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WHM, 1/22/86

JUN 13 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 12, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH

FROM: TED MARRS *Jim*

The attached material prepared by the Interdepartmental Task Force on Refugees will be of interest to you.

At this point the publicized criticism of the program is belied by the basic facts that about twenty five percent of refugees have been resettled in the United States, that clearances are now a minor problem, that resettlement rates have been increasing steadily and that refugee morale is generally good.

There are problems:

1. Accelerating resettlement with continued quality emphasis.
2. Removing refugees from Pacific area and/or insuring appropriate housing.
3. Insuring increased public attention to and understanding of sponsorship.
4. Providing management support through OMB.
5. Identifying and cataloging sponsor offers.
6. Matching of sponsors with cleared refugees.
7. Providing task force and advisory committee personnel support.
8. Insuring mail and phone response on a timely and accurate basis.
9. Completing contract negotiations with Volags.
10. Utilizing the offers of colleges and universities to assist in education.

11. General Accounting and reimbursement to the States.
12. Augmenting Volag resettlement procedure.

With OMB augmenting the Interdepartmental Task Force management, and an increased public understanding of sponsorship responsibilities through the Presidential Advisory Committee on Refugees, these problems should be overcome.

Enclosure

EDUCATION

1. Language Training at the Reception Centers

Language training is presently being provided by personnel of the voluntary agencies at the centers, other volunteers, and by Federal and State education personnel. In instances where a State does not have the capability of mounting a complete program or where it is otherwise inappropriate for the State to do so, the Department will provide language training directly through a private contractor.

2. Other Education and Training Activities at the Reception Centers

The Department of Labor in cooperation with State and local manpower/employment agencies is presently providing job counseling to all heads of households desiring such assistance. The counselors advise on needed retraining or updating of job credentials. This service also includes information on employment possibilities in the areas to which they will be moving, using the Department of Labor's Job Bank which lists job openings nationwide categorized by geographical skill and type of job.

3. School Districts Enrolling Large Numbers of Refugee Children

In order to provide transitional assistance to school districts enrolling high concentrations of refugees, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare is developing procedures to help defray special costs which may be incurred, particularly for English language instruction. These procedures will be developed in the very near future, in time to assist local school districts in their planning for the coming school year.

4. Services for School Districts

A national clearinghouse for information on special teaching resources and materials is now being established. It will disseminate information to States and school districts describing materials and resources which are particularly appropriate for the language instruction and cultural orientation of the refugee children. In instances

where teaching materials have been designed especially to meet the needs of these children, the clearinghouse will distribute these materials directly to the States and school districts.

5. Student Assistance to Refugees Wishing to Pursue Postsecondary Education

The Basic Educational Opportunity Grants (BEOG) program and the Guaranteed Student Loan (GSL) program, which provide direct financial assistance to college, university, and postsecondary vocational students pursuing their studies at accredited institutions, will be available to refugees who meet the requirements of the programs. These funding opportunities will also be available for Vietnamese and Cambodian students who were studying in this country at the time of the fall of their respective governments and who wish to remain here.

HEALTH

Health problems which exceed the capabilities of on-site medical resources are the responsibility of the Public Health Service. Public Health Service Hospitals and Clinics have been designated to provide or arrange and pay for necessary off-site health care, and specific Public Health Service Hospitals at San Francisco, New Orleans, and Baltimore have been designated as the referral units for the reception centers. When required services are not available in Public Health Service facilities or when other considerations, such as separation of a family unit are involved, care may be authorized by Public Health Service contract or in other community facilities.

Upon release from the reception centers and resettlement in communities, direct responsibility for medical services to the Indochinese refugees by the Department of Defense and Public Health Services terminates, and health care must be obtained through community resources and facilities.

In those cases where the refugees with the help of their sponsors are unable to obtain health insurance, State Medical Assistance is available to cover medical

services. Sponsors can assist the refugee in registering for medical assistance at local agencies where existing State eligibility criteria regarding the income and assets of the refugee will be applied.

WELFARE AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare encourages maximum coordination between State agencies, private organizations, and sponsors in the resettlement effort. In this way, coordinated efforts can be developed and maximum utilization made of private and voluntary efforts to help the refugees become self-supporting residents of the State. However, in order to meet the emergency needs of refugees if sponsorship arrangements do not work out, and to avoid a burden on State or local resources, welfare and medical assistance will be made available to refugees with little or no income or resources regardless of the composition of the family.

Under the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975, the Social and Rehabilitation Service of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare will provide States with 100 percent reimbursement for welfare and medical assistance to needy Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees. Full reimbursement will also be provided for administrative costs incurred by State welfare agencies in the provision of such assistance. In addition, within limitations to be defined, 100 percent reimbursement will be provided for social services which are intended to enable refugees to become self-supporting.

To avoid complete breakdowns in the sponsorship of refugees, medical assistance will be made available to needy refugees even though they do not receive financial assistance. This will enable a sponsor who may not be able to meet major medical needs which occur to continue to provide food, maintenance, shelter, and help in securing employment for a refugee family.

In general, the eligibility of refugees for welfare and medical assistance will be based on the same standards of need as apply to other residents of the State, and the amount of assistance provided will be based on the levels

of payments made under the State's program of aid to families with dependent children (AFDC).

Full guidelines on welfare and medical assistance will be provided to the States early next week.

SPONSORSHIP

With certain exceptions, refugees require sponsors to assist in ensuring that the refugees do not become public charges and to help each refugee make the transition from refugee to 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 and a new way of life. 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.

A sponsor, working through an appropriate voluntary agency, state or local government unit 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.
- In order to meet emergency needs, refugee families who are eligible may obtain medical assistance through state Medicaid programs. This assistance, however, in no way abrogates a sponsor's moral obligation to provide normal health assistance for refugee families.

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

MODEL FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT GROUP SPONSORSHIPS

1. AGREEMENT TO INITIATE GROUP SPONSORSHIP

As a first step, State and local governments interested in undertaking group sponsorship should bring together political, business, union, church and voluntary leadership to decide:

- if group sponsorship is desirable,
- what numbers of refugees can best be absorbed into the area or community (e.g. some considerations are labor market, housing availability, and community services),
- how to organize a task force or appropriate mechanism to coordinate the group sponsorship.

If there is enough leadership consensus to move forward, an initial contact should be made with the President's Interagency Task Force (202-632-3172).

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF A REFUGEE TASK FORCE

Having agreed to initiate group sponsorship, and after preliminary discussions with the Task Force, an operational coordinating body, representative of public and private sector organizations, should be established to set up procedures in the context of a proposal to be discussed in person with the civil

coordinator of the resettlement center nearest you.

