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Vietnamese orphans and refugees

NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE

Form 4
PC 4/9

Reference:—

Criminal Intelligence Section,
Number 1.....DIVISION
'C' DISTRICT.
DARWIN.....STATIONTO:— Officer in Charge,
No. 1 Division,
'C' DISTRICT.

21 December, 1976.

REPORT OF:— Wayne M. VON HOFF, P.C. Sergeant 3/C, Reg.No. 373.

SUBJECT:— ARRIVAL OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN DARWIN ON 18 DECEMBER, 1976.

I wish to advise that at 3.15pm. 18 December, 1976 information was received from Mr. ANGEL of the Marine Operations Centre, Canberra, that a 'malay type fishing boat is 1 mile off North West Channel Rock in Darwin Harbour. Appears to be Asian refugees.'

2. Reporting member was advised by Communications Section, Darwin Station at approximately 3.30pm. 18 December, 1976 and as a result attended with Constable VANDERHAAR at the Stokes Hill Wharf at 4.10pm.

3. There I observed a wooden, sixteen metre vessel bearing identification P.K. 504, anchored about 75 metres east of the Stokes Hill Wharf. Customs, Quarantine and Animal Industries officials were in attendance. Mr. LIVERIS of the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs was contacted. It was ascertained that there were fifty-six men, women and children on board.

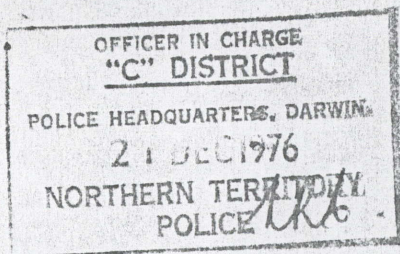
4. The following note, printed in block letters was handed to Customs officials who boarded the boat. "PLEASE HELP - WE US FOR FREEDONG. WE LIVE IN SOUTH VIETNAM. DONT LIVE WITH VIETNAM COMMUNISE FROM NHA-TRANG OF SOUTH VIETNAM. WE GONE TO AUSTRALIA. PLEASE AUSTRALIA GOVERNMENT HELP US LIVE IN AUSTRALIA. THERE ARE 56 PERSON IN THE BOAD. 18 MANS, 10 WOMANS, 14 BOYS, 14 GIRLS. THERE ARE TEN FAMILLYS. WE SHALL KEEP AUSTRALIA LAW, WILL GOODMAN."

5. When Customs and Quarantine officials had completed their initial inspection of the boat and persons on board, the boat was moved to the wharf where it tied up and persons disembarked. The boat was then moved to a point near its original position and tied to a buoy.

Full details of persons on board were then obtained. The attached list sets out the family groups, name, position in the family, age, sex and occupation. There were no serious medical problems apparent, but I am informed that eight persons, mostly children are presently being treated for scabies.

7. It was ascertained that these persons left NHA-TRANG in South Vietnam on 28 October, 1976 and travelled to Darwin via Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Djakarta and Kupang. No person on board claimed to have relatives in Australia, but all still wished to reside in Australia.

8. At the present time all persons are being accommodated at the East Arm Quarantine Station, pending a full medical assessment and a decision by Immigration authorities regarding the status that will be afforded these persons. It is expected that all persons will travel per T.A.A. to Brisbane on 21 December, 1976.



Wayne M. Von Hoff
 (Wayne M. VON HOFF)
 P.C. Sergeant 3/C, Reg. No. 373.

P1.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION IN FAMILY</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>SEX</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>
NGUYEN CANG (CAPTAIN)	HUSBAND	39	M	PLANT OPERATOR
NGUYEN NGOC ANH	SINGLE	20	M	STUDENT
PHAN QUANG DINH	HUSBAND	26	M	MEDICAL ORDERLY
PHAN THANH DUC	SINGLE	24	M	DRIVER
NGUYEN THANH TRUNG	HUSBAND	28	M	LABOURER
NGUYEN TAN HAI	HUSBAND	24	M	DRIVER
NGUYEN KIM HUNG	SINGLE	22	M	PLANT OPERATOR
TON HONG DUC	HUSBAND	37	M	PLANT OPERATOR
DO TRAN THAI	SINGLE	20	M	CLERK
TRAN LE THAI	SINGLE	23	M	ELECTRICIAN
TRAN CAU	HUSBAND	20	M	STUDENT
NGUYEN THI XUAN	WIFE	19	F	TAILORRESS
TRAN BINH MINH	HUSBAND	21	M	TEACHER
TRAN THI THANH XUAN	WIFE	21	F	TEACHER
TRAN THAI QUANG	SON	1	M	INFANT
TRAN NGOC CANH	HUSBAND	29	M	POLICEMAN
LE THI BINH	WIFE	27	F	HOME DUTIES
TRAN THI NGOC KIM	DAUGHTER	5	F	CHILD
TRAN THI MY HOANG	DAUGHTER	3	F	CHILD
TRAN THI THU TRANG	DAUGHTER	1	F	CHILD
NGUYEN QUOC TRI	HUSBAND	36	M	ELECTRICIAN
TRAN THI NHA	WIFE	27	F	HOME DUTIES
NGUYEN QUOC TUAN	SON	4	M	CHILD
NGUYEN QUOC TU	SON	2	M	CHILD
NGUYEN QUOC TAN	SON	7mths	M	CHILD
TRAN DIEU	HUSBAND	51	M	LABOURER
HO THI PHO	WIFE	46	F	HOME DUTIES
TRAN THI HIEP	DAUGHTER	17	F	STUDENT
TRAN NGOC HOA	SON	13	M	STUDENT
TRAN NGOC HUNG	SON	11	M	STUDENT
TRAN NGOC DUNG	SON	9	M	STUDENT

