

HIGH PRIORITY

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.:

Date: July 7, 1975

Time:

FOR ACTION:

JIM CANNON ✓
PHIL BUCHEN ✓

cc (for information):

COMPLETED

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Tuesday, July 8

Time: 2 P.M.

SUBJECT:

Jim Lynn's memo of 7/3/75 re
Letter to Governors on Indochina Refugee
Resettlement

ACTION REQUESTED:

☐ For Necessary Action

☒ For Your Recommendations

☐ Prepare Agenda and Brief

☐ Draft Reply

☒ For Your Comments

☐ Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

OMB is most anxious to have these letters sent to the
Governors.

Buchen - concurs
Cannon - see attached comments.
Letters sent July 11th
also letter later sent
to Mayor Washington

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.

Jim Connor
For the President

July 10, 1975

Bob Linder -

The attached letter
has been approved by the President
to go to all Governors.

This should be done
today.

Thanks

Jim Connor



*will be dated 7/11/75 +
Advised OMB + Cannon.*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 10, 1975

MR. PRESIDENT:

Staffing of the attached memorandum from Paul O'Neill resulted in concurrence from Phil Buchen and the following comments from Jim Cannon.

"If this letter is sent from the President to all Governors, we can expect some critical responses from Governors who would oppose aiding the refugees unless and until the needs of other Vietnam era veterans have been adequately cared for in their judgment. That kind of response would get far more attention than any of the positive responses. Governor Brown of California has already publicly stated his opposition to refugee aid, and we can expect that he would use the President's letter as a further occasion to be critical."

Do you approve the preparation of the attached Presidential letter to all Governors?

Yes

yes.

No

Jim Connor



Jim -

Staffing of Jim Lynn's memo of 7/3/75 re Letter to Governors
on Indochina Refugee Resettlement resulted in the following:

Buchen -

Concurs

Cannon -

Recommends against sending the letters --
comments attached.

Further action?

Trudy

7/9/75



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Jim -

This proposed draft was lost in OMB over the week-end --- they are anxious for the President to sign -- I believe it has to be staffed before it can go. Agree?

Staff to: Cannon
Buchen
~~Marsh~~ 2

Trudy

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

JUL 3 - 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: DEPUTY DIRECTOR *IS/ O'Neill*
SUBJECT: Letter to Governors on Indochina
Refugee Resettlement

Attached is a letter to all Governors prepared for your signature by the Interagency Task Force for Indochina Refugees.

The letter gives information about the refugee resettlement program and asks the States to develop their own resettlement programs with Federal assistance. The model for such a program is the one launched by Governor Dan Evans in Washington State. The Federal Regional Councils will help the Task Force to follow up with the Governors and will aid the States in the establishment of their own resettlement programs.

The States offer a potential source for a large number of new sponsors which are badly needed to supplement those being generated by the voluntary agencies.

A Presidential letter to all the Governors will be a big help in encouraging States to participate in the program. I recommend that you sign it.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE

Washington

Dear Governor

As you know, on May 24, 1975, I signed into law the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975 to assist in the resettlement of Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees who are seeking new homes in the United States. Since then, I have established an Interagency Task Force on Refugees to coordinate the resettlement program and to assure that it is accomplished as humanely and expeditiously as possible. In addition, I have appointed a Presidential Advisory Committee to assist in this effort.

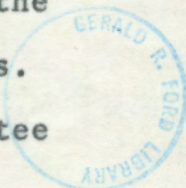
I am pleased to report that as of June 30th, more than 41,000 of the 130,258 evacuees have joined their families or sponsors in the United States and are beginning to contribute to their new communities. These refugees have been accorded parole status, making them eligible to remain in the United States indefinitely and to accept employment. All refugees, except those few deemed "self-sufficient", will be assigned sponsors to assist in the resettlement process. Sponsors may be individuals, families, service organizations, churches or other groups. Commitment as a

sponsor, while not a legal one, involves a clear moral obligation to help the refugee to the best of the sponsor's ability.

Many individuals and voluntary agencies are participating in the resettlement program by locating sponsors and facilitating the movement of refugees from the four reception centers to their new homes. These voluntary efforts have been exemplary, but we should not expect that they alone will accomplish this great humanitarian task as quickly as we would all wish.

I am encouraged that a number of States and local governments are developing programs to assist in expediting the resettlement of the refugees into their new communities. You have received information from the Advisory Committee about one of these programs which Governor Dan Evans launched in Washington State. This successful effort has led to placement of more than 500 refugees with sponsors throughout the State.

The Interagency Task Force is now prepared to contract with other States which choose to develop their own resettlement



programs. Funds are available to support State efforts through reimbursement of \$500 for each refugee placed.

In addition, 100 percent federal reimbursement is available to all States for Medicaid, financial assistance, and social services provided to refugees. Administrative costs related to the provision of such services will also be reimbursed. Financial support to help defray emergency costs incurred by school districts, should they enroll large numbers of refugee children, will also be available. These programs are further described in materials being transmitted to your State agencies through existing channels.

I have asked the Federal Regional Councils to assist the Task Force by aiding State and local governments in the development of programs which they wish to undertake. You may expect to hear from a representative of the Federal Regional Council in the near future.

Whether or not you choose to lead a resettlement effort in your State, your leadership in assuring State agency and private organization support of sponsoring families and individuals will provide invaluable assistance to this effort.

The responses of thousands of individuals and the untiring efforts of voluntary agencies have demonstrated again the generosity of Americans toward others seeking to find homes in our country. I hope you will consider ways in which your State may participate in this effort.

Sincerely,