3. PROPOSAL DISCUSSION WITH TASK FORCE

The proposal will be reviewed and discussed with the Chief Civilian Coordinator and his senior staff at the resettlement center. If approved by this group the State or local representative returns to his or her homesite.

4. IDENTIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION OF SPONSORSHIP

The State or local Task Force should set up a system to solicit sponsorships. Such offers need to be checked in order to certify the ability of sponsor volunteers to perform sponsorship responsibilities. Once an adequate number of certified sponsorship offers are certified a Task Force representative should return to the Resettlement Center.

5. SIGN MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Memorandum between the State or local official and the three Interagency Task Force officials will be signed confirming the terms of the group sponsorship policies and procedures.

6. SELECT REFUGEES AND ASSIST IN TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

With the assistance of the Civil Coordinator Staff, the State/local representative will select refugees to participate in the group sponsorship and arrange for transportation. The costs of transportation of refugee families from the Resettlement Center to the sponsors' locations will be borne by the Federal Government.

7. SUGGESTIONS

- State or local governments may wish to consider formation of a non-profit organization to administer the resettlement program. The possibility of receiving tax-deductible contributions to defray non-reimbursable administrative expenses might be explored with the Internal Revenue Service.
- In calling for sponsorship offers, the State or local organization should concentrate on identifying actual family sponsors, but should encourage individual offers of housing, employment, clothing, etc. as part of the total sponsorship program. These latter types of offers can be matched with possible requirements of individual family sponsors.

MODEL FOR LOCAL ORGANIZATION SPONSORSHIP

Organizations who wish to sponsor a number of refugees may wish to use the following procedure and checklist in preparing a program.

- A. Undertake a survey to determine the number and kinds of jobs available in the community for the refugees.
 - B. Determine the approximate number of families who will undertake the temporary housing and feeding of the newly arrived families. This may also be done on a community basis where two or three families living in adjacent houses could handle a large family by splitting the housing and support burden. Another plan could utilize public and private facilities such as unused college housing and messing facilities or other centrally located buildings for group support maintenance.
 - C. Sub-committees should be formed to handle on the single-point of contact basis the following logistics.
 1. Contact with the local voluntary agency being asked to process the families (Tab A list).
- Liaison with the relocation center providing the refugees.

Meeting refugees at airports or bus stations and providing transport to sponsoring family.

2. General orientation to refugee families such as the "welcome wagon" concept.

Collection of clothing and other life support items donated by the community.

3. Central point of contact for refugees seeking employment. Telephone assistance for appointments, etc.

4. Briefings and assistance regarding taxes - deductions - medical insurance, etc. Obtaining driving permits - enrollment of children in schools.

5. Permanent housing assistance. When employment is secured by the refugee and he begins to have an income, the securing of permanent housing is a major step on his road to self-sufficiency. HUD projects, FHA support, and/or community-supported loans or rentals may be considered.

When your organization has familiarized itself with the above requirements soon to be needed by the refugee it is then time to contact one or more of the volunteer organizations. Your

local chapter of a voluntary organization is the place to start. Discuss with this local office the type of individuals, skills and quantity of refugees your organization is capable of handling. We suggest your organization picks out a planning figure based on your survey. If say, 100 families are possible to resettle in your area, start with 10 families until you gain experience. You can always go back for more.

Major objective of your efforts must be to assist the refugee to become self-sufficient and prevent him from becoming a public charge.

TO: .

As of 06/05/75

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Church World Services
Immigration and Refugee Program
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Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
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Tolstoy Foundation, Incorporated
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International Rescue Committee
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212/679-0010

American Council for Nationalities Service
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212/279-2715

Traveler's AID-International Social Services
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212/687-2747



United Hias Service, Incorporated
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212/674-6800

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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 6 months.

Eglin Air Force Base in Florida will have the shortest use; it will be phased out just as soon as the speed-up in 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 and 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 U. S. Government) 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 reimburse the state or local government's resettlement expenses up to a total of \$500 per each refugee successfully resettled.

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. The UNHCR requires that each refugee seeking repatriation fill out a questionnaire which it will submit to the authorities in Vietnam. UNHCR will arrange flights for those who are accepted back through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and/or the Inter-Governmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM), each of whom is 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 May 26, more than 2,000 refugees have gone to other countries, Canada, Australia, France, the Philippines, and Okinawa taking the largest numbers.
- Q. What is the legal status of a refugee in the U. S.?
- A. The Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees are entering as "parolees" under Section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Naturalization Service is issuing each one an I-94 which identifies the holder as a Vietnamese refugee who has been paroled into the United States under Section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act with authority to work.

The refugee may later seek to change his status to lawful permanent resident of the United States under Section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act if eligible for such adjustment or under such subsequent legislation as may be enacted by the Congress. Thereafter, he may 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 also seek an adjustment of status from that under which they entered (such as students or visitors) to the above. Pending the availability of this remedy, Immigration and Naturalization Service will not forcibly require them to return to their homelands. Their status will be that of aliens in "indefinite voluntary departure"



and they will be permitted to remain indefinitely and accept full-time employment.

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 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 some time 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, 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 (PL94-23) 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. An additional \$98 million, made available for previous Foreign Assistance Act funds, paid for the evacuation sea and airlift and for the opening up of the restaging and reception sites.



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Fresno	Mr. Joseph Laharty Catholic Charities 760 West Nielsen Avenue Fresno, California 93706	(209) 237 0851
Gallup	Very Rev. Leo Seramur Cristo Rey High School Seminary 1900 E. Mark Avenue Gallup, New Mexico 87301	(505) 863 9074



Galveston- Houston	Mr. Paul J. Doyle Catholic Community Service 1111 Lovett Boulevard Houston, Texas 77006	(713) 526 46 11
Gary	Rev. Joseph Semancik Catholic Family Service 3857 Broadway Gary, Indiana 46806	(219) 887 6548
Gaylord (Michigan)	Mr. Richard L. Beachnau Diocesan Director Community, Family & Children Services P.O. Box 700 Gaylord, Michigan 49735	(517) 732 5147
Grand Island (Nebraska)	Msgr. Carl T. Hayden St. Joseph's Church Box 576 Kimball, Nebraska 69145	(308) 235 2162
Grand Rapids	Rev. Joseph Battersby Diocese of Grand Rapids 265 Sheldon Avenue, S.E. Grand Rapids, Michigan 49502	(616) 459 4509
Great Falls	Very Rev. Francis J. Saksa, Chancellor Diocese of Great Falls 727 3rd Ave., North Great Falls, Montana 59401	(406) 453 9389
Green Bay	Rev. Peter N. Klauck 131 S. Madison St. Box 38 Green Bay, Wisconsin 54305	(414) 437 6541
Greensburg	Sister Mary Francis Waite Catholic Charities 115 Vannear Ave. Greensburg, Penna. 15601	(412) 837 1840
Harrisburg	Very Rev. Thomas R. Brenner Episcopal Vicar for Social Welfare 1017 North Front Street Harrisburg, Penna. 17102	(717) 238 7339
Hartford	Rev. John Reilley 244 Main Street Hartford, Connecticut 06106	(203) 522 8241
Helena	Mr. James Flannagan 530 North Ewing Street Helena, Montana 59601	(406) 442 4130