TRAN TRONG	HUSBAND	39	M	CARPENTER
PHAM THI THUY	WIFE	37	F	HOME DUTIES
TRAN THI THANH THUONG	DAUGHTER	13	F	STUDENT
TRAN THI THANH TAM	DAUGHTER	11	F	STUDENT
TRAN THI THANH THUY	DAUGHTER	8	F	STUDENT
TRAN THI THANG NGA	DAUGHTER	5	F	STUDENT
TRAN NGOC DUC	SON	2	M	CHILD
LAM QUE DUNG	HUSBAND	40	M	SECURITY GUARD
LU THI NGOC NGA	WIFE	33	F	HOME DUTIES
LAM THI NGUYET HUE	DAUGHTER	15	F	STUDENT
LAM HIEN NHON	SON	13	M	STUDENT
LAM HIEN NGHIA	SON	11	M	STUDENT
LAM HIEN HIEU	SON	10	M	STUDENT
LAM THI TINH TRANG	DAUGHTER	8	F	STUDENT
LAM THI TINH MY	DAUGHTER	4	F	CHILD
LAM THI TINH PHOI	DAUGHTER	1	F	CHILD
TRAN HOANG KIEM	HUSBAND	37	M	POLICEMAN
PHAM THI CUOC	WIFE	33	F	HOME DUTIES
TRAN HOANG SON	SON	11	M	STUDENT
TRAN THI NHU MAI	DAUGHTER	9	F	STUDENT
TRAN THI NHU HANH	DAUGHTER	7	F	STUDENT
TRAN THI NHU THUY	DAUGHTER	5	F	STUDENT
TRAN HOANG THANH	SON	2	M	CHILD
TRAN HOANG TRUNG	SON	2	M	CHILD
TRAN THI NHU MY	DAUGHTER	1	F	CHILD



NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

ADMINISTRATOR'S COUNCIL

Your Honour,

The Clerk
Administrator's Council

Mr. Liveris, Department of Immigration, telephoned early (about 8.40) a.m. 4/12 to advise the following.

The tanker, Entalina, is due in this morning with 150 refugees on board. His officers will go on board and will follow the normal interview procedures. A report will go to Central office after which a decision will be made.

At no time has there been cause to believe that authority had been granted for the refugees to be landed and there could be a reaction to any decision or a delay in a decision being given.

Because of the nature of the cargo, the tanker will not start to unload while the refugees are on board.

Mr. Liveris will be available throughout the day, and will keep you informed of developments.

*Adel
4/12*

*Noted
[Signature]
4 Dec..*



NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA
ADMINISTRATOR'S COUNCIL

The Clerk
Administrator's Council,
P.O. Box 497,
Darwin. N.T. 5794.

Phone No. (08) 8 50

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Because of the nature of the cargo, the tanker will not start to unload while the refugees are on board.

Mr. Olivier will be available throughout the day, and will keep you informed of developments.

Handwritten signature or initials



NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

ADMINISTRATOR'S COUNCIL

Your Honour,

Mr. Frank Johnston, of the Immigration Department, telephoned and gave me the following information for you.

A British vessel, a Shell tanker ENTRELENA, London registered, has picked up 140 refugees and is due in Darwin on Tuesday, 4 December, 11 a.m.

The matter is with the Minister at the moment and it is expected a decision will be available later today about the refugees.

It is assumed that the refugees are Vietnamese and that they were picked up out of Singapore, in view of the expected arrival date of the vessel in Darwin. Details available are sketchy. However, if you have any questions, please contact Mr. Johnston and he will keep you informed of developments as they occur.

Mr. Johnston 81 4566

Adel
2/11

Noted
1/12
3/12



NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

ADMINISTRATOR'S COUNCIL

Phone No.

The Clerk
Administrator's Council,
P.O. Box 497,
Darwin. N.T. 5794.

Mr. Frank Johnston, of the Immigration Department, telephoned
and gave me the following information for you.
A British vessel, a Shell tanker MATRILINA, London registered,
has picked up 100 refugees and is due in Darwin on Tuesday,
12 December, 11 a.m.
The matter is with the Minister at the moment and it is
expected a decision will be available later today about
the refugees.
It is assumed that the refugees are Vietnamese and that
they were picked up out of Singapore, in view of the expected
arrival date of the vessel in Darwin. Details available are
sketchy. However, if you have any questions, please contact
Mr. Johnston and he will keep you informed of developments
as they occur.

Mr. Johnston 81 4566

Your Honour,

Mr. Liveris telephoned to say that the next Vietnamese boat is due in at 12.30 p.m. today. There are 34 people on board, 21 men, 9 women, 2 boys and 2 babies.

The 113 people who arrived yesterday are still on board. No decision has yet been made.

Adell
10/4

Sighted
10/4 10/4.



NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

ADMINISTRATOR'S COUNCIL

Your Honour,

Mr. Liveris telephoned to inform you of the arrival in Darwin on Sunday morning of a boatload of Vietnamese people.

There were 93 on board, mostly women and children. The boat is a 60 ft. steel vessel and it was terribly over-crowded. Efforts are being made to get at least the women and children off today. The boat left the port of Cantho on 24 May.

Adel
26/6

Noted
JG
26/6



NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA
ADMINISTRATOR'S COUNCIL

The Clerk
Administrator's Council,
P.O. Box 497,
Darwin. N.T. 5794.

