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15/ 6/21/76

APPROVED
JUN 21 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTION
Last Day: June 23

Posted
6/22/76
archived
6/22/76

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

JIM CANNON

SUBJECT:

S. 2760 - Amendments to the
Indochina Migration and Refugees
Assistance Act of 1975

Attached for your consideration is S. 2760, sponsored by Senator Kennedy, which would make Laotian refugees eligible for the same evacuation and resettlement assistance as is provided for Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees.

A detailed discussion of the provisions of the enrolled bill is provided in OMB's enrolled bill report at Tab A.

OMB, NSC, Max Friedersdorf, Counsel's Office (Lazarus) and I recommend approval of the enrolled bill.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign S. 2760 at Tab B.





EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

JUN 15 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Bill S. 2760 - Amendments to the Indochina
Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975
Sponsor - Sen. Kennedy (D) Mass.

Last Day for Action

June 23, 1976 - Wednesday

Purpose

Makes Laotian refugees eligible for the same evacuation and
resettlement assistance as is provided for Vietnamese and
Cambodian refugees.

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget	Approval
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare	Approval
Department of State	Approval
Department of Justice	Approval
Department of the Treasury	No objection



Discussion

The Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975,
P.L. 94-23, authorizes the appropriation of \$455 million
for assistance to Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees. Under
the Act, which was enacted after the fall of the governments
in both South Vietnam and Cambodia, the Department of State
provides for evacuation and reception expenses and the
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) pays
for longer-term resettlement costs in the United States.
Per capita grants are made to the States to provide educa-
tion and training, and States are reimbursed by HEW for public
assistance and health care expenses incurred for the refugees.

S. 2760 would make Laotian refugees eligible for assistance under the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975 in the same way and to the same extent as Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees. At the time the Act was enacted, the Laotian government had not fallen. The takeover by the new government resulted in many Laotians fleeing their country to Thailand. HEW indicates that approximately 10,100 Laotian refugees, including those who are already in this country and those who have been authorized to enter the country, will be eligible for assistance. Providing assistance under the Act for the Laotians will make it easier to find sponsors for the refugees because the sponsors will not then be expected to pay all the expenses for the refugees' initial resettlement.

No additional appropriations will be necessary to assist the Laotian refugees; the \$455 million appropriated by P.L. 94-24 for Cambodian and Vietnamese refugees is sufficient to cover the needs of the Laotians as well. Those funds, however, cannot be used to aid the Laotians until the enactment of the 1976 Foreign Assistance Appropriations Act, which amends P.L. 94-24 to make the funds already appropriated for Cambodian and Vietnamese refugees available for the Laotians as well.

State and HEW both reported in favor of the legislation when it was under consideration in the Congress.

Naomi R. Sweeney

Acting Assistant Director for
Legislative Reference

Enclosures





DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

JUN 11 1976

The Honorable James T. Lynn
Director, Office of Management
and Budget
Washington, D. C. 20503

Dear Mr. Lynn:

This is in response to your request for a report on S. 2760, an enrolled bill "To amend the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975 to provide for the inclusion of refugees from Laos."

In summary, we support the bill because it would aid in our efforts to assist in the resettlement of all Indochinese refugees who were forced to flee their homelands because of their fear of political persecution.

The bill would make Laotian refugees eligible for the same assistance that Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees are receiving under the authority of the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975. Under this Act, educational assistance is provided to refugees, and States are reimbursed by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare for public assistance and health care expenses incurred for the refugees. Making these Laotians eligible to receive this assistance would greatly assist in their resettlement and in the location of sponsors for the refugees.

We understand that the total number of refugees who may be affected by this Act is approximately 10,100, including those who are already in this country and those who have been authorized to enter the country. We estimate that the average cost for each additional Laotian refugee would be approximately \$1000, for a total additional cost under this bill of \$10,100,000. Assuming that the Appropriations Act, P.L. 94-24, is also amended to include Laos, we believe we will be able to administer this additional responsibility



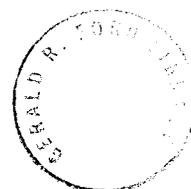
within the amount of funds appropriated for assistance to refugees for fiscal year 1976 and the Administration's fiscal year 1977 budget proposal relating to refugees.