Honolulu	Robert T. Omura Catholic Social Service 250 So. Vineyard Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813	(808) 537 6321
Indianapolis	Rev. Donald Schmidlin Catholic Charities P. O. Box 33052 Indianapolis, Indiana 46203	(317) 634 1913
Jefferson City	Rev. Donald Greene Chancery Office P. O. Box 417 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102	mission (314) 635 0169 chancery (314) 635 9127
Joliet	Rev. Joseph M. Shimanek Catholic Charities 310 Bridge Street Joliet, Illinois 60435	(815) 723 3405
Juneau (Alaska)	Miss Patricia Denny Catholic Community Service 529 Gold Street - Room 233 Juneau, Alaska 99801	(907) 586 2534
Kalamazoo (Michigan)	Sister Edna Ternes, S.S.J. St. Agnes Foundling Home 1521 Gull Road Kalamazoo, Michigan 49001	(616) 349 8629
Kansas City (Kansas)	Mr. Louis Finocchario Catholic Social Service 415 North 15th Street Kansas City, Kansas 66102	(913) 371-3055
Kansas City (Missouri)	Mr. Roshey Moten Catholic Charities 527 West 39th Street Kansas City, Missouri 64111	(816) 756 2350
La Crosse	Rev. William Jablonske Catholic Charities 128 South 6th La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601	(608) 782 0704
Lafayette	Rev. Richard Di Geronimo Catholic Charities 3810 W. Jefferson Road Kokomo, Indiana 46901	(317) 457 1172
Lafayette (Louisiana)	Mr. Charles H. Oliver Director, Catholic Social Services 601 West St. Mary Blvd. Lafayette, Louisiana 70501	(318) 235 5218



Lansing	Rev. Richard J. Groshek Office of Social & Community Service Diocese of Lansing 311 Seymour Avenue Lansing, Michigan 48933	(517) 484 8491
Lincoln	Rev. Edward Tuchek Catholic Social Service Bureau P. O. Box 2723 Lincoln, Nebraska 68502	(402) 432 6581 home (402) 477 2178
Little Rock	Rev. James R. Savary Catholic Charities 2415 N. Tyler Street Little Rock, Arkansas 72207	(501) 664 0340
Los Angeles	Rt. Rev. Msgr. Benjamin G. Hawkes Catholic Resettlement Committee 1531 West 9th Street Los Angeles, California 90015	
	Mrs. Elizabeth Kirsnis Immigration & Citizenship Division 1400 West 9th Street Los Angeles, Ca. 90015	(213) 385 7211
Louisville	Rt. Rev. Msgr. Herman J. Lammers Catholic Charities 2911 South 4th Street Louisville, Kentucky 40208	(502) 637 9786
Madison	Mr. Robert G. Hintz Catholic Social Service 25 S. Hancock Street Madison, Wisconsin 53703	(608) 256 2358
Manchester	Rev. Stanley Piwowar 58 Elm Street Claremont, New Hampshire 03743	(603) 542 5732
Marquette	Very Rev. Msgr. David P. Spelgatti 325 S. Pine Street Ishpeming, Michigan 49849	(906) 486 6212
Memphis	Sister Isabella Reilly Catholic Social Services 85 N. Cleveland Memphis, Tennessee 38104	(901) 725 5145
Miami	Rev. Daniel Babis Office of Immigration Services 130 N.E. 2nd Street Miami, Florida 33132	(305) 371 5657 1182



Milwaukee	Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph P. Springob Catholic Social Service 207 East Michigan Street Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53220	(414) 271 2811
Mobile	Rev. Thomas D. Weise Catholic Charities P. O. Box 230 Mobile, Alabama 36601	(205) 433 2682
Monterey	Rev. Felix Migliazzo Box 2048 Monterey, California 93940	(408) 373 2919
Nashville	Rev. Louis J. Junod Catholic Charities 2400 21st Avenue South Nashville, Tennessee 37212	(615) 383 6393
Natchez - Jackson	Rev. Edward Tarsi Catholic Charities 237 E. Amite Street P. O. Box 2243 Jackson, Mississippi 39205	(601) 355 3411
Newark	Rev. Edward J. McHugh (Miss Marcie Meehan) Associated Catholic Charities 31 Mulberry Street Newark, New Jersey	(201) 371 7100
New Orleans	Rev. Michael S. Haddad Archdiocese of New Orleans 7887 Walmsley Avenue New Orleans, Louisiana 70125	(504) 861 9521
	Mrs. Elise Cerniglia 5237 Pratt Drive New Orleans, Louisiana 70123	home (504) 282 3339 work (504) 899 6165
New Ulm (Minnesota)	Contact St. Cloud Director for counties: Big Stone, Lac qui Parle, Swift, Chippewa, Kandiyohi, Meeker, McLeod. Contact Winona Director for counties: Brown, Lincoln, Lyon, Nicollet, Renville, Sibley, Yellow Medicine, Red- wood.	
New York	Sister Eleanor McNally Vietnamese Resettlement Office 225 East 52nd Street, 3rd Floor New York, New York 10022	(212) 371 2392 2393



Norwich	Rev. Robert E. McNulty 11 Bath Street Norwich, Connecticut 06360	(203) 889 8346
Oakland	Mr. Frank Mele, Resettlement Director Catholic Charities 433 Jefferson Street Oakland, California 94607	(415) 834 5656
Ogdensburg	Msgr. Robert L. Lawler, Director Catholic Charities 716 Caroline Street Ogdensburg, New York 13669	(315) 393 2660
Oklahoma City	Rev. William C. Garthoeffner 425 N.W. 7th Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102	(405) 232 9801
Omaha	Rev. Donald Dendinger United Catholic Social Services 2132 South 42nd Street Omaha, Nebraska 68105	(402) 558 3533
Orlando	Mr. Richard Logue 550 N. Bumby Avenue Orlando, Florida 32803	(305) 894 8888
Owensboro	Rev. Robert T. Wilson St. Joseph Church Leitchfield, Kentucky 42754	(502) 259 3028
Paterson	Rev. Joseph A. Ciampaglio, ACSM Catholic Family and Community Services 10 Jackson Street Paterson, New Jersey 07501	(201) 271 7100
Peoria	Miss Betty Gilmore Catholic Social Service P. O. Box 601 Peoria, Illinois 61601	(309) 674 5191
Philadelphia	Mr. Robert E. Hussar 222 North 17th Street Philadelphia, Penna. 19103	(215) 587 3909 3500
Phoenix	Rev. Richard W. Moyer 1825 West Northern Avenue Phoenix, Arizona 85021	(602) 943 7231
Pittsburgh	Very Rev. Msgr. John C. McCarren 538 Diocesan Building 111 Boulevard of the Allies Pittsburg, Penna. 15222	(412) 391 1002