Phone No.

There were 22 on board, mostly women and children. The boat is a 60 ft steel vessel and it was terribly overcrowded. Efforts are being made to get at least the women and children off today. The boat left the port of Darwin on 24 May.



WITH THE COMPLIMENTS
OF THE
REGIONAL DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION
AND ETHNIC AFFAIRS

DARWIN

17 MAY 1978

36/78

Handwritten: 17/5
24/5

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES ADDITION MEASURES ON
INDO-CHINESE REFUGEES

THE GOVERNMENT REAFFIRMED ITS CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO THE RESETTLEMENT OF INDO-CHINESE REFUGEES TODAY.

"AUSTRALIA HAS A PROUD HISTORY AS A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR IN RESETTLEMENT AND ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PEOPLE. WE WILL CONTINUE THIS ROLE BY HELPING TO ALLEVIATE THE PLIGHT OF PEOPLE IN OVER-CROWDED CAMPS IN MALAYSIA AND THAILAND," THE MINISTER FOR IMMIGRATION AND ETHNIC AFFAIRS, THE HON. M.J.R. MACKELLAR, SAID IN RELEASING DETAILS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION.

"ONE OF THE FIRST ACTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT AFTER COMING TO OFFICE IN 1975 WAS TO ARRANGE FOR THE RESETTLEMENT OF INDO-CHINESE REFUGEES. SINCE THEN WE HAVE CONTINUED TO SHOW OUR CONCERN FOR THOSE WHO HAVE FLED VIETNAM, LAOS AND CAMBODIA."

MR. MACKELLAR SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN FOR REFUGEES HAD BEEN REFLECTED THROUGH A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES INCLUDING:

- THE SETTING UP OF MACHINERY TO DESIGNATE REFUGEE SITUATIONS AND APPROPRIATE RESPONSES TO THEM,
- DECISIONS TO TAKE INCREASING NUMBERS OF INDO-CHINESE IN 1977/78,
- THE LOCATION OF IMMIGRATION TEAMS IN THAILAND AND MALAYSIA TO ENABLE THIS TO BE ACHIEVED,
- THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REFUGEE BRANCH IN THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION AND ETHNIC AFFAIRS,
- THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMITTEE ON THE DETERMINATION OF REFUGEE STATUS (THE DORS COMMITTEE) TO DETERMINE APPLICATIONS FROM PEOPLE IN AUSTRALIA CLAIMING REFUGEE STATUS.

"THE REFUGEE SITUATION IN THAILAND AND MALAYSIA HAS REACHED EXTREMELY SERIOUS PROPORTIONS. OVER 110,000 REFUGEES ARE CURRENTLY IN CAMPS IN THAILAND AND OVER 7,500 ARE IN CAMPS IN MALAYSIA", MR. MACKELLAR SAID.

"DURING RECENT WEEKS THE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES ARRIVING IN SMALL BOATS OFF THE COAST OF THAILAND AND MALAYSIA HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED WITH OVER 4,000 ARRIVING IN THE PAST MONTH.

"THE CROWDED CONDITION OF THE CAMPS, THE ESCALATING NUMBERS OF PEOPLE LEAVING VIETNAM AND THE CONTINUING UNAUTHORISED ARRIVAL OF REFUGEES IN NORTHERN AUSTRALIA HAS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF A CONTINUING AND BROADER INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO THE INDO-CHINESE REFUGEE SITUATION.

"THESE MATTERS WERE THE SUBJECT OF INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO AUSTRALIA. THE UNITED STATES HAS INDICATED A COMMITMENT TOWARDS MOVING MORE QUICKLY THOSE THEY HAVE ACCEPTED FOR ENTRY TO THEIR COUNTRY. THIS INCLUDES REFUGEES WHO ARRIVED WITHOUT AUTHORISATION IN AUSTRALIA BUT WHO HAD ALREADY BEEN ACCEPTED FOR RESETTLEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES.

"THE UNITED STATES WOULD ALSO JOIN WITH AUSTRALIA IN EFFORTS TO OBTAIN WIDER INTERNATIONAL INVOLVEMENT IN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT. IT WAS AGREED THAT CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS ON THE REFUGEE PROBLEM WOULD TAKE PLACE."

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WHICH HAD BEEN CONSTANTLY MONITORING DEVELOPMENTS, HAD NOW DECIDED ON A NUMBER OF FURTHER INITIATIVES. THESE INCLUDE:

- OUR DETERMINATION TO ACTIVELY PURSUE THE "INTERNATIONALISATION" OF THE APPROACH TO THE INDO-CHINESE SITUATION BY CONCERTED ACTION WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND OTHER RECEIVING COUNTRIES TO PERSUADE MORE NATIONS TO ACCEPT REFUGEES FOR RESETTLEMENT,
- HIGH LEVEL APPROACHES TO REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS SEEKING THEIR CO-OPERATION IN HOLDING VIETNAMESE VESSELS IN TRANSIT TO ENABLE PROCESSING OF BOAT PEOPLE IN THOSE COUNTRIES,
- A DECISION TO ACCEPT 9,000 INDO-CHINESE REFUGEES IN 1978/79,
- AN APPROACH TO THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES SEEKING GREATER INVOLVEMENT OF THAT ORGANISATION AMONG RECEIVING COUNTRIES AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS.

"PROVIDED OTHER COUNTRIES ALSO PLAY THEIR PART, WE CAN ASSIST IN THE MORE RAPID RESETTLEMENT OF INDO-CHINESE REFUGEES FROM THE CAMPS TO TRY TO REACH AUSTRALIA," MR. MACKELLAR SAID.