For the foregoing reasons, we recommend that the bill be approved.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Lynch

Under Secretary





DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

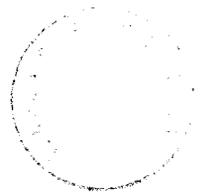
JUN 10 1976

Dear Mr. Lynn:

In his communication of June 8, Mr. James M. Frey requested the views and recommendations of the Department of State concerning enrolled bill S. 2760 which would amend the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975 to provide for the inclusion of refugees from Laos.

I wish to recommend in the strongest terms that the President sign this measure into law at the earliest opportunity. The Department of State, with the concurrence of your Office, has sought since last December to have the authorization and appropriations acts (Public Laws 94-23 and 94-24, respectively) of May 1975 amended to provide financial assistance to refugees from Laos as well as those from Vietnam and Cambodia. Enactment of S. 2760 will provide the added benefit of enabling us to begin the movement of Lao refugees to the United States under the criteria set forth for the expanded parole program for Indochina refugees. The legislation, therefore, is essential to the success of that program, as is the passage of the commensurate appropriations provisions now attached to the 1976 Foreign Assistance Appropriations Act.

The Honorable
James T. Lynn,
Director,
Office of Management and Budget.



The Lao refugees have no less entitlement to assistance benefits than those from Vietnam and Cambodia nor do they have less fear of persecution. It would be a grave injustice not to include these refugees in the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act, and it is in this spirit of equity that I again recommend signature into law of S. 2760.

Sincerely yours,



Robert J. McCloskey
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations



Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

June 10, 1976

Honorable James T. Lynn
Director, Office of Management
and Budget
Washington, D. C. 20503

Dear Mr. Lynn:

In compliance with your request, I have examined a facsimile of the enrolled bill (S. 2760), "To amend the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975 to provide for the inclusion of refugees from Laos."

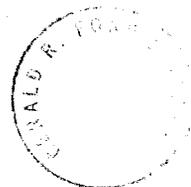
The enrolled bill would provide that eligible refugees from Laos who were paroled into the United States subsequent to the enactment of the 1975 Act receive the same type of assistance authorized only to refugees from Vietnam and Cambodia.

The Department of Justice recommends Executive approval of this measure.

Sincerely,



Michael M. Uhlmann
Assistant Attorney General





THE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

JUN 10 1976

Director, Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office of the President
Washington, D.C. 20503

Attention: Assistant Director for Legislative
Reference

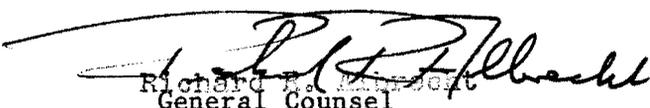
Sir:

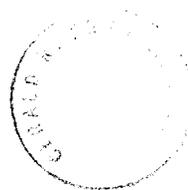
Reference is made to your request for the views of this Department on the enrolled enactment of S. 2760, "To amend the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975 to provide for the inclusion of refugees from Laos."

The enrolled enactment would amend the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975 (Public Law 94-23) to authorize assistance to Laotian refugees. That Act now authorizes assistance only for refugees from Vietnam and Cambodia.

The enrolled enactment is not of primary interest to the Department. However, the Department would have no objection to a recommendation that the enrolled enactment be approved by the President.

Sincerely yours,


Richard R. Albrecht
General Counsel



THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.:

Date: June 15

Time: 1000am

FOR ACTION: NSC/S OK
David Lissy DL
Spencer Johnson SK
Max Friedersdorf MF
Ken Lazarus KL OK

cc (for information): Jack Marsh
Jim Cavanaugh
EEd Schmults

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: June 16

Time: 500pm

SUBJECT:

S. 2760-Amendments to the Indochina
Migration and Refugee
Assistance Act of 1975

ACTION REQUESTED:

- For Necessary Action
- For Your Recommendations
- Prepare Agenda and Brief
- Draft Reply
- For Your Comments
- Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Judy Johnston, Ground Floor West Wing



PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

K. R. COLE, JR.
For the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.:

Date: June 16

Time: 1000am

FOR ACTION: NSC/S
David Lissy
Spencer Johnson
Max Friedersdorf
Ken Lazarus

cc (for information): Jack Marsh
Jim Cavanaugh
Ed Schmults

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: June 16

Time: 500pm

SUBJECT:

S. 2760-Amendments to the Indochina
Migration and Refugee
Assistance Act of 1975

ACTION REQUESTED:

- For Necessary Action
- For Your Recommendations
- Prepare Agenda and Brief
- Draft Reply
- For Your Comments
- Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Judy Johnston, Ground Floor West Wing

6-16
Recommend Approval
[Signature]



PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

James M. Cannon,
For the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

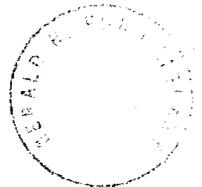
WASHINGTON

June 18, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CAVANAUGH
FROM: MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF *M.L.F.*
SUBJECT: S. 2760 - Amendments to the Indochina Migration
and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975

The Office of Legislative Affairs concurs with the agencies
that the subject bill be signed.

Attachments



To-
J. Cunningham
6-15-76
6:00 P.M.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

JUN 15 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Bill S. 2760 - Amendments to the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975
Sponsor - Sen. Kennedy (D) Mass.

Last Day for Action

June 23, 1976 - Wednesday

Purpose

Makes Laotian refugees eligible for the same evacuation and resettlement assistance as is provided for Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees.

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget

Approval

Department of Health, Education,
and Welfare

Approval

Department of State

Approval

Department of Justice

Approval

Department of the Treasury

No objection



Discussion

The Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975, P.L. 94-23, authorizes the appropriation of \$455 million for assistance to Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees. Under the Act, which was enacted after the fall of the governments in both South Vietnam and Cambodia, the Department of State provides for evacuation and reception expenses and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) pays for longer-term resettlement costs in the United States. Per capita grants are made to the States to provide education and training, and States are reimbursed by HEW for public assistance and health care expenses incurred for the refugees.

AMENDING THE INDOCHINA MIGRATION AND REFUGEE
ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1975

May 25, 1976.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State
of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. EILBERG, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the
following

REPORT

(Including cost estimate and comparison of the Congressional Budget
Office)

[To accompany S. 2760]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill
(S. 2760), to amend the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance
Act of 1975 to provide for the inclusion of refugees from Laos, having
considered the same report favorably thereon without amendment and
recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to amend the Indochina Migration and
Refugee Assistance Act of 1975 (Public Law 94-23) to authorize
assistance to Laotian refugees. That act now authorizes assistance
only for refugees from Vietnam and Cambodia.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The "Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975,"
enacted last year after the fall of the governments in South Vietnam
and Cambodia, authorized \$455 million for the movement, temporary
care and resettlement of refugees from these two countries. Since that
time some 134,000 Indochina refugees have been admitted to the
United States under the Attorney General's parole authority set forth
in section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, and
approximately 42,000 refugees have been resettled in third countries.

Under the authority of the 1975 Act, the Federal Government provides funds for the transportation and resettlement of Cambodian and Vietnamese refugees and reimburses States for health care and educational expenses incurred for, and public assistance provided to, these refugees.

Subsequent to the enactment of that Act, a new government has taken over in Laos, and many thousands of Laotians have fled the country. The Attorney General has authorized the parole of approximately 8,100 Lao refugees (parole authority was initially granted to 3,400 Lao refugees in July 1975 and this program was extended by the Attorney General on May 6, 1976, to include an additional 4,744 Lao refugees). Approximately 2,600 such refugees have already been admitted to the United States.

The purpose of this bill is to expand the coverage of the 1975 Act in order to make Laotian refugees eligible for the same types of assistance as are now authorized for Cambodian and Vietnamese refugees.

COMMITTEE ACTION

The Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and International Law held one day of hearings on February 5, 1976 to consider H.R. 11473, a House bill identical to S. 2760. On February 25, 1976, the Subcommittee approved S. 2760, which had passed the Senate by unanimous consent on February 16, 1975. On May 4, 1976, the full Committee on the Judiciary in open session approved S. 2760 by unanimous voice vote.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

This legislation is strongly supported by the Executive Branch and the specific views of the Departments of State and Health, Education and Welfare are set forth in the following Departmental reports:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, D.C., February 4, 1976.

HON. PETER W. RODINO, JR.,
*Chairman, Judiciary Committee,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: In response to your request for comments on H.R. 11473, the Administration supports this bill which would amend the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975 to authorize the benefits provided under it to be given to refugees from Laos as well as to refugees from Cambodia and Vietnam.

