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## 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. <u>School Districts Enrolling Large Numbers of Refugee</u> 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. <u>Student Assistance to Refugees Wishing to Pursue</u> 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

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 civit 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.



-2-

6. <u>SELECT REFUGEES AND ASSIST IN TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS</u> 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

# 7. SUGGESTIONS

Government.

- ---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.

-3-

# MODEL FOR LOCAL ORGANIZATION SPONSORSHIP

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.

 Central point of contact for refugees seeking employment. Telephone assistance for appointments, etc.

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-cufficiency. 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. Your 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.

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

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

Church World Services Inmigration 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

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#### TO:

United Hias Service, Incorporated 200 Park Avenue South New York, NY 10003 212/674-6300

# YMCA

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



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#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS -- AND THEIR ANSWERS

#### Q. Now 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-toplace, 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.

-1-

# 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 responsibile 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.

-2-

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 quessionnaire 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 26, 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"

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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.

Inter-Agency Indo-China Task Force 06/04/75



## NATIONAL DENCMINATIONAL RESETTLEMENT OFFICERS FOR REFUGEE/EVACUEES -- 1975

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

Mrs. Isis Brown <u>Episcopal</u> 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 <u>American Baptist Churches</u> 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 <u>United Church of Christ</u>, 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 <u>Seventh-Day Adventists</u> 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 <u>United Presbyterian Church</u> <u>in the U.S.A., Room 1268</u> 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 <u>Assemblies of God</u> Foreign Service Committee 1445 Boonville Avenue Springfield, Missouri 65802 (417) 662-2751

Mr. William T. Snyder <u>Mennonite</u> Central Committee 21 South 12th Street Akron, Pennsylvania 175 (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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Mrs. Katie McDonough Catholic Family Service 1522 S. Van Buren Amarillo, Texas 79102

Sister Mary Clare Catholic Charities 942 West 11th Ave. Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Mr. Daniel Resendes Catholic Charities 210 Little Falls St. Falls Church, Va. 22046

Mr. Carlos Sans Catholic Center Resettlement Div. 756 West Peachtree St., N.W. Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Rev. Richard E. McCabe Catholic Charities 2304 Hancock Dr. #8 Austin, Texas 78756

Mrs. Marguerite Reed 2605 2nd Street Baker, Oregon 97814 (404) 881-1361

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Mr. Russell S. Lefeaux, Jr. (504) 344 0427 Catholic Social Service 1220 Main Street Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

Rev. William Manger Director, Family Life Bureau P. O. Box 3948 Beaumont, Texas 77704

Mr. Michael II. Dalton Director Catholic Social Service 8315 State St. E. St. Louis, Illinois 62203

Msgr. Edmund F. McCaffrey, OSB (704) 825 3711 Belmont Abbey College Belmont Abbey, North Carolina 28012

Rev. Msgr. Edward L. Foster (205) 833 0171 Diocesan Development & Catholic Charities P. O. Box 3299 Birmingham, Alabama 35205

Miss Nancy McCarty 304 Avenue A West Catholic Charities Bismarck, North Dakota 58501

Rev. Thomas A. Guadian Diocesan Resettlement Office Box 769 Boise, Idaho 83701

Rev. Francis X. Irwin Catholic Charitable Bureau 10 Derne Street Boston, Mass. 02114

Mr. Edward S. Laskowski Catholic Charities 850 Norman Street Bridgeport, Connecticut 06605

Dr. Catherine White Catholic Charities - Family Serv. 191 Joralemon Street Brooklyn, New York 11201 na na sana na s

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(301) 727 7777

office (713) 838 0451 rectory (713) 835 5343

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(701) 255 0793

(208) 342 1311

(617) 523 5165

(203) ED4 6158

(212) 596 8400



# DIOCESE

# DIRECTOR

•	•		`
Brownsville	Mr. Leo Garza Catholic Charities Office P. O. Box 122 San Juan, Texas 78589	(512)	787 6773.
Buffalo	Rev. Henry Gugino, Associate Direct Catholic Charities 525 Washington Street Buffalo, New York 14203		356 4494
Burlington	Rev. Msgr. Paul M. Bresnehan Catholic Charities 311 North Avenue Burlington, Vermont 05401	<b>(</b> 802) 8	363 3497
Camden	Msgr. William J. Reynolds Resettlement Director 1845 Haddon Avenue Camden, New Jersey - 08101	(609) :	541 2100
Charleston	Very Rev. Joseph A. Wahl, C.O. P. O. Eox 11586 Rock Hill, South Carolina 29730	(803) 3	327-5857 2097
Charlotte (North Carolina)	Sister Amadeus 1524 E. Morehead Street P. O. Box 4523 Charlotte, North Carolina 28804	<b>(</b> 704) (	377 6871
Cheyenne	Rev. Lawrence Etchingham Box 2247 Casper, Wyoming 82601	(307) 2	237 2723
Chicago	Rev. Roger J. Coughlin Catholic Charities 126 N. DesPlaines Street Chicago, Illinois 60606	(312) (	CE6 5172
Cincinnati *	Rev. James H. Garland Catholic Charities 426 East 5th Street Cincinnati, Ohio 45202	(513) 2	241 7745
<b>Cleveland</b>	Miss Diane Sherban Catholic Resettlement Council DePaul Center for Families & Childr 3409 Woodland Avenue Cleveland, Ohio 44115		581 1600



