

The original documents are located in Box 15, folder “5/19-20/75 - California (10)” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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8am press brfg

9:30 bf arrives ~~(processing center)~~ ^{inter-agency task force} headquarters ~~briefg~~ room
room. 10 mins on refugee program

Paul Graham, Brig. Gen, commd genl marine
corps base, Camp Pendeton
military coordinator
Nick thorne, senior civil coordinator
^{in chg}
immigration

9:45 Voluntary ~~agencies~~ ^{er} agencies support group

(to place refugees)

i.e., The Catholic Conference
Intl Rescue Comm
World church

verify sponsors, match
sponsors,

walk thru some of bldgs
escorted by Graham, Thorne

10am Arrive Area 8 (5400 - location)

~~have any sponsors to get~~
~~19,000 total now - 18,000 now~~

been processed,
waiting for
security check
& sponsor

10am a) english class - about 50
there - beginning English
ages 10-11 - 3rd class -
class in dining areas - long
tents "survival english"

[CIA, fbi, state
- drug inf + DDD
rectangular

10:10 b) PX-line

K4-3rd from last tent

10:13 c) tent sidewalk
meet people

(library,

10:23 a) recreation area



lt col
arthur
will

provost #-
725-5001

el toro

Press Room

PROV

6p.m.

725-7707

1 garment bag
+ 1 dress

rm 895

San Clemente Inn

492 6103

x 128

x 126 hunt

x 224 me

Depart 8am

arrive 9:30

prob rec briefing from ^{some type} ~~CP Paul~~ ~~Paul Graham~~ Nicholas Thom
↳ manne + state dept
personnel

greet volunteers involved in ~~the~~ red cross processing relocation

see ~~the~~ area

Camp 8 - (closest to entr)
^{perhaps} (see PX) classroom teaches english to Viet
recreat - PX - visit with people in the camp

abt 45 mins - 1 hr

10:15 or 10:30

lv El Toro 11

arr andr 7 ish

asked about poss last nite

She wanted to see CP before she left + there ~~was~~ isn't time ~~for anything~~ to include anything else.

Camp Pndlt
(714) 725-7819

main provost



SAN DIEGO ZOO EMPLOYEES TO MEET MRS. FORD

Tilmer White, groundsman-driver, employed since 1959

Charles Coburn, nurseryman, employed since 1972

David Diaz, painter in construction and maintenance dept., employed since 1962

Robert Drewett, senior bird keeper, employed since 1968

Doris Alexander, lead admissions clerk, employed since 1969

Kathleen Mack, sales clerk, employed since 1971

B9
#801

[Faint handwritten notes and a large rectangular box outline]

Driving 4:30
Debar 8:00

[Faint handwritten notes, including "10:12 @ 10:30" and "up 42 mins - 1 hr"]

