

The original documents are located in Box 17, folder “Migrations and Refugees Assistance Act - P.L. 94-23” of the Loen and Leppert Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Differences Between The House and Senate Versions of the Refugee Authorization Bill

2-2
The bill passed by the Senate on Friday differs from the House bill in these respects:

1. The Senate bill has a ceiling of \$405 Million - the House bill has a ceiling of \$507 Million. *H accepts*
2. The Senate bill requires that the President make every effort to retrieve all amounts previously authorized and appropriated for assistance to South Vietnam and Cambodia and requires that the amounts retrieved be deposited in the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts. The House bill has no such provision. (The Senate, in what is believed to be a major concession to the House, retreated from its previous position of requiring the amounts retrieved to be deducted from the \$405 Million made available under the bill. It is a provision which DOD and AID objected to because of the difficulty and time that it would take to identify the assets of the pipeline and to retrieve them.) *H accepts*
3. The McGovern amendment in the Senate bill requires a survey among refugees to determine which ones would desire to return to South Vietnam and Cambodia, and makes available funds from this act to provide commercial or military transportation or through other means to their home land. That McGovern Amendment had been rejected in the House and would not be acceptable in the Senate passed bill. You will recall that on Friday, Senator ~~Case~~ mentioned to you that actually a substantial part of the requirement of the McGovern Amendment was already a part of the basic law, particularly as it relates to the survey of incoming immigrants.



4. The Huddleston Amendment in the Senate bill imposes a detailed reporting requirement upon the President to transmit a report to the Senate Committees on Foreign Relations, Judiciary and Appropriations, but in the House only to the Speaker, which is a major point of disagreement with the House which in its version required a much simpler reporting requirement to the House Committee on the Judiciary in addition to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. (The House Judiciary Committee which feels very strongly about its over-sight role in refugee and migration assistance matters, will fight to keep its prerogatives in this regard. Also, the INS had indicated that this Huddleston reporting requirement would create an undue burden of paperwork and manpower to provide such detailed information which they feel would be unwarranted.)



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

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2 Representatives of the United States of America
3 in Congress assembled, That this Act may be
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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-
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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
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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)



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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.



- 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.



Previous Refugee Emigrations

Displaced Persons	1945-1952	450,000
Eastern Europeans	1953-1956	189,000
Hungarians	1956-1957	30,701
Cubans	1959-Present	675,000
TOTAL		1,344,701



2 May 1975

Preliminary Estimates of
Transport, Temporary Care,
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(150,000 Evacuees in Staging
Areas, of which 130,000 to
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20,000 in Third Countries)

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| 1. | <u>Daily Maintenance</u> | \$ 185,000,000 |
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| 2. | <u>Airlift</u> | 99,000,000 |
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| 4. | <u>Subsequent Welfare and Medical (HEW)</u> | 125,000,000 |
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| | Bilingual and Vocational
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| 5. | <u>Movement of Added 20,000 Refugees to Third
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NEW APPROPRIATION NEEDED

\$ 507,000,000



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5/6/75

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Referred to Comte on
Foreign Relations



Office of the White House Press Secretary

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 report describes the initial activities of the President's Special Inter-Agency Task Force which is charged with coordinating refugee resettlement activities. 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; The Departments of: State, Health, Education, and Welfare, Treasury, Defense, Justice, Interior, Labor, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, Agency for International Development, Office of Management and Budget and Central Intelligence Agency. Responding to the President's request for legislative action, 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, and 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 in 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, California; Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania; Eglin Air Force Base, Florida) 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 continued screening and processing by the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

more



- Guidelines that spell out the Federal Government's role in resettlement support relating to welfare, medical assistance, education and social services have been issued to State Administrators and other interested organizations and agencies by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.
- The first 25,000 refugees to be resettled in the United States are located throughout the fifty States.
- As of June 10, 3,341 refugees had been relocated to eighteen third countries, a majority of them to Canada. An additional 4,000 refugees have indicated a desire to resettle in other countries.
- Through repatriation procedures established in coordination with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 1,917 persons have 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.
- As a result of reductions in the refugee population on the island of Guam, the use of tent facilities will be ended no later than June 24.
- 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 requirements of PL 94-23, the next report on the status of the refugees from Cambodia and Vietnam will be sent to the Congress in 90 days.

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JUNE 23, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

TEXT OF A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT TO
Congressman Thomas E. Morgan, Chairman,
Committee on International Relations
Congressman John J. Sparkman, Chairman,
Committee on Foreign Relations
Senator John L. McClellan, Chairman,
Committee on Appropriations
Senator James O. Eastland, Chairman,
Congressman George H. Mahon, Chairman,
Committee on Appropriations,
Congressman Peter W. Rodino, Chairman,
Committee on the Judiciary

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975 requires that I transmit within thirty days after its enactment a report to six committees of the Congress describing the status of refugees from Cambodia and South Vietnam.

In response to that requirement, I am forwarding a report prepared by the acting director of the interagency task force for Indochina. It sets forth current progress in receiving and resettling the refugees.

Progress to date has been good when considered in the context of the magnitude of the refugee situation -- the large numbers and great distances -- and the short period of time available to deal with it. The cooperation and sacrifices made by private individuals and organizations, by Members of the Congress, by Federal, State and local officials, and by military personnel have been exemplary. I compliment all of them, and I ask that as many more people as possible contribute their efforts toward complete resettlement.

I am also transmitting a report regarding retrieval of assistance funds to Cambodia and South Vietnam by the Department of Defense and the Agency for International Development as required by section 4(b) (3) of the Act.

I anticipate that the subsequent supplementary reports required by the Act will provide the committees additional information on these activities.

Sincerely,

GERALD R. FORD

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