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Rev. Msgr. Thomas B. Finn, V.G. (606) 371 3100 Director, Catholic Social Service Bureau 15 East 11th Street • Covington, Kentucky 41011

Rev. Gerald Foley Catholic Charities P. O. Eox 386 Red Lake, Minnesota 56750

Rev. John A. Matzner (214) 528 3820 Catholic Family & Children's Service 3915 Lemmon Avenue P. O. Box 19507 Dallas, Texas 75219

Rev. M. A. Mottet (319) 323 9733 St. Vincent Center 2706 Gaines Street Davenport, Iowa 52804

Mr. James Mauck (303) 222-3825 Catholic Resettlement Committee 1665 Grant Street Denver, Colorado 80203

Mr. Larry Breheny (515) 243 4259 Catholic Council for Social Concern 1402 Woodland Avenue Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Miss Dora L. Masko (313) 237 5895 Catholic Refugee Resettlement 305 Michigan Avenue Detroit, Michigan 48226

Rev. Lisle J. Pottorff
 Catholic Social Service
 2546 20th Street
 Great Bend, Kansas 67530

Rev. Thomas Rhomberg. Catholic Charities 2909 Kaufmann Avenue Dubuque, Iowa 52001 (316) 792 1393

(614) 221 5891

(218) 253 2889



Real of the second seco		•
Duluth	Pay Moor Mahaal T Skymoure	10101 707 6061
Daijaru		(218) 727 6861
	The Chancery	•
	215 West 4th Street	
•	Duluth, Minnesota 55806	
El Paso	Vincente Calderon	(015) 500 (/51
	•	(915) 533 4451
	1118 No. Mesa Street	•
	El Paso, Texas 79902	
Erie	Very Rev. Msgr. Thomas F. Griffin	(814) 456 2978
	Catholic Charities	(014) 450 2970
· ·		<u> </u>
•	329 West 10th Street	
•	Erie, Penna. 16502	•
an a stat	· · · · ·	
Evansville	Rev. Kenneth Knapp	(812) 423 5456
	Catholic Charities	<b>4</b>
	603 Court Building	
	Evansville, Indiana 47708	
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Fairbanks	Chancery Office	(907) LI3 5809
. •	1032 8th	
· · · ·	Fairbanks, Alaska	
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	Catholic Social Service	
	368 North Main Street	
	Fall River, Mass. 02720	
•	TALL MIVEL, MASS. 02720	•
Fargo	Rev. Charles Hughes	(701) 235 4457
	11th Street & 30th Ave. So.	
	P. O. Box 686	
	Fargo, North Dakota 58102	
Fort Wayne-	Mr. John F. Martin	(219) 422 7511
South Bend	Catholic Charities	20227 -166 1222
Souch benu		•
	919 Fairfield Avenue	
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Paut Lauth	Statar Marry Braan	(817) 332 1221
Fort Worth	Sister Mary Breen	(017) 332 1221
	Catholic Charities	
	1404 Hemphill	
	Fort Worth, Texas 76104	•
	•	÷
Fresno	Mr. Joseph Laharty	<b>(209)</b> 237 0851
	Catholic Charities	• 
	760 West Nielsen Avenue	
	Fresno, California 93706	
		•

Gallup

Very Rev. Leo Seramur Cristo Rey High School Seminary 1900 E. Mark Avenue Gallup, New Mexico 87301

(505) 863 9074



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Mr. Paul J. Doyle Catholic Community Service 1111 Lovett Boulevard Houston, Texas 77006

Rev. Joseph Semancik Catholic Family Service 3857 Broadway Cary, Indiana 46806

Mr. Richard L. Beachnau Diocesan Director Community, Family & Children Services P.O. Box 700 Gaylord, Michigan 49735

Msgr. Carl T. Hayden St. Joseph's Church Box 576 Kimball, Nebraska 69145

Rev. Joseph Battersby Diocese of Grand Rapids 265 Sheldon Avenue, S.E. Grand Rapids, Michigan 49502

Very Rev. Francis J. Saksa, Chancellor (406) 453 9389 Diocese of Great Falls 727 3rd Ave., North Great Falls, Montana 59401

Rev. Peter N. Klauck 131 S. Madison St. Box 38 Green Bay, Wisconsin 54305

Sister Mary Francis Waite Catholic Charities 115 Vannear Ave. Greensburg, Penna. 15601

Very Rev. Thomas R. Brenner (717) 238 7339 Episcopal Vicar for Social Welfare 1017 North Front Street Harrisburg, Penna. 17102

Rev. John Reilley 244 Main Street Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Mr. James Flannagan 530 North Ewing Street Helena, Montana 59601 (406) 442 4130

(203) 522 8241

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(412) 837 1840

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Robert T. Omura Catholic Social Service 250 So. Vineyard Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Rev. Donald Schmidlin Catholic Charities • P. O. Box 33052 Indianapolis, Indiana 46203

Rev. Donald Greene Chancery Office P. O. Box 417 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Rev. Joseph M. Shimanek Catholic Charities 310 Bridge Street Joliet, Illinois 60435

Miss Patricia Denny Catholic Community Service 529 Gold Street - Room 233 Juneau, Alaska 99801