on 30 June 11

Post Bill P10

why is she going?
quite - when from

about if she takes to JF
about it

when did it come up
why doesn't she have time

from
Mikangie

crews go portable
room small

crews + stills
rotate

* 4 writers
flat against
wall

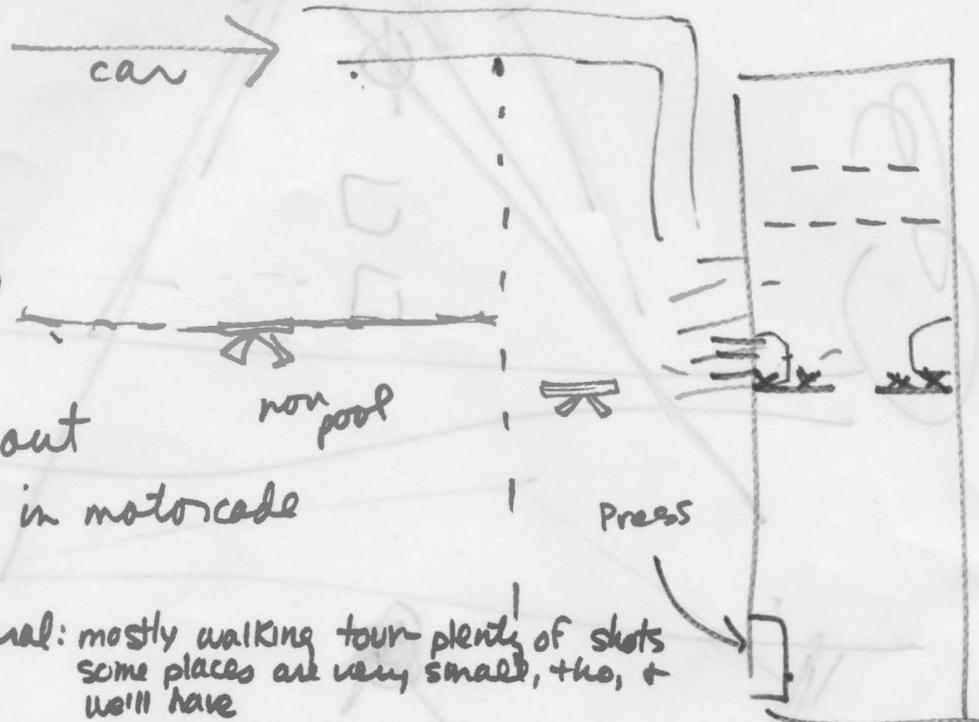
do not go beyond string

idents of who is
in room

table needs to be out

do pool bus right in motorcade

not an interview situation
Col. Art Brill ans of re camp



in general: mostly walking tour - plenty of shots
some places are very small, tho, +
we'll have

FIRST place: pool press area to cover arrival
single trailer - not room for all at
once - lasts 10 mins, so we'll do it
in 2 shifts - after arrival, pls go to back trailer
+ I'll move you from there
writers need to stand in the back against wall

photoop - there is a
string on the
floor we ask
+ that you not
go beyond

Second site - inside trailer (volunteers)

Volunteer
agencies

3 reporters AP, UPI,

maybe one still

dark

Col Brill
move

best to get on bus

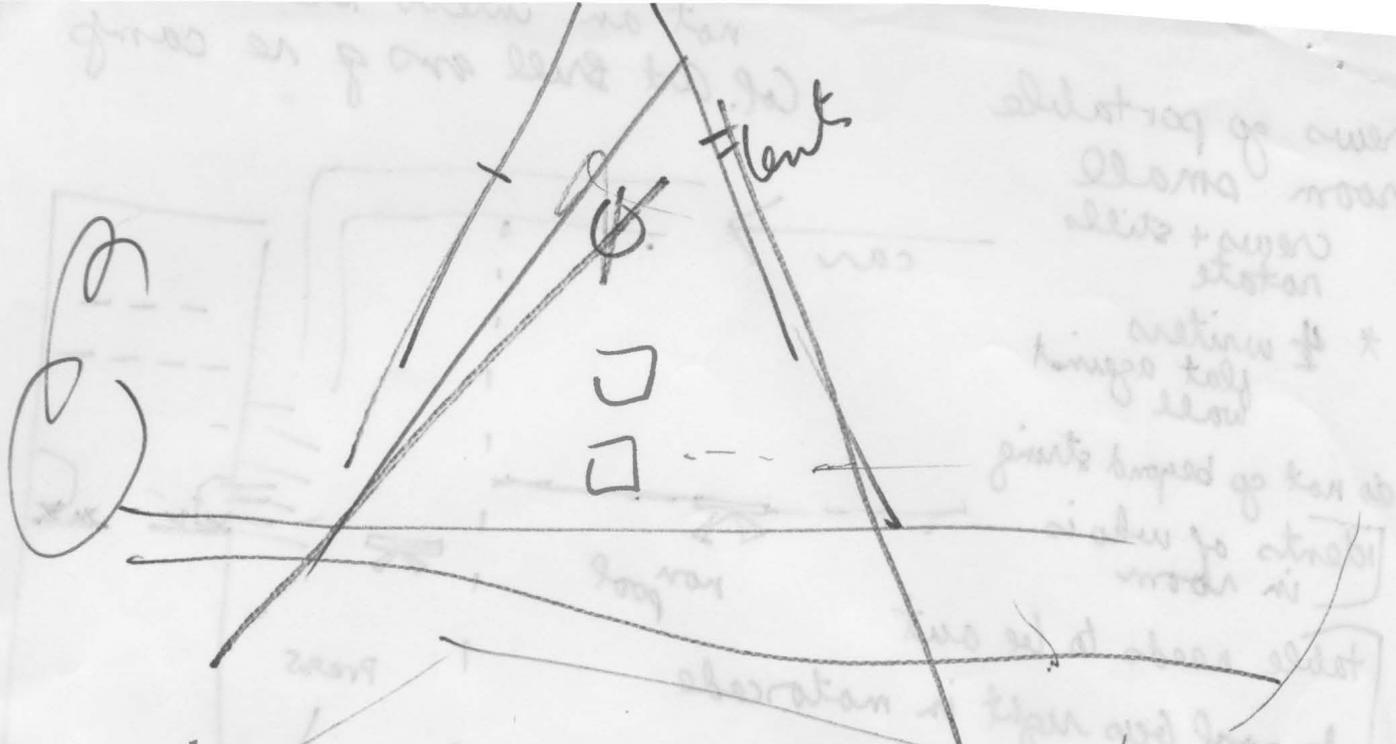
3rd site - area 8 - dining area used as Eng
classroom