"IN SAYING THIS, I WOULD STRESS THAT OUR RESPONSES TO DATE HAVE BEEN LARGELY EFFECTIVE. ONE NEEDS ONLY TO COMPARE THE FIGURES OF OVER 4,000 BOAT PEOPLE REACHING TRANSIT CAMPS IN THAILAND AND MALAYSIA DURING THE LAST MONTH WITH THE 1,500 WHO HAVE SAILED TO AUSTRALIA IN THE LAST 2 YEARS.

"NEVERTHELESS, THE SITUATION IS OBVIOUSLY OF CONCERN AND I PLAN TO VISIT A NUMBER OF REGIONAL CAPITALS SOON TO ASSESS THE SITUATION PERSONALLY, TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENTS AND TO REPORT FURTHER TO THE CABINET."



NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

Your Honour,

Mr. Keith Owen, of Immigration & Ethnic Affairs, telephoned 3.45 p.m. 21/3 in connection with a news item on the front page of today's N.T. News, the story about Vietnamese boats coming in.

His message is that we are possibly expecting one boat in over Easter, with 108 people aboard.

He will keep this office informed of developments.

(Message telephoned to Mr. Loveday's secretary 3.55 p.m.)

Noted J.P. 25/3 (stand rec'd 21/3)



NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA
ADMINISTRATOR'S COUNCIL

The Clerk
Administrator's Council,
P.O. Box 497,
Darwin. N.T. 5794.

Phone No.

Over, of Immigration & Ethnic Affairs, telephone
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He will keep this office informed of developments.

(Message telephoned to Mr. Lovelady's secretary 3.55 p.m.)

[Faint handwritten signature]

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER FOR IMMIGRATION AND ETHNIC AFFAIRS, THE HON. M.J.R. MACKELLAR AND THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH, THE HON. R.J. HUNT

23 NOVEMBER 1977

1EA 90/77

NEW REFUGEE TASK-FORCE FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA, INCREASED COASTAL SURVEILLANCE

THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED THAT A TEAM OF EXPERIENCED IMMIGRATION OFFICERS WILL TRAVEL TO THE MALAYSIA-SINGAPORE AREA NEXT WEEK TO INTERVIEW AND PROCESS BOAT PEOPLE FROM INDO-CHINA APPLYING TO COME TO AUSTRALIA.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY BY THE MINISTER FOR IMMIGRATION AND ETHNIC AFFAIRS, MR. MACKELLAR, AND THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MR. HUNT.

IN A JOINT STATEMENT, THE MINISTERS ALSO SAID THAT URGENT CONSIDERATION WAS BEING GIVEN TO SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS ESSENTIAL TO SAFEGUARD AUSTRALIA AGAINST UNAUTHORISED ENTRY AND TO MAINTAIN THE EFFECTIVE STANDARDS OF QUARANTINE WHICH HAD PREVAILED IN AUSTRALIA.

THERE WERE THE IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS OF PROTECTING AUSTRALIA AGAINST THE INTRODUCTION OF DISEASES WHICH COULD THREATEN AUSTRALIAN LIVESTOCK INDUSTRIES AND AGRICULTURE.

ANY NECESSARY CHANGES IN REQUIREMENTS FOR SURVEILLANCE AND PATROL WOULD BE CONSIDERED URGENTLY BY THE INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SURVEILLANCE.

IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT ENTRY TO AUSTRALIA WAS CONTROLLED - BUT ANY ACTION TAKEN TO ENSURE THIS HAD TO BE LEAVENED WITH HUMANITY AND COMPASSION FOR THE PLIGHT OF GENUINE REFUGEES.

THE MINISTERS SAID THE DESPATCH OF AN ADDITIONAL TASK-FORCE WAS TO ASSIST THE ORDERLY INTERNATIONAL PROCESSING OF REFUGEES IN THE MALAYSIA-SINGAPORE AREA AND THEREBY AVOID THE NEED FOR GENUINE REFUGEES TO MAKE THE HAZARDOUS VOYAGE TO AUSTRALIA.

IN ADDITION TO THE TASK-FORCE, THE SELECTION TEAM IN THAILAND HAD BEEN STRENGTHENED BY ANOTHER OFFICER FROM AUSTRALIA. THIS WOULD SPEED UP SELECTION AND PROCESSING OF REFUGEES.

.....

Malaysia
Thailand
1977

Your Honor,

Received from Louis Goodfellow,
(Immigration)

Mama,

12.55 pm. 23/11

11/28/11

22 NOVEMBER 1977

IEA 88/77

MINISTER COMMENTS ON WATERSIDER'S ACTION ON REFUGEES

THE MINISTER FOR IMMIGRATION AND ETHNIC AFFAIRS, MR. M.J.R. MACKELLAR, SAID TODAY THAT HE HAD BEEN ADVISED ABOUT A MOTION PASSED BY THE DARWIN BRANCH OF THE WATERSIDE WORKERS' FEDERATION.

THE FEDERATION HAD DECIDED TO STOP WORK FOR TWO HOURS ON EACH SHIFT TO HIGHLIGHT THE ILLEGAL ENTRY OF ALLEGED VIETNAMESE INTO AUSTRALIA.

THE MINISTER SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE WATERSIDE WORKERS' FEDERATION WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE ADEQUACY OF AUSTRALIAN DEFENCES AND POSSIBLE FLAWS IN THE QUARANTINE OPERATION AND THAT THE FEDERATION DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THESE IMMIGRANTS WERE REFUGEES SOME 2 1/2 YEARS AFTER THE VIETNAM WAR HAD ENDED.