Sister Edna Ternes, S.S.J. St. Agnes Foundling Home 1521 Gull Road Kalamazoo, Michigan 49001

Mr. Louis Finocchario Catholic Social Service 415 North 15th Street Kansas City, Kanasa 66102

Mr. Roshey Moten Catholic Charities 527 West 39th Street Kansas City, Missouri 64111

Rev. William Jablonske Catholic Charities 128 South 6th La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601

Rev. Richard Di Geronimo Catholic Charities 3810 W. Jefferson Road Kokomo, Indiana 46901

Mr. Charles H. Oliver Director, Catholic Social Services 601 West St. Mary Blvd. Lafayette, Louisiana 70501

#### (808) 537 6321

(317) 634 1913

mission (314) 635 0169 chancery (314) 635 9127

(815) 723 3405

(907) 586 2534

(616) 349 8629

(913) 371-3055

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(608) 782 0704

(317) 457 1172



Rev. Richard J. Groshek (517) 484 8491 Office of Social & Community Service Diocese of Lansing 311 Seymour Avenue Lansing, Michigan 48933 Rev. Edward Tuchek (402) 432 6581 Catholic Social Service Bureau home (402) 477 2178 P. O. Box 2723 Lincoln, Nebraska 68502 Rev. James R. Savary (501) 664 0340 Catholic Charities 2415 N. Tyler Street Little Rock, Arkansas 72207 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 Rt. Rev. Msgr. Herman J. Lammers (502) 637 9786 Catholic Charities 2911 South 4th Street Louisville, Kentucky 40208 Mr. Robert G. Hintz (608) 256 2358

Catholic Social Service 25 S. Hancock Street Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Rev. Stanley Piwowar 58 Elm Street Claremont, New Hampshire 03743

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

Sister Isabella Reilly Catholic Social Services 85 N. Cleveland Memphis, Tennessee 38104

Rev. Daniel Babis Office of Immigration Services 130 N.E. 2nd Street Miami, Florida 33132

(305) 371 5657 1182

(901) 725 5145



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Rt. Rev. Mogr. Joseph P. Springob (414) 271 2811 Catholic Social Service 207 East Michigan Street Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53220 Rev. Thomas D. Weise (205) 433 2682 Catholic Charities P. O. Box 230 Mobile, Alabama 36601 Rev. Felix Migliazzo (408) 373 2919 Box 2048 Monterey, California 93940 Rev. Louis J. Junod (615) 383 6393 Catholic Charities 2400 21st Avenue South Nashville, Tennessee 37212 Rev. Edward Tarsi (601) 355 3411 Catholic Charities 237 E. Amite Street P. O. Box 2243 **.**.... Jackson, Mississippi 39205 Rev. Edward J. McHugh (201) 371 7100 (Miss Marcie Meehan) Associated Catholic Charities 31 Mulberry Street Newark, New Jersey Rev. Michael S. Haddad (504) 861 9521 Archdiocese of New Orleans

7887 Walmsley Avenue New Orleans, Louisiana 70125

Mrs. Elise Cerniglia 5237 Pratt Drive New Orleans, Louisiana 70123

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, Redwood.

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

home (504) 282 3339

work (504) 899 6165



Norvich	Rev. Robert D. HeNulty 11 Bath Street Norwich, Connecticut 06360	<b>(203)</b> 889 8346
Oakland	Mr. Frank Hele, Resettlement Direct Catholic Charities 433 Jefferson Street Oakland, California 94607	tor <b>(415)</b> 834 5656
Ogdensburg	Msgr. Robert L. Lawler, Director Catholic Charities 716 Caroline Street Ogdensburg, New York 13669	<b>(315) 393 2660</b>
Oklahoma City	Rev. William C. Garthoeffner 425 N.W. 7th Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102	(405) 232 9801
Omaha	Rev. Donald Dendinger United Catholic Social Services 2132 South 42nd Street Omaha, Nebraska 68105	(402) 558 3533
Orlando <	Mr. Richard Logue 550 N. Bumby Avenue Orlando, Florida 32803	(305) 894 8888
Ovensboro	Rev. Robert T. Wilson St. Joseph Church Leitchfield, Kentucky 42754	<b>(502) 259</b> 3028
Paterson	Rev. Joseph A. Ciampaglio, ACSM Catholic Family and Community Serv 10 Jackson Street Paterson, New Jersey 07501	(201) 271 7100 ices
Peorla	Miss Betty Gilmore Catholic Social Service P. O. Box 601 Peoria, Illinois 61601	(309) 674 5191
Philadelphia	Nr. Robert E. Hussar : 222 North 17th Street Philadelphia, Penna. 19103	<b>(215) 587</b> 3909 <b>3</b> 500
Phoenix	Rev. Richard W. Moyer 1825 West Northern Avenue Phoenix, Arizona 85021	(602) 943 7231
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Pittsburgh	Very Rev. Msgr. John C. McCarren 538 Diocesan Building 111 Boulevard of the Allies Pittsburg, Penna. 15222	(412) 391 1002
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Fr. David F. Cote
Human Relations Services
519 Ocean Avenue
Portland, Maine 04103

Rev. Norton E. Park (Mrs. Margaret Godfrey, Secy.) Catholic Charities, Inc. 317 S.W. Adlor Portland, Oregon 97204