Portland (Maine)	Fr. David P. Cote Human Relations Services 519 Ocean Avenue Portland, Maine 04103	(207) 774 9873
Portland (Oregon)	Rev. Morton E. Park (Mrs. Margaret Godfrey, Secy.) Catholic Charities, Inc. 317 S.W. Adlor Portland, Oregon 97204	(503) 228 6531
Providence	Rev. Lawrence Olszewski Holy Trinity Rectory 134 Fuller Avenue Central Falls, Rhode Island 02863	(401) 723 5326
Pueblo	Rev. Marvin J. Kapushion, MSW Catholic Social Services 302 Jefferson Avenue Pueblo, Colorado 81004	(303) 544 4215
Puerto Rico	Sister Sylvia Arias Servicios Sociales Catholicos P. O. Box 8812 Santurce, Puerto Rico 00910	(Call San Jorge 201)
Raleigh	Sister Ann Joseph 1111 New Berne Avenue Raleigh, North Carolina 27611	(919) 832 7509
Rapid City	Rev. William J. O'Connell Office of Social Concern/Services P. O. Box 678 Rapid City, South Dakota 57701	(605) 343 3541
Reno	Mr. George T. Miller Nevada Catholic Social Service 215 North Main Street Las Vegas, Nevada 89101	(702) 385 2662
Richmond	Ms. Phyllis Conklin Catholic Charities 811 Floyd Avenue Richmond, Virginia 23220	(804) 649 9353 ext. 65
Rochester	Mr. James M. Maloney 50 Chestnut Street Rochester, New York 14604	(716) 546 7220
Rockford	Rev. David E. Beauvais Catholic Charities 921 W. State Street Rockford, Illinois 61102	(815) 965 0623



Rockville Center	Rev. Edward Molloy Division of Community Research & Development Catholic Charities 50 North Park Avenue Rockville Center, New York 11570	(516) 678 6900
Sacramento	Rev. Keith B. Kenny, Executive Director of the Catholic Social Service 5890 Newman Court Sacramento, California 95819	(916) 452 7481
Saginaw	Alfred J. Ciaffone, Exec. Dir. Catholic Charities 710 North Michigan Avenue Saginaw, Michigan 48602	(517) 753 8446
Salina	Very Rev. Msgr. Alfred J. Wasinger Director of Catholic Charities 137 N. 9th Street P. O. Box 1366 Salina, Kansas 67401	(913) 825 0208
Salt Lake City	Rev. Terence M. Moore 1327 East 2nd South Salt Lake City, Utah 84102	(801) 359 6066 messages can be left at (801) 322 2569
San Angelo (Texas)	Mr. John Peca Catholic Community Services P. O. Box 4004 San Angelo, Texas 76901	(915) 655 3870
San Antonio	Mr. Manuel Gonzalez Catholic Family & Children Services 2903 West Salinas Street San Antonio, Texas 78201	(512) 433 3256
San Diego	Mr. Burt Donaldson 349 Cedar Street San Diego, California 92101	(714) 233 6129
San Francisco	Rev. Ronald E. Tognoli 2255 Hayes Street San Francisco, California 94117	office (415) 861 1985 home (415) 221 2480
Santa Fe	Mr. Luis Rey Gonzalez 801 Mountain Rd., N.E. Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102	(505) 247 1423
Santa Rosa	Rev. Stephen Canny Director of Diocesan Charities Catholic Community Services 1114 Mendocino Avenue Santa Rosa, California 95401	(707) 542 7191



<u>DIOCESE</u>	<u>DIRECTOR</u>	
Savannah	Rev. Msgr. Daniel Bourke Diocese of Savannah Box 8789 Savannah, Georgia 31402	(912) 234 0601
Scranton	Rev. Msgr. Kenneth T. Horan, MSW Catholic Social Services 300 Wyoming Avenue Scranton, Pennsylvania 18503	(717) 346 9711
Seattle	Rev. John J. Renggli Society for Propagat of the Faith 907 Terry Avenue Seattle, Washington 98104	(206) 622 8880
Sioux City	Mr. James K. Taylor Catholic Charities 1822 Jackson Street Sioux City, Iowa 51105	(712) 225 4545
Sioux Falls	Mr. Dennis Seiner Catholic Social Services 303 N. Summitt Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104	(605) 336 3326
Spokane	Donna Hanson, Assoc. Director Catholic Charities P. O. Box 1453 Spokane, Washington 99210	(509) 456 7153
Springfield	Rt. Rev. Msgr. William J. Cassin Catholic Charities 108 East Cook Street Springfield, Illinois 62704	(217) 523 4551
Springfield (Massachusetts)	Rev. Michael J. Doyle 73 Chestnut Street Springfield, Mass. 01103	(413) 732 3175
Springfield (Cape Girardeau)	Sister Rosaire Cantu, R.S.M. 410 Landers Building Springfield, Missouri 65806	(407) 866 0842
St. Augustine	Rev. Vincent Haut P. O. Box 16443 Jacksonville, Florida 16443	(904) 725 9119
	Sister Ann Maura 37 Ranger Street Ft. Walton Beach, Florida 32548	



St. Cloud	Rev. Richard Leisen Catholic Charities 810 St. Germain St. Cloud, Minnesota 56301	(612) 252 4121
St. Louis	Rev. P. Joseph Buckley Catholic Charities 4140 Lindell St. Louis, Missouri 63108	(314) 321 4980
St. Paul and Minneapolis	Miss Marguerite Loftus Catholic Social Service 204 Wilder Building St. Paul, Minnesota 55102	(612) 222 3001
St. Petersburg	Mr. Joseph R. Ems 6363 9th Avenue, North St. Petersburg, Florida 33710	(813) 344 1611
	Miss Phyllis Stapleton 4215 Central Avenue St. Petersburg, Florida 33713	(813) 896 2673
Steubenville	Sister Theresa Novak 422 Washington Street Steubenville, Ohio 43952	(614) 282 9706
Stockton (California)	Mr. William Guttieri, ACSW Director, Catholic Charities 1205 N. San Joaquin Stockton, California 95202	(209) 466 5143
Superior	Rev. Philip J. Heslin PH.D. Catholic Charities Bureau 1209 Hughitt Avenue Superior, Wisconsin 54880	(715) 392 2994
Syracuse	Msgr. Charles J. Fahey Catholic Charities 257 East Onondaga Street Syracuse, New York 13202	(315) 424 1800
Toledo	Rev. Robert Haas Catholic Charities 1933 Spielbusch Avenue Toledo, Ohio 43624	(419) 248 5511
Trenton	Rev. Raymond Bianchi, CMF Our Lady of Fatima Church 338-48 Smith Street Perth Amboy, New Jersey 08861	(201) 442 6634



