

The original documents are located in Box 13, folder “Indochina - Refugees: General (1)” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 29, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

During the past week, I had ordered the reduction of American personnel in the United States mission in Saigon to levels that could be quickly evacuated during an emergency, while enabling that mission to continue to fulfill its duties.

During the day on Monday, Washington time, the airport at Saigon came under persistent rocket as well as artillery fire and was effectively closed. The military situation in the area deteriorated rapidly.

I, therefore, ordered the evacuation of all American personnel remaining in Saigon.

The evacuation has been completed. I congratulate the officers and men who accomplished it, as well as Ambassador Graham Martin and the staff of his Mission who served so well under difficult conditions.

This action closes a chapter in the American experience. I ask all Americans to close ranks, to avoid recrimination about the past, to look ahead to all the many goals we share and to work together on the great tasks that remain to be accomplished.

#



GENERAL WEYAND

We understand General Weyand arrived at Palm Springs at 11:05 a. m. -- on schedule.

Q. Has he met with Secretary Kissinger?

A. We have no indication that he has. ~~such~~

-0-

BABYLIFT

It is our understanding the Pentago has ordered 5 C141 "Starlifters" from Clark AFB, Phillippines, to Saigon. The first is due to take off about 2 p. m. PDT and the other four at two-hour intervals afterwards. Each holds about 200 people.

Defense has authorized 600 people to make the return flight. This includes about 400 orphans and the rest are dependents of Americans in South Vietnam (FYI "embassy types.") It is our understanding the flight will come to Oakland, but we do not have confirmation of this. The arrival time in the US will depend on whatever stops are made en route.

Q. Does use of the 141s mean the C5A is grounded?

A. Ask the Pentagon. I would not place any meaning on the fact that C141s are being used.

Q. Senator Proxmire has charged the C5As are unsafe...have wing stress problems...is that so?

A. The Pentagon spoke to that this morning and said there are no indications of wing stress problems.



CURRENT BABYLIFT FIGURES

193 Children have arrived at Travis AFB.

302 Children are enroute to Travis AFB via a Mack Charter DC-10.

23 Children are still at Clark AFB.

A total of 1,305 children have been or are being brought to the U.S. as of today; 787 have come by non-government aircraft, 518 by government flights.



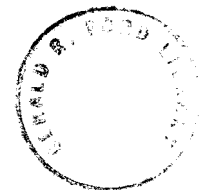
AMBASSADOR BROWN

Q: You said last week that the reason Ambassador Brown was not allowed to testify before Senator Kennedy's subcommittee was because he was a Presidential appointee not subject to Senate confirmation. Isn't that the same thing as invoking executive privilege?

A: No, you invoke executive privilege to withhold information, not to withhold people from appearing before a Congressional committee, and this Administration has not invoked executive privilege to date.

However, the legal counsel's office did request that the subcommittee staff not call Ambassador Brown to testify, because the Counsel's office believed that it would start a precedent of calling members of the President's staff. The Counsel's office says that Congressional committees have not called staff members. They have, however, called persons in other agencies, such as OMB, who [REDACTED] are not subject to Senate confirmation.

(FYI: If pressed about the Senate confirmation, you can say that Buchen has now had a chance to give the request some additional thought, and believes that Congress would be breaking the precedent of not calling such witnesses [REDACTED] and that he only requested that Brown not be called for the above reasons.)



MEMORANDUM FOR: RON NESSEN
FROM: JOHN G. CARLSON
SUBJECT: INFO ON THE "DURHAM" - LKA - 114

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The Durham is an amphibious Cargo Ship with a displacement of 20, 700 tons with a full load. It was commissioned 24 May 1969.

Other features include:

575 feet long
82 feet wide

Speed of 20 knots
2 boilers

Armament
8 3inch guns
1 50 caliber m. g.

Crew
334, 310 E. M., 24 officers
Carries approx. 300 troops

L stands for amphibious , while KA means Cargo

The Durham will transfer the refugees to the Merchant Ship S. S. Trans Colorado in Camranh Bay. From there they will go to Phu Quoc Island, off the southwest coast of Viet Nam.