Rev. Lawrence Olszewski Holy Trinity Rectory 134 Fuller Avenue Central Falls, Rhode Island 02863

Rev. Marvin J. Kapushion, MSW Catholic Social Services 302 Jefferson Avenue Pueblo, Colorado 81004

Sister Sylvia Arias Services Sociales Catholicos P. O. Box 8812 Santurce, Puerto Rico 00910

Sister Ann Joseph 1111 New Berne Avenue Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

Rev. William J. O'Connell Office of Social Concern/Services P. O. Box 678 Rapid City, South Dakota 57701

Mr. George T. Miller Nevada Catholic Social Service 215 North Main Street Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Ms. Phyllis Conklin Catholic Charities 811 Floyd Avenue Richmond, Virginia 23220

Mr. James.M. Maloney 50 Chestnut Street Rochester, New York 14604

Rev. David E. Beauvais Catholic Charities 921 W. State Street Rockford, 1111nois 61102 (207) 774 9873

**(5**03) 228 6531

(401) 723 5326

(303) 544 4215

(Call San Jorge 201)

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(605) 343 3541

(702) 385 2662

(804) 649 9353 ext. 65

(716) 546 7220

(815) 965 0623



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

DIOCESE	DIRECTOR	
Savannah	Rev. Msgr. Daniel Bourke Diocase of Savannah Box 8789 Savannah, Georgia 31402	<b>(</b> 912) <b>234</b> 0601
Scranton	Rev. Msgr. Kenneth T. Horan, MSW Catholic Social Services 300 Wyoming Avenue Scranton, Peonsylvania 18503	(717) 346 9731
Seattle	Rev. John J. Renggli Society for Propagat of the Faith 907 Terry Avenue Seattle, Washington 98104	(206) 622 8880
Sioux City	Mr. Jaaes K. Taylor Catholic Chazities 1822 Jackson Street Sioux City, Iowa 51105	<b>(7</b> 12 <b>) 225</b> 4545
Sioux Falls	Mr. Dennis Seiner Catholic Social Services 303 N. Summitt Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104	(605) 336 3326
Spokane	Donna Hanson, Assoc. Director Catholic Charities P. O. Box 1453 Spokane, Washington 99210	(509) 456'7153
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St. Augustine	Rev. Vincent Haut P. O. Box 16443 Jacksonville, Florida 16443	<b>(</b> 904) 725 9119
•	Sister Ann Maura 37 Ranger Street Ft. Walton Beach, Florida 32548	A. TOROLOGICA

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St. Cloud

. . Rev. Richard Lelson Catholic Charities \* 810 St. Germain St. Cloud, Minnesota 56301 (612) 252 4121

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Rev. P. Joseph Buckley Catholic Charities 4140 Lindell St. Louis, Missouri 63108 (314) 321 4980

Miss Marguerite Loftus Catholic Social Service 204 Wilder Building St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

Mr. Joseph R. Ems 6363 9th Avenue, North St. Petersburg, Florida 33710

Miss Phyllis Stapleton 4215 Central Avenue St. Petersburg, Florida 33713

Sister Theresa Novak 422 Washington Street Steubenville, Ohio 43952

Mr. William Guttieri, ACSW Director, Catholic Charities 1205 N. San Joaqu Stockton, California 95202

Rev. Philip J. Heslin PH.D. Catholic Charitics Bureau 1209 Hughitt Avenue Superior, Wisconsin 54880

Msgr. Charles J. Fahey Catholic Charities 257 East Onondaga Street Syracuse, New York 13202

Rev. Robert Haas Catholic Charities 1933 Spielbusch Avenue Toledo, Ohio 43624

Rev. Raymond Blanchi, CMF Our Lady of Fatima Church 338-48 Smith Street Perth Amboy, New Jersey 08861 (813) 344 1611(813) 896 2673

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(419) 248 5511



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Mr. Jerowa N. Brandt Office for Corrounity Activities 155 West Helen Tueson, Arizona 85705

Rev. James J. McGlinchey Catholic Social Services 739 North Denver Street Tulsa, Oklahoma 74106

Miss Francis Rogers Catholic Charities 2809 Otis Street, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20018

Sister Gretchen Shaffer Catholic Community Services 161 Edgington Lane Wheeling, West Virginia 26003

Rev. Robert K. Larson Catholic Social Service 437 North Topeka Wichita, Kanoas 67202

Very Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. Reese, MSN (302) 655 9624 Catholic Social Service 1200 N. Broom Street Wilmington, Delaware 19806

Mr. Peter K. Walsh Catholic Charities 275 Harriet Street Winona, Minnesota 55987

Rev. John J. Doran Catholic Charities 53 Highland Avenue Fitchburg, Massachusetts 01420

Michael T. Ryan Catholic Family & Child Service P. O. Box 1091 Yakima, Washington 98907

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(202) 526 4100

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(918) 585 8167

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(507) 454 2270

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(509) 453 8263

(216) 747 8503

From NSC 3/5\_

- Q What is the status of the evacuation of orphans from Saigon?
- A Yesterday, 5 Cl4l aircraft took a total of l4l Vietnamese orphan children from Saigon last night and returned with them to Clark AFB in the Philippines. The children, now at Clark, are receiving medical attention and are being processed for further travel. Final arrangements have not yet been determined.
- Q The President said in his press conference that he had directed money from a \$2 million special foreign aid childrens fund to be made available to fly 2,000 South Vietnamese orphans to the US as soon as possible. What is the \$2 million being used for?
- A The \$2 million special social welfare funds are used to provide for care and in some cases transportation of orphans. This includes provisions for food and medical care for the children. The type of assistance provided varies, depending on the agreement with the relief or adoption agencies or Vietnamese orphanages. The money, therefore, is used to assist US AID projects in the field of child welfare and various woluntary agencies and adoption agencies who are assisting in processing the children to new homes.