MR. MACKELLAR SAID THE WATERSIDE WORKERS' FEDERATION WAS ALSO PROTESTING ABOUT THE EXTRA BURDEN ON SOCIAL SERVICES WHICH THE BOAT PEOPLE CAUSED AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEY WOULD COMPETE FOR JOBS.

MR. MACKELLAR SAID HE WELL UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE COULD BE DIFFERING VIEWS HELD ABOUT THE MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES INTO AUSTRALIA BY THESE MEANS.

THE SMALL BOATS DID STRAIN THE AVAILABLE SURVEILLANCE RESOURCES BUT HE WAS SATISFIED THAT UP TO THE PRESENT TIME IMMIGRATION AND QUARANTINE CONTROL ACTIONS HAD BEEN EFFECTIVE.

THERE WAS NO QUESTION THAT A RISING FLOW OF SMALL BOAT MIGRATION WOULD REQUIRE A CONTINUING REVIEW AND TIGHTENING OF THE SURVEILLANCE PROCEDURES.

BUT, AT THE SAME TIME, THERE WAS NO DOUBT ABOUT AUSTRALIA'S OBLIGATION TO DEAL IN THE MOST SYMPATHETIC TERMS WITH PEOPLE WHO, TO THE BEST OF THE ABILITY TO DETERMINE THE FACTS, WERE GENUINE REFUGEES.

THE MINISTER SAID THAT IT WOULD BE REGRETTABLE, AND INDEED DEPLORABLE, IF OBSTACLES WERE PLACED IN THE WAY OF GIVING HUMANITARIAN TREATMENT TO THESE PEOPLE IN NEED, AS WAS NOW BEING SUGGESTED BY THE WATERSIDE WORKERS' FEDERATION.

.....

OUTWARDS TELEPRINTER FORM

Plan on Refugee Policy 1

D1018 22/11/77 11.45 A

TO HUMPHRIES REFUGEES CANBERRA
FROM O'DONOHUE DARWIN

IMMEDIATE ~~URGENT~~

THE WATERSIDE WORKERS FEDERATION AT THEIR MORNING SMOKO ON TUESDAY 22ND NOVEMBER, 1977 HAD 75% OF THEIR WORKFORCE IN ATTENDANCE AND PASSED A MOTION WHICH IS SET OUT AS FOLLOWS:-

" THE DARWIN BRANCH OF THE WATERSIDE WORKERS FEDERATION WILL STOP WORK FOR TWO (2) HOURS ON EACH SHIFT TO HIGHLIGHT THE ILLEGAL ENTRY OF ALLEGED VIETNAMESE INTO AUSTRALIA. WE CONSIDER THIS ACTION NECESSARY BECAUSE OF THE FOLLOWING:-

IT CLEARLY SHOWS THE INADEQUACY OF THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCES WHEN FOREIGN VESSELS CAN GET RIGHT INSIDE THE HARBOUR BEFORE BEING DETECTED. IT ALSO SHOWS FLAWS IN OUR QUARANTINE OPERATION WHICH ALREADY SHOWS GAPS WITH A FINDING OF A DISEASE BLUE TONGUE IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY. WE DO NOT CONSIDER THAT THESE IMMIGRANTS ARE REFUGEES 2 1/2 YEARS AFTER THE END OF THE WAR AND SEE NO REASON WHY WE SHOULD IMPOSE AN EXTRA BURDEN ON OUR SOCIAL SERVICES WHICH HAVE BEEN CUT TO A MINIMUM BY THE FRASER GOVERNMENT BY SUCCOURING THESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO WILL BE SWELLING THE RANKS OF OUR EVER GROWING UNEMPLOYED. WE HAVE OUR DOUBTS AS TO THE MORAL FIBRE OF THESE IMMIGRANTS WHO COULD FINISH UP AT THE END OF A VERY LONG WAR WITH GOLD BARS AND SERVANTS. WE DEMAND THAT THE GOVERNMENT GIVE AN IMMEDIATE ANSWER ON WHAT IT IS PREPARED TO DO TO STOP THIS OUTRAGE AND CALL ON THE PEOPLE OF DARWIN AND AUSTRALIA TO LODGE THEIR PROTESTS."

THIS INFORMATION CAME FROM MR. KEVIN MANSKI SECRETARY OF THE WATERSIDE WORKERS FEDERATION WHO SAID THAT THE TWO (2) HOURS STOP WORK ON EACH SHIFT ONLY APPLIES TODAY BUT THAT THE FEELING OF THE MEMBERS WAS THAT WHENEVER ANY OTHER VIETNAMESE BOATS ARRIVE THEY MAY STOP WORK.

THIS IS APPARENTLY A FOLLOW-UP TO A MOTION PASSES AT THEIR GENERAL MEETING ON THE 10TH NOVEMBER, 1977 AS A RESULT OF WHICH A LETTER WAS SENT TO THE MINISTER ON THE 14TH NOVEMBER, 1977. I BELIEVE THE LETTER WAS ALONG SIMILAR LINES.

MESSAGE ENDS.

.....

Your Honour,

Mike O'Donohue, of Immigration, telephoned p.m. to advise that permission has been received from his office in Canberra from the Minister to allow the four boatloads of people to land.

Steps have been taken to get the matter organised, buses have been arranged to take the people to the Quarantine Station and these arrangements should be completed today.