After consultations with the Congress, we are now paroling into the United States some 3,400 refugees from Laos, of whom almost 1,000 have already arrived. The remainder must wait, mostly in Thailand, until the voluntary agencies are able to find sponsors. It is often difficult to find sponsors for the Lao because would-be sponsors fear that they might have to incur heavy expenses to support them, particularly if they should become sick and require medical care.

Under the authority of the 1975 Act, the Federal Government provides financial assistance to the states for public assistance—i.e., cash assistance, medical care and social services—provided needy Cambodian and Vietnamese refugees, based on a means test. Because refugees from Laos are not mentioned in the Act, however, no similar reimbursement is provided for them. The Act also provides authority for education grants related to the Cambodian and Vietnamese refugees which could not be made for the Lao. Representatives Regula's bill, if passed, would amend the Act to allow these same benefits to be provided for the benefit of Lao refugees.

No additional funds need to be appropriated to provide these benefits to the Lao since adequate appropriated funds under the 1975 Act are still available to the State Department, provided the Appropriation Act (94-24) is also amended to include refugees from Laos. We are prepared to submit language to accomplish this.

We are planning to consult with your Committee on a proposal to parole into the United States, mostly from Thailand, an additional 11,000 Indochinese refugees, including approximately 3,200 Lao over and above the 3,400 now being processed into the United States.

Fifteen million dollars are available for transfer from the Department of State to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare under the 1975 Act to provide benefits to the 6,600 Lao (3,400 entering the United States under existing parole authority plus approximately 3,200 for whom parole authority is being requested) and the 7,800 Vietnamese and Cambodians who would comprise the remainder of those coming to the United States under the proposed expanded parole authority. Estimates of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare assume that about 35 percent of the new group of refugees will require public assistance, similar to the estimates of the ongoing Vietnamese and Cambodian Refugee Program. The estimates also include a one-time grant for children entering elementary and secondary public schools and for adult education for the additional refugees that would be coming into the country. Of the \$15 million total cost for HEW benefits, \$6.9 million would be identified for Lao refugees and \$8.1 million would be identified for the additional Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees through September 1977, assuming, of course, paroling 11,000 additional Indochinese refugees is approved.

I hope that the Judiciary Committee will be able shortly to recommend approval of the amendment to the 1975 Indochina Refugee Act to authorize benefits to the Lao refugees so we can proceed immediately to obtain the necessary language amendments to make funds already appropriated available for Lao refugees.

The Department has been informed by the Office of Management and Budget that there is no objection to the submission of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT J. McCLOSKEY,
*Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations.*

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
EDUCATION, AND WELFARE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D.C., March 11, 1976.

HON. PETER W. RODINO, JR.,
Chairman, Judiciary Committee,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to your request for a report on H.R. 11473, a bill to amend the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975 to provide for the inclusion of refugees from Laos.

In summary, we support this bill because it would greatly aid in the effort to resettle the Indochinese refugees who were forced to flee their homelands because of their fear of political persecution.

The bill would make Lao refugees eligible for the same assistance that Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees are receiving under the authority of the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975. Under this Act, education assistance is provided and States are reimbursed by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) for public assistance and health care expenses incurred for the refugees. Since refugees from Laos are not mentioned in the Act, similar assistance cannot be provided for them. Worry over possible medical costs is preventing potential sponsors from accepting Laotian refugees. It would be much easier to find sponsors for Laotians to aid in their resettlement if sponsors could be assured that they would not become responsible for heavy expenses to support the refugees.

HEW, as the Department responsible for the domestic resettlement of the Indochinese covered by the 1975 Act, will be able to administer the additional responsibility within the Administration's fiscal year 1977 budget proposals and the funds already available to the refugee program including those fiscal year 1976 funds to be transferred from the State Department.

We therefore recommend that the bill be favorably considered by your Committee.

We are advised by the Office of Management and Budget that there is no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

MARJORIE LYNCH,
Under Secretary.

ESTIMATE OF COST

Pursuant to Clause 7 of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee estimates that the total cost of this legislation will be approximately \$14.9 million (\$5.1 million for fiscal year 1976, \$2 million for the transitional quarter, and \$7.8 million for fiscal year 1977).

