

**The original documents are located in Box 58, folder “Refugees - Indochina Advisory Committee and Interagency Task Force” of the Philip Buchen Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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DRAFT 4/21/75

Last week you approved a recommendation to establish an inter-agency task force to work with the White House in coordinating any problems that can be expected to arise from the evacuation from Indochina of American citizens and their relatives, as well as refugees. Our involvement in this problem to date indicates that this cannot be considered as the responsibility of just one agency and that active participation by the White House is needed to give this group the "clout" necessary to promptly settle jurisdictional differences among the various departments and agencies. The following is an outline for the proposed charter of such a group:

White House Task Force

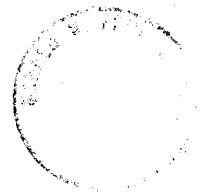
**Purpose:** To coordinate among the various departments and agencies all phases of the entry into this country of evacuees from Indochina.

**Role of White House Task Force:** While State and DOD in conjunction with NSC will continue to be responsible for the military and foreign policy considerations of the evacuation, White House monitoring and/or coordination of these and the domestic problems related thereto is required. The functions of this task force should include:



1. Serve as White House clearinghouse for information regarding the status of the evacuees - number, location, how are transported, when to arrive in U.S., etc.
2. Ultimate responsibility for securing necessary concurrence of appropriate Hill committees for use of parole authority, etc.
3. Coordinate executive efforts on arrival in the United States for:
  - a. Housing
  - b. Food
  - c. Health care
  - d. Establishment with American relatives or their sponsor when applicable.
  - e. Contacts with organized labor and other groups for support and ultimate assimilation into the work force
  - f. Transfer from parole to other status under Immigration Act.

Suggested White House staffing: Dr. Theodore Marrs along with Jay French and Barry Roth of my staff.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 22, 1975

Rod: Attached is a new draft for your consideration. While Ted is not necessarily looking to adding this responsibility, he does believe that it reflects a job that still needs to be done and would undertake it if you so desire.

Barry Roth





DRAFT #1

MEMORANDUM FOR: L. DEAN BROWN

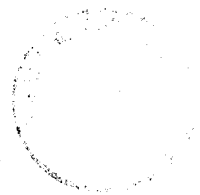
FROM: PHILIP W. BUCHEN  
RODERICK M. HILLS

In connection with the work of the interagency task force on the evacuation of persons from Indochina, we would like to suggest the following matters for consideration by this group, if they are not already doing so:

1. In conjunction with the Attorney General, defining the parameters of the consultative process with Congress, and developing an Administration position on when action will be taken without further consultation.

2. Identifying funds that are presently available or that will be available under current, viable legislative proposals, and the possible use of such funds for (a) evacuation and transportation, (b) interim housing and support -- if so, at what levels, and (c) eventual resettlement in the United States.

3. Developing procedures for determining when the government or the evacuee will pay for the costs related to evacuation and/or resettlement.



4. Consulting with organized labor and other appropriate groups for support of plans for relocating refugees within this country.

For this purpose, we recommend that the Secretary of Labor and other existing organizations; e.g., White House Office for Public

Liaison, Press Offices, Congressional relations, etc., be utilized *under task force leadership*

as much as possible for explaining the Administration's goals in this

area. We assume that Labor is already represented on the task

force, along with State, <sup>Justice,</sup> DOD and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, HEW and

HUD. We also recommend that a representative of the Domestic

Council serve on this task force, to assist in the coordination of the

various domestic areas concerned <sup>in</sup> our evacuation efforts.

We would also like to be able to assure the President at the earliest time that the task force is giving full consideration to the following:

1. All decisions are either within the parameters of the President's decisions of April 17, or additional White House approval is sought.

2. The task force is functioning in a way to insure adequate input from all departmental representatives.

3. Contemplated actions concerning legal matters; e.g., use of parole, authorization for expenditure of funds, etc., are cleared in advance with the Attorney General.



4. The parole authority has been exercised when necessary.
5. Appropriate funding is available for the transportation, feeding, health care, resettlement, etc., of those to be evacuated who are unable to provide these for themselves prior to bringing them into the United States.
6. Appropriate arrangements for arrival have been made.
7. Procedures have been developed with the Attorney General for the conversion of persons from parole to other status at the appropriate time.
8. A procedure has been developed to insure that at a time when Armed Forces may be required for evacuation purposes, that all appropriate constitutional and statutory requirements in respect thereto have been considered, and that appropriate funds and authority have been provided for such uses.