#### BACKGROUND ON DANANG AIRLIFT

The Vietnamese Ministry of Social Welfare, in cooperation with AID, is presently undertaking a massive 6 day air and sea evacuation of Danang. The refugees will be relocated in 3 central provinces: Khanh Hoa, Ninh Thuan and Binh Thuan.

World Airways 727 cargo planes, under a DOD contract will carry out the airlift. There are plans to put 747's into operation as well. At present, there are 25 to 30 flights daily. <u>NOTE</u>: Details on the airlift should come from the State Department.

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R. FORD
### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

### AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Weirs

Kajor General Scowcroft THE WHITE HOUSE

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Attached is a statement which we trust you will find it feasible to transmit to the office of the Press Secretary in Falm Springe, for possible use if questions are directed there about the unauthorized and highly dangerous airlift of about 118 Vietosmean infants to the U.S. by World Lirways. The SAI mircraft is due to arrive in San Francisco around 11:30 B4 tonight (Par).

WORS: DOD sources inform as that 7 children in the World Airways DC-8 were removed in Tobyo for medical attention. Two were kept there and hospitalised; the others were released for the trans-Pacific leg.

Any inquiries about this subject may be directed overnight to Robert D. Walsh of my staff at (202) 338-6793. After 84M Wednesday, inquiries should come to my office at (202) 632-8628.

Obviously this is self-typed, in such haste.

Clinton F. Wheeler, Jr. Director Office of Public Affairs



(1) The proposal to transport 500 infants to the United States from Saigon in a rice cargo plans was rejected by the voluntary agencies having custody over them, the SouthEE Vietnam Government, the Federal Aviation Agency, and the U.S. Mission in Saigon. The plans was considered to be totally unsafe, unsanitary and unsuitable for a long flight of infants across the Pacific.

(2) The Agency for International Development announced today (April 2) that it is working with the Republic of Vietnam to arrange transportation to the United States for about IJGNEE 2,000 orphans now in Saigon. Part of a \$2-million children's assistance allocation will be used to airlift them in suitable and safe aircraft as soon as feasible.

These orphans are now in the custody of licensed adoption agencies operating in **EXELUEXE** Vietnam. They were already in the process of adoption by American families living in various parts of the United States. Those for who do not have families arranged will be placed with families now on waiting lists of the agencies.

Those involved in this effort foresee no need for foster care house or for additional sponsoring families. HIT Adoption agencies involved which have U.S. offices will be contacting the prospective parents.

Inquiries from families in the U.S. who are in the process of adopting Vietnamese children should be made to the appropriate adoption agencies.

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(NOTE: Col. Robert O'Brien, OSD/PA, suggests that the White Honse telex the above to the Commanding General, Sixth Army, c/o Presidio, San Francisco. Col. O'Brien has already called the Sixth Army Information Officer to this effect but believes that White House confirmation of interest is advisable, too.)

april 3, 1975

The following agencies with branches **theme** in Vietnam are active in intercountry adoption work. All are either licensed or in the process of being licensed by the Ministry of Social Welfare of the Republic of Vietnam to handle such adoptions.

Prospective adoptive parents should contact one of the following agencies:

Holt Children's Service P.O. Box 2420 1195 City Vicw Street Eugene, Oregon 97402 Telephone: (503) 687-2202

TAISSA (Traveler's Aid--International Social Services of America) , 345 East 46th Street, Room 715 New York, New York 10017 Telephone: (212) 687-2747

Friends For All Children 445 South 68th Street Boulder, Colorado 80303 Telephone: (303) 494-7305

United States Catholic Conference 201 Park Avenue, South New York, New York 10003 Telephone: (212) 475-5400

Friends of Children of Vietnam 600 Gilpin Denver, Colorado 80211 Telephone: (303) 321-8251 or 8262

Pearl S. Buck Foundation 2019 DeLancey Place Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103 Telephone: (215) 732-1030

World Vision Relief Organization 919 West Huntington Drive Konrovia, Californis 91016' Telephone: (213) 357-1111



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A.I.D. is working with the Republic of Vietnam to expedite transportation to the United States for about 2,000 Vietnamese orphans now in Saigon. I have directed that funds from a \$2 million children's assistance allocation be used to airlift them in suitable and safe aircraft as soon as possible, and that the USAID Mission in Saigon move immediately to cut through any red tape or bureaucratic obstacles.

Sec. 43

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These orphans are now in the custody of licensed adoption agencies operating in Vietnam. They were already in the process of adoption by American families living in various parts of the United States. Those few who do not have families arranged will be placed with families now on waiting lists of the agencies.

We do not now need foster care homes or additional sponsoring families. Adoption agencies involved which have U.S. offices will be contacting the prospective parents.

Inquiries from families in the U.S. who are in the process of adopting Vietnamese children should be made to the appropriate adoption agencies. (A list is attached).

A.I.D. has been working with the Government of Vietnam and U.S. voluntary agencies in Vietnam for two weeks to expedite the transportation and placement of these orphans in U.S. homes, because of the overloading of voluntary agency facilities in Saigon caused by the refugee situation.

We presently are lining up one or two C-5A planes and equipping them to ensure safe transportation and care on route. We are also lining up alternative available planes. The flights will begin within the next 36 to 48 hours and possibly sooner. We are arranging to have the children met at Travis Air Force Base and/or other locations on the west coast and to be cared for upon arrival.

World Airways brought 57 orphans into Oakland last night at 11:30 p.m. This was an unauthorized flight because the South Vietnam Government, the FAA, and the U.S. Mission in Saigon considered the rice cargo plane to be unsafe and unsuitable for a long flight of infants across the Pacific. We would welcome World Airways participation as long as its flights are safe and appropriate arrangements for medical care made.

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April 4. 1975 Office of the Press Secretary (Palm Springs, Calif.) STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I am deeply saddened at the loss of so many lives in the crash of the United States C-5A mercy flight today near Saigon.

I wish to convey my heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of the victims, many of whom were coming to new homes in the Unit ed States, and volunteers who were caring for them on the flight.

Our mission of mercy will continue. The survivors will be flown here when they are physically able. Other waiting orphans will make the journey.

This tragedy must not us from offering government and people of the United States offer this hope in our rededication to assisting the Vietnamese orphans as best and as quickly as we can.

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WAXHING TON

April 4, 1975

#### MEMORANDUM FOR:

RON NESSEN

MARGI VANDERHY

FROM:

SUBJECT:

**Proposed Presidential Statement** 

This afternoon at a 4:30 p.m. press conference in New York City, the Executive Committee of the U.S. Catholic Conference issued the attached statement on behalf of the Catholic dioceses throughout the country.

AlD brought the announced statement to our attention and said that it had received press coverage. In view of this show of support, we recommend with AlD's concurrence that the President issue a statement expressing appreciation for the support of the Conference and commendation for their efforts. A suggested Presidential message approved by General Scowcroft is also attached.

Please check with Secretary Kissinger before release.

Attachments



### PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ON THE STATEMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE **U.S. CATHOLIC CONFERENCE**

I am deeply grateful for the support that the Executive Committee of the U.S. Catholic Conference today demonstrated for our efforts to evacuate the war orphans and abandoned children of South Vietnam. I commend their willingness to meet this orgent humanitarian need.

We will do our utmost through the Agency for Infernational Development to ensure that orphans presently under the care of Catholic Relief Services and other voluntary organizations will be joined with the thousands of Americans who have opened their bomes to these children.

As the Committee has stated, it is indeed paramount that the United Nations, and the international community at large, seek to permit the humanitarian efforts of nations and voluntary agencies to bring relief to these masses of refugees and allow them to reach places of safety.

### FYI:

Conference statement in New York this afternoon was as follows:

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STATEMENT

We are reassured by the statements of President Ford yesterday pledging the full cooperation of our Government to assist in the evacuation of war orphans and the abandoned children of South Vietnam. We pledge the utmost continuing effort of the Catholic Relief Services and, indeed, of the entire American Catholic community to meet this urgent humanitarian challenge. Catholic Relief Services and other voluntary agencies today care for more than 4,000 adoptable orphaned and abandoned children in South Vietnam. We are hopeful that our Government will make it possible for these children to be flown to the U.S. where homes and hearts are open to them and that it will show to them the same generosity that our Government afforded refugees from Cuba and Hungary.

At this critical moment of suffering and family disruption in South Vietnam, we urge the Secretary General and the leaders of the United Nations to use all their good offices to pursuade the parties involved in Southeast Asia to permit the humanitarian efforts of nations and voluntary agencies to bring relief to these masses of refugees and to allow them to reach places of safety.

#### REFUGEE MOVEMENT

Per Department of Statebriefing Friday, April 4 in response to query the following information on refugee movements was made public:

Right now, our main focus is helping the refugees who are still trying to flee from the areas in the North to the South and top help in the resettlement and care of those who have reached the South.

Apparently there are approximately 57,000 Vietnamese refugees on vessels headed South. There are about two dozen vessels of several nationalities. I don't have a breakdown even of our own. These ships are still standing off various points along the coast and are still loading refugees who are making their way out from the beaches onto these ships.

The total that have been moved South is about a half million, by sea and air, and perhaps those who have also made it successfully overland.

The South Vietnamese Government is settling a good number of refugees at Phu Quoc Island, as well as in the eight resettlement centers that Mr. Parker mentioned last week.\*

\*The Spokesman gave this figure on April 2.