Public Law 94-23 authorized a total of \$455 million for the care and resettlement of Indochina refugees and this Committee has been assured that the provisions of this bill (S. 2760) can be implemented within that authorization limit.

It should be noted that under the "Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975" no funds can be obligated for the

movement of refugees or for resettlement contracts with voluntary agencies after June 30, 1976. On the other hand, states may be reimbursed for the expenses which they incur for Indochina refugees through fiscal year 1977.

The Committee estimate is derived from the cost estimate which was prepared by the Congressional Budget Office and submitted to the Committee. The Committee believes that the C.B.O. estimate accurately projects the cost of implementing S. 2760.

A similar cost estimate has been submitted by the Department of State and is set forth in the following table.

I. Parole approximately 4,744 additional refugees from Laos into United States:	
Voluntary agencies, 4,744 multiplied by \$500-----	\$2, 372, 000
Transportation, 4,744 multiplied by \$600-----	2, 846, 000
Other expenses-----	200, 000
Total-----	² \$5, 418, 000
II. Provide benefits to 3,400 now being processed into the United States ¹ -----	³ 3, 540, 000
III. Provide benefits to approximately 4,744 additional refugees from Laos (see I)-----	³ 4, 934, 000
Total-----	13, 892, 000

¹ Voluntary agency, ICEM and processing costs funded under Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, under Presidential Determinations 75-13, dated Apr. 8, 1975, and 76-3, dated Sept. 24, 1975.

² To be obligated during fiscal year 1976.

³ Appropriation transfer from Department of State to Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to be made during fiscal year 1976. HEW benefits will continue through September 1977.

OVERSIGHT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to Clause 2(1)(3)(A) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee states that it has exercised close oversight with regard to the operation of the "Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975". In addition to closely reviewing the quarterly reports submitted to Congress under section 4 of that act, the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and International Law has held six days of oversight hearings to monitor the implementation of the 1975 act. Consequently, this Committee will also closely oversee the administration of these amendments to the "Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975".

Clause 2(1)(3)(D) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives is inapplicable since no oversight findings and recommendations have been received from the Committee on Government Operations.

INFLATIONARY IMPACT STATEMENT

Pursuant to Clause 2(1)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee states that enactment of S. 2760 will have no inflationary effect on prices and costs in the operation of the national economy.

BUDGETARY INFORMATION

Clause 2(1)(3)(B) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives is inapplicable because the instant legislation does not provide new budgetary authority. Pursuant to Clause 2(1)(3)(C) of

Rule XI, the following estimate and comparison was prepared by the Congressional Budget Office and submitted to the Committee:

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE—COST ESTIMATE, MAY 21, 1976

1. *Bill number:* S. 2760.
2. *Bill title:* To Amend the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975 (Public Law 94-23).
3. *Purpose of bill:* The bill amends Public Law 94-23 by granting Laotian refugees the same eligibility for special assistance as currently is available for Cambodians and Vietnamese. Special assistance would include state reimbursement for educational assistance, public assistance and health care services.
4. *Cost estimate:* The estimate includes the cost within both the State Department and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare for providing the necessary services for settlement in the United States. The costs for each agency are summarized in the table below.

	COSTS					
	[In millions of dollars]					
	Fiscal year—					
	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	
Department of State.....	5.1					
HEW.....		2.0	7.8			
Total.....	5.1	2.0	7.8			

5. *Basis for estimate:* The cost estimates are based on information provided by both HEW and the State Department. The State Department has estimated that 3400 Laotian refugees have already been paroled into the country and there are plans to parole an additional 4400.¹ From this experience, the State Department estimated approximately \$1150 per capita for resettlement, i.e., \$500 for voluntary agency grants, \$600 for transportation and \$50 for administrative expenses. Given this \$1150 cost per refugee and the assumption of 4400 refugees, the total cost is \$5.1 million. It was assumed, based on Section 2(b) of P.L. 94-23, that all State Department obligations must be made prior to June 30, 1976.

HEW, based on prior experience with Cambodians and Vietnamese, estimated a \$1000 per capita cost per year for special assistance for the 7,800 (3,400 previous and the 4,400 planned) Laotian refugees.

It was assumed that the refugees would be resettled by the transition quarter.

6. *Estimate comparison:* None.
7. *Previous CBO estimate:* None.
8. *Estimate prepared by:* James V. Manaro (225-5275).
9. *Estimate approved by:* C. G. Nuckols for James L. Blum, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

¹ State Department in process of survey of 11,000 refugees. Final totals of Laotian refugees may be subject to change.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

After careful consideration of this legislation, the Committee is of the opinion that this bill should be enacted and accordingly recommends that S. 2760, do pass.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 2 of clause 3 of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill are shown as follows: (new matter is printed in *italics*, matter proposed to be omitted is printed in black brackets, existing law in which no change is proposed is printed in roman).

SECTIONS 2 THROUGH 4 OF THE INDOCHINA MIGRATION AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1975 (PUBLIC LAW 94-23; 22 U.S.C. 2610 NOTE.)

SEC. 2. (a) Subject to the provisions of subsection (b) there are hereby authorized to be appropriated, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes, \$455,000,000 for the performance of functions set forth in the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962 (76 Stat. 121), as amended, with respect to aliens who have fled from **[Cambodia or Vietnam]** *Cambodia, Vietnam, or Laos*, such sums to remain available in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section.

(b) None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act shall be available for the performance of functions after June 30, 1976, other than for carrying out the provisions of clauses (3), (4), (5), and (6) of section 2(b) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as amended. None of such funds shall be available for obligation for any purpose after September 30, 1977.

SEC. 3. In carrying out functions utilizing the funds made available under this Act, the term "refugee" as defined in section 2(b)(3) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as amended, shall be deemed to include aliens who (A) because of persecution or fear of persecution on account of race, religion, or political opinion, fled from **[Cambodia or Vietnam]** *Cambodia, Vietnam, or Laos*; (B) cannot return there because of fear of persecution on account of race, religion, or political opinion, and (C) are in urgent need of assistance for the essentials of life.

SEC. 4. (a) The President shall consult with and keep the Committees on the Judiciary, Appropriations, and International Relations of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Foreign Relations, Appropriations, and Judiciary of the Senate fully and currently informed of the use of funds and the exercise of functions authorized in this Act.

(b) Not more than thirty days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall transmit to such Committees a report describing fully and completely the status of refugees from **[Cambodia and South Vietnam]** *Cambodia, South Vietnam, and Laos*. Such report shall set forth, in addition—

- (1) a plan for the resettlement of those refugees remaining in receiving or staging centers;

(2) the number of refugees who have indicated an interest in returning to their homeland or being resettled in a third country, together with (A) a description of the plan for their return or resettlement and the steps taken to carry out such return or resettlement, and (B) any initiatives that have been made with respect to the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees of the United Nations; and

(3) a full and complete description of the steps the President has taken to retrieve and deposit in the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts all amounts previously authorized and appropriated for assistance to **South Vietnam and Cambodia** *South Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos* but not expended for such purpose, exclusive of the \$98,000,000 of Indochina Postwar Reconstruction funds allocated to the Department of State for movement and maintenance of refugees prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) Supplementary reports setting forth recent information with respect to each of the items referred to in this section shall be transmitted not more than ninety days after the date of transmittal of the report referred to in subsection (b) of this section and not later than the end of each ninety-day period thereafter. Such reports shall continue until September 30, 1977, and a final report shall be submitted not later than December 31, 1977.

O

AMENDING THE INDOCHINA MIGRATION AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1975

FEBRUARY 5, 1976.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. SPARKMAN, from the Committee on Foreign Relations,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2760]



The Committee on Foreign Relations, to which was referred the bill (S. 2760) to amend the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975 to provide for the inclusion of refugees from Laos, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to amend the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975 (Public Law 94-23) to authorize assistance to Laotian refugees. That act now authorizes assistance only for refugees from Vietnam and Cambodia.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

The Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975, enacted shortly after the fall of the U.S.-supported governments in South Vietnam and Cambodia, authorized assistance to refugees from South Vietnam and Cambodia. Since the fall of South Vietnam's and Cambodia's Governments, some 130,000 Indochina refugees have been settled in the United States. Others have been resettled abroad. Under the authority of the 1975 act, the Federal Government provides reimbursement to the States for health care and public assistance expenses incurred for Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees. Educational assistance was also authorized by that act. Laotian refugees are not eligible for benefits under the act as coverage was specifically limited to Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees.