Tucson	Mr. Jerome N. Brandt Office for Community Activities 155 West Helen Tucson, Arizona 85705	(602) 623 0344
Tulsa	Rev. James J. McGlinchey Catholic Social Services 739 North Denver Street Tulsa, Oklahoma 74106	(918) 585 8167
Washington, D.C.	Miss Francis Rogers Catholic Charities 2800 Otis Street, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20018	(202) 526 4100
Wheeling	Sister Gretchen Shaffer Catholic Community Services 161 Edgington Lane Wheeling, West Virginia 26003	(304) 233 0880
Wichita	Rev. Robert K. Larson Catholic Social Service 437 North Topeka Wichita, Kansas 67202	(316) 264 8344
Wilmington	Very Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. Reese, MSW Catholic Social Service 1200 N. Broom Street Wilmington, Delaware 19806	(302) 655 9624
Winona	Mr. Peter K. Walsh Catholic Charities 275 Harriet Street Winona, Minnesota 55987	(507) 454 2270
Worcester	Rev. John J. Doran Catholic Charities 53 Highland Avenue Fitchburg, Massachusetts 01420	(617) 343 4879
Yakima	Michael T. Ryan Catholic Family & Child Service P. O. Box 1091 Yakima, Washington 98907	(509) 453 8263
Youngstown	Rt. Rev. Msgr. Thaddeus Heruday St. Stanislaus Church 430 Williamson Avenue Youngstown, Ohio 44507	(216) 747 8503



ACTION MEMORANDUM

HOUSE

JUN 13 1975

Date: June 12, 1975

TON

LOG NO.:

*Dec 6/13
5.00*

Time:

FOR ACTION: ~~Jack Marsh~~
Paul O'Neill

cc (for information):

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Friday, June 13, 1975

Time: 5:00 p.m.

SUBJECT:

Kissinger memo (6/12/75) re: Transfer
of Task Force on Indochina Refugees

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action

For Your Recommendations

Prepare Agenda and Brief

Draft Reply

For Your Comments

Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

*called
Stinis
Dean called
back at
6:10 6-13*



PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

Jim Connor
For the President

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 11, 1975

MEMO FOR: JERRY JONES
FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

Secretary Weinberger no longer believes it necessary to discuss this matter with the President or his staff, as indicated in his memorandum at Tab C.


THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

ACTIONCONFIDENTIAL - GDS

June 12, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER 

SUBJECT: Transfer of Task Force on
Indochina Refugees

In the memorandum at Tab B, the Department of State recommends that the Inter-Agency Task Force on Indochina Refugees (IATF) be transferred from the Department of State to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and that the latter Department assume overall responsibility for the resettlement problem. The IATF would, however, remain a Presidential body and would continue to coordinate the efforts of all Departments and Agencies involved. This proposed shift from State is based on the growing predominance of the domestic US aspects of the refugee program.

Secretary Weinberger, in the memorandum at Tab C provides assurances of HEW's cooperation should it be given responsibility for the Task Force, but suggests as possible alternate options placing the Task Force directly under the White House, or OMB, or making it a special agency. He does not express preference among those options.

OMB supports the proposed shift to HEW (Tab D), noting that this arrangement preserves the White House influence while keeping the Executive Office of the President out of operations. OMB opposes the establishment of another independent agency.

Since the State memorandum was submitted, Ambassador Brown has been replaced as Task Force Director by Mrs. Julia Taft, Deputy Assistant Secretary of HEW, as Acting Director. In the absence of suitable space in HEW, plans are being made to transfer the Task Force from the State Department to rental space in a non-governmental building. With a senior HEW officer directing the Task Force, a leading HEW role is now assured. There is some feeling that it may be desirable to name a permanent Task Force Director with a background that would enable him to deal with greater authority with state and local officials. While a suitable candidate is being sought, however, Mrs. Taft could continue as Acting Director.

CONFIDENTIAL - GDS

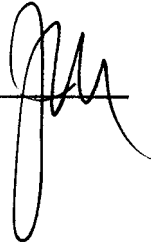
DND 11/12

Since creation of the original Task Force was the subject of a Presidential announcement, I believe a Presidential announcement of the changes would be appropriate. A proposed announcement, approved by OMB, the Domestic Council, Ted Marrs and Paul Theis, is at Tab A.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you approve the Presidential announcement at Tab A, shifting management responsibility for the Task Force to HEW, naming Mrs. Taft as its Acting Director, and requesting the full cooperation of Federal Agencies in providing the necessary support.

Approve _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. M.', written over a horizontal line.

Disapprove _____

PRESIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

I am today appointing Mrs. Julia Taft, Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, as Acting Director of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the resettlement of refugees from Indochina.

The new Task Force will continue the work which Ambassador L. Dean Brown began under my direction. The resettlement problem is now largely a domestic, rather than a foreign affairs, concern. All decisions and activities regarding the domestic and international resettlement of refugees from the states of Indochina will be coordinated through the Acting Task Force Director who will work under my direction and in close coordination with the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare and the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees. Mrs. Taft's responsibilities will involve all interested departments of government and I will expect that she will receive full cooperation and support from every department.

I wish to congratulate Ambassador Brown and his Task Force for their dedicated service and outstanding achievements. In the short period of one month they successfully supervised the evacuation of our Mission in Vietnam and almost 50,000 endangered Vietnamese. Some 60,000 additional refugees were rescued at sea. Staging areas in the Pacific were constructed; three reception centers in the United States

prepared; and a program of United States' and third country resettlement was launched. I would like to express my particular gratitude to Ambassador Brown and his Task Force and to our armed forces which responded so quickly and effectively. I am confident that the new Task Force will meet with similar success in helping transform refugees of war into productive citizens in a Nation at peace.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

May 14, 1975

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
From: Henry A. Kissinger
Subject: Transfer of Indochina Task Force

The evacuation of refugees from Indochina has been essentially completed and, as the flow of refugees enters the United States, the national security aspects of the operation are receding.

The time has come to focus on the long term resettlement issues which could be with us as long as one year. I believe that new organizational arrangements must be established to deal with this different set of problems, once Congress has completed action on your request for funds.

Specifically, I recommend that the Department of Health, Education and Welfare assume overall responsibility for the resettlement operation, and the operations of the present Task Force be physically moved to that Department. In order to ensure high level attention and inter-agency cooperation in the days ahead, I would further recommend that the new Task Force remain at the White House level. This arrangement could be reexamined in six months.