Adel
22/11

Mr. O'Donohue telephoned later in the afternoon to advise that a Navy tracker aircraft has sighted another vessel about 90 miles north of Bathurst Island, and indications are that the vessel should arrive in Darwin some time tomorrow morning. It is believed that the vessel is a Vietnamese one.

Adel
22/11

Sighted
22/11

John Henon,

Les hivens
rang to advise that another
vessel has been sighted off
Cape Fareway ^{9-30 AM 15/11}. At this stage
he has no information as to
its origin or the number of
occupants.

He will advise when
further information comes to
hand.

~~John Henon~~ 15/11 1130.

Due 2 p.m

18 people;

Your Honour,

Mr. Lewis rang at 1.20 p.m.
regarding the 8 Vietnamese.

Naval advise that if all goes well
they should arrive in Darwin about
8.00 am. on Saturday 24th September.

They will go straight to Quarantine.

In view of previous criticism a
full medical examination and
medication will take place here.

It is intended to take the
eight persons to Adelaide - but not
before next Wednesday 28 September

James
23/9/77

~~23/9~~
23/9.

Your Honour,

Vietnamese Refugees

Mr. Liveris telephoned at 10.25 a.m. to advise that the boat with the 8 Vietnamese aboard is being towed to Darwin by HMAS Adroit; the ETA is not known at this time.

The people will be put in quarantine and will be fully medicalled before being sent to Adelaide.

Mr. Liveris will keep you informed of developments.

Adel
23/9

22

Your Honour,

Mr. Liversidge advised that a boat carrying 8 Vietnamese landed at Admiralty Gulf late yesterday afternoon.

His Department is considering what to do with them and he has no further information as yet.

Admiralty Gulf is about due north of Wyndham in W.A.

Mr. Liversidge will keep us informed.

Sumner
22.9.77

22/9

Might I be advised please if there is any basis for belief in the report at page 37 of the Sydney Morning Herald, Saturday 29 January, 1977, and subsequent radio reports, that former U.S. Minesweeper Roland will attempt to bring several hundreds of Vietnam refugees to Darwin?

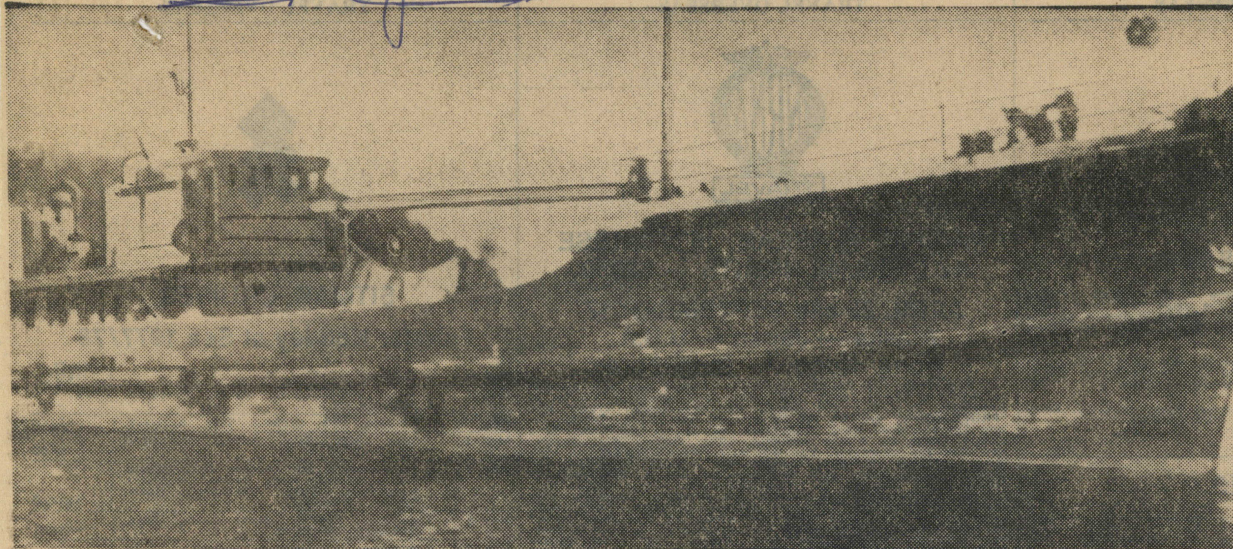
If there is a possibility of groups of this number arriving at Darwin unannounced, might I be given the Government's attitude to such an influx?

This question posed to Midge O'Donnell early afternoon 3rd Feb 77.

[Handwritten signature]

7 Feb 77 Conversations between self and Ministers office & with Liversis of Immigration Darwin. Liversis has been advised by his Dept. in Canberra late last week that Dept's Officers are trying to stop the ship leaving by bringing some of the refugees in officially. Failing this Immigration Darwin will be advised by these officers to be taken.

SMH 29 Jan 74



The World War II-vintage minesweeper Roland . . . to bring Vietnamese refugees to Australia?

Ex-minesweeper collecting Vietnam refugees

From MICHAEL RICHARDSON

SINGAPORE, Friday. — It now appears certain that an organised attempt will be made soon to ship hundreds of Vietnamese refugees to Australia and land them in Darwin.

There are also indications that the refugee rescue project under way in South-East Asia includes plans to ferry additional shiploads of displaced Indo-Chinese to Australia over the next few months.

The Australian High Commission in Malaysia has alerted Canberra about the activities of a World War II US minesweeper now collecting Vietnamese refugees in Malaysia and Thailand.