Since the enactment of that act, a new government has taken over in Laos, and many thousands of Laotians have fled the country. After

consultations with the Judiciary Committees of the Congress, the executive branch officials are now paroling into the United States some 3,400 Lao refugees, of whom more than 800 have arrived so far. The remainder must wait, mostly in Thailand, until the voluntary agencies are able to find sponsors for them. The voluntary agencies report that it is often difficult to find sponsors for the Lao refugees because would-be sponsors fear that they might have to incur heavy expenses to support the refugees, particularly if they should become sick and require medical care. Executive branch officials are planning to seek approval for paroling an additional 11,000 Indochina refugees into the United States. About 3,000 more Laotian refugees are included in this total.

This bill makes Laotian refugees eligible for the same types of assistance as are now authorized for Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees. The Senate approved a similar provision on November 5, 1975, as an amendment to H.R. 9005, the economic assistance authorization bill. However, this provision was eliminated in conference, without prejudice, because the House conference said that it would have been subject to a point of order in the House on the grounds that it was not germane to that bill.

The bill is supported by the executive branch as shown in the following letter from Mr. Robert J. McCloskey, Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, D.C., December 17, 1975.

HON. JOHN J. SPARKMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: As you know, on December 9, Senator Kennedy introduced a bill, S. 2760, to amend the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975 to provide for the inclusion of refugees from Laos, which was referred to your committee.

I wish to take this opportunity to advise you that the administration supports the principles of this bill. The effect of S. 2760 would be to make the Lao refugee eligible for educational assistance now provided by HEW for Cambodians and Vietnamese, and to provide financial assistance to the States for public assistance and health care expenses incurred for Laotians. Adequate funding remains available within the 1975 act, and no additional funds would be required by extension of the benefits of this act to the Lao.

The omission of the Lao from the acts benefit is a particularly serious handicap because, unlike the Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees, the Lao will have to remain in Thailand under generally difficult conditions until a sponsor can be found and then will travel directly from Thailand to their sponsor.

I hope that the Foreign Relations Committee will find it possible to give its support to this bill.

The Department has been informed by the Office of Management and Budget that from the standpoint of the administrations program, there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely,

ROBERT J. McCLOSKEY,
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations.

No additional appropriations are needed to provide these benefits to the Lao refugees, since funds are still available under the appropriations made to carry out the 1975 act. Estimated costs for the Lao refugee program are shown in the table below:

Estimated cost of amending Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975 to include refugees from Laos

I. Parole approximately 3,200 additional refugees from Laos into United States:	
Voluntary agencies (3,200 × \$500)-----	\$1, 600, 000
Transportation (3,200 × \$66)-----	1, 920, 000
Other expenses-----	150, 000
Total -----	¹ 3, 670, 000
II. Provide benefits to 3,400 now being processed into the United States ² -----	³ 3, 540, 000
III. Provide benefits to approximately 3,200 additional refugees from Laos (see I)-----	³ 3, 330, 000
Total -----	10, 540, 000

¹ To be obligated during fiscal year 1976.

² Voluntary agency, ICEM, and processing costs funded under Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, under Presidential determinations 75-13, dated Apr. 8, 1975, and 76-3, dated Sept. 24, 1975.

³ Appropriation transfer from Department of State to Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to be made during fiscal year 1976. HEW benefits will continue through September 1977, with an estimated obligation rate of \$0.3 million for fiscal year 1976, \$0.8 million for the transition quarter and \$5.8 million for fiscal year 1977.

Source: Department of State.

The committee is of the opinion that the inclusion of Laotian refugees under the coverage of the act is fully justified. Enactment of this bill will end their inequitable status.

COMMITTEE ACTION

S. 2760 was introduced by Senator Kennedy on December 9, 1975, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. The committee considered the bill on February 3, 1976, and voted to report it with a favorable recommendation.

COST ESTIMATES

Section 252(a) (1) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1972 requires that committee reports on bills and joint resolutions contain:

(A) An estimate made by such committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out such a bill or joint resolution in the fiscal year in which it is reported and in each of the five fiscal years following such fiscal year.

The committee estimates that the cost of carrying out the provisions of this bill in fiscal year 1976 will be \$3,970,000, and the cost for assistance beyond that will be \$6,600,000, for a total of approximately \$10,540,000.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Paragraph (1) amends section 2 of the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975, the basic authorization of appropriations for assisting refugees from Cambodia and Vietnam, by adding Laos as a country from which refugees would also be eligible.

Paragraph (2) amends section 3 of that act by adding refugees from Laos to the definition of the term "refugee" for the purpose of functions carried out with funds made available under the act.

Paragraphs (3) and (4) amend the reporting requirements of the act to require that subsequent reports on the refugee program do include information on Laotian refugees.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAWS

In compliance with paragraph 4 of rule XXIX of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italic, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975 Conference report [H.R. 6755] passed House and Senate May 21, 1975—Public Law 94-23.

AN ACT To enable the United States to render assistance to, or in behalf of, certain migrants and refugees

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as "The Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975".

SEC. 2. (a) Subject to the provisions of subsection (b) there are hereby authorized to be appropriated, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes, \$455,000,000 for the performance of functions set forth in the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962 (76 Stat. 121), as amended, with respect to aliens who have fled from [Cambodia or Vietnam] *Cambodia, Vietnam, or Laos*, such sums to remain available in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section.

(b) None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act shall be available for the performance of functions after June 30, 1976, other than for carrying out the provisions of clauses (3), (4), (5), and (6) of section 2(b) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as amended. None of such funds shall be available for obligation for any purpose after September 30, 1977.

SEC. 3. In carrying out functions utilizing the funds made available under this Act, the term "refugee" as defined in section 2(b)(3) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as amended, shall be deemed to include aliens who (A) because of persecution or fear of persecution on account of race, religion, or political opinion, fled from [Cambodia or Vietnam] *Cambodia, Vietnam, or Laos*; (B) cannot return there because of fear of persecution on account of race, religion, or political opinion; and (C) are in urgent need of assistance for the essentials of life.

SEC. 4. (a) The President shall consult with and keep the Committees on the Judiciary, Appropriations, and International Relations of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Foreign Relations, Appropriations, and Judiciary of the Senate fully and currently informed of the use of funds and the exercise of functions authorized in this Act.

(b) Not more than thirty days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall transmit to such Committees a report describing fully and completely the status of refugees from [Cambodia and South Vietnam] *South Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos*. Such report shall set forth, in addition—

(1) a plan for the resettlement of those refugees remaining in receiving or staging centers;

(2) the number of refugees who have indicated an interest in returning to their homeland or being resettled in a third country, together with (A) a description of the plan for their return or resettlement and the steps taken to carry out such return or resettlement, and (B) any initiatives that have been made with respect to the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees of the United Nations; and

(3) a full and complete description of the steps the President has taken to retrieve and deposit in the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts all amounts previously authorized and appropriated for assistance to [South Vietnam and Cambodia] *South Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos* but not expended for such purpose, exclusive of the \$98,000,000 of Indochina Postwar Reconstruction funds allocated to the Department of State for movement and maintenance of refugees prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) Supplementary reports setting forth recent information with respect to each of the items referred to in this section shall be transmitted not more than ninety days after the date of transmittal of the report referred to in subsection (b) of this section and not later than the end of each ninety-day period thereafter. Such reports shall continue until September 30, 1977, and a final report shall be submitted no later than December 31, 1977.



Ninety-fourth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the nineteenth day of January,
one thousand nine hundred and seventy-six*

An Act

To amend the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975 to provide for the inclusion of refugees from Laos.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975 (Public Law 94-23; 22 U.S.C. 2601), is amended as follows:

- (1) In section 2, strike out "Cambodia or Vietnam" and insert in lieu thereof "Cambodia, Vietnam, or Laos".
- (2) In section 3, strike out "Cambodia or Vietnam" and insert in lieu thereof "Cambodia, Vietnam, or Laos".
- (3) In section 4(b), strike out "Cambodia and South Vietnam" and insert in lieu thereof "Cambodia, South Vietnam, and Laos".
- (4) In section 4(b) (3), strike out "South Vietnam and Cambodia" and insert in lieu thereof "South Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos".

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

*Vice President of the United States and
President of the Senate.*

4

June 11, 1976

Dear Mr. Director:

The following bills were received at the White House on June 11th:

S.J. Res 168 ✓
S. 532 ✓
S. 1466 ✓
S. 2760 ✓
S. 3187 ✓

Please let the President have reports and recommendations as to the approval of these bills as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Linder
Chief Executive Clerk



The Honorable James T. Lynn
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D.C.