

Indochinese Refugee Reports

Information Exchange Project American Public Welfare Association
1125 Fifteenth Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20005 (202) 293-7550

Volume I, Number 1

May 1, 1979

IN THIS ISSUE:

Information Exchange Project.... 1-2

The Role of Volags in Refugee Resettlement2-4

I. Recent Developments

--*Comprehensive Refugee Act*.. 4

--*Appointments*.....4-5

--*Supplemental Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1979*.... 5

--*Unaccompanied Minors*.....5-6

II. Resource Exchange

--*IRAP Hot Line*..... 6

--*Center for Applied Linguistics Hotline*.....6-7

--*ABA Hot Line*..... 7

III. Statistical Reports

--*ICEM/INS Report*..... 8

--*Department of State Report*.. 8

INFORMATION EXCHANGE PROJECT

We are pleased to bring you this first issue of Indochinese Refugee Reports. The Special Programs Staff of the Office of Family Assistance, Social Security Administration, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare has awarded the American Public Welfare Association with a grant to establish an Information Exchange on the Indochinese refugee program. To provide information to those agencies involved in Indochinese refugee resettlement work, the project will publish the newsletter every two weeks.

Since the mailing list of newsletter is limited to 500 for budgetary reasons, we will be able to send it only to the most active organizations and agencies in Indochinese refugee resettlement.

The mailing list includes the Governors' offices, state and selected local public welfare agencies, national voluntary agencies (VOLAGS), Social Security Administration regional offices, selected mutual aid associations, international agencies, Executive Department refugee units, Senate Judiciary Committee members, House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship and International Law members, and the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy.

The Newsletter's usefulness will depend on the project receiving information from all involved agencies. We have written to the State Public Wel-

Indochinese Refugee Reports is published biweekly, by the Information Exchange Project, operated under Grant #96-P-9104/3-01 from the Office of Refugee Affairs in the Social Security Administration, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Project Staff: Marion Ritter, Project Manager • Theresa Ward Warner, Public Information Specialist • Janice Davis, Project Secretary

Kit Carson-Contributor

fare Agency Commissioners, Governors, National Voluntary Resettlement Agencies, and Special Projects for an initial solicitation of information. However, throughout the year, we hope all agencies will provide us with information on their activities and exemplary programs in refugee resettlement so that these can be reported on in the newsletter.

The newsletter will contain one or two feature articles on Indochinese refugee resettlement and related activities, followed by three regular sections. Following is a description of these sections.

Section 1. Recent Developments.
Coverage of the recent events related to Indochinese refugees in Congress, States, Voluntary agencies, and Southeast Asia.

Section 2. Resource Exchange.
Summary of various information resources, including national/state services, such as the ABA Hotline, and publications available from various agencies and organizations.

Section 3. Statistical Reports.
A statistical report, by state, on the current Indochinese refugee population arriving in the United States and the Department of State report on the number of refugees entering the camps.

We welcome all suggestions and comments on the newsletter. The more information you can provide us, the more useful the newsletter will be to all our readers. Also, please let us know of your suggestions for feature articles.

The project staff, Maureen Hassett Herman-Project Manager, and Ha Ton Vinh-Information Specialist, can be reached at (202) 833-9250.

We appreciate all the assistance we have received to date from various agencies and look forward to working with all of you throughout the year.

Volags

THE ROLE OF VOLAGs IN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

The key agencies involved in providing assistance to the refugees who arrive in the U.S. are the national voluntary agencies (VOLAGs) and the state and local public welfare agencies. Following is an overview of the voluntary agencies role in resettlement work.

VOLAGs

Since 1975 more than 190,000 Indochinese refugees have entered the United States. Assisting the U.S. Government to resettle these refugees are eight voluntary agencies (Volags). They are: United States Catholic Conference, International Rescue Committee, Church World Service, Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services, Hias, Inc., Tolstoy Foundation, Inc., American Council for Nationalities Service, and the American Fund for Czechoslovak Refugees. The Volags were initially called upon by an Interagency Task Force which was set up by former President Ford in April 1975 to coordinate evacuation activities, to be primarily responsible for the resettlement of these refugees. All of the Volags have proven their effectiveness in earlier refugee programs - those having their roots in World War II and in the more recent Hungarian and Cuban refugee movements.

