



IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20536

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL COVER SHEET

FAX #: (202) 307-9911

TO: Irene Bueno

DATE: 09/14/99

PHONE:

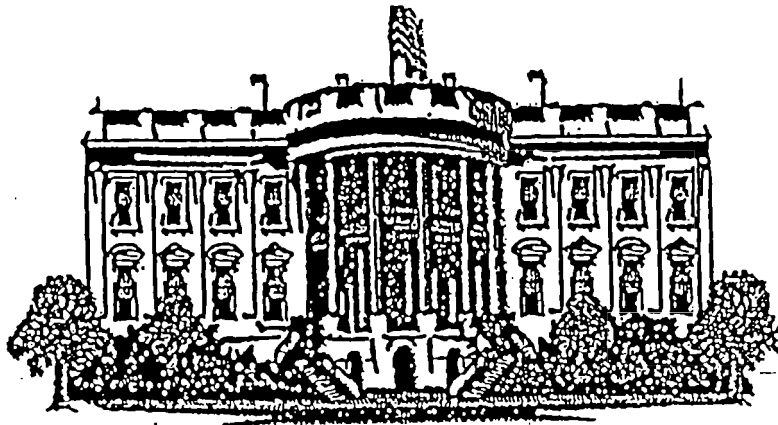
FAX #: 456-5581

NUMBER OF PAGES TO FOLLOW: 2

MESSAGE: Marge (?) in Maria's office had asked me about this when you were gone. We just made these decisions, so here's the latest info.

FROM: Cathy St. Denis, Counselor to the Commissioner
RM 7100 CAB
202-514-8195

Not a slight risk, not a danger to country & putting themselves
in danger



THE WHITE HOUSE

Domestic Policy Council

DATE: 9/17/99

FACSIMILE FOR: Scott Bosby

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FACSIMILE FROM: IRENE B. BUENO

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NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER): 4

☐ FOR YOUR REVIEW

☐ PER MY E-MAIL OR VOICE-MAIL MESSAGE TO YOU

☒ PER YOUR REQUEST

COMMENTS: Please call me. Thank.

U.S. Department of Justice
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

RESPONSE TO QUERY

09/13/99

Update on Chinese Migrants Detained in Ullin, IL

On June 4, 1999, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) transported 89 Chinese migrants from the CNMI Island of Tinian to the United States in order to allow them an opportunity to pursue claims for immigration benefits in the United States. One, a juvenile migrant, was taken to a special youth detention shelter contracted by INS, and the remaining 88 were taken to INS contracted detention space in Ullin, Illinois. The migrants were being smuggled on a number of vessels intercepted by the U.S. Coast Guard near Tinian in April and May. Almost 400 migrants were returned in late June to the Peoples Republic of China from these smuggling vessels.

In order to facilitate the processing of their claims, INS, in consultation with legal counsel as well as interested non-government organizations (NGO's) and immediate family members has agreed to parole 10 of the migrants to the care of immediate family members and 24 of the migrants to the care of a number of shelters located throughout the United States. The one juvenile will remain in the youth shelter. The remaining 54 migrants will be granted changes of venue to cities closer to their legal representatives. Parole requests for this group will be reviewed on a case by case basis using the same criteria as the 34 migrants paroled to NGO's and family members.

Q. INS officials have previously stated that the reason for detaining these 88 PRC nationals was to protect them from smugglers who want to force them to pay off smuggling debts. If you are concerned about their safety, why are you releasing them now?

A. INS has been assured by NGO's and family members that the 34 migrants granted parole will be released to a secure environment. Parole for the remaining 54 migrants, whose venues are being changed at the request of their counsel, will be considered on a case by case basis with the same safety assurances that INS took into consideration in granting parole to the 34 migrants

Q. Which facilities are they being taken to? Where will they be relocated?

A. For security reasons we will not provide the names of the facilities nor their locations.

Q. INS has obviously determined that these migrants have a "credible fear" of being returned to China and merit consideration for political asylum. Why, therefore, don't you allow them to be released on parole pending the outcome of their asylum hearings?

A. The migrants will be granted parole if certain criteria are met, including the safety of the individual. If INS determines that smugglers remain a credible threat to their safety and well being, they will not be paroled.

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Q. How long will the asylum/hearings process take?

A. It is our intention to move as quickly as possible to complete the immigration hearing process so that the migrants who are not eligible for asylum are returned to China and those who are eligible for asylum are able to proceed with their lives here in the U.S.

Q. Will the media be allowed to interview any of these asylum seekers?

A. The migrants may be interviewed with the written consent of the migrant and/or their attorney.