist in this effort. This effort was undertaken in response to urgent appeals from the Government of the Republic of Vietnam because of the extremely grave nature of the circumstances involving the lives of hundreds of thousands of refugees. This situation has been brought about by large-scale violations of the Agreement Ending the War and Restoring the Peace in Vietnam by the North Vietnamese who have been conducting massive attacks on the Northern and Central provinces of South Vietnam.

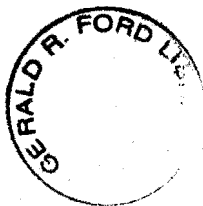
In accordance with my desire to keep the Congress fully informed on this matter, and taking note of the provision of Section 4(a)(2) of the War Powers Resolution (Public Law 93-148), I wish to report to you concerning one aspect of United States participation in the refugee evacuation effort. Because of the large number of refugees and the overwhelming dimensions of the task, I have ordered U. S. naval vessels to assist in this effort, including Amphibious Task Group 76.8 with 12 embarked helicopters and approximately 700 marines. These naval vessels have been authorized to approach the coast of South Vietnam to pick up refugees and U. S. nationals, and transport them to safety. Marines are being detailed to vessels participating in the rescue mission. The first vessel entered South Vietnam territorial waters at 0400 a.m. EDT on April 3, 1975.



Although these forces are equipped for combat within the meaning of Section 4 (a) (2) of Public Law 83-148, they are under orders to avoid involvement in hostilities and combat activities. Should a serious risk from hostilities develop at a particular location, their orders require that they withdraw, unless engaged in activities to save the lives of U. S. citizens. The sole mission of the Marines aboard the Task Group ships and the military sealift command ships is to assist in maintaining order on board the ships while receiving and transporting refugees.

As stated above, the purpose of the introduction of United States naval vessels into Vietnamese waters is to assist in an international humanitarian effort involving vessels of several nations, including both military and civilian craft. The United States' participation in this effort includes the charter of commercial vessels, the use of military sealift command vessels with civilian crews, as well as United States naval vessels with military crews. This effort is being undertaken pursuant to the President's constitutional authority as Commander-in-Chief and Chief Executive in the conduct of foreign relations and pursuant to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, which authorizes humanitarian assistance to refugees, civilian war casualties and other persons disadvantaged by hostilities or conditions relating to hostilities in South Vietnam.

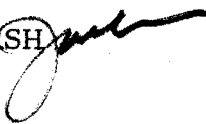
You will appreciate, I am sure, my difficulty in telling you precisely how long United States forces may be needed in this effort. Our present estimate, however, is that this operation may involve the presence of United States naval vessels in Vietnamese waters for a period of at least several weeks.



~~SECRET~~

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 4, 1975

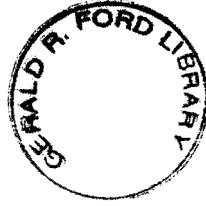
MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
THROUGH: DON RUMSFELD
FROM: JACK MARSH 

It has been determined that the reporting requirements of Section 4A (2) of the War Powers Resolution requiring reporting to the Speaker and the President Pro Tempore should be observed. They are applicable for the reasons set out in the attached draft of a letter accompanying this memo. Attached are the applicable provisions of the War Powers Resolution.

This report must be made by you to these two Congressional officers within 48 hours from the time of the incident that invokes the statute. This occurred at 0400 a.m. EDT, April 3. Therefore, this report must be filed by you no later than 0400 a.m. April 5. Brent has sent a similar draft of the attached to Henry at Palm Springs. We will stand by for your response and suggestions as well as any changes which you feel should be made in the attached report.

You should be aware that John Finney of the New York Times has the story of this incident, which apparently involved the USS Durham, and has made inquiry to the Department of Defense. Defense is awaiting guidance on how to respond to both the activities of the vessel and your possible action under the War Powers which were the questions Finney asked.

The determination of the application of the War Powers is based on the opinion of the Counsel's Office at: The White House; Defense; and State. The draft letter is their joint effort.



Determined to be Administrative Marking
Date 1/28/98 By KBH

~~SECRET~~THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

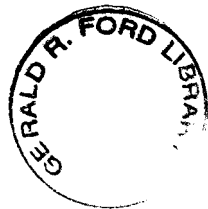
April 4, 1975

Dear Mr. Speaker: ↓ (President pro tempore)

As you know, last Saturday I directed United States participation in an international humanitarian relief effort to transport refugees from Danang and other seaports to safer areas farther south in Vietnam. The United States has been joined in this humanitarian effort by a number of other countries who are offering people, supplies and vessels to assist in this effort. This effort was undertaken in response to urgent appeals from the Government of the Republic of Vietnam because of the extremely grave nature of the circumstances involving the lives of hundreds of thousands of refugees. This situation has been brought about by large-scale violations of the Agreement Ending the War and Restoring the Peace in Vietnam by the North Vietnamese who have been conducting massive attacks on the Northern and Central provinces of South Vietnam.