The new Inter-Agency Task Force would include the interested Departments and Agencies which are presently working on the problem -- DOD, Justice, INS, Interior, Labor, HUD, AID and State. State would be charged with handling the international aspects of resettlement and State/AID/USIA would continue to provide personnel support to the reception centers and the Task Force, as determined by the Director of the Task Force.

If we take this step, I am confident we will have created the proper mechanism for coping with the resettlement of refugees, which has become an essentially domestic issue and concern.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Determined to be Administrative Marking
Date 200 By 1/9/86

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 2 -

Should you agree to my recommendation, I will instruct Ambassador L. Dean Brown to make arrangements for the transfer directly with Secretary Weinberger with the understanding that HEW will request White House approval for the new Director of the Task Force.

Recommendation:

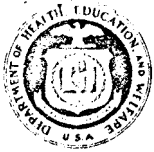
That you approve the transfer of responsibility for the resettlement to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, while maintaining the Task Force at a White House level.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

Attachment:

Draft Presidential Announcement.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20201

May 17, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Indo-China Refugee Resettlement Task Force
(Memorandum on the same subject to you from
the Secretary of State).

The Secretary of State has proposed to you that in view of the essentially domestic character of the resettlement effort which must now be made through the summer and fall, the State Department is no longer the appropriate agency to lead the task force which has been developed to deal with this subject. He suggests that HEW instead assume the responsibility for leading the task force; the director of the task force would remain as a Presidential appointee, under the Secretary's proposal, though I understand that a replacement for Ambassador Dean Brown will have to be found.

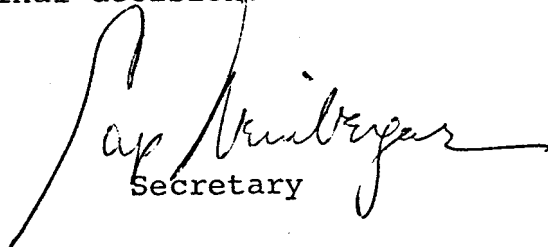
I agree with Secretary Kissinger that a domestic orientation of the task force is now appropriate. I also join him in recommending that a Presidential appointee lead this effort. I understand that the staff of the task force is already in place and that logistical support is ongoing; what is needed is only a change in leadership. I believe careful consideration should be given to identifying a new director and a new lead agency responsible for coordinating the task force's activities.

Certainly, Secretary Kissinger's suggestion that HEW take the lead is one option. We are an agency with direct operating responsibilities across the nation, and our programs have special relevance to the needs of the refugees and the concerns of the communities receiving them. While we do not deliver many services directly, we give financial support to virtually every entity that does. If we were given this responsibility, we would, of course, do everything we could to carry it out effectively, as we have attempted to give all the support needed to the existing task force under State's leadership.

There are, however, other options which have advantages of their own and which should be considered. Three in particular suggest themselves.

- The White House. Obtaining the effective cooperation of many agencies and the needed assistance from private organizations can best be done at this level. Also, the need to act quickly and the temporary nature of the program would be emphasized.
- The Office of Management and Budget. This office has experience in coordinating government-wide activities. It is in a good position to arbitrate differences between operating agencies.
- A Special Agency. On the model of the Energy Agency, this office would have a single mission to which it could devote all its efforts.

Our objective in this effort is to place virtually all the refugees in ongoing communities by year's end. By far the largest number of these placements will be in the United States. Each of the options presented, including the HEW option, has its advantages and drawbacks in achieving this objective. I believe that all should be considered before a decision is reached. I would like to discuss this with you or your staff prior to a final decision.


Secretary



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

MAY 27 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Transfer of Interagency Indochina Task Force

Background

The Interagency Indochina Task Force was established April 18, 1975, "...to coordinate for the President all U.S. Government activities concerning evacuation of United States citizens, Vietnamese citizens, and third country nationals from Vietnam as well as humanitarian assistance to Vietnam and refugee and resettlement problems relating to the Vietnam conflict." Ambassador Dean Brown was appointed the Special Representative of the President to head the Task Force, and worked under the direction of the President and the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs. Ambassador Brown has tendered his resignation within the last few days.

Secretary Kissinger's Recommendations

1. "HEW assume overall responsibility for the resettlement operation."
2. "State would be charged with handling the international aspects of resettlement...."
3. "The operations of the Task Force be physically moved to that Department (HEW)."
4. "The new Task Force remain at the White House level. This arrangement could be re-examined in six months."
5. "The new Interagency Task Force would include the interested Departments and Agencies which are presently working on the problem--DOD, Justice, INS, Interior, Labor, HUD, AID and State."

Discussion

The role of the Task Force in the evacuation of Vietnamese refugees has essentially ended with virtually all refugees accounted for, either in American possessions in the Pacific or in reception centers on three military bases in the continental U.S. Most Americans and their dependents have already been processed to their homes in the U.S.

The most difficult management task remaining to be accomplished is not running the centers (in the short run a relatively routine base operations job financed by State and executed by DOD) nor is it providing social and economic assistance services in the refugees new communities (financed by HEW and done by State and local agencies) but rather it is promoting and facilitating the sponsorship and physical resettlement of the refugees from the centers to their new communities. This is to be financed by the State Department and done by volunteer agencies and by State and local governments. It is this task, which requires sensitive but firm management effort, for which Secretary Kissinger recommends HEW assume overall responsibility.

There is essential agreement on items 2, 4 and 5 of Secretary Kissinger's recommendations. White House level authority would appear necessary at least in the short run to resolve problems within the Federal Government and between Federal and non-Federal agencies. The physical location of the Task Force (item 3) should be consistent with which agency has overall operational responsibility for the domestic resettlement operation. However, we should be very careful of not disrupting the continuity of existing support efforts.

Secretary Weinberger has recommended that two other options be considered before you decide: (1) placing the Task Force in the Executive Office of the President (White House or OMB); and (2) establishing a new separate agency.

Recommendation

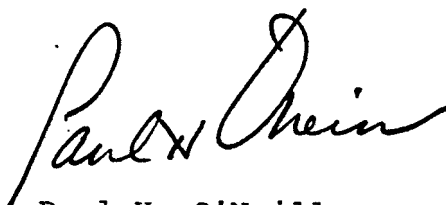
That you approve Secretary Kissinger's proposal for the following reasons:

- the most difficult remaining management task (domestic resettlement) requires close working relationships with State and local agencies, and with your new Advisory Committee on Refugees. This role closely parallels HEW's basic responsibilities and capabilities.