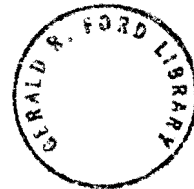


HUMANITARIAN AID TO SOUTH VIETNAM OR CAMBODIA

Q: Will you agree that any humanitarian funds voted by the Congress be channeled through international organizations such as the United Nations? Would you agree that these funds be used for relief activities anywhere in South Vietnam or Cambodia?

A: The funds I am requesting are badly needed in order to properly care for the refugees who have fled from Vietnam.

As for assistance to Cambodia and North Vietnam, I would think these countries should turn to those who supplied arms for any help that might be needed.



A BILL

To enable the United States to render assistance to or in behalf of certain migrants and refugees.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of
2 Representatives of the United States of America
3 in Congress assembled, That this Act may be
4 cited as "Migration and Refugee Assistance Act
5 of 1975".

6 SEC. 2. (a) Subject to the provisions of
7 subsection (b), there are hereby authorized to
8 be appropriated, in addition to amounts other-
9 wise available for such purposes, such sums as
10 may be necessary for the performance of functions
11 under the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of
12 1962, as amended, with respect to aliens who
13 have fled from Cambodia or Vietnam, such sums to
14 remain available until expended.

15 (b) None of the funds authorized
16 to be appropriated by this Act shall be available
17 for the performance of functions after June 30,
18 1976, other than carrying out the provisions of
19 clauses (3), (4), (5) and (6) of section 2(b)
20 of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of
21 1962, as amended. None of such funds shall be
22 available for obligation for any purpose after
23 September 30, 1977.



1 SEC. 3. In carrying out functions
2 utilizing the funds made available under this
3 Act, the term "refugee" as defined in
4 section 2(b)(3) of the Migration and Refugee
5 Assistance Act of 1962, as amended, shall be
6 deemed to include aliens who (A) because of
7 persecution on account of race, religion, or
8 political opinion, fled from Cambodia or
9 Vietnam; (B) cannot return there because of
10 fear of persecution on account of race,
11 religion, or political opinion; and (C) are in
12 urgent need of assistance for the essentials
13 of life.



Q. Now that the House has rejected the President's request, where are you getting money for the refugees?

A. Basically, the money comes from the Indo China Post War Reconstruction Fund. I am told that we will have spent about \$50 million by Monday. There is somewhere nearly \$50 million available in addition. This, however, is only enough to last another week at the present rate of expenditure. However, this, of course, is the peak period for expenditure. ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Ambassador ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Brown's office can give a more precise figure.



U.S. Catholic Conference
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 & Refugee Program
475 Riverside Drive
New York, N.Y. 10027

Lutheran Immigration & 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 Services
345 East 46th Street
New York, N.Y.
212/687-5958



The last three agencies have entered into a cooperative arrangement to process resettlement cases but wish to be listed separately as agencies engaged in resettlement.

ANALYSIS OF THE DRAFT
MIGRATION AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1975

The draft bill provides an express statutory authorization for a temporary program of relief and resettlement for refugees from Cambodia and Vietnam. This program, extending no longer than the end of the fiscal year 1977, would be carried out under the authorities contained in the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as amended. However, because it does not constitute permanent authority, the proposed legislation is in the form of a separate law, rather than an amendment to the 1962 Act.

Title. Section 1 identifies this Act as the "Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975". This title associates the legislation with the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, while also emphasizing it is a separate Act for a temporary program.

Authorization. Section 2(a) authorizes the appropriation of funds for assistance to Cambodian and Vietnamese refugees. The assistance would be provided under the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as amended, utilizing established procedures and administrative machinery with which the voluntary agencies and state and local governments are familiar.

During the next fourteen months, it is estimated that appropriations in the amount of \$507,000,000 will be required to carry out a program of temporary relief, transportation, and resettlement in the United States and third countries for 150,000 refugees. Additional costs for assistance to or in behalf of refugees in the United States will be incurred in fiscal year 1977. Because this program spans slightly more than two fiscal years, section 2(a) authorizes the appropriations to remain available until expended. However, the authorization is subject to the provisions of section 2(b) which limits the duration of the program to June 30, 1976, except for the functions within the United States, with respect to which the authorization continues through fiscal year 1977. In the event of a need for funds for resettlement in third countries or other overseas activities after June 30, 1976, they would be requested in the



normal authorization and appropriation process under the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as amended.

