

*Brief*

18 April 1978

OLC #78-1709

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Congressional Briefing

1. On 17 April 1978, [redacted] along with

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[redacted]  
[redacted] (OGCR) went to Capitol Hill to brief members of the House Committee on International Relations on current conditions in Indochina. Attending the closed session for the Congress were Lester Wolff (NY), Anthony Beilenson (CA), Helen Meyer (NJ), L.H. Fountain (NC) and Tennyson Guyer (OH), as well as several staff members and the CIA congressional liaison officer.

2. The two hour session was keyed to an analysis and discussion of Indochinese refugees and especially to the political, environmental and economic forces that cause their continuing flight from Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. After short, prepared presentations by OGCR, ORPA, and OER, the briefing opened up to a question and answer session. Within OER's bailiwick, Members were most interested in agricultural production and food problems in the three countries.

3. The meeting closed on two specific notes. The Committee noted that at some point the US would have to face reality and develop an active foreign policy toward Indochina, especially because Vietnam is the third largest Communist country in the world. The Members said that Congress, not the Executive, was the major impediment. Finally, Chairman Wolff pointed out that in retrospect Congress would have benefitted from closer attention to the CIA's correct analysis of events during the war with Vietnam instead of the frequently biased analysis emanating from other quarters.

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[redacted]

Southern Asia Branch

- Orig. & 1 - D/SA
- 1 - D/OER, DD/OER, Ex/OER
- 1 - D/D 1 - OLC 1 - [redacted]
- 1 - [redacted]
- 3 - [redacted]

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OER/D/SA: [redacted]

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