~~We would appreciate, as the President's Counsel, being kept informed on~~

Kindly advise ~~us~~ on of this task force,  
a current basis of contemplated actions, and major disagreements  
among the departmental representatives, particularly in regard to  
legal matters, through Dr. Theodore Marrs or Barry Roth of <sup>our</sup> ~~my~~ staff,  
both of whom are available for any additional assistance that  
you might require.

## THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.:

Date: April 28, 1975

Time:

FOR ACTION: Bill Baroody  
~~Phil Buchen~~  
Jim Cannon  
Jim Lynn

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~:

Ron Nessen  
Bill Seidman  
Bill Walker

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: TODAY, April 28, 1975Time: 5:00 p.m.

SUBJECT:

Marrs/Scowcroft/Marsh memo (4/27/75) re:  
Presidential Advisory Committee on Refugees

## ACTION REQUESTED:

☐ For Necessary Action☒ For Your Recommendations☐ Prepare Agenda and Brief☐ Draft Reply☒ For Your Comments☐ Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

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.

Jerry H. Jones  
Staff Secretary

Tuesday 5/6/75

11:40 Ted Marrs said he has worked with Paul O'Neill and they have located \$50,000 that has been made available for the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees. This comes from the State Department sources and is appropriate for this particular use.



Tuesday 5/6/75

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 9, 1975

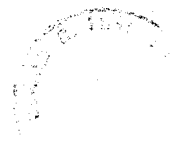
MEMORANDUM FOR:

CAL COLLIER

FROM:

BARRY ROTH *BR*

The attached draft Executive Order to establish a Presidential Advisory Committee on Refugees was prepared in the White House counsel's office and is forwarded to you for appropriate handling. Due to time constraints, a final version of the Executive Order is needed by noon on Tuesday, May 13. Your assistance is appreciated.



May 9, 1975

EXECUTIVE ORDER

-----

ESTABLISHING THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES

Since the arrival of the first settlers on our eastern seaboard nearly 400 years ago, America has been a refuge for victims of persecution, intolerance and privation from around the world. Tide after tide of immigrants have settled here and each group has enriched our heritage and added to our well-being as a nation.

For many South Vietnamese who stood by America as an ally and who have lost ~~everything~~ <sup>their homeland</sup> in the tragic developments of the past few weeks, America offers a last, best hope upon which they can build new lives. We are a big country and their numbers are proportionately small. We must open our doors and our hearts.

The arrival of thousands of refugees, mostly children, from a far-off country will require many adjustments on their part and considerable assistance on ours. But it is in our best interest as well as that of the South Vietnamese to make this transition as gracious and efficient as humanly possible.

\* \* \*

I have, therefore, determined that it would be in the public interest to establish an advisory committee to the President on the resettlement in the United States of refugees from Indochina.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the United States, and as President of the United States, it is ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment of a Presidential Advisory Committee.

There is hereby established the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees. The Committee shall be composed of two chairpersons, to be designated by the President, and such other members as the President may, from time to time, appoint.



May 9, 1975

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Section 1. Establishment of a Presidential Advisory Committee.

There is hereby established the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees. The Committee shall be composed of two chairpersons, to be designated by the President, and such other members as the President may, from time to time, appoint.

Section 2. Functions of the Advisory Committee. The Committee shall study and advise the President and the President's Interdepartmental Task Force in regard to the expeditious and coordinated orientation and resettlement of refugees from Southeast Asia. The Committee shall include in its study consideration of the following areas:

- (a) The economic and social impact on the United States of the resettlement;
- (b) Community and refugee reaction to the resettlement efforts;
- (c) The adequacy and appropriateness of the housing and food supplies available for these refugees;
- (d) Health and environmental matters related to resettlement;
- (e) The interrelationship of the governmental and volunteer roles in the resettlement;
- (f) Educational and cultural adjustments required by these efforts; and
- (g) Such other related concerns as the President or the Task Force may, from time to time, specify.

The Committee shall also seek to locate and utilize private resources which would otherwise not be available for these resettlement efforts, and to establish lines of communication with all concerned governmental agencies, relevant voluntary agencies, the Vietnamese-American community and the American public at large.

Section 3. Assistance and Cooperation. All executive departments and agencies of the Federal government are authorized and directed to cooperate with the Committee and to furnish such information and assistance, not inconsistent with law, as the Committee may require in the performance of its duties.

Section. 4. Expenses. No member of the Committee shall receive compensation from the United States by reason of service as

a member of the Committee, but such members may be allowed such travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as may be authorized by law.

Section 5. Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Department of State shall perform such functions with respect to the administration of this order as may be required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C., App. I.).

THE WHITE HOUSE,

May , 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 12, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR:

TED MARRS

FROM:

JERRY H. JONES 

The attached memorandum has been reviewed by the President and the following was approved:

The Advisory Committee developed with Personnel will number about 20. The list with alternates, is attached (Tab A). Approved.

A staff of three professionals and secretarial assistants will be required to staff the Committee operation. Authorization is requested to detail or, as necessary, hire this staff. Approved.

Please follow-up with the appropriate action.

Thank you.

cc: Don Rumsfeld  
~~Phil Buchen~~  
Jack Marsh  
Brent Scowcroft  
Bill Baroody  
Jim Cavanaugh  
Alan Woods



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 9, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JERRY JONES

FROM:

TED MARRS *JM*

SUBJECT:

Advisory Committee on Refugees

The President has agreed to form an Advisory Committee on Refugees. Staff deliberations have resulted in the formation of a concept that a group of about 150 citizens representing a cross-section of America should be invited to the White House for an East Room briefing on welcoming refugees, announcement of the Advisory Committee with signing of the Executive Order, and a reception. This group would serve as a resource magnet to attract private sector support and encourage a positive, national mental attitude toward refugees from Southeast Asia. The representative 20 member Advisory Committee would be the focal point for their efforts.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

(Buchen, Marsh, Baroody, NSC, Cavanaugh, Marrs, Woods,  
Ambassador Brown, Concur)

The Advisory Committee developed with Personnel will number about 20. The list, with alternates, is attached (TAB A).

Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

A staff of three professionals and secretarial assistants will be required to staff the Committee operation. Authorization is requested to detail or, as necessary, hire this staff.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosure



## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES

### CO-CHAIRPERSONS

Lady Bird Johnson  
John Eisenhower

### MEMBERS

Mayor Joseph Alioto (D - San Francisco)  
Governor Reubin Askew (D - Florida)  
Archbishop Joseph Bernardine, United States Catholic Conference  
Asby Boyle, National Youth Chairman, March of Dimes  
Reverend W. Sterling Cary, President, National Council of Churches  
Gaetana Enders, wife of Assistant Secretary of State  
Governor Dan Evans (R - Washington)  
Mayor Maurice Ferre (D - Miami)  
Marshall Field, President, Field Enterprises (Chicago)  
Edgar Kaiser, Chairman of the Board, Kaiser Industries  
Lane Kirkland, Secretary-Treasurer, AFL/CIO  
William J. Kuhfuss, President of the American Fram Bureau  
Ellie Peterson  
David Riesman  
Dr. Malcolm Todd, President, AMA, Long Beach, California  
Elder A. Theodore Tuttle, Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints

### ALTERNATES

John Denver, popular singer  
Minor George, prominent heritage leader  
Ethel Kennedy  
John McCormack, former Speaker of the House  
Richard Meiling, past President, Ohio State Medical School  
Clarke Reed, Republican National Chairman, Mississippi  
Mayor Carlos Romaro-Barcelo (R - San Juan); President, National League  
of Cities  
Walter Wriston, Chairman of the Board, CITICORP



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

copy:

Barry:

Please give Ted Marrs  
whatever help he may  
need to implement this approval  
by the President.

P.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 19, 1975

*Refugees*  
*Advisory*  
*Committee on*

MEMORANDUM FOR: Philip W. Buchen

FROM: Jay T. French

*OK*  
*[Signature]*

Ted Marrs has invited me to join the tour of Fort Chaffee, Arkansas which will be made by the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees. I would like to make this one day trip which is scheduled for Tuesday, May 20, if you agree.





NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

June 26, 1975

1007  
HC  
427

MEMORANDUM FOR

The Secretary of Health, Education  
and Welfare  
Lawrence Eagleburger, Deputy  
Under Secretary for Management  
Department of State  
Mr. Paul O'Neill, OMB  
Mr. Philip Buchen, WH  
Mr. James Connor, WH  
Dr. Theodore Marrs, WH  
Mr. James Cavanaugh, WH  
Mr. Paul Theis, WH

FROM:

Jeanne W. Davis *JWD*

SUBJECT:

Revised Presidential Announcement  
on Indochina Refugee Task Force

I attach a revised draft Presidential announcement on the transfer of operational responsibility for the Indochina Refugee Task Force to HEW.