Definition of Refugee. Section 3 extends to refugees who have fled from Cambodia and Vietnam the authorities in the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act which are applicable to refugees in the United States from within the Western Hemisphere. These authorities include assistance to state and local public agencies, transportation of refugees to other areas within the United States, and training for employment. Programs under the authority of this section will be available only to those refugees who meet the requirements of financial need applicable to other refugees assisted under the 1962 Act and will terminate no later than the end of the fiscal year 1977, upon the expiration of the authorization contained in section 2.



FACT SHEET

Evacuation and Resettlement
of Indo Chinese Refugees

Evacuation

- 86,000 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 41,000 more South Vietnamese have fled their country on boats, by ship or over land.
- Only \$98 million is available under existing authority for the evacuation program. To date, DOD has incurred over \$70 million in costs for the evacuation. Without additional funds, the U.S. Government will be able to continue resettlement efforts only one more week.

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 U.S. to offer opportunities for resettlement in third countries, has resulted in the active participation of the UNHCR and ICEM, ICRC on Guam. Representatives are on site assisting in such resettlement.



- The health condition is very good, and no unusual health problems exist.
- 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.
- PHS 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 refugees who enter the U.S.
- The major agencies are:

(see next page)



- 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 that 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.



~~original~~

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

- 193 - Travis.
302 - Enroute Travis
via PC 10 Carter
23 - Clark.
-

1305 - Bought out
or in process of
buy back.

787 - Carter.
518 - USAF



TELEGRAMS AND MAIL ON THE REFUGEES

NOTE: THIS COUNT DOES NOT INCLUDE THE TELEGRAMS ON REFUGEES RESULTING FROM THE PRESIDENT'S NEWS CONFERENCE. THEY WILL BE INCLUDED ~~EX~~ ON THE REFUGEE TABULATION LATER.

11 am

OVERALL TOTAL OF MAIL AND TELEGRAMS ON REFUGEES (INCLUDING ORPHANS FOR THE PAST MONTH):

PRO	5,975
CON	3,446
COMMENT	238

~~TELEGRAMS AND MAIL ON ORPHANS FOR THE PAST MONTH:~~

TOTAL OF TELEGRAMS AND MAIL ON ORPHANS ~~EX~~ FOR THE PAST MONTH:

PRO	3,361
CON	368
COMMENT	53

NOTE: THIS TOTAL UNCHANGED FROM YESTERDAY.

TOTAL OF TELEGRAMS AND MAIL ON RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES, COUNTED ON COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED SINCE SATURDAY, MAY 3.

PRO	245
CON	509
COMMENT	33

NOTE: THAT TOTAL DOES NOT INCLUDE TELEGRAMS RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDENT'S NEWS CONFERENCE STATEMENTS ON REFUGEES. THAT WILL BE COUNTED LATER.



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NEWS

Ford Encouraged By Support For Refugees

President Ford confirmed that he had been "disappointed and upset" over reports that some Americans didn't want the refugees in this country.

But resolutions supporting his refugee resettlement program were passed late today by the AFL-CIO and the American Jewish Congress, Ford said and he found these encouraging in a news conference Tuesday night. He also noted support from several governors. "I am very proud" of those leaders, Ford said.

In other matters, Ford made these points:

-- He anticipates success at the next U.S.-Soviet summit meeting on a nuclear arms limitation treaty.

Does the U.S. really mean to establish closer ties to Taiwan? How do we expect to improve relations with China?

-- The United States will continue an active foreign policy in Asia, developing closer ties with South Korea, Taiwan and the Philippines.

-- The fall of Vietnam was "a difficult time," but any pre-ception of a U.S. weakness is unreal. "We want any potential adversary to know we will stand up to it."

-- The Warren Commission, of which he was a member, found no evidence of a connection between Cuba and the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. "We found no evidence of a conspiracy."

-- He was surprised at any skepticism that he would be a candidate for election in 1976 and announced that an informal campaign planning group is at work.

There seems to be a difference of opinion when M.E. reassessment will be completed. Can this fuzziness be cleared up?

He was looking for input from Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin as the United States re-evaluates its Middle East policy. But his planned meetings with these men do not mark the start of a new U.S. negotiating effort.

He said he wished more than 30,000 persons had taken advantage of his clemency program for Vietnam-era military deserters and draft evaders.

