

STATE OF WASHINGTON  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
DANIEL J. EVANS, GOVERNOR

Jay Fredericksen, Press Secretary Olympia Phone: 753-6780 (Area Code 206)



FOR RELEASE

May 8, 1975

NEWS RELEASE--State to Sponsor Vietnamese Refugees

OLYMPIA--Governor Dan Evans said today the State of Washington has agreed to participate in the resettlement and sponsorship of at least 500 refugees from Vietnam.

Evans earlier had indicated the state's willingness to participate in the resettlement program and a formal request from the State Department to take up to 500 refugees initially was received today.

The Governor said the state will be ready to receive the first 100 refugees from Camp Pendleton, Calif., early next week. They will be housed at Camp Murray, headquarters for the Washington National Guard which is adjacent to Fort Lewis.

"All of our state agencies pledge their fullest support to this humanitarian effort," Evans said.

All arrangements are being coordinated by Tom Pryor, director of the State Department of Emergency Services.

L. Dean Brown, the President's director of the Indochina Interagency Task Force, told Evans in a telegram that costs to the state for resettlement, health, income maintenance, and social services will be reimbursed by the federal government.

"I want you to know," he said, "how much I appreciate your willingness to play such a key role in the resettlement of these victims of the Vietnam tragedy. What you will do is in the finest tradition of our country."

The Governor urged citizens of the state to participate in the resettlement program. Anyone wishing to sponsor a Vietnamese refugee or wishing to help in any other way should contact the Department of Emergency Services in Olympia at 206-753-5255.

NOTE TO NEWS MEDIA--When arrangements for the arrival of the refugees have been completed, the Governor's Office will notify you.

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FOR RELEASE

April 3, 1975

NOTICE TO NEWS MEDIA

Attached is a copy of a letter the Governor will hand deliver to the President tomorrow in San Francisco.

The letter advises the President of this area's willingness and the capability to accommodate up to 1,500 children from Vietnam if the President were to order planes carrying orphans to fly into McChord Air Force Base.

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OFFICE OF GOVERNOR

April 3, 1975

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford  
President of the United States  
San Francisco, California

Dear Mr. President:

With only two hours advance notice, the City of Seattle is ready and eager to put into operation the following capabilities for accommodating the American-Vietnamese children being flown from Saigon to the United States.

The City of Seattle's Department of Emergency Service and the Pacific Northwest Division of the American Red Cross will provide vehicles to be used as pickup transportation at McChord Air Force Base and/or Sea-Tac International Airport to the Sand Point Naval Air Station and/or Fort Lewis.

500 beds at Sand Point Naval Air Station and 1000 beds at Fort Lewis are ready. This is quarantined military housing; we will not disperse these children into individual foster homes. Many will be ill, and they are not immunized. There will be military supervision, nurses' care and doctors' care, cooks and interpreters -- all donating their time and efforts. Trained personnel will provide total 24 hour medical coverage and handle injuries and deaths. Immunization programs are set up and ready. The Red Cross and military personnel will furnish interpreters, and the Red Cross will provide bedding, clothing, and diapers.

The Travelers' Aid Society and WAIF, coordinators of this program, are able to provide total security to these children and to see that they are distributed to the proper adoptive agencies, who will see to their being placed with their proper adoptive families. There has been a continuing communication between all adoptive agencies and coordinators.

The Mayor of Seattle's Office, The City of Seattle's Department of Emergency Services, and such public services as the Pacific Northwest Bell Telephone Company, are staying in constant touch. Our citizens have responded with donations of food, clothing, and money sent to the Red Cross Donation Center here ready to go to the military bases.

President Gerald R. Ford  
April 3, 1975

We urge you, Mr. President, in the cause of the health and emotional tranquility of these young lives, to provide them with the very best care available. The City of Seattle is waiting and ready.

Sincerely,

Pat Kelty, Director  
Travelers' Aid Society

Nelda Gregor, President  
Seattle Area Chapter, WAIF

PK/NG:cc

Hand carried by Governor Daniel J. Evans

YD