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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

TALKING POINTS:

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES

MONDAY, MAY 19, 1975

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1. WELCOME TO THE WHITE HOUSE. I APPRECIATE
YOUR COMING TO WASHINGTON ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE TO PARTICIPATE
IN THIS CEREMONY.

2. I HAVE ASKED YOU TO COME BECAUSE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IS IMPORTANT TO THE SUCCESS OF THE PROJECT WE ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN. SOME OF THE NATION'S FINEST CITIZENS HAVE AGREED TO SERVE AS MEMBERS OF THIS NEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES. AND I AM MOST GRATEFUL FOR YOUR INVOLVEMENT AND YOUR HELP.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. J. ...' with a stylized flourish at the end.

3. I WANT TO RECOGNIZE AT THIS TIME THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE -- JOHN EISENHOWER -- AND TO SAY A SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS TO HIM. I KNOW JOHN WILL DO AN OUTSTANDING JOB, AS HE ALWAYS DOES, AND WANT TO SAY HOW DEEPLY I APPRECIATE HIS TAKING ON THIS ASSIGNMENT.

4. I AM EXTREMELY PLEASED TO SEE THAT GEORGE MEANY HAS AGREED

TO SERVE ON THIS COMMITTEE. HIS STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE
SOUTHEAST ASIAN REFUGEES WERE TIMELY AND IN THE FINEST AMERICAN
TRADITION. THIS COMMITTEE REPRESENTS A CROSS-SECTION OF THE
COUNTRY: STATE GOVERNMENT -- GOVERNOR DAN EVANS; LOCAL GOVERNMENT
-- MAYORS JOE ALIOTO AND MAURICE FERRE (FER-RAY);

DR. MALCOMB TODD, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION,
THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, THE CHURCHES -- YOUTH -- IT MIRRORS
AMERICA -- AND, I MAY ADD, SO DO YOU. AND I WANT TO ADD A
PERSONAL WORD OF PRAISE FOR DEAN BROWN AND HIS ASSOCIATES ON THE
INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE WHO HAVE WORKED WITH SUCH DILIGENCE AND
SKILL IN THE INITIAL RELOCATION OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN REFUGEES.

THE EFFORTS OF DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANTS LIKE THOSE WHO SERVE

ON THIS TASK FORCE SHOULD BE APPLAUDED BY ALL AMERICANS. I

ENVISION THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMPLEMENTING THE FINE WORK

BEING DONE BY THE TASK FORCE.

5. THE TASK THAT LIES BEFORE US NOW IS EVEN MORE DEMANDING:

WE MUST NOW BRING THESE NEW ARRIVALS INTO THE MAINSTREAM OF AMERICAN

LIFE. THIS IS AN ENDEAVOR THAT REQUIRES MORE THAN THE GOVERNMENT

ALONE CAN DO. ACCORDINGLY, I HAVE CREATED THIS ADVISORY

COMMITTEE, INCLUDING OUTSTANDING MEN AND WOMEN FROM THE PRIVATE

SECTOR, TO HELP US.

6. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, YOUR MISSION IS TO OPEN LINES
OF COMMUNICATION FOR THESE REFUGEES WITHIN THE PRIVATE SECTOR
AND TO MEET THE UNIQUE NEEDS OF THE MANY THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN
WHO MAKE UP THE LARGEST PORTION OF THE REFUGEES.

7. YOUR JOB IS TO GIVE OUR NEW FRIENDS GUIDANCE IN THE WAYS
OF AMERICAN LIFE AND TO CALL COMMUNITIES TO ACTION IN PREPARING FOR
THESE NEW ARRIVALS. THROUGH YOUR CHURCHES, UNIONS, BUSINESSES,
PROFESSIONS AND INSTITUTIONS -- AND YOUR COMPASSION -- I KNOW
YOU WILL MAKE THESE NEWCOMERS WELCOME IN AMERICA.

8. THE INTEGRATION OF OUR FRIENDS FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA INTO AMERICAN SOCIETY POSES SPECIAL, BUT CERTAINLY NOT INSURMOUNTABLE, PROBLEMS. THEIR CULTURAL BACKGROUND IS DIFFERENT THAN THAT OF MOST AMERICANS. INTEGRATION WILL NOT BE EASY. BUT IT CAN AND WILL BE DONE. WE SHOULD ALL REMEMBER THAT THE AMERICAN CULTURE IS UNIQUE ONLY BECAUSE IT REPRESENTS THE BLENDING OF SO MANY CULTURES.

Beauty of Joseph's work

9. WE ARE A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS. OUR HERITAGE IS RICH WITH THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MANY LANDS AND MANY PEOPLES. OUR GREATEST STRENGTH IS DIVERSITY. OUR NEW COUNTRYMEN WILL ADD TO THAT STRENGTH AND MAKE THEIR OWN CONTRIBUTIONS TO AMERICAN SOCIETY.

10. THERE COULD BE NO MORE APPROPRIATE TIME THAN THIS YEAR, AS WE BEGIN OUR BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION, TO RENEW OUR OLD AND VALUED TRADITION OF WELCOMING STRANGERS TO OUR SHORES AND OFFERING THEM THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES OUR IMMIGRANT FOREBEARS CAME HERE TO CLAIM.

11. AMERICA IS GREAT BECAUSE ITS PEOPLE ARE GREAT.

I KNOW AMERICANS WILL DEMONSTRATE AGAIN THE COMPASSION AND THE GENEROSITY WHICH HAVE CHARACTERIZED THE PEOPLE OF THIS LAND FOR

TWO HUNDRED YEARS. ~~ALL THESE NEW CITIZENS WANT IS A HAND UP --~~

~~NOT A HAND OUT.~~ I AM SURE MY FELLOW CITIZENS WILL JOIN US IN

REACHING OUT TO THESE NEW ARRIVALS IN OUR MIDST.

12. WE ARE A BIG COUNTRY. THE REFUGEES ARE ONLY

A FEW. IF THERE IS ROOM IN THE AMERICAN HEART FOR COMPASSION

-- AND I KNOW THERE IS -- THERE IS ROOM ENOUGH IN THIS GREAT
NATION OF IMMIGRANTS FOR A FEW MORE.

AND I WISH THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE MUCH
SUCCESS. AND I THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH FOR WHAT YOU
ARE ABOUT TO ACHIEVE.

END OF TEXT