Will Pres. be able to get \$507 M in aid for refugees?



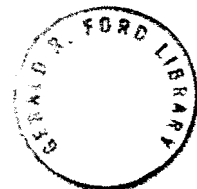
MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Margaret Mead -- said it was ridiculous of the U.S. to act as if we cannot absorb the refugees. We have been absorbing the since the u.s. was founded and they have always strengthened the country.

Not sure where she said it, thinks it was a sof press conference in LA on Monday, but she has been making speeches up and down the West Coast CBS taped it



HUMANITARIAN AID TO VIETNAM

Q. Mr. President, you have said that you will work with the Congress in the days ahead to develop additional humanitarian assistance. Would this be a bilateral program or would you be willing to channel these funds through international organizations and into North Vietnam/PRG-held areas?

A. We are most concerned with relieving the suffering of the Vietnamese people, and I have expressed willingness to cooperate with the Congress in defining the mode in which U.S. assistance will be provided. We consider it our primary and immediate responsibility to provide for those Vietnamese whose needs are the greatest and to whom we can get our assistance in the most effective and expedient manner. We will be concentrating on that aspect of humanitarian assistance at this time and will consider other possibilities as events unfold. The requirements will be great and we must move quickly to sustain and shelter the South Vietnamese victimized by the war, especially the refugees uprooted by the North Vietnamese onslaught. We do not see much purpose in providing assistance to the North Vietnamese so that they can divert more resources to their offensive against the South Vietnamese.



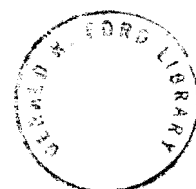
The Immigration and Naturalization Service announced today it will parole additional categories of persons from Vietnam and Cambodia into the United States.

Those to whom the parole is being extended, are:

1. Vietnamese nationals who are close relatives of American citizens and permanent resident aliens for whom petitions for entry have not been filed. This group is estimated to number between 10,000 and 75,000 and includes spouses, parents, children and brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens. It also includes spouses, children, and unmarried sons and daughters over 21 of permanent resident aliens, plus the parents of permanent resident aliens and unmarried brothers and sisters living with such parents.
2. Certain "high risk" Vietnamese, not to exceed 50,000 in number. Included in this group are past and present U.S. government employees, Vietnamese officials and significant political and intelligence figures and the spouses and children of those parents.
3. Cambodians formerly employed by the United States in Cambodia and who are evacuated in Thailand. Their number is approximately 1,000.
4. Approximately 3,000 relatives of U.S. citizens and permanent resident aliens for whom visa petitions have previously been filed by relatives in the United States and who would otherwise be admissible under normal immigration procedures. This group includes spouses, parents, children and brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens. It also includes spouses, children, and unmarried sons and daughters over 21 of permanent resident aliens.

In addition, the immigration and Naturalization Service has notified its field offices that they are to act as intermediaries in transmitting information concerning relatives or friends in Vietnam from persons in the United States to the American Embassy in Saigon.

per Bob Havel 4/22/75



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE SECRETARY

To: Ron Nessen

From: David Gompert



The attached Presidential statement is OK with HAK. I understand you have not yet received this text.

If you have questions, please target them on Vandehye of NSC Staff.



PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ON THE
STATEMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
U. S. CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

I am deeply grateful for the support that the Executive Committee of the U. S. Catholic Conference today demonstrated for our efforts to evacuate the war orphans and abandoned children of South Vietnam. I commend their willingness to meet this urgent humanitarian need.

We will do our utmost through the Agency for International Development to ensure that orphans presently under the care of Catholic Relief Services and other voluntary organizations will be joined with the thousands of Americans who have opened their homes to these children.

As the Committee has stated, it is indeed paramount that the United Nations, and the international community at large, seek to permit the humanitarian efforts of nations and voluntary agencies to bring relief to these masses of refugees and allow them to reach places of safety.

FYI: Conference statement in New York this afternoon was as follows:



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STATEMENT

We are reassured by the statements of President Ford yesterday pledging the full cooperation of our Government to assist in the evacuation of war orphans and the abandoned children of South Vietnam. We pledge the utmost continuing effort of the Catholic Relief Services and, indeed, of the entire American Catholic community to meet this urgent humanitarian challenge. Catholic Relief Services and other voluntary agencies today care for more than 4,000 adoptable orphaned and abandoned children in South Vietnam. We are hopeful that our Government will make it possible for these children to be flown to the U. S. where homes and hearts are open to them and that it will show to them the same generosity that our Government afforded refugees from Cuba and Hungary.