"Gummy"
Norm McKenzie - Marine Sgt

all photos behind

from Lewine } along side
LA Times }

then pxs
walk a



people
press

Revel



press
press



press

[Faint background text from another page, including words like "tent", "people", "press", "Revel", "tent", "people", "press", "Revel", "tent", "people", "press", "Revel"]

POOL

ABC camera, soundman, correspondent

NBC camera, " " "

CBS camera, " ' "

network pool lighting technician

AP reporter, photographer

UPI reporter, photographer

* magazine color photo pool (newsweek)

LA Times, reporter and photographer

New York Times Reporter

San Diego Tribune reporter

San Diego Union reporter



17

14

LA Times
S.D. ~~Tribe~~ Trib

ABC camera

NBC "

CBS "

Network pool corresp ~~(3)~~

~~Network~~ pool lighting
technician

~~(3) sound~~ 3 sound

AP report

UPI reports

AP photog

UPI photo

~~Time/Week~~ Magazine

LA Times (photo color)

NY " reporter

San Trib reporter

LA Times reporter

LA Times, photog



Saukam
KH0Y

LA Times Kathy Burke writer
Boris Yaro photo

Trib photog Thane Mc Intosh photo
S.D. union writer Harrison

Sigma Tony Corodi

Newsweek Lester Sloan

CBS Terry Drinkwater corresp

" Robt Dunn camera

" Charles Gayton sound

NBC camera Richard Hutchings

NBC corresp Don Harris

NBC sound Jarvis

TVN camera Thos Harvey
sound



EVACUATION AND RESETTLEMENT
OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

Evacuation

- 55,000 U. S. citizens and South Vietnamese have been evacuated by air and sea by U. S. military.
- All American citizens who wanted to leave South Vietnam did get out.
- An estimated 65,000 more South Vietnamese have fled their country on boats.
- Only \$98 million was initially available under existing authority for the evacuation program. An additional \$507 million was requested from Congress.

Restaging Sites

- All refugees are being processed through Guam and Wake Islands where they are receiving housing, food, Immigration and Naturalization Service screening, and rigorous health care.
- An appeal internationally by the U. S. for resettlement opportunities in third countries, has resulted in the active participation of the UNHCR and ICEM on Guam. Representatives are on site assisting in such resettlement. The Australians and the Canadians have immigration officials on Guam or at Camp Pendleton.



- The health condition is very good, and no unusual health problems exist.
- As of May 10 less than 100 people out of 30,000 on Guam have been hospitalized, most of which were for maternity care, pneumonia, mild diarrhea- but no serious disease.
- INS is processing through those refugees whose documents are in order and are eligible for entry into U. S.
- Public Health Service Center for Disease Control has established a surveillance system to identify and treat illness.