In Kuala Lumpur, a senior official of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) confirmed that the 150ft (about 46m) ocean-going minesweeper already had taken on board about 100 refugees.

He said a UNHCR officer now visiting refugee camps on the east coast of Malaysia had been told by refugees of the vessel's intended movements.

"They informed my officer that people associated with the ship have been telling them that if they want to go to Australia they should get on board," he said.

"The Vietnamese in the camps are being told that the Australian Government has agreed to accept up to 3,000 refugees. But as far as I know, this simply is not true."

The minesweeper —

called the Roland — is chartered as part of a rescue project for several thousand men, women and children who have escaped from communist Vietnam on small boats.

Most of them are being given temporary care in coastal camps in various parts of South-East Asia while the UNHCR tries to find permanent homes for them abroad.

The rescue project was organised by the World Conference on Religion and Peace (WCRP) and its Asian chapter after a meeting in Singapore last month that considered the plight of sea refugees and the slow progress in finding Western States willing to take them.

The group includes representatives of all major religions.

Organisers of the rescue operation are known to have substantial funds to work with. The Japanese chapter gave the equivalent of about \$A50,000.

The minesweeper Roland was well stocked with food, clothing and medical supplies when it left Singapore early this month.

The UNHCR regards the scheme as a case of "misguided philanthropy" and believes it could jeopardise the supervised international relief and re-settlement program for refugees who have left Indo-China by sea.

The senior UNHCR representative in Kuala Lumpur said today the Roland was now believed to be heading for an island off the east coast of peninsular Malaysia, where 350 Vietnamese are camped.

"We have been told it will then go to southern Thailand and anchor in

international waters off the port of Songkhla, where there are about seven hundred more refugees," he said.

"In conjunction with third countries like the United States, France, Canada and Australia, we are processing many of these people for re-settlement. But it takes time.

"If a ship suddenly appears offering an immediate passage to Australia, it's likely to attract a big response.

"Based on our information, the minesweeper should be back in the Singapore area in about a week.

"It will then either take on more fuel and supplies before sailing to Darwin, or it will transfer those on board to a larger ship, which will ferry them to Australia, while it returns to the South China Sea to try and pick up more refugees."

He said the UNHCR was concerned at the effects of the WCRP scheme.

Some of the refugees already taken on board the Roland would have been approved for entry to the United States, Canada and Belgium — had they waited.

They were now going to Australia, where they had no guarantee of acceptance, and which was not their preferred destination.

The UNHCR representative added that it was very unlikely they, or any other refugees ferried out from coastal camps by small boats to the minesweeper, would be permitted to land again in South-East Asia, where Governments were reluctant to accept any more Indo-Chinese without guarantees of re-settlement abroad.

His Honour the Administrator,

Attached for your information
is a copy of a report from our
Criminal Intelligence Section, and
a list of those who were on the
Vietnamese boat which arrived in
Darwin on 18th December 1976.

29-12-76
W N - 2 1 e *

W. J. McLaren
COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

23 DEC 1976

NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE

Form 4
PC 4/9

Reference:—

Criminal Intelligence Section,
Number 1.....DIVISION
'C' DISTRICT.
DARWIN.....STATION

TO:—

Officer in Charge,
No. 1 Division,
'C' DISTRICT.

21 December, 1976.

REPORT OF:— Wayne M. VON HOFF, P.C. Sergeant 3/C, Reg.No. 373.

SUBJECT:— ARRIVAL OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN DARWIN ON 18 DECEMBER, 1976.

I wish to advise that at 3.15pm. 18 December, 1976 information was received from Mr. ANGEL of the Marine Operations Centre, Canberra, that a 'malay type fishing boat is 1 mile off North West Channel Rock in Darwin Harbour. Appears to be Asian refugees.'

2. Reporting member was advised by Communications Section, Darwin Station at approximately 3.30pm. 18 December, 1976 and as a result attended with Constable VANDERHAAR at the Stokes Hill Wharf at 4.10pm.

3. There I observed a wooden, sixteen metre vessel bearing identification P.K. 504, anchored about 75 metres east of the Stokes Hill Wharf. Customs, Quarantine and Animal Industries officials were in attendance. Mr. LIVERIS of the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs was contacted. It was ascertained that there were fifty-six men, women and children on board.

4. The following note, printed in block letters was handed to Customs officials who boarded the boat. "PLEASE HELP - WE US FOR FREEDONG. WE LIVE IN SOUTH VIETNAM. DONT LIVE WITH VIETNAM COMMUNISE FROM NHA-TRANG OF SOUTH VIETNAM. WE GONE TO AUSTRALIA. PLEASE AUSTRALIA GOVERNMENT HELP US LIVE IN AUSTRALIA. THERE ARE 56 PERSON IN THE BOAD. 18 MANS, 10 WOMANS, 14 BOYS, 14 GIRLS. THERE ARE TEN FAMILLYS. WE SHALL KEEP AUSTRALIA LAW, WILL GOODMAN."

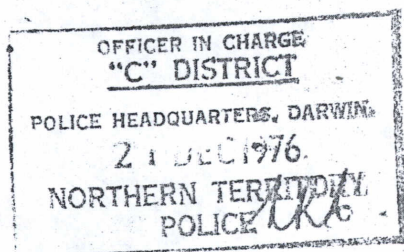
5. When Customs and Quarantine officials had completed their initial inspection of the boat and persons on board, the boat was moved to the wharf where it tied up and persons disembarked. The boat was then moved to a point near its original position and tied to a buoy.