- the needed leadership and coordinating authority of the White House could be maintained by having the Task Force Director designated by and reporting to the President in close coordination with the Secretary of HEW.
- avoids enmeshing the Executive Office of the President in immediate operational problems and decisions.
- allows State and Defense to continue to carry out their related responsibilities for international resettlement and base operations.
- avoids the establishment of another independent agency to address the problem of refugees.

I would also recommend revising the draft Presidential announcement to make it reflect specifically the coordinative role of the Task Force consistent with the wording of the April 18 memorandum which established the Task Force. (See attachment)

Finally, in order to enhance the Task Force Director's ability to gain interagency cooperation an explicit decision is needed on who in the White House staff should be the focal point for communications with the President.



Paul H. O'Neill
Deputy Director

Attachment

PRESIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

I am today appointing _____
as my Special Representative and Director of the Interagency Task Force for the resettlement of refugees from Indochina. The Task Force will be located in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. All decisions and activities regarding the domestic and international resettlement of refugees from the states of Indochina will be coordinated through the Task Force Director who will work under my direction and in close coordination with the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. His responsibilities will involve all interested departments of government,

The new Task Force will continue the work which Ambassador L. Dean Brown launched under my direction. The resettlement problem now has a decidedly domestic orientation and is no longer primarily a subject of national security concern.

I wish to congratulate Ambassador Brown and the Task Force which worked for him for their achievements. In the short period of a month, they successfully supervised the evacuation of our Mission in Vietnam and almost 50,000

endangered Vietnamese. About 60,000 other refugees were rescued at sea. Staging areas in the Pacific were constructed; three reception centers in the United States prepared; a program of United States' and third country resettlement was launched. I would like to express my particular gratitude to Ambassador Brown and his Task Force and to our armed forces which responded so quickly and effectively, often in the face of great danger.

June 18, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH
FROM: RUSS ROURKE

I spoke with Julia Taft, Acting Director, Inter-Agency Task Force on Refugees. At noon today they will put out a press release concerning the wind down of refugee activities on Guam. Because of the typhoon threat and the criticism re tent camp living, they will have reduced the number of refugees on Guam to 10,500 by June 24. The 10,500 will be housed in fixed facilities, thereby assuring a greater degree of protection during any typhoon.

This Guam wind down will create a concurrent "bubble" for a period of several days to two weeks in the various relocation centers in the United States.

The following centers will experience short term escalation:

- Camp Pendleton + 500**
- Eglin + 1,000**
- Fort Chaffee + 1,000**
- Indiantown Gap + 2,000**

Julia's office is contacting all appropriate Hill offices this morning (McClellan, Sikes, Scott, etc.) to pre-advise of this anticipated action.

Every effort will be made to speed up the relocation of refugees from the aforementioned centers in order that the agreed upon ceilings can be brought back into line at the earliest possible date.

cc: Ted Marrs
RAR/dl



M

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 18, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH

FROM: RUSS ROURKE *R*

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cc: Ted Marrs



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 18, 1975

JACK,

NSC dinged this request so advises
Eliska Hasek.

RUSS



June 12, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: ELISKA HASEK
FROM: JACK MARSH

If a message is appropriate, please send. If you have any questions on this, please check with Ted Marrs.

cc: TMarrs



The White House
Washington

1975 JUN 11 PM 12 07

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PMS PRESIDENT GERALD R FORD ATTN HON JOHN O MARSH, DLR

WHITE HOUSE DC 20500

ON BEHALF OF 400 GRATEFUL VIETNAMESE EVACUEES UNDERGOING ORIENTATION
AND LANGUAGE TRAINING AND BEING GIVEN JOB PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE IN
OUR WEIMAR CALIFORNIA FACILITIES WE RESPECTFULLY INVITE YOU TO
ATTEND SPECIAL DEDICATION AND "WELCOME TO AMERICA" PROGRAM AT 10AM
WEDNESDAY JUNE 18 NOTHING OF COURSE WOULD BE MORE MEANINGFUL THAN
YOUR PRESENCE BUT WOULD DEEPLY APPRECIATE ANY REPRESENTATION FROM
YOU AND LETTER OR TELEGRAM OF SPECIAL GREETING TO THESE WONDERFUL
PEOPLE

LARRY WARD PRESIDENT FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY 1109 SOUTH CENTRAL
GLENDALE CA 91204

NNNN



FORM 0105 PRINTED BY THE STANDARD REGISTER COMPANY, U. S. A.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 16, 1975

JACK,

Since this is only an FYI copy
and since copies have already
gone to Ted Marris and Winston
Weaver, it would appear unneces-
sary and perhaps inappropriate
to respond.

RUSS





JUN 9 1975

FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

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**Determined to be an-
Administrative Marking**

Dr. Larry Ward,
President

By SD NARA, Date 4/17/14

To: Dr. Roger Shields

June 6, 1975

From: Larry Ward

Personal/~~Confidential~~

Re: Vietnam MIA's

cc: ✓ Honorable John O. Marsh, Assistant
to the President of the United
States
General Ted Marris, White House
Office Building
Mr. Winston O. Weaver, Sr.

I had anticipated being in Washington much earlier and having opportunity to report to you in person and in detail on our efforts in Vietnam re the MIA matter.

It happens, however, that I have a big "family" of evacuees to look after in Camp Pendleton (over 900, in fact, as of this morning)... and to settle in the facility we have leased in northern California for a program of relocation, job placement and general orientation to American life. (Premier Ky is under our sponsorship, by the way, and has expressed his intention of coming here to help us. I am dictating this at the facility, "Hope Village.")

The security clearances and general immigration procedures have taken longer than we expected, so it may be another 10 days or so before I'll be free to come East. Let me therefore summarize:

1. I refuse to call this my "final report. Nothing that happened in those last two months really disproved the contention of the Montagnard VC generals that they held a large number of Americans (their claims, you will recall, ranging from "70 to 80" to a Senior Colonel's boast of "several hundred").

Instead, all the intelligence we received until the very last day supported other aspects of the situation, short of actual hard evidence in the MIA's. (For example, all the Montagnards installed as province chiefs were regarded by my contacts as "friends"--and this included the Vice Chairman of COSVN.)

2. "For want of a nail"--and for want of a single flight over a specified area (the old Zulu Special Forces camp between Dalat and Hammethuot), we were unable to re-establish direct contact with the Montagnard VC friendly to the UMI movement.

June 6, 1975

You had put me in touch with Col. John Madison of the FPJMT, whom I found friendly and helpful in attitude--but frank to say that nothing could be done from the US side. I met with him several times, and it was his suggestion that I go to the GVN--since there was apparently nothing the US could do, and since the Vietnamese logically should have been interested in the military resources the UMF represented, if not the MIA aspect itself.