Reception Centers Stateside

- The three centers are Camp Pendleton, Calif.; Fort Chaffee, Ark.; Eglin Air Force Base.
- American voluntary agencies which have enabled the resettlement of millions of displaced persons who have been war victims are working closely with USG to resettle those 130,000 refugees whom we estimate may enter the U. S.
- The major agencies are:

(see next page)



Migration and refugee Services
1312 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.
659-6631

American Fund for Czechoslovak Refugees
1709 Broadway, Room 1316
New York, N.Y. 10019

Church World Service
Immigration and Refugee Program
475 Riverside Drive
New York, New York 10027

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
315 Park Avenue South
New York, N.Y. 10010

United Hias Service, Inc.
200 Park Avenue South
New York, N.Y. 10003

Tolstoy Foundation, Inc.
250 West 57th Street
New York, N.Y. 10019

International Rescue Committee
386 Park Avenue South
New York, N.Y. 10016

American Council for Nationalities Service
20 West 40th Street
New York, N.Y.
212/279-2715

Traveler's Aid-International Social Service
New York, N.Y.
212/687-5958



- In addition, the Red Cross, Travelers Aid International have provided extraordinary assistance.

- The private sector has come forward with major expressions of assistance, including United Airlines which is providing transportation from reception centers to final destinations throughout the country.

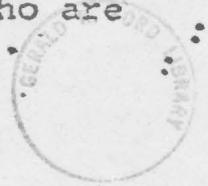
- By the time each refugee leaves a reception site he will have a local sponsor identified by a voluntary resettlement agency, a rigorous health screening, and all children 1-5 will receive immunizations for measles, rubella, polio, diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus.

- The voluntary agencies will assume responsibility for finding housing, enrolling children in schools, assisting in employment opportunities for heads of households, assistance in language skills, etc.

Resettlement

- Every effort will be made to ensure the resettlement to the extent possible will not be concentrated in a few enclaves in the country and will not result in economic or social service hardship.

- The Department of HEW, subject to Congressional action on the Administration's bill, will provide full reimbursement to State and local social service and health agencies for costs they may incur in providing income assistance, health maintenance, social services and educational services to refugees who are in need of such assistance.



PROFILE OF THE REFUGEE POPULATION

On May 5, 1975 the Department of Labor reviewed a sample of 223 families at Camp Pendleton. The sample indicated the following occupations:

29	percent were professionals or businessmen, including ministers
13.9	percent were skilled workers
15.2	percent were clerical workers
2	percent were journalists
10	percent were housewives
14	percent were students
3	percent were military
.9	percent (less than one) were previously engaged in agriculture
12	percent were not specified



CAMP PENDLETON REFUGEE RECEPTION CENTER

Camp Pendleton is a sprawling Marine Corps training base located 45 miles north of San Diego, California. The camp area is set in hilly scrubland. Lost in the hills and separated by 17 miles from the main base are eight refugee camps housing a total of 19,000 refugees. The first refugees reached Pendleton on April 29 but refugees have not left in important numbers due to delays in security verification. One of the camps is made up of neatly rowed if somewhat dilapidated quonset huts. The other seven camps are temporary tent villages. Tents and quonset hut rows are separated by dirt streets named after Vietnamese cities - "Dalat" street for example.

In addition to the camps, where the refugees eat and sleep, there is a processing center housed in a temporary trailer camp where the refugees receive a medical inspection and prepare applications and the forms necessary for obtaining social security cards, Immigration Naturalization Service clearances and the papers required to identify sponsors who will assist in resettlement.

The administration of the camp is the responsibility of Brigadier General Paul C. Graham. The refugee resettlement program is under the direction of Nicholas Thorne, a career Foreign Service Officer. Mr. Thorne is assisted by representatives of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, HEW, Department of State, the Agency of International Development and the United States Information Service. The principal voluntary agencies are represented as is the Red Cross.

As in refugee camps the world over life at Pendleton is gray. To reduce the tedium and anxiety we have begun to organize sports activities and English classes. But the pre-occupation of the refugees for the moment is not with the present but with the shock of the past and the uncertainty of the future.