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EMPLOYEES (PLUS26) DEPENDENTS (MINUS: 29)	742
3) RESIDENTS: (MINUS 30)	900
4) TRANSIENTS: 5) AMERICAN PRESS:	62
EMPLOYEES (PLUS: 7) DEPENDENTS	72
6) U.S. CONTRACTORS:	
DOD USAID	842
O WAR	200

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	E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
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в.	DEPENDENTS (MINUS30) DOD & USAID) ALIEN EVACUEES: 17	1,030
	1) DEPENDENTS OF AMCITS (MINUS 30) 2) FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS	824
	3) THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS (USG EMPLOYEES	
	EMPLOYEES	16
	DEPENDENTS (MINUS 20)	11
	4) TCNS - CONTRACTORS: USAID:	
	EMPLOYEES	285
	DEPENDENTS	11
	DOD:	
	EMPLOYEES	234
	5) TCN - PRESS:	
	EMPLOYEES 42: DEPENDENTS	3
	6) U.S. MISSION LOCALLNATIONAL EMPLOYEES	
	ESTIMATED DEPENDENTS:	150,000
	7) TCCS	250
-	8) ALTENS WORKING FOR U'S' COMPANIES	400
	CHANGES SINCE REPORT: ITS: MINUS 61	
	ENS: MINUS 50	
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### PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT

### TO BE ANNOUNCED TODAY BY PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESMAN

I have today appointed Ambassador Dean Brown as my Special Representative and Director of a special Inter-Agency Task Force to coordinate all U.S. Government activities concerning evacuation, humanitarian and refugee problems relating to Vietnam. He will work under my direction and that of the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs. His responsibilities will involve all relevant Departments of the U.S. Government.

Ambassador Brown has been called back to service to take on this important task. He has been serving as President of the Middle East Institute from which he will take a leave of absence.

In 1974-75 Ambassador Brown was Deputy Under Secretary for Management in the State Department. Earlier (1967-70) he served as Ambassador to Senagal and Gambia and as Ambassador to Jordan (1970-1973). He was sent as a Special Representative to Cyprus in the summer of 1974 after the assassination of Ambassador Davies.



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FORD

### NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

#### April 23, 1975

#### MEMORANDUM FOR:

RON NESSEN

FROM:

### MARGI VANDERHYE

SUBJECT:

Morning Press Items

VIA:

BILL ROBERTS

If asked about evacuation from Saigon to Guam, you may confirm that Guam is being used as a staging point. It is important that you include an expression of appreciation for the continuing efforts of the Philippine government in their assistance to our evacuation plans. <u>FYI</u>: The mason for this is that the Philippines have asked us to limit the number of people we transfer and the duration of their stay at Clark AFB, so that their government does not become unduly involved or identified with the evacuation program itself. In an effort to comply with their wishes, we don't want to convey any change in our attitude. <u>END FYI</u>. The size of the base at Guam is ideally suited for accommodating the expected numbers of people who may be arriving from Saigon in view of the Attorney General's revision of the parole authority. For any details on evacuation refer to State or Defense, depending on the question.

Q. On the question of a proposal for a seven day cease-fire to permit the evacuation of Americans from Vietnam, the State Department responded yesterday in the following manner:

A. On the question of what we are trying to do to get the fighting stopped, I do not want to go into any details on these efforts. The President indicated that efforts are being made, and I believe the Secretary has also said this in testimony on the Hill. But obviously, I just don't want to get into any of the details.... People's lives are involved here. And it serves no useful purpose, in trying to discuss any of the details that we are trying to vorte out.

### CIA MAN NAMED DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INDOCHINA TASK FORCE

4/28/75

- Q. You were asked last Thursday why Bill Colby's Assistant was chosen to be the Deputy Director of the evacuation task force. Have you been able to get an answer for us yet?
- A. You will have to check with Ambassador Brown as to who his

staff appointees are. The President appointed Brown to run the

Task Force and Ambassador Brown is choosing his own staff.



### STATEMENT BY GOVERNOR REUBIN ASKEW

### April 29, 1975 -- Orlando, Florida

"The decision to temporarily locate Vietnamese refugees at Eglin Air Force Base is a matter of Federal policy. It is a humanitarian gesture on behalf of the nation, and we will certainly work with the Federal authorities to assume our share of responsibilities in this effort."

"Many of these Vietnamese were in danger of losing their lives. We should save as many lives now as we can after long years in which so many lives were lost. We have always been a nation of immigrants. The idea of America itself is the idea of open doors and open hearts."

Note: First paragraph was released to press (Ron Nessen's office), however, both paragraphs are a total of his comment to the media in Orlando yesterday.



APRIL 30, 1975

### STATEMENT BY GOVERNOR ASKEW - April 29, 1975

The decision to temporarily locate the Vietnamese refugees at Eglin Air Force Base is a matter of federal policy. It is a humanitarian gesture on behalf of the nation and we will certainly work with the federal authorities to assume our share of responsibilities in this effort.



### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

### April 30, 1975

### STATUE OF LIBERTY INSCRIPTION

"Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore, Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me: I lift my Lamp beside the golden door."



#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

# APR 25 1975

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with the notification requirement set forth in Section 652 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, (hereinafter, the "Act"), please be advised that I intend to exercise my authority under Section 614(a) of the Act to authorize the use of Indochina Postwar Reconstruction funds for the purpose of financing the evacuation from South Vietnam of certain South Vietnamese nationals and nationals of other foreign countries without regard to the requirements of the Act, the Foreign Assistance Act of 1974, including Section 38, and Section 113 of the Act Making Appropriations for Foreign Assistance and Related Programs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1975, and for Other Purposes. Justification for this action is contained in the enclosed memorandum.

I have determined that such authorization is important to the security of the United States and will be forwarding my formal determination to you within the next few days.

