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Jim

Should Marsh or
Friedersdorf be copied?

Trudy

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mep' or similar, with a long, sweeping tail stroke extending downwards and to the right.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 22, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: JAMES LYNN
FROM: JAMES CONNOR *JCL*
SUBJECT: Status Report on the Indochina Refugee
Resettlement Program

The President has reviewed the memorandum prepared by Julia Vadala Taft dated July 18, 1975 and made the following notation:

"Let's get that Armed Forces legislation going."

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Don Rumsfeld
Jack Marsh
Max Friedersdorf



INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE FOR INDOCHINA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520

July 18, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: Mr. James T. Lynn, Director, Office
of Management and Budget *J. Lynn*

FROM: Julia Vadala Taft, Director, Interagency Task Force *Julia Taft*

SUBJECT: Status Report on the Indochina
Refugee Resettlement Program

Attached is the status report on the Indochina
Refugee Resettlement Program through July 17, 1975.

Attachment:

As stated

cc: Dr. Marrs
Mr. Eisenhower
Mr. Semerad
Mr. Cannon
Mr. Oaxaca
Mr. Puritano
Mr. Barri
Mr. Blaydon

STATUS REPORT ON THE INDOCHINA REFUGEE
RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM - JULY 17

REFUGEE STATUS (as of July 17)

Total Refugees Entered US System 130,851

Total Released 57,793

US	52,834
Third Countries	4,959
Repatriated	0
(Requesting Repatriation - 2,435)	

Avg. Daily Releases:

Week ending 7/17:	761
Week ending 7/10:	687
Week ending 7/3:	687
Week ending 6/26:	755
Week ending 6/19:	749
Week ending 6/12:	796

Total in US System 73,058

Total in the Pacific 13,197

Guam	6,707
Wake Island	6,024
Other Asian Bases	466

Total US 59,526

Eglin	4,427
Fort Chaffee	22,680
Camp Pendleton	17,084
Indiantown Gap	15,335

In Transit 335

PROBLEMS RESOLVED AND MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE IMMIGRATION SUBCOMMITTEE

On July 17, I testified for six hours before the House Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and International Law, chaired by Congressman Joshua Eilberg. Major issues covered were: the role of the voluntary agencies, their responsibilities in settling the refugees, particularly in the long run, and their funding; the employment outlook; the issue of military enlistment for refugees; actual and potential problems of sponsors; and press criticism of the resettlement effort.

GENERAL QUANG

General Chapman, who accompanied me during the testimony, told the Subcommittee that controversial Lieutenant General Dan Van Quang, former military assistant to Nguyen Van Thieu, will not be readmitted to the US refugee system, having voluntarily left it to enter Canada. If Quang wants to enter the US, he said, he will have to file for immigration and undergo the normal requirements of waiting his time for admission under the quota as well as completing the normal processing including rigorous screening.

ADDITIONAL REFUGEE ARRIVALS

We have sent new instructions to all overseas posts to facilitate the movement of processing of refugees stranded abroad, principally in Asia. We are mainly interested in reuniting immediate families and in bringing to the United States former employees of the U.S. Government.

INS Commissioner Chapman has sent a letter to the Chairmen of both the House and Senate Judiciary Committee indicating our plans for an additional 12,000 Vietnamese and Cambodians not now in the U.S. system. These refugees will include inter alia extended family members of Indo-chinese already here, as well as politically important Indo-chinese who cannot resettle in Southeast Asia. In discussions with Congressional Committees, we are reassuring them that no more than approximately 130,000 refugees will be permanently resettled in the United States.

PRINTED MATERIALS FOR REFUGEES

USIA has a number of materials that would be suitable for orientation of the refugees which cannot be used because of the statutory prohibition of domestic USIA activities. At our request, Congressman Hays is planning to introduce a joint resolution to allow the use of relevant USIA materials specifically for the refugees.

A number of magazines are providing complimentary subscriptions to the camps. The Governors' Conference and the National Geographic Society have donated maps, and we are soliciting more from the AAA, Rand McNally, and oil companies.

BREAKDOWNS

The press has recently focused on a number of breakdowns and implied that these are indicative of a weakness in the program, and, in particular, in the activities of the voluntary agencies. Our investigations have shown a remarkably low voluntary agency (VOLAG) breakdown rate, and concluded that many of the serious breakdowns have occurred among refugees who were either released directly from Travis AFB or who otherwise bypassed Volag processing. Volags have been for some time resolving such breakdown cases, and last month we issued guidelines authorizing reimbursement of costs up to \$500 per individual in such instances, providing that no previous payments were made.

STATES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Los Angeles' Mayor Bradley has expressed interest in sponsoring 2,000 refugees in addition to those who have already been settled in Los Angeles through private or organizational sponsorships. The Mayor may run into opposition on this proposal on the basis that California has already accepted more refugees than any other state, although his interest indicates a great deal of generosity and courage.

A contract is ready for signature with Jackson County, Missouri which will take 250 people. There have been new inquiries and expressions of interest from Illinois. Maine will accept all of its 300 refugees by August 7.

PROBLEMS PENDING

REPATRIATION EFFORT STILL STALLED

There has still been no repatriation of refugees from the US system. The UNHCR has sent 600 applications to Saigon for would-be Vietnamese repatriates, and although it has received no response, remains confident that one will be forthcoming. UNHCR has not yet been able to contact Cambodian authorities regarding repatriation.

The tugboat with 44 Vietnamese refugees which, as of last week's report, was missing after having been ordered to stand off the coast of Thailand, is still missing and is assumed to have gone to Vietnam.

MILITARY ENLISTMENT OPTION FOR REFUGEES

One of the major groups we have identified as being difficult to resettle is about 8,000 single young men, many of whom have only military experience. We have asked DOD to draft legislation to offer military enlistment as an option to these men. The legislation will have the following characteristics: the requirement for permanent resident alien status should be waived or granted; English language aptitude should not be a precondition of enlistment; and the special enlistment category should be large enough to include all potential recruits. In addition to the 8,000 men above, we have asked DOD to plan for an additional 2,000 married persons.

Congressman Rodino has also written to the House Armed Services Committee requesting similar legislation.