.../2

Full details of persons on board were then obtained. The attached list sets out the family groups, name, position in the family, age, sex and occupation. There were no serious medical problems apparent, but I am informed that eight persons, mostly children are presently being treated for scabies.

7. It was ascertained that these persons left NHA-TRANG in South Vietnam on 28 October, 1976 and travelled to Darwin via Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Djakarta and Kupang. No person on board claimed to have relatives in Australia, but all still wished to reside in Australia.

8. At the present time all persons are being accommodated at the East Arm Quarantine Station, pending a full medical assessment and a decision by Immigration authorities regarding the status that will be afforded these persons. It is expected that all persons will travel per T.A.A. to Brisbane on 21 December, 1976.



Wayne M. Von Hoff
 (Wayne M. VON HOFF)
 P.C. Sergeant 3/C, Reg. No. 373.

P1.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION IN FAMILY</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>SEX</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>
NGUYEN CANG (CAPT IN)	HUSBAND	39	M	PLANT OPERATOR
NGUYEN NGOC ANH	SINGLE	20	M	STUDENT
PHAN QUANG DINH	HUSBAND	26	M	MEDICAL ORDERL
PHAN THANH DUC	SINGLE	24	M	DRIVER
NGUYEN THANH TRUNG	HUSBAND	28	M	LABOURER
NGUYEN TAN HAI	HUSBAND	24	M	DRIVER
NGUYEN KIM HUNG	SINGLE	22	M	PLANT OPERATOR
TON HONG DUC	HUSBAND	37	M	PLANT OPERATOR
DO TRAN THAI	SINGLE	20	M	CLERK
TRAN LE THAI	SINGLE	23	M	ELECTRICIAN
TRAN CAU	HUSBAND	20	M	STUDENT
NGUYEN THI XUAN	WIFE	19	F	TAILORESS
TRAN BINH MINH	HUSBAND	21	M	TEACHER
TRAN THI THANH XUAN	WIFE	21	F	TEACHER
TRAN THAI QUANG	SON	1	M	INFANT
TRAN NGOC CANH	HUSBAND	29	M	POLICEMAN
LE THI BINH	WIFE	27	F	HOME DUTIES
TRAN THI NGOC KIM	DAUGHTER	5	F	CHILD
TRAN THI MY HOANG	DAUGHTER	3	F	CHILD
TRAN THI THU TRANG	DAUGHTER	1	F	CHILD
NGUYEN QUOC TRI	HUSBAND	36	M	ELECTRICIAN
TRAN THI NHA	WIFE	27	F	HOME DUTIES
NGUYEN QUOC TUAN	SON	4	M	CHILD
NGUYEN QUOC TU	SON	2	M	CHILD
NGUYEN QUOC TAN	SON	7mths	M	CHILD
TRAN DIEU	HUSBAND	51	M	LABOURER
HO THI PHO	WIFE	46	F	HOME DUTIES
TRAN THI HIEP	DAUGHTER	17	F	STUDENT
TRAN NGOC HOA	SON	13	M	STUDENT
TRAN NGOC HUNG	SON	11	M	STUDENT
TRAN NGOC DUNG	SON	9	M	STUDENT

TRAN TRONG	HUSBAND	39	M	CARPENTER
PHAM THI THUY	WIFE	37	F	HOME DUTIES
TRAN THI THANH THUONG	DAUGHTER	13	F	STUDENT
TRAN THI THANH TAM	DAUGHTER	11	F	STUDENT
TRAN THI THANH THUY	DAUGHTER	8	F	STUDENT
TRAN THI THANG NGA	DAUGHTER	5	F	STUDENT
TRAN NGOC DUC	SON	2	M	CHILD
LAM QUE DUNG	HUSBAND	40	M	SECURITY GU
LU THI NGOC NGA	WIFE	33	F	HOME DUTIES
LAM THI NGUYET HUE	DAUGHTER	15	F	STUDENT
LAM HIEN NHON	SON	13	M	STUDENT
LAM HIEN NGHIA	SON	11	M	STUDENT
LAM HIEN HIEU	SON	10	M	STUDENT
LAM THI TINH TRANG	DAUGHTER	8	F	STUDENT
LAM THI TINH MY	DAUGHTER	4	F	CHILD
LAM THI TINH PHOI	DAUGHTER	1	F	CHILD
TRAN HOANG KIEM	HUSBAND	37	M	POLICEMAN
PHAM THI CUOC	WIFE	33	F	HOME DUTIES
TRAN HOANG SON	SON	11	M	STUDENT
TRAN THI NHU MAI	DAUGHTER	9	F	STUDENT
TRAN THI NHU HANH	DAUGHTER	7	F	STUDENT
TRAN THI NHU THUY	DAUGHTER	5	F	STUDENT
TRAN HOANG THANH	SON	2	M	CHILD
TRAN HOANG TRUNG	SON	2	M	CHILD
TRAN THI NHU MY	DAUGHTER	1	F	CHILD

Department of the Northern Territory

MINISTER

No.

VIETNAMESE SHIP, DARWIN

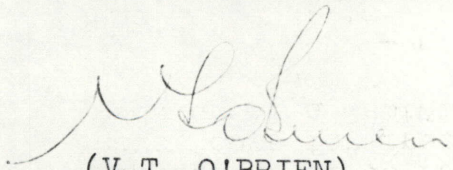
Further information as at 2 p.m. Darwin time from Customs and other officials indicates the following in relation to the Vietnamese ship, registration number 1071 (unnamed) which arrived in Darwin this morning.

The vessel was registered in Vung Tau, Vietnam and had a complