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P.H.W.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

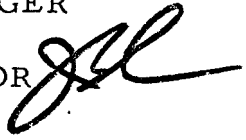
Don R)

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= must be maximum  
pressure to make the  
transition smooth &  
effective.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 20, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: HENRY KISSINGER  
FROM: JAMES CONNOR   
SUBJECT: Transfer of Task Force on Indochina  
Refugees

The President has approved your memorandum of June 12th on the above subject and indicated that:

"I believe HEW should handle but  
there must be maximum pressure to  
make the transition smooth and effective."

This decision and the President's intention should be conveyed to HEW and OMB.

cc: Don Rumsfeld

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

ACTION~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - GDS

June 12, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER *HK*

SUBJECT: Transfer of Task Force on  
Indochina Refugees

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

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

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

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

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - GDS

KR 4-12-88

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

RECOMMENDATION:

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

Approve  Disapprove