REMARKS

MY HUSBAND, OUR CHILDREN AND I HAVE FOLLOWED WITH GREAT SADNESS THE TRAGIC EVENTS IN INDOCHINA. WE SHARE YOUR GRIEF, AND HAVE PRAYED FOR YOUR SAFE ARRIVAL.

I KNOW MANY OF YOU ARE TROUBLED, AND THAT YOU WONDER WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR YOU. I AM HERE TODAY TO ASSURE YOU THAT AMERICA OFFERS YOU THE SAME OPPORTUNITY THAT IT HAS OFFERED COUNTLESS GENERATIONS OF IMMIGRANTS -- OUR WELCOME IS GENUINE, AND OUR INTENTIONS ARE SINCERE.

I KNOW YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED GREAT HARDSHIP, AND THAT YOUR SITUATION HERE IS NOT IDEAL. BUT THIS IS ONLY A TEMPORARY SITUATION WHICH, WHEN RESOLVED, WILL ALLOW YOU TO REALIZE A NEW LIFE FOR YOURSELF, YOUR FAMILIES, AND A PROMISING FUTURE FOR YOUR CHILDREN AND YOUR CHILDRENS' CHILDREN.



THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE -- PEOPLES FROM ALL OVER
THE WORLD, OF ALL RELIGIOUS FAITHS AND POLITICAL
CONVICTIONS -- HAVE IN AMERICA FOUND A NEW HOME.
EVEN AS THEY PRESERVED THEIR MEMORIES AND MANY
CULTURAL TRADITIONS OF THEIR FORMER HOMES, THEY
JOINED WHOLEHEARTEDLY IN THE EXPERIENCE OF
AMERICAN LIFE.

THERE IS A LOVELY VIETNAMESE PROVERB FROM WHICH WE
CAN ALL DRAW INSPIRATION:

"THE ROAD IS HARD BUT IT IS NOT HARD
BECAUSE OF THE WIDTH OF THE RIVERS
OR HEIGHT OF THE MOUNTAINS.

IT IS HARD ONLY BECAUSE OF THE FEAR WE
HAVE OF THE MOUNTAINS AND THE RIVERS."

Do not fear for America offers
AMERICA OFFERS OPPORTUNITY IN FEAR. IT COMES
opportunity
TO THOSE WHO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT. I KNOW YOU HAVE
THE INDUSTRY, THE STRENGTH AND THE COURAGE TO SEIZE
THAT OPPORTUNITY.



I WANT TO EXTEND TO YOU, ON BEHALF OF ALL
AMERICAN IMMIGRANTS, AS WE ARE ALL IMMIGRANTS,
A WARM HEARTFELT WELCOME.



For release after 10:30 am
Wed, May 21, 1975

~~Ford Remarks~~
The White House
office of the Press Secretary to Mrs Ford

Remarks: Mrs. Ford
at Camp Pendleton
My husband

our children and I have followed with

great sadness the tragic events in Indo China. We share
your grief, and have prayed for your safe arrival, ~~in~~

~~here in America~~

I know many of you are troubled, and that you
wonder what ~~with~~ lies ahead for you. ~~we~~

~~in America~~ the United States. I am here today

to assure you that America offers you the

same promise of opportunity it has offered

countless generations of immigrants. ~~our~~

welcome is genuine, and our intentions are sincere, ~~it~~

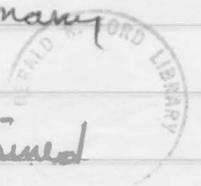
~~know your homes here in America are not I know we~~
~~all I wish the~~
~~that the conditions here at~~ could be
~~better, however, I ask that you be patient,~~



I know you have all experienced great hardships, and that your situation here is not ideal, But this is only a temporary situation, which, when resolved will allow you to realize a new life ^{yourself} for ~~yourself~~, your families, ~~you~~ and a promising future for your ~~and~~ children, and your children's children.

Those who came before --- peoples from all over the world, of all religions, faiths, and political convictions --- have ^{in America} found a home.

Even as they ~~preserved~~ their memories and many cultural traditions of their former homes, they joined



wholeheartedly in the experience of American life.