At this critical moment of suffering and family disruption in South Vietnam, we urge the Secretary General and the leaders of the United Nations to use all their good offices to persuade the parties involved in Southeast Asia to permit the humanitarian efforts of nations and voluntary agencies to bring relief to these masses of refugees and to allow them to reach places of safety.



Ron -

Bill Roberts called to say that Brent Stowcroft is preparing a statement on the refugees in SVN that the President can use as an opening statement. There was a lot of discussion of what to do at the senior staff meeting. Jack Marsh says he is getting a lot of heat from Capitol Hill to do something. Brent is concerned about the U.S. trying to promise something it cannot fulfill.

Ted Mars also is preparing a statement on the way the orphan program is being handled, either for use as part of an opening statement or for Q and A.

Both statements will be deked to us in San Diego.

The draft of tonight's speech was delivered to me at 1:15 A.M. Since all of our equipment - with the exception of one typewriter - was packed up to go to San Diego, we only completed about $\frac{1}{3}$ of it before we left. I expect to have it out by 9:30.

Jack



VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION TO DEAL WITH ADOPTION OF VIETNAMESE ORPHANS:

Holt Children Service
P. O. Box 2420
Eugene, Oregon 97402
503-687-2002

Traveler's Aid
345 E. 46th St.
Room 715
New York, New York 10017
212-687-2747

Friends for All Children
445 S. 68th
Boulder, Colorado 80303
303-494-7305

US Catholic Conference
201 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10003
212-475-5400

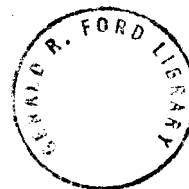
Friends of Children of Vietnam
600 Gilpen Street
Denver, Colorado 80211
303-321-8251

Pearl S. Buck Foundation
2019 De Lancey Place
Philadelphia, Penn. 19103
215-242-6775

World Vision Relief Association
919 W. Hunnington Drive
Monrovia, California 91016
213-357-1111

FOR CALLS ON PEOPLE WITH FAMILIES IN VIETNAM WHO WANT TO GET OUT
AND TO THE US:

Call 202-632-9380 Indochina Task Force



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

STATE DEPT. TASK FORCE FOR
DISASTER RELIEF -- FOR SOUTH
VEITNAMESE REFUGEES.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

GAIL WALLACE 632-8332 for individual,
specific questions

BILL PLATT 632-9784 for broad,
policy type questions.

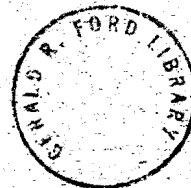


THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TASK FORCE NUMBER FOR
FURTHER INFORMATION ON
ADOPTING VIETNAMESE
ORPHANS.

Toll free 800-424-1180

Refuges 800 368-1180



ENTRY OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES TO THE U. S.

Q: All reports indicate that a very large number of Vietnamese refugees will be entering the United States. Most people seem to be opposed to this citing our current high level of unemployment as a rationale. What is your view and how do you think the influx of refugees will affect our domestic economy?

A: The basic character and nature of the American people is to open their arms to receive those who are the unfortunate victims of disaster or war.

Each year we allow several hundred thousand immigrants to enter the United States. After the Hungarian uprising we accepted 50,000 refugees. Over one-half million Cuban exiles came here between 1963 and 1972. I am confident that the American people will welcome the Vietnamese who are seeking refuge in our country.

As to the question on the economic implications of their settlement in the United States, the numbers involved are not large in terms of the American labor market. Many of the refugees are children and housewives who will remain at home, so that the number actually seeking employment will be only a small percentage of the total number of refugees entering the country. In addition, we are making an effort to avoid concentrated resettlement in any specific localities. The refugees will be resettled throughout the country except in specific areas with high unemployment levels.



RON:

The evacuation of refugees from Danang by sea is being done by barges under contract to the South Vietnamese government.