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Determined to be Administrative Marking
Date 1/28/90 By KBH



~~SECRET~~

-2-

92
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You will appreciate, I am sure, my difficulty in telling you precisely how long United States forces may be needed in this effort. Our present estimate, however, is that this operation may involve the presence of United States naval vessels in Vietnamese waters for a period of at least several weeks.

ALDR. FORD L.

Determined to be Administrative Marking

Date 128/98 By KBH

~~SECRET~~CONSULTATION

Sec. 3. The President in every possible instance shall consult with Congress before introducing United States Armed Forces into hostilities or into situations where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances, and after every such introduction shall consult regularly with the Congress until United States Armed Forces are no longer engaged in hostilities or have been removed from such situations.

REPORTING

Sec. 4. (a) In the absence of a declaration of war, in any case in which United States Armed Forces are introduced --

(1) into hostilities or into situations where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances:

(2) into the territory, airspace or waters of a foreign nation, while equipped for combat, except for deployments which relate solely to supply, replacement, repair, or training of such forces; or

(3) In numbers which substantially enlarge United States Armed Forces equipped for combat already located in a foreign nation;

the President shall submit within 48 hours to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to the President pro tempore of the Senate a report, in writing, setting forth-

(A) the circumstances necessitating the introduction of United States Armed Forces;

(B) the constitutional and legislative authority under which such introduction took place; and,

(C) the estimated scope and duration of the hostilities or involvement.

(b) The President shall provide such other information as the Congress may request in the fulfillment of its constitutional responsibilities with respect to committing the Nation to war and to the use of United States Armed Forces abroad.

(c) Whenever United States Armed Forces are introduced into hostilities or into any situation described in subsection (a) of this section, the President shall, so long as such armed forces continue to be engaged in such hostilities or situation, report to the Congress periodically on the status of such hostilities or situation as well as on the scope and duration of such hostilities or situation, but in no event shall he report to the Congress less often than once every six months.

Determined to be Administrative Marking

Date 1/26/98 By KBH

CONGRESSIONAL ACTION (Public Law 93-148)

SEC. 5. (a) Each report submitted pursuant to section 4(a) (1) shall be transmitted to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to the President pro tempore of the Senate on the same calendar day. Each report so transmitted shall be referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate for appropriate action. If, when the report is transmitted, the Congress has adjourned sine die or has adjourned for any period in excess of three calendar days, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate, if they deem it advisable (or if petitioned by at least 30 percent of the membership of their respective Houses) shall jointly request the President to convene Congress in order that it may consider the report and take appropriate action pursuant to this section.

(b) Within sixty calendar days after a report is submitted or is required to be submitted pursuant to section 4(a)(1), whichever is earlier, the President shall terminate any use of United States Armed Forces with respect to which such report was submitted (or required to be submitted), unless the Congress (1) has declared war or has enacted a specific authorization for such use of United States Armed Forces, (2) has extended by law such sixty-day period, or (3) is physically unable to meet as a result of an armed attack upon the United States. Such sixty-day period shall be extended for not more than an additional thirty days if the President determines and certifies to the Congress in writing that unavoidable military necessity respecting the safety of United States Armed Forces requires the continued use of such armed forces in the course of bringing about a prompt removal of such forces.

(c) Notwithstanding subsection (b), at any time that United States Armed Forces are engaged in hostilities outside the territory of the United States, its possessions and territories without a declaration of war or specific statutory authorization, such forces shall be removed by the President if the Congress so directs by concurrent resolution.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
April 4, 1975

This acknowledges receipt of
message for Hon John McFall,
Speaker Pro Tempore, U. S.
House of Representatives.

Irvine H. Sprague
Irvine H. Sprague

1:10 a.m. April 5
Time received

Hand delivered by Sgt. Rolley of White House
Motor Car Pool.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 4, 1975

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message for Hon John McFall,
Speaker Pro Tempore, U. S.
House of Representatives.

Irvine H. Sprague
Irvine H. Sprague

1:10 a.m. April 5
Time received

Hand delivered by Sgt. Rolley of White House
Motor Car Pool.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 4, 1975

This acknowledges receipt of
message to Speaker Carl Albert.

Michael L. Reed

Michael L. Reed

12:05 AM
Time received April 5

Hand delivered by Sgt. Rolley of White House
Motor Car Pool.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 4, 1975

This acknowledges receipt of
message to Speaker Carl Albert.

Michael L. Reed
Michael L. Reed

12:05 AM
Time received April 4

Hand delivered by Sgt. Rolley of White House
Motor Car Pool.



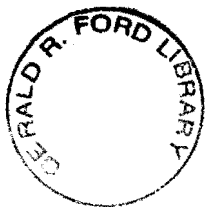
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
April 4, 1975

This will acknowledge receipt of
message to Senator James Eastland:

William Simpson
William Simpson

*12⁰⁰
pm*
Time received

Hand delivered by Sgt. Lane of White House
Motor Car Pool.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
April 4, 1975

This will acknowledge receipt of
message to Senator James Eastland:

William Simpson

William Simpson

*12⁰⁰
pm*

Time received

Hand delivered by Sgt. Lane of White House
Motor Car Pool.