Sincerely,

Junel R. Fr

#### Enclosure

Honorable John Sparkman Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations United States Senate Washington, D. C. 20510



Justification for Presidential Determination to Authorize the Use of Indochina Postwar Reconstruction Funds to Finance the Evacuation from South Vietnam, and Related Costs, of Certain South Vietnamese Nationals and the Nationals of Other Countries

Although Section 38(a) (1) (A) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1974 authorizes the use of funds made available under that Act for relief of refugees, the \$70 million authorized for that purpose may not be sufficient to cover this evacuation and related costs when this amount is determined and added to other refugee relief programs already funded. Section 38(b) limits the amount that may be transferred out of the other major categories of assistance authorized under Section 38(a) into the humanitarian category to not more than 20 percent of the amount authorized under each of the other major categories.

Section 113 of the Foreign Assistance Appropriations Act of 1975 requires Congressional notification of the use of funds for new Indochina Postwar Reconstruction activities at least fifteen days in advance of the obligation of such funds. An evacuation project was not presented to the Congress for Foreign Assistance Act financing at the time of the fiscal 1975 Congressional presentation. Funds for such a project have been included in the legislation now before the Congress, but no funds have been appropriated as yet nor can they be in the time available. Insufficient funds are available under the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as amended, and there is no time to pursue appropriations thereunder for this immediate need. Accordingly, this urgent requirement, if it is to be met at all in the time available, must be met with Foreign Assistance Act funds. Of course, the use of Indochina Postwar Reconstruction funds will serve only as a stop gap measure pending passage of the legislation presently being considered by the Congress. Ordinarily we would notify Congress of this new activity under Section 113, but to do so now, and wait fifteen days, will prevent the successful evacuation of these people.

Without such a determination under Section 614(a) of the Act, it may not be possible to finance the evacuation from South Vietnam, and related costs, of nationals of that country and of other foreign countries. The failure to evacuate these people from South Vietnam would leave them in danger of harm, perhaps even death, in the face of Communist aggression, and would raise serious questions in the eyes of other nations regarding the United States Government's humanitarian concerns toward those with whom it has been closely associated and allied for many years. I therefore believe it to be important to the security of the United States to undertake such an evacuation and to finance this undertaking with Indochina Postwar Reconstruction funds.

### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 30, 1975

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On April 4, 1975, I reported that U.S. naval vessels had been ordered to participate in an international humanitarian relief effort to transport refugees and U.S. nationals to safety from Danang and other seaports in South Vietnam. This effort was undertaken in response to urgent appeals from the Government of South Vietnam and in recognition of the large-scale violations by the North Vietnamese of the Agreement Ending the War and Restoring the Peace in Vietnam.

In the days and weeks that followed, the massive North Vietnamese attacks continued. As the forces of the Government of South Vietnam were pushed further back toward Saigon, we began a progressive withdrawal of U.S. citizens and their dependents in South Vietnam, together with foreign nationals whose lives were in jeopardy.

On April 28, the defensive lines to the northwest and south of Saigon were breached. Tan Son Nhut Airfield and Saigon came under increased rocket attack and for the first time received artillery fire. NVA forces were approaching within mortar and anti-aircraft missile range. The situation at Tan Son Nhut Airfield deteriorated to the extent that it became unusable. Crowd control on the airfield was breaking down and the collapse of the Government forces within Saigon appeared imminent. The situation presented a direct and imminent threat to the remaining U.S. citizens and their dependents in and around Saigon.

On the recommendation of the American Ambassador there, I ordered U.S. military forces to proceed by means of rotary wing aircraft with an emergency final evacuation out of consideration for the safety of U.S. citizens.

In accordance with my desire to keep the Congress fully informed on this matter, and taking note of the provision of section 4 of the War Powers Resolution (Public Law 93-148), I wish to report to you that at about 1:00 A.M. EDT, April 29, 1975, U.S. forces entered South Vietnam airspace.

A force of 70 evacuation helicopters and 865 Marines evacuated about 1400 U.S. citizens, together with approximately 5500 third country nationals and South Vietnamese, from landing zones in the vicinity of the U.S. Embassy, Saigon, and the Defense Attache Office at Tan Son Nhut Airfield. The last elements of the ground security force departed Saigon at 7:46 P.M. EDT April 29, Two crew members of a Navy search and rescue 1975. helicopter are missing at sea. There are no other known U.S. casualties from this operation, although two U.S. Marines on regular duty in the compound of the Defense Attache Office at Tan Son Nhut Airfield had been killed on the afternoon (EDT) of April 28, 1975, by rocket attacks into a refugee staging area. U.S. fighter aircraft provided protective air cover for this operation, and for the withdrawal by water of a few Americans from Can Tho, and in one instance suppressed North Vietnamese anti-aircraft artillery firing upon evacuation helicopters as they departed. The ground security forces on occasion returned fire during the course of the evacuation operation.

The operation was ordered and conducted pursuant to the President's Constitutional executive power and his authority as Commander-in-Chief of U.S. Armed Forces.

The United States Armed Forces performed a very difficult mission most successfully. Their exemplary courage and discipline are deserving of the nation's highest gratitude.

Sincerely,

Mary R. F.l

The Honorable The Speaker United States House of Representatives Washington, D. C. 20515