Once the refugees have arrived in a country of temporary asylum, they are interviewed by local officials and by representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Then they are contacted by immigration officers of the embassies of the countries where they wish to be resettled, primarily the U.S., France, and Australia. Their request for entry into a country will be considered if they can satisfy a number of requirements concerning security and moral codes, for the U.S., according to four cate-

gories of preference. For those who want to come to the U.S., their bio-data forms will be established after the request is accepted. The bio-data forms, then, will be sent to the American Council of Voluntary Agencies (ACVA) in New York City which serves as a clearinghouse. The eight members, which serve Indo-chinese refugees of the ACVA, will find sponsors for them. For those who do not have sponsors, the ACVA subcommittee on distribution will divide the unsponsored cases among its members according to the capacity, resources and manpower of each agency.

Once the refugees are granted asylum in the U.S. under the sponsorship of one of the voluntary agencies, the Department of State will sign a contract with this agency which assigns the Volag with the resettlement responsibility for particular refugees and guarantees the Department of State will pay \$350 per person resettled to offset administrative and other expenses. After this contract is signed, ICEM will arrange the transportation to bring the refugees to the U.S.

To provide our readers with a better understanding of the Voluntary Agencies (Volags), Refugee Reports has interviewed the staff of Migration and Refugee Services of the United States Catholic Conference (USCC) which has a large network of local affiliates. Following is a summary of the resettlement work of the USCC.

USCC

Since the beginning of the Indo-chinese refugee program in May 1975, the United States Catholic Conference has provided homes, employment, job training and cultural services for more than 70,000 displaced persons in the U.S. The USCC has the total support of the Catholic church structure. With four regional centers and more than 170 diocesan offices, the USCC has been finding sponsors for the refugees and helping them ad-

just to life in the United States. The USCC and its agencies provide resettlement opportunities for all refugees admitted without regard to their race, religion, or political opinion.

If the refugees do not arrive at their sponsor's location, the USCC Operation Center arranges for flights to bring them to their sponsors. Sponsors are responsible to meet them at the airport, provide shelter and food until the head of the household for the family becomes self-sufficient, furnish clothing and incidentals as needed, give assistance in finding employment and in obtaining school enrollment for the children, and routine health care. After employment is secured, the sponsors are requested to help the refugees to find permanent housing. Sponsorship is the key for transition from refugee status to the position of self-sustaining member of the community.

After the refugees are settled in an area, they can receive assistance and guidance from various program staffs of the local USCC office. The local affiliate will help with its available resources, and sometimes will refer the refugees to the local public welfare agency for further assistance.

The USCC has 95 programs which make maximum use of the existing church social services and volunteer program. They cover language training, job development, counseling services and professional advancement.

Since the beginning of the Refugee Program, approximately 800 USCC supervisory staff members work to make the resettlement as efficient as possible. The headquarters of the USCC, in Washington, D.C., assumes the responsibility for establishing national policies and coordinating regional and local affiliates. With its operational center in New York, the USCC maintains close contact with the ACVA and its members. The four regional offices serve as a link between dioceses and parishes. They encourage affiliates to apply for the special projects funded by

the Indochina Refugee Assistance Program (IRAP) office (OFA/SSA/HEW), to provide mental health, English language/employment services to assist the refugees.

With the continuing growth in Indochinese refugees, there is a need for constant reevaluation and upgrading of all services. The USCC is seeking more cooperation from diocesan and government agencies to help the refugees have easier access to all the services available to them, and to speed up the resettlement of the refugees who are now in the Southeast Asian camps.

Whether or not a national voluntary resettlement agency has a large network of local affiliates like the USCC, each Volag plays an important role in the refugee resettlement process. They have responded to most of the needs of the refugees and are the primary vehicles to help them begin a new life.