3. At this late date in history, I still regard it as tragic that the GVN did not move in adequate time to take advantage of the resources we offered them--at least 50,000 troops of the UMF (Unified Montagnard Force) ready to link up with 18,000 to 20,000 potential Montagnard defectors, to re-take the Highlands, to put real pressure on the NVA approaching Saigon from the North and to be available in special strike force to hit Hue, DaNang and other major cities. This could at least have bought badly needed time, and might have reversed the panic psychology.

I discussed this at length with President Thieu in a 45-minute private conference, after earlier conferences with several key generals. But--with one key exception--the top GVN leadership apparently had their minds on their personal evacuation rather than any last-ditch military effort.

4. The exception was Brigadier General Nguyen Van Chue, Deputy Minister of refugee resettlement and former Chief of Engineers. President Huong spent the first two hours of his brief reign listening to General Chue's presentation of my proposal--and authorized military support for the UMF and an attack on Dalat (which was held at that time by only 300 NVA plus approximately 1000 locals armed as VC Popular Forces. But time ran out.

Sidelight: As a long time friend of the Montagnards and champion of their cause, I'm glad I at least lived long enough to hear President Huong's statement via General Chue that if the tribes could re-take the Highlands they would be given full autonomy and allowed to set up a separate "country"--joining South Vietnam in a federated state. It's a bit of history only a few of us will know, and basically ironic, but I'm grateful for at least that much that late--and to hear also that Ha Jimmy, my chief contact, would have been the first leader of that entity, according to General Chue.

5. I think the record will show that I tried--and I want it also to reflect that somehow, someday, God willing, I'll try again. General Chue had approached Air America via the Embassy, but they apparently were unwilling to fly over the communications-target area. The General and I were attempting to go the "Hertz" route (renting an Air Vietnam Cessna) when time again ran out. Earlier Jimmy and I had planned to lay on a helicopter to DaMrong, scheduling an extract two hours later and then simply not putting out the proper smoke...but that just missed also when the exodus from Dalat came so regrettably early.

June 6, 1975

Another tragic aspect of this, to me, was that (according to our understanding) the friendlies on the other side were ready to release the recent (March) prisoners to Jimmy and me in Bannethuot--but we just couldn't get there.

I told President Thieu and the various GVN generals that I was ready to parachute into Bannethuot if our air-to-ground communication near Zulu indicated that the VC generals were willing to re-schedule our April 3 meeting which the fall of Bannethuot etc. had precluded.

A colleague--Col. (Ret.) Jack Bailey and I were ready to buy a plane if possible or steal one if necessary, both of which otherwise-ridiculous options seemed entirely practical under the circumstances. Even those last-ditch alternatives turned out to be impossible, for somewhat incredible reasons which I'll detail for you when we get together.

6. My feeling was--and still is--that if just one percent of solid possibility existed that the MIA's were in fact there it would be well worth any effort and expense, and of course we knew the whereabouts of the recent group. But I couldn't seem to transmit this concern to anyone official, except General Chuc.

7. There are numerous other aspects which we should discuss: The danger to the VC Generals Brieu and Brot, in view of the necessary disclosure to the GVN...the five renegade Americans who accompanied the NVA into Bannethuot...the boatload of Montagnards General Chuc and I dispatched for a night landing near Nha Trang just before the roof fell in in Vietnam...and the facts that the Montagnards generally will never really submit to Communist domination, that the UMF infrastructure will continue...and that we do have opportunity for radio contact in tribal language if at this strange-and-late date in history that is of interest to anyone for any reason. Ha Jimmy and Ha Johnny (who escaped from Dalat after the NVA/VC took it) are in our group at Camp Pendleton.

All this adds up to unfinished business for me, and I'll pursue it personally--somehow--whatever the official attitudes may be. I'm glad this hasn't hit the press, and of course I'll preserve full confidence on this end. I have many dear friends who cast their lot with us (with both the UMF and the USA, that is) whose lives are now in obvious great danger.

Thank you again for the encouragement of your gracious and helpful attitude in all our contacts.

June 6, 1975

P.S. Word has just reached me that 40 Montagnards are in Thailand. I have heard this very unofficially, and the facts may not be correct...but I have also heard that the Thai government may want to send them back to Vietnam. That would be tragic, tragic, tragic--if these are the Montagnards we dispatched by boat to the Highlands. I don't know what the attitude will be toward that part of the world in the years to come--but if we ever want any kind of a foothold in East Asia, this is it--and we need the help of the tribes. I am willing to go to Thailand on 24 hours notice to pick these people up, to bring them to the United States under our full sponsorship--and to work with anyone in an effort to preserve the value they represent for the cause of freedom in the world. (General Chuc tells me he hadn't heard this, but agrees that if there are 40 or so Montagnards in Thailand, these could be those whom we sent.)

Date: July 16, 1975

Time:

FOR ACTION:

cc (for information):

Jack Marsh
Phil Buchen

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: July 17, 1975

Time: NOON

SUBJECT:

Memorandum from Henry Kissinger and James Lynn re Indochina Refugees in Thailand dated July 16, 1975.

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action

For Your Recommendations

Prepare Agenda and Brief

Draft Reply

For Your Comments

Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

This is a HIGH PRIORITY item --- please give it a quick turn-around.

SECRET ATTACHMENT



PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

Jim Connor
For the President

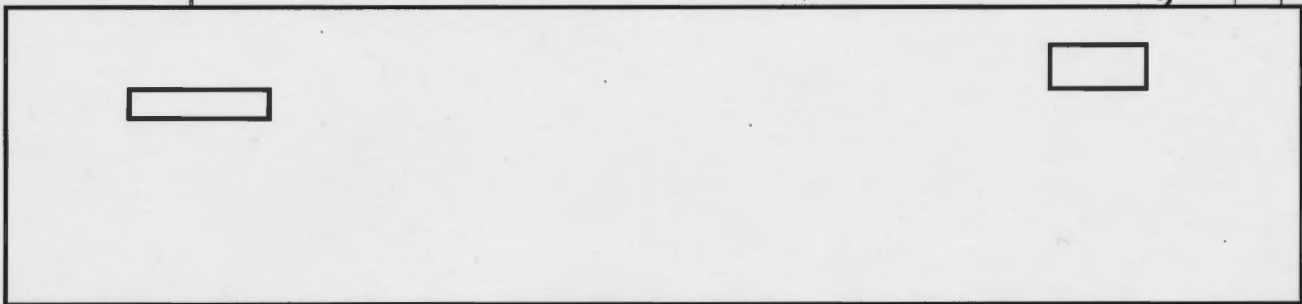
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(3) Request that the Secretary of State, in consultation with other affected agencies, prepare by August 15 a plan for the resettlement of the Meo refugees

Approve 

Disapprove _____

DECLASSIFIED w/ portions exempted

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BY lwh nsc/state guidelines
NARA, DATE 10/23/09



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