Approved For Release 2006/08/01 : CIA-RDP81M00980R001400110028-5

SECRET

OLC RECORD COPY

OLC 78-0357/18
31 May 1978

DoJ

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing of Senior Members of the House Judiciary Committee

1. [redacted] I called Doris Meissner, Deputy to the Associate Attorney General Michael Egan, of the Department of Justice, and Shep Lohman, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Humanitarian Affairs, and cleared the Agency's background briefing on the refugee situation in Vietnam requested today by Jim Cline, Staff Director, for the House Judiciary Committee Members Joshua Eilberg (D., Pa.), Hamilton Fish, Jr. (R., N.Y.) and Robert McClory (R., Ill.) to be held this afternoon. The briefing was requested for background information to consider the Attorney General's proposal to parole 25,000 additional refugees from Vietnam. 25X1

2. [redacted] Meissner and Lohman recognized that the Agency would have to provide such a briefing particularly in view of the strong press play to the ethnic Chinese problem in Vietnam over last weekend. I explained the thrust of the briefing and they felt they could handle any of the questions which the Members might raise when they meet with them tomorrow morning. They asked that I pass on to them anything significant which the Members might raise during the briefing to prepare them for tomorrow's meeting. Meissner pointed out that Eilberg, as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship and International Law, and Chairman James O. Eastland (D., Miss.), Senate Judiciary Committee, have been opposed to a large entry of Vietnamese refugees into the United States. For this reason, the Administration is submitting a package deal to the Congress to include refugees from Vietnam, Latin America, and Jewish refugees from the Soviet Union. 25X1

3. [redacted] Ms. Meissner said the refugee situation in Vietnam would be covered by Lohman. She said that though the Attorney General does have the ultimate authority to parole refugees, he does consult with the Judiciary Committee before making any final decisions. In this instance, the additional 25,000 refugees would be drawn from those now in refugee camps in Southeast Asia. She added that the Administration undoubtedly would be opposed to accepting large numbers of ethnic Chinese who choose to leave Vietnam due to the nationalization of industries ordered in March. 25X1

MORI/CDF

SECRET

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION

25X1

Approved For Release 2006/08/01 : CIA-RDP81M00980R001400110028-5

Approved For Release 2006/08/01 : CIA-RDP81M00980R001400110028-5

25X1

4. [redacted] Lohman said he was knowledgeable of the refugee situation in Vietnam. He did ask if I knew what prompted the ethnic Chinese in North Vietnam to leave the country. After checking with [redacted] Chief of the [redacted] Branch, DDO, I called Lohman back and informed him that the main reasons were the nationalization and resettlement orders which were issued in March. 25X1 25X1 25X1

5. [redacted] The briefing of Representatives Eilberg, Fish and McClory was held in Room H328 of the Capitol from 4:45 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. and was given by [redacted] Also present were staffers Cline, Skip Endres and Peter Regis. Eilberg pressed [redacted] to approximate the number of the one million ethnic Chinese in the South who would be refugees. [redacted] said he could not give a figure; however, he felt that undoubtedly many will choose to leave if the regime allows them to do so. If they do leave, he doubted that any country in Southeast Asia would take them. He also said that any that left would have to go by boat. The Members were negative as to allowing large numbers of ethnic Chinese to enter the U.S. I told Cline later that we had notified the Attorney General and State offices that we were requested to brief the Members and that we would offer no position on the proposal. 25X1 25X1 25X1

6. [redacted] After the briefing, I called Meissner and Lohman. I alerted them that the Members will press as to what the Administration's position will be if a mass exodus of Chinese from Vietnam occurs. Also, they will be pressed as to who will be included in the 25,000 additional refugees and if ethnic Chinese will be included. I also told them that I had informed Cline that their offices had been informed of the briefing. Both were appreciative of the information. 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

Acting Chief, Coordination and Review Staff

Distribution:
1 - [redacted] 25X1
1 - OLC Subject
1 - OLC Chron
OLC:PLC:jms (31 May 1978)

Approved For Release 2006/08/01 : CIA-RDP81M00980R001400110028-5