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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 15, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JAMES T. LYNN

FROM:

JAMES E. CONNOR *JEC*

SUBJECT:

Status Report on the Indochina Refugee
Resettlement Program

The President reviewed the Status Report on the Indochina Refugee Resettlement Program through December 11, 1975 and made the following notation:

"Let's really act to compliment."

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney





THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.
INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE FOR INDOCHINA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520

December 12, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
THROUGH: Mr. James T. Lynn, Director,
Office of Management and Budget
FROM: *Julia Vadala Taft* Julia Vadala Taft, Director,
Interagency Task Force
SUBJECT: Status Report on the Indochina
Refugee Resettlement Program

Attached is the status report on the Indochina Refugee Resettlement Program through December 11, 1975.

Attachment:
As stated.

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

*Let's really act
to complement.*

STATUS REPORT ON THE INDOCHINA REFUGEE
RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM - DECEMBER 11

REFUGEE STATUS (as of December 11)

Total Refugees entered US System	140,654	1)
Total Released	138,127	2)
Total Remaining in US System	2,527	

Total Released	138,127
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US	129,993
Third Countries	6,588
Repatriated	1,546
(Requesting Repatriation - 165)	

Average Daily Releases

		Total Releases (for the week)
Week ending 12/11	290	(2,029)
Week ending 12/4	299	(2,093)
Week ending 11/27	371	(2,598)
Week ending 11/20	336	(2,352)
Week ending 11/13	261	(1,825)
Week ending 11/6	312	(2,186)

Total Remaining in US System	2,527
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Fort Chaffee	2,349
Indiantown	178

In Transit	0
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- 1) adjusted by deletion of 81 persons reported by Indiantown as never having entered system
- 2) 954 persons reported by Fort Chaffee as having been previously released

A recent census of the reception centers published on December 9 revealed that Fort Chaffee was overcounting its population by 954 refugees and Indiantown Gap by 81. Thus, although the total releases for this week accounted for 2,029 persons, the total population of the reception centers declined by 3,064 persons for the same period.

Fort Chaffee explained that the 954 persons overcounted had actually been released between May and December 9 but not counted as released. So the Fort Chaffee discrepancy did not affect the total number of persons admitted to the system.

Indiantown Gap, however, said that the 81 persons they had been overcounting never existed. Thus the total number of persons entering the system was reduced by 81.

PROBLEMS RESOLVED AND MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Halfway House for Cambodian Repatriates

On December 11, 115 Cambodians requesting repatriation departed Fort Chaffee for Philadelphia where they will be housed for the next three months in a halfway house funded by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in a contract with the American Council for Nationalities Service. All 115 have refused sponsorship pending the outcome of the forthcoming negotiations between the High Commissioner and authorities in Cambodia. It is hoped that the repatriates will work, and eventually accept sponsorships as there does not appear to be much hope for their repatriation.

Meeting with President's Advisory Committee

On December 17, Chairman Eisenhower has called a meeting of the President's Advisory Committee for Refugees, at which time I will present a final overview of the program, and they will review their final report to you on their activities.

Oversight Hearing

A tentative date of December 18 has been set for a hearing before the Subcommittee for Immigration, Citizenship, and International Law, chaired by Congressman Eilberg of Pennsylvania. We expect it to be a very positive and upbeat session.

Final Report to the Congress

Next week we will forward to you the Task Force's final Report to the Congress covering the period September 15 through December 15. Subsequent quarterly reports will be prepared by HEW following termination of the Task Force's activities.

PROBLEMS PENDING

Permanent Resident Alien Status for the Refugees

One pending issue for which we recommend the Administration propose legislation is currently under review by OMB. This is draft legislation which would adjust the status of the refugees to permanent resident alien status. INS is recommending a two year waiting period after which

such adjustment would be effective. The Task Force and HEW strongly support only a one year waiting period, which would mean that by next May, almost all refugees in our system would be eligible for adjustment to permanent resident alien status. The benefits to such adjustment would be enormous as the current parole status is extremely detrimental to the employability of our refugees. As parolees, they are ineligible for Federal, State and local government employment, they are unable to work for Defense contractors, they are excluded from membership in several unions, they are often ineligible for resident tuition rates at public colleges and universities, and they are ineligible in many states for professional certification. All of this is detrimental to their effective long term resettlement, which would be impeded by a continuing high rate of underemployment.

Additional Parole Authority

On December 10, the Acting Secretary of State sent a letter to the Attorney General requesting consultations with the Congress before the Christmas recess for parole authority up to the 150,000 ceiling established by the Congress in May. I suggest that the National Security Council follow this matter urgently as it is now an inter-agency concern. Funds already appropriated have been set aside for the movement and resettlement of an additional 10,000 refugees into the U.S., but these monies must be used before June 30, 1976. If authority is granted, additional parolees will move from countries overseas directly to U.S. sponsors and no reception centers will be required.

Awards

We are anxiously awaiting a decision on Presidential awards and recognition for those people who have contributed substantially to the successful completion of the Task Force effort. It is hoped that a special recognition ceremony will be possible in the White House with your participation in the near future.