Recent Developments

COMPREHENSIVE REFUGEE ACT OF 1979

Senator Edward Kennedy and Congressman Peter J. Rodino, Jr. and Congresswoman Elizabeth Holtzman introduced in Congress on March 13, 1979 "The Comprehensive Refugee Act of 1979."

The intent of this proposed legislation is to provide a permanent and systematic procedure for the admission of refugees of special concern to the United States. The bill authorizes for the admission of 50,000 refugees a year. The number of refugees may exceed 50,000 if the President in consultation with the Judiciary Committees determines prior to the beginning of the fiscal year that an additional number needs to be admitted. Also, the President is authorized to admit additional refugees in emergency

situations after consultation with Congress.

The bill also amends the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962. This act covers services and assistance to refugees. In the past each group of refugees has required special legislation, and as a result, each refugee group has been handled differently. It is the intent of this bill to provide a uniform policy for all refugee populations.

The bill will provide 100% federal financial participation for social services, cash assistance and medical care for refugees over a two year period which begins at the time of their entry into the U.S. The exception to the two year limit would be unaccompanied minors who would be covered until the age of majority.

Senator Kennedy held hearings on the bill before the full Judiciary Committee on March 14. In the House it was referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship and International Law of the House Judiciary Committee which has scheduled hearings for May 3, 1979.

The Senate bill number is S. 643.
The House bill number is H.R. 2816.

APPOINTMENTS

The Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy was established by Public Law 95-412, signed into law on October 5, 1978. The Commission will study and evaluate existing laws, policies and procedures governing the admission of immigrants and refugees to the U.S. and make administrative and legislative recommendations to the President and to the Congress as are appropriate.

The President appointed four public members on March 22, 1979: Reubin Askew, Chairman; Rose Matsui Ochi, Joaquin Otero and Cruz Reynoso. The Commission also includes the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Labor, and the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare; four members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, appointed by the President pro tem of the Senate, those appointed, who were announced in the

Senate on March 19, are Senators Kennedy, DeConcini, Mathias, and Simpson; four members of the House Judiciary Committee, appointed by the Speaker of the House on March 19, are Representatives Rodino, Holtzman, McClory, and Fish.

The Commission's address and phone number are:

Suite 636
Safeway Building
521 12th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530
(202) 724-7482

On March 29, the Senate confirmed the nomination of former Senator Dick Clark of Iowa to be an Ambassador at Large and United States Coordinator for Refugee Affairs. The U.S. Coordinator, working under the direction of the President and the Secretary of State, will be responsible for the coordination of all U.S. domestic and international refugee policies, programs, and activities.

On March 1, James L. Carlin, recently retired Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Humanitarian Affairs, took office at Geneva, Switzerland as Director of the 33-nation Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL
YEAR 1979

pending

The Administration requested in the 1980 budget message a \$51.7 million supplemental appropriation for fiscal year 1979 for expenses necessary to carry out the provisions of the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975, as amended by Public Law 95-549. Hearings on the supplemental appropriation request were held by the House and Senate Subcommittees on Labor-HEW Appropriations

during March. Since the spending ceiling under the second concurrent resolution for FY '79 budget has been reached by Congress, a third concurrent resolution must be passed by the Congress before a supplemental appropriation bill can be acted on by the House.

The Senate and House Budget Committees anticipate the third concurrent resolution for FY '79 to be in place by May 15 when the first concurrent resolution for FY '80 must be agreed upon by Congress. Therefore, it will be late May or June before the supplemental appropriation bill for Indochinese Refugee Assistance Program administered by SSA/HEW will be enacted.

The Administration has also requested a \$53.3 million supplemental appropriation in the 1980 budget message for migration and refugee assistance program of the Department of State. On April 2, 1979, the President requested an additional \$51.7 million, bringing the total 1979 Department of State supplemental request to \$104.9 million.

The proposed supplemental increase would provide for the U.S. portion of the cost for the care and maintenance abroad of increased numbers of African, Eastern European, and Indochinese refugees in camps. The increase also reflects transportation and placement costs for 30,000 of the additional 55,000 refugees that have been authorized to enter the U.S. in the near future under the parole authority of the Attorney General.