↳ There is a lovely Vietnamese proverb from which we can all draw inspiration:

- POEM -

America offers opportunity: ^{not fear:} it comes to those who take advantage of it. I know you have the industry, ^{the} ~~and~~ strength ^{with the courage} to seize that opportunity.

I want to extend to you, on behalf of all American immigrants, as we are all ~~so~~ immigrants, a ~~warm~~ warm heartfelt welcome.



debate
 We will draw new strength from you, our most recent generation
 of immigrants. You may need our help and understanding now, but I
 know you will soon achieve success on your own.

some are all immigrants
 I want to extend to you, on behalf of all Americans, the same warm
 welcome that we have extended throughout our history to those who
 have sought refuge here. You come to us in your moment of deep tragedy,
 and we reach out our hands.

Insert
 (A)

There is a lovely Vietnamese proverb from which we can all draw
 inspiration:

"The road is hard but it is not hard because of
 the width of the rivers or height of the mountains.
 It is hard only because of the fear we have of the
 mountains and the rivers."

Not to be spoken, to be used only by translator

~~ĐƯỜNG ĐI KHÓ, KHÔNG KHÓ VI
 NGÃI SÔNG, CÁCH NÚI MA KHÓ
 VI LONG NGƯỜI NGÃI NÚI E
 SÔNG~~



REMARKS

My husband, our children and I have followed with great sadness the tragic ~~recent~~ events in Indochina. We share your grief. *and here*

I know many of you are troubled, and that you wonder what ~~will~~ *will* ~~happen~~ *happen* to you here in the United States.

I want to assure you that America offers you the same promise that it has offered countless generations of immigrants. America's welcome is genuine. *our intentions are sincere (sincere)* Those who came before -- peoples from all over the world, of all religious faiths and political convictions -- have found a home. Even as they preserved their memories and many cultural traditions of their former homes, they joined wholeheartedly in the experience of American life.

America offers opportunity; it comes to those who take advantage of it. I know you have the industry and strength to seize that opportunity.

You bring to our nation a rich cultural heritage, ~~that~~, *Added* to the variety of the American experience, *it* can only make our nation stronger. You will find ~~with us love and understanding and a desire to share in your culture and experience.~~ *we have* You will also ~~learn~~ *we* are anxious to help.

~~We can be proud that you have chosen America as your haven and your home.~~



We will draw new strength from you, our most recent generation of immigrants. You may need our help and understanding now, but I know you will soon achieve success on your own.

I want to extend to you, on behalf of all Americans, the same warm welcome that we have extended throughout our history to those who have sought refuge here. You come to us in your moment of deep tragedy, and we reach out ~~our hands~~. *want to help.*

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ĐƯỜNG ĐI KHO. KHÔNG KHO VI
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 SÔNG



Status of Refugee Resettlement Program as of May 16

To date a total of 126,989 refugees from Indochina have entered U.S. control.

Of this total, 65,553 are at Pacific safehavens and restaging areas or on vessels.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Mrs. Ford at Puddlehorn
~~to~~ Camp to Refugees

"We have suffered with
you. We hope we
can help you.

The warmth in our
hearts that I bring
from us &

"After all most of us
came from other
countries.

"The road may seem
long. But I'm sure
you'll find that with
your diligence — ~~consciousness~~ — ~~consciousness~~ — ~~consciousness~~ —



Pool Follow Mrs. Ford

MEMORANDUM

Tape recorder

Tape

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Primarily Photo

Event - Observation
Sound w/ies - pool for observation not
interviews b/c of limited space

~~Pool Cover~~

Sound at beginning

3/ABC
NBC
CBS
net work

PENDLETON
POOL

Network Pool Cov.
Network Sound

AP Reporter
UPI Report
AP phot.
UPI phot.

News wk.

Magazine

TVN

NY Times Reporter
LA Times Reporter
LA Times Photographers (LA)
San Diego Tribune Reporter

Military



Non-poolers -

Try to help them - ~~accompany~~

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OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

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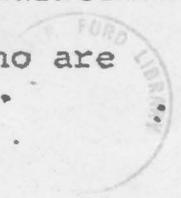
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Over 700 - ~~have~~ left.