There is some JCS contingency planning going on for U.S. Navy assistance in evacuation by sea from DaNang or any other coastal city but no decisions have been made in that regard. ~~Of course,~~ when queried, we do not discuss contingency planning.

The ships which sailed yesterday from San Diego are going to replace like ships under normal rotation which are sailing in the South China Sea. So they are not being sent there for the purpose of participating in any U.S. military or Navy evacuation of S. Vietnamese refugees though should the decision be made to use the U.S. Navy, they at that time could be used or the ships they are scheduled to rotate with ^{could be used} if the ones from San Diego do not arrive in time.

LP

Lou



THE WHITE HOUSE

FACT SHEET

STATUS REPORT: REFUGEES FROM INDOCHINA

The President is today transmitting to the Congress the first report required by Section 4.(b) of the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975 (PL 94-23). The 93-page document describes the initial activities of the President's Special Inter-Agency Task Force which planned, organized and put into operation a variety of physical plants, transportation networks and inter-related processing systems that stretch halfway around the world and are charged with the care of approximately 130,000 human beings who fled their homelands in April and early May. The report also describes the steps taken to retrieve and deposit in the Treasury amounts authorized and appropriated but not expended for assistance to South Vietnam and Cambodia.

BACKGROUND

On April 18, 1975, the President established a Special Inter-Agency Task Force "to coordinate...all U.S. Government activities concerning the evacuation of U.S. citizens, Vietnamese citizens, and third country nationals from Vietnam and refugee and resettlement problems relating to the Vietnam conflict." Twelve Federal agencies are represented on the Task Force: State, HEW, Treasury, Defense, Justice, Interior, Labor, HUD, Transportation, AID, OMB and CIA. Responding quickly to the urgency of the situation, the Congress passed the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975 which the President signed into law on May 24, 1975. Pursuant to that law, today's report includes sections on the status of the refugees from Cambodia and Vietnam, plans for their resettlement, whether in the United States or third countries or, upon their request, repatriation to their homelands, and, as noted above, a separate section prepared by the Department of Defense and the Agency for International Development regarding non-expended funds.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT

- As of June 15, 131,399 evacuees had entered the U.S. system of control; 32,321 had already joined their families or sponsors in the U.S.; 3,756 had been resettled in other countries.
- The security clearance procedures which had been a principal cause of a slowdown on processing in mid-May have been centralized and automated and no longer pose the major time problem they once did.
- The four reception centers in the continental U.S. (Camp Pendleton, Cal., Fort Chaffee, Ark., Fort Indiantown Gap, Penn., Eglin AFB, Fla.) are now providing employment counselling through the Department of Labor, English-language training and cultural orientation classes through volunteers and Government personnel as well as the original screening and processing by the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

more



- Guidelines have been issued to State Administrators and other interested organizations and agencies from the Social and Rehabilitation Service of HEW that spell out the Federal Government's role in resettlement support relating to welfare, medical assistance, education and social services.
- The first 25,000 refugees to be resettled in the United States are scattered throughout the fifty States, *which* and the District of Columbia, of ~~whom~~ the top ten are California, Virginia, New York, Texas, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Florida, Maryland, Washington and Pennsylvania, in that order.
- As of June 10, 3,341 refugees had already gone to eighteen third countries, a large majority of them to Canada. Another, 4,000 had indicated a desire to resettle elsewhere as well.
- Repatriation procedures established in coordination with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had by June 15 identified 1,917 persons who had indicated a desire to return to Indochina. The U.S. Government will pay the costs of transportation at such time as the UNHCR is successful in arranging their acceptance by the authorities in Saigon and Phnom Penh.
- The refugee population on the weather-threatened island of Guam is currently being reduced to a number capable of being housed in other than tents no later than June 24.
- Issues for the future, and for the required future reports, most notably include that of sponsorship, its recruitment, verification and, in a few cases, breakdown. Efforts are underway to reinforce Task Force support of the voluntary resettlement agencies and to expand the traditional sponsorship system through which refugee families are assimilated into the American life stream.
- Pursuant to Section 4(b)(3) of PL 94-23, as of June 10, 1975 the Military Departments have identified a total of \$108 million which may be available for deobligation.

In accordance with the terms of PL 94-23, the first supplemental report on the status of the refugees from Cambodia and Vietnam will be sent to the Congress in 90 days.

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