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS *see eff.*

In anticipation of the movement of approximately 500-600 unaccompanied minors from the refugee camps in Southeast Asia, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare recently issued an action transmittal (program instruction) on child welfare services for unaccompanied minors. The transmittal discusses procedures for States and

Volags to follow in developing and providing child welfare services to refugee children who will be relocated in their States.

It also states that the local voluntary agency shall arrange with their State or local public welfare agency for services to the children before they are relocated.

This action transmittal will assist in pre-planning for the placement of unaccompanied minors and, hopefully, will expedite the movement of minors from the camps.

Resource Exchange

noted

IRAP HOTLINE

The Information and Referral Division of the Indochinese Refugee Assistance Program (IRAP), (OFA/SSA/HEW) continues to operate a toll-free line to meet the continuing post-resettlement needs of refugees and their sponsors.

Staffed by multilingual Indochinese refugees, the division provides a variety of information to an average of 71 callers per day. The IRAP hotline personnel are fluent in English, French, Vietnamese, Thai, Black Thai, Cambodian, Lao and Chinese. Most of the calls are from refugees. Many inquiries are received by mail and are answered in the appropriate language. Most frequently asked questions involve family reunification, government programs, adjustment of status, education, translation and publications. The majority of the inquiries are handled by referring refugees to locally-available sources of assistance. Specialized information, which is not available locally, is also provided. Serious resettlement problems are referred to the appropriate agencies, such as the Voluntary agencies, HEW

regional offices, American Bar Association and others.

An analysis of the calls received by the IRAP staff indicates that education is one of the primary concerns of the refugees. The Indochinese Refugees realize that they must improve their English and receive training before they can find a good job. In fiscal year 1978, the IRAP hotline staff received 16,051 calls.

The Hotline is often used to help the refugees resolve intergenerational problems and avoid cultural shocks. Children run away from home, and feel that their parents have nothing to offer them in this new society. Parents are unable to communicate and to understand the turning point in their children's life. The Hotline staff were in many cases able to bring the children back home and convince the parents to accept the lifestyle of their children.

The toll-free number is 800-424-0212. In Washington, D.C. area call 472-2481.

feedback not.

CENTER FOR APPLIED LINGUISTICS HOTLINE

For the last twenty years the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) has been engaged in working toward the solution of language problems in social and educational spheres, nationally and internationally. One of CAL's strongest capabilities has been in the area of fast and effective response to urgent requests for expertise in language-related areas. Within three days of the fall of Saigon in April 1975, the Center was at work to help the new refugees, their American sponsors and teachers cope with the problems that a large influx of non-English speaking refugees would encounter.

With less than a month remaining before the beginning of the school year in 1975, the newly-established National Indochinese Clearinghouse in the Center for Applied Linguistics set up a system to meet the needs

of the new refugees. In addition to the core staff with expertise in linguistics, ^{and} cross-cultural orientation, Southeast Asian cultures and languages, elementary and secondary education, a toll-free Hotline was installed and advertised in over 200 educational journals and voluntary agency newsletters.

In the first nine months of operation the Clearinghouse handled over 16,000 Hotline calls. The importance of the Hotline should be underscored as it was primarily this device which kept the Clearinghouse staff informed of needs and concerns in the field, and provided almost immediate feedback on the effectiveness of CAL's work. The Hotline not only provided a source of educational information, but often was the only source of aid in situations of distress. The CAL's Indochinese staff often found themselves translating over the phone for small-town doctors treating sick children, or consoling refugee mothers overwhelmed by new environment and new culture. The Hotline also has become a very useful way of warding off panic in teachers and sponsors by immediately making available information and advice which simply could not be obtained elsewhere.

Besides the Hotline, the CAL's National Indochinese Clearinghouse has produced quality materials rapidly which are linguistically and cross-culturally accurate without sounding academic and pedantic. It has also provided educators and volunteers with information to aid in education and resettlement tasks. Through its large network, the CAL in the first nine months of operation has been successful in compiling a mailing list of over 10,000 teachers, administrators, refugee sponsors and volunteers. The center has collected and analyzed over 1,200 volumes of texts and educational materials, produced 47 separate Refugee Education Guides, conducted 38 workshops and conferences, produced a 280-page Manual for Indochinese Refugee Education of which 10,000 copies were distributed to schools.