①

MEMORANDUM

AREA #8 - large camp 5,400

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

All personnel.
Task Force
constituted

Basic reason; location \rightarrow on way out.
People need security of snow
CIA, FBI, STATE, DOD

①

Arrives at
~~Processing Center~~

"~~headquarters~~" Inter Agency

Task Force ~~Headquarters~~
Briefing Room" Briefed on ~~State~~ program here -

Brief. General Paul Graham,

10 Min.

Commanding Gen. of C. Pend.
Military Coordination of Mis.

Mr. Nicholas Thorne - Senior
Civil Coordinator for
the Inter Agency Task Force

He determines processing

② Got thru Volunteer Agencies

Volunteer Agency - under contract
to state Dept. Have responsibility
to place refugees -

10
Min.

"Catholic Conference"

"~~Over~~ Internet' / Rescue Center
Lutheran group.



Refugee can get out 2 ways - They have

Interpreter - Saw Vietnamese, Coordinator
Vietnamese war camp → PHAT

MEMORANDUM

2

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

To verify sponsors. Others don't
have sponsors & have to check
them.

9:55 Board Notecode

10:00 Arrive Area 8, proceed
English Class - about 50

Survival
English
Just
started
3rd Day

LILIBERT ULEHMET,
Teacher

This is beginning English
10-11 yrs. old

3rd class - Class is in
a dining area, ^{long rectangular} tents
that are screened in. They have
wooden floors.

10:13 Leave class for PX -
necessities - they have to pay
Soap; toothpaste; clothes;
sneakers. When 1st arrived got
packet

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

MEMORANDUM

(3)

KY - being treated like any other Refugee.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

- 10:13 Leave PX for Tentside Walk.
2nd cot.
- ~~10:30~~ \$57,000 lbs. of clothes distributed under auspices of Navy Chaplain &
- 10:23 Arrive Recreation Area - visit youth - meet & greet
- 10:30 Proceed to Microphone.
- 10:35 Depart.



PRESS CENTER
"OPERATION NEW ARRIVALS"
Marine Corps Base
Camp Pendleton, California 92055

17 June 1975

Dear Sheila:

Just a note to tell you how much I enjoyed working with you in preparation for Mrs. Ford's visit to our refugee center. It was certainly a valuable learning experience, particularly the pool business.

Things are still going strong out here. Thus far over 2300 newsmen have passed through our press center, and there's no end in sight. It's been interesting being spokesman, not only for the military but for the State Department and all the other federal and volunteer agencies involved. We've had our moments, but editorial feedback around the globe has been favorable regarding the Camp Pendleton phase of the operation, and we hope to keep it that way.

I know you are often involved with large throngs of media, and in retrospect as I look over Mrs. Ford's visit, the pool was the only way to go although perhaps your first suggestion of using ropes in the tent-camp area might have worked, too. The large pool we had that day jammed things up a bit. Perhaps one network would have been the best bet in lieu of all three. Those TV guys can really clutter things up and it's difficult for any of them to get more than a few feet of film at any one time.

FYI, we had a thorough pool report for the non-pool media in our press center as you drove up to El Toro. The San Diego UNION reporter, Don Harrison, made a marvelous pool report, and combined with our tapings of the briefing and Mrs. Ford's remarks, it enabled a reporter to cover the story and not even leave the press center.

It's a shame that the networks do not have a better arrangement to feed their affiliates in pool situations, isn't it? We had a few disturbed regional TV types, and it's too bad the nets can't work something out. All in all, the coverage out here, and I'm sure across the nation, was very complete and got the message across. I'll be glad to forward you some front page clips if you need them.

It was fun meeting you, Sheila. I just wish that Mrs. Ford could have been with us as we strolled through the tent-camp area that evening. Things haven't changed. I'm truly impressed with your professionalism, thoroughness, and good humor. The First Lady is in able hands.

If you ever come out this way again, we'll have a field jacket waiting for you! I look forward to working with you some time in the future.

Sincerely,



ARTHUR P. BRILL
LtCol USMC