Since we hope to make the announcement tomorrow, I would appreciate your telephoned clearance and/or comments by 9:30 a.m., Friday, June 27.

Attachment




## PRESIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

I am today announcing the transfer of principal operational responsibility for the Interagency Task Force for the resettlement of refugees from Indochina from the Department of State to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Since I formed the Task Force in April, the resettlement of refugees has become primarily a matter of domestic rather than foreign affairs concern. A great deal has been accomplished in evacuating, caring for, and resettling refugees from Indochina. However, much remains to be done. I ask all Americans to open their hearts to these refugees as we have to others throughout our history.

Mrs. Julia Taft, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, has been acting as Director of the Task Force since the departure of Ambassador Dean Brown and will continue to do so. All decisions and activities regarding the domestic and international resettlement of refugees from Indochina will be coordinated by her. She will act under my direction and in close coordination with the Secretary of HEW and the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees. Mrs. Taft's responsibilities involve numerous departments of government, and I am directing each of them to offer her their full cooperation and support in this important task.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 12, 1975

*For  
"Refugees"  
file  
P.*

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN

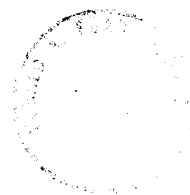
FROM: TED MARRS *Dem*

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:

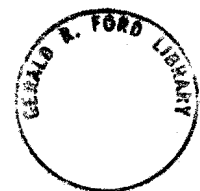
1. Accelerating resettlement with continued quality emphasis.
2. Removing refugees from Pacific area and/or insuring appropriate housing.
3. Insuring increased public attention to and understanding of sponsorship.
4. Providing management support through OMB.
5. Identifying and cataloging sponsor offers.
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.

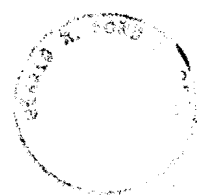
#### WELFARE AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

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.

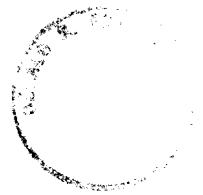
To avoid complete breakdowns in the sponsorship of refugees, medical assistance will be made available to needy refugees even though they do not receive financial assistance. This will enable a sponsor who may not be able to meet major medical needs which occur to continue to provide food, maintenance,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

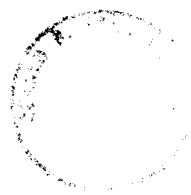
With certain exceptions, refugees require sponsors to assist in ensuring that the refugees do not become public charges and to help each refugee make the transition from refugee to a self-sufficient member of his community.

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

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### 1. AGREEMENT TO INITIATE GROUP SPONSORSHIP

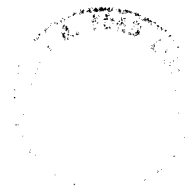
As a first step, State and local governments interested in undertaking group sponsorship should bring together political, business, union, church and voluntary leadership to decide:

- 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

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

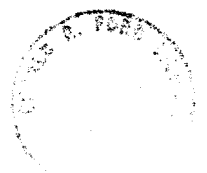
A. Undertake a survey to determine the number and kinds of jobs available in the community for the refugees.

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. Yours



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.

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 '66, 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.

TO:

As of 06/05/75

US Catholic Conference  
Migration and Refugee Services  
1312 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
202/659-6631

American Fund for Czechoslovak Refugees  
1790 Broadway  
Room 513  
New York, NY 10019  
212/265-1919

Church World Services  
Immigration and Refugee Program  
475 Riverside Drive  
New York, NY 10027  
212/870-2061

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service  
315 Park Avenue South  
New York, NY 10010  
212/677-3950

Tolstoy Foundation, Incorporated  
250 West 57th Street  
New York, NY 10019  
212/247-2922

International Rescue Committee  
386 Park Avenue South  
New York, NY 10016  
212/679-0010

American Council for Nationalities Service  
20 West 40th Street  
New York, NY 10018  
212/279-2715

Traveler's AID-International Social Services  
345 East 46th Street  
New York, NY 10017  
212/687-2747



United Hias Service, Incorporated  
200 Park Avenue South  
New York, NY 10003  
212/674-6800

YMCA  
International Division  
291 Broadway  
New York, New York 10007  
212/374-2188

NATIONAL DENOMINATIONAL RESETTLEMENT OFFICERS  
FOR REFUGEE/EVACUEES -- 1975

Dr. James Thomas  
United Methodist Committee for Relief  
Room 1470  
475 Riverside Drive  
New York, New York 10027  
(212) 678-6283

Mrs. Isis Brown  
Episcopal Church  
815 Second Avenue  
New York, New York 10017  
(212) TN 7-8400

Mr. McKinley Coffman  
World Ministries Commission of  
The Church of the Brethren  
New Windsor, Maryland 21776  
(301) NE 5-3131

Mr. Matthew Giuffrida  
American Baptist Churches  
Valley Forge, Pennsylvania 19481  
(215) 768-2425

Mrs. Ella Grimes  
Christian Church (Disciples)  
222 South Downey Avenue  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46207  
(317) FL 3-1491

Mrs. Elfriede Kohl  
United Church of Christ,  
Room 1643  
475 Riverside Drive  
New York, New York 10027  
(212) 870-2701

Rev. John Muyskens  
Reformed Church in America  
2607 Palisades Avenue  
Union City, New Jersey 07087  
(201) 865-7646

Mr. Louis Van Ess  
Christian Reformed Church  
2850 Kalamazoo Avenue, S.E.  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49508  
(616) 241-1691

Mr. W. L. Pascoe  
General Conference of Seventh-  
Day Adventists  
6840 Eastern Avenue, N.W.  
Takoma Park, Washington, D.C. 20012  
(202) 723-0800

International Division of YMCAs  
291 Broadway  
New York, New York 10007  
(212) 349-0700 Ext. 260

Mr. William Scholes  
United Presbyterian Church  
in the U.S.A., Room 1268  
475 Riverside Drive  
New York, New York 10027  
(212) 870-2465

Mr. Donald Anderson  
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee  
Service  
315 Park Avenue, South  
New York, New York 10010  
(212) 677-3950

Rev. Irvin Dawson  
Home Mission Board  
Southern Baptist Convention  
1350 Spring Street, N.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309  
(404) 873-4041

Mrs. Juanita Evans  
General Council of Assemblies of God  
Foreign Service Committee  
1445 Boonville Avenue  
Springfield, Missouri 65802  
(417) 862-2781

Mr. William T. Snyder  
Mennonite Central Committee  
21 South 12th Street  
Akron, Pennsylvania 17501  
(717) 859-1151

Immigration & Refugee Program  
CHURCH WORLD SERVICE  
Room 666, 475 Riverside Drive  
New York, New York 10027  
(212) 870-2164; 870-2152



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Galyeston-  
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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

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| Lafayette                 | Rev. Richard Di Geronimo<br>Catholic Charities<br>3810 W. Jefferson Road<br>Kokomo, Indiana 46901                    | (317) 457 1172                                    |
| Lafayette<br>(Louisiana)  | Mr. Charles H. Oliver<br>Director, Catholic Social Services<br>601 West St. Mary Blvd.<br>Lafayette, Louisiana 70501 | (318) 235 5218                                    |

**Lansing**

Rev. Richard J. Groshek (517) 484 8491  
Office of Social & Community Service  
Diocese of Lansing  
311 Seymour Avenue  
Lansing, Michigan 48933

**Lincoln**

Rev. Edward Tuckek (402) 432 6581  
Catholic Social Service Bureau home (402) 477 2178  
P. O. Box 2723  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68502

**Little Rock**

Rev. James R. Savary (501) 664 0340  
Catholic Charities  
2415 N. Tyler Street  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72207

**Los Angeles**

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Benjamin G. Hawkes  
Catholic Resettlement Committee  
1531 West 9th Street  
Los Angeles, California 90015

Mrs. Elizabeth Kirsnis (213) 385 7211  
Immigration & Citizenship Division  
1400 West 9th Street  
Los Angeles, Ca. 90015

**Louisville**

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Herman J. Lammers (502) 637 9786  
Catholic Charities  
2911 South 4th Street  
Louisville, Kentucky 40208

**Madison**

Mr. Robert G. Hintz (608) 256 2358  
Catholic Social Service  
25 S. Hancock Street  
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

**Manchester**

Rev. Stanley Piwowar (603) 542 5732  
58 Elm Street  
Claremont, New Hampshire 03743

**Marquette**

Very Rev. Msgr. David P. Spelgatti (906) 486 6212  
325 S. Pine Street  
Ishpeming, Michigan 49849

**Memphis**

Sister Isabella Reilly (901) 725 5145  
Catholic Social Services  
85 N. Cleveland  
Memphis, Tennessee 38104

**Miami**

Rev. Daniel Babis (305) 371 5657  
Office of Immigration Services 1182  
130 N.E. 2nd Street  
Miami, Florida 33132

Milwaukee

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph P. Springob (414) 271 2811  
Catholic Social Service  
207 East Michigan Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53220

Mobile

Rev. Thomas D. Weise (205) 433 2682  
Catholic Charities  
P. O. Box 230  
Mobile, Alabama 36601

Monterey

Rev. Felix Migliazzo (408) 373 2919  
Box 2048  
Monterey, California 93940

Nashville

Rev. Louis J. Junod (615) 383 6393  
Catholic Charities  
2400 21st Avenue South  
Nashville, Tennessee 37212

Natchez -  
Jackson

Rev. Edward Tarsi (601) 355 3411  
Catholic Charities  
237 E. Amite Street  
P. O. Box 2243  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Newark

Rev. Edward J. McHugh (201) 371 7100  
(Miss Marcie Meehan)  
Associated Catholic Charities  
31 Mulberry Street  
Newark, New Jersey

New Orleans

Rev. Michael S. Haddad (504) 861 9521  
Archdiocese of New Orleans  
7887 Walmsley Avenue  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70125

Mrs. Elise Cerniglia home (504) 282 3339  
5237 Pratt Drive work (504) 899 6165  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123

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 (212) 371 2392  
Vietnamese Resettlement Office 2393  
225 East 52nd Street, 3rd Floor  
New York, New York 10022



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



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



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

DIOCESEDIRECTOR

|                                 |  |                |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------|
| Savannah                        | Rev. Msgr. Daniel Bourke<br>Diocese of Savannah<br>Box 8789<br>Savannah, Georgia 31402   | (912) 234 0601 |
| Scranton                        | Rev. Msgr. Kenneth T. Horan, MSW<br>Catholic Social Services<br>300 Wyoming Avenue<br>Scranton, Pennsylvania 18503                                 | (717) 346 9711 |
| Seattle                         | Rev. John J. Renggli<br>Society for Propagat of the Faith<br>907 Terry Avenue<br>Seattle, Washington 98104   | (206) 622 8880 |
| Sioux City                      | Mr. James K. Taylor<br>Catholic Charities<br>1822 Jackson Street<br>Sioux City, Iowa 51105   | (712) 225 4545 |
| Sioux Falls                     | Mr. Dennis Seiner<br>Catholic Social Services<br>303 N. Summitt<br>Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104   | (605) 336 3326 |
| Spokane                         | Donna Hanson, Assoc. Director<br>Catholic Charities<br>P. O. Box 1453<br>Spokane, Washington 99210   | (509) 456 7153 |
| Springfield                     | Rt. Rev. Msgr. William J. Cassin<br>Catholic Charities<br>108 East Cook Street<br>Springfield, Illinois 62704                                      | (217) 523 4551 |
| Springfield<br>(Massachusetts)  | Rev. Michael J. Doyle<br>73 Chestnut Street<br>Springfield, Mass. 01103  | (413) 732 3175 |
| Springfield<br>(Cape Girardeau) | Sister Rosaire Cantu, R.S.M.<br>410 Landers Building<br>Springfield, Missouri 65806  | (407) 866 0842 |
| St. Augustine                   | Rev. Vincent Haut<br>P. O. Box 16443<br>Jacksonville, Florida 32243<br><br>Sister Ann Maura<br>37 Ranger Street<br>Ft. Walton Beach, Florida 32548 | (904) 725 9119 |

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

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

HIGH PRIORITY

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.: *275*

Date: July 7, 1975

Time:

FOR ACTION: JIM CANNON  
PHIL BUCHEN ✓

cc (for information):

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Tuesday, July 8

Time: 2 P.M.

SUBJECT:

Jim Lynn's memo of 7/3/75 re  
Letter to Governors on Indochina Refugee  
Resettlement

ACTION REQUESTED:

☐ For Necessary Action

☒ For Your Recommendations

☐ Prepare Agenda and Brief

☐ Draft Reply

☒ For Your Comments

☐ Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

OMB is most anxious to have these letters sent to the  
Governors.

I concur in the proposed letter.

*P.W.B.*  
Philip W. Buchen

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



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

JUL 3 - 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT  
FROM: DEPUTY DIRECTOR *John*  
SUBJECT: Letter to Governors on Indochina  
Refugee Resettlement

Attached is a letter to all Governors prepared for your signature by the Interagency Task Force for Indochina Refugees.

The letter gives information about the refugee resettlement program and asks the States to develop their own resettlement programs with Federal assistance. The model for such a program is the one launched by Governor Dan Evans in Washington State. The Federal Regional Councils will help the Task Force to follow up with the Governors and will aid the States in the establishment of their own resettlement programs.

The States offer a potential source for a large number of new sponsors which are badly needed to supplement those being generated by the voluntary agencies.

A Presidential letter to all the Governors will be a big help in encouraging States to participate in the program. I recommend that you sign it.

Attachment





THE WHITE HOUSE

Washington

Dear Governor

As you know, on May 24, 1975, I signed into law the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975 to assist in the resettlement of Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees who are seeking new homes in the United States. Since then, I have established an Interagency Task Force on Refugees to coordinate the resettlement program and to assure that it is accomplished as humanely and expeditiously as possible. In addition, I have appointed a Presidential Advisory Committee to assist in this effort.

I am pleased to report that as of June 30th, more than 41,000 of the 130,258 evacuees have joined their families or sponsors in the United States and are beginning to contribute to their new communities. These refugees have been accorded parole status, making them eligible to remain in the United States indefinitely and to accept employment. All refugees, except those few deemed "self-sufficient", will be assigned sponsors to assist in the resettlement process. Sponsors may be individuals, families, service organizations, churches or other groups. Commitment as a



sponsor, while not a legal one, involves a clear moral obligation to help the refugee to the best of the sponsor's ability.

Many individuals and voluntary agencies are participating in the resettlement program by locating sponsors and facilitating the movement of refugees from the four reception centers to their new homes. These voluntary efforts have been exemplary, but we should not expect that they alone will accomplish this great humanitarian task as quickly as we would all wish.

I am encouraged that a number of States and local governments are developing programs to assist in expediting the resettlement of the refugees into their new communities. You have received information from the Advisory Committee about one of these programs which Governor Dan Evans launched in Washington State. This successful effort has led to placement of more than 500 refugees with sponsors throughout the State.

The Interagency Task Force is now prepared to contract with other States which choose to develop their own resettlement



programs. Funds are available to support State efforts through reimbursement of \$500 for each refugee placed.

In addition, 100 percent federal reimbursement is available to all States for Medicaid, financial assistance, and social services provided to refugees. Administrative costs related to the provision of such services will also be reimbursed. Financial support to help defray emergency costs incurred by school districts, should they enroll large numbers of refugee children, will also be available. These programs are further described in materials being transmitted to your State agencies through existing channels.

I have asked the Federal Regional Councils to assist the Task Force by aiding State and local governments in the development of programs which they wish to undertake. You may expect to hear from a representative of the Federal Regional Council in the near future.

Whether or not you choose to lead a resettlement effort in your State, your leadership in assuring State agency and private organization support of sponsoring families and individuals will provide invaluable assistance to this effort.

The responses of thousands of individuals and the untiring efforts of voluntary agencies have demonstrated again the generosity of Americans toward others seeking to find homes in our country. I hope you will consider ways in which your State may participate in this effort.

Sincerely,

JULY 21, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I am today formally announcing the transfer of principal operational responsibility of the Interagency Task Force for the resettlement of refugees from Indochina from the Department of State to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Since I formed the Task Force in April, the resettlement of refugees has become primarily a domestic rather than foreign affairs concern. A great deal has been accomplished in evacuating, caring for, and resettling refugees from Indochina. However, much remains to be done. I ask all Americans to open their hearts to these refugees as we have to others throughout our history.

Mrs. Julia Taft, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, who has been acting as Director of the Task Force since the departure of Ambassador Dean Brown, will continue as Director. All decisions and activities regarding the domestic and international resettlement of refugees from Indochina will be coordinated by her. She will act 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 continue to involve numerous governmental departments, and I am directing each of them to offer her their full cooperation and support in this important task.

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