The National Indochinese Clearinghouse's toll-free number is 800-336-3040.

In Washington, D.C. area call 528-4312.

THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION HOTLINE

feature

The Resettlement Liaison Division of the Indochinese Refugee Assistance Program is continuing through the American Bar Association (ABA) a toll-free telephone line for refugees to obtain legal help. During fiscal year 1978, the Young Lawyers Section of the American Bar Association received a total of 200 new cases, most of them dealing with legal adoption, guardianship, marital problems and immigration questions.

Once the refugee or sponsor places a call to seek help, the ABA Hotline staff will analyze the situation and the legal aspects of the case. The staff will then refer the caller to local volunteer attorneys. Since state laws differ, the ABA Hotline staff cannot always give a complete and satisfactory answer. So most questions are handled through ABA's network of volunteer attorneys around the nation.

ABA Hotline customers often receive assistance and consultation free of charge. Minimal cost could be involved in some instances (divorce, law suit, etc.). In these cases, clients choose the lawyers designated by ABA Hotline staff to represent them or they can go to other private attorneys for help.

The ABA Hotline operates 24 hours through its telephone answering machine. Ms. Tina Herlinger, Director of the Indochinese Refugee Legal Assistance Program, will be in the office from 1 to 4 p.m. E.D.T., Monday through Friday, to answer questions and to refer the individual cases to lawyers around the nation.

The telephone number is 800-334-0074.

In North Carolina call collect 682-0315.

Statistical Reports

As of April 27, 1979

1. Alabama	1,503
2. Alaska	259
3. Arizona	1,416
4. Arkansas	1,985
5. California	53,445
6. Colorado	4,032
7. Connecticut	1,900
8. Delaware	199
9. District of Columbia	2,328
10. Florida	6,036
11. Georgia	1,931
12. Hawaii	3,429
13. Idaho	465
14. Illinois	6,743
15. Indiana	2,109
16. Iowa	3,490
17. Kansas	2,379
18. Kentucky	1,162
19. Louisiana	7,811
20. Maine	321
21. Maryland	3,006
22. Massachusetts	1,772
23. Michigan	3,484
24. Minnesota	5,006
25. Mississippi	826
26. Missouri	3,252
27. Montana	541
28. Nebraska	1,761
29. Nevada	930
30. New Hampshire	145
31. New Jersey	1,949
32. New Mexico	996
33. New York	5,788
34. North Carolina	1,495
35. North Dakota	401
36. Ohio	3,418
37. Oklahoma	3,965
38. Oregon	5,023
39. Pennsylvania	8,867
40. Rhode Island	999
41. South Carolina	931
42. South Dakota	513
43. Tennessee	1,868
44. Texas	17,668
45. Utah	1,310
46. Vermont	52
47. Virginia	7,214
48. Washington	7,096
49. West Virginia	136
50. Wisconsin	3,018
51. Wyoming	96
52. Guam	387
53. Puerto Rico	36
54. Virgin Islands	17
55. Unknown State	499
	196,848

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The Department of State gave the following figures for Indochinese refugees in Thailand camps and boat refugees in other Southeast Asian countries.

INDOCHINESE REFUGEE POPULATION

As of April 25, 1979

Thailand (inland camps)	150,000
Boat Refugees (other than Thailand)	
Malaysia	60,000
Hong Kong	20,000
Indonesia	10,000
Philippines	4,000
Taiwan	800
Japan	400
Singapore	200
TOTAL	245,400

Also, the Department of State reports boat refugees from Vietnam are now averaging 10,000 - 12,000 per month and refugees coming from Laos have increased to 6,000 per month during the last three months.

This statistical report is compiled from two sources: the annual Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Alien Report as a base and weekly updates of new refugees arrivals obtained through the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM). Only the January INS report gives any indication of refugee movement among the states. The current INS base figure used is from the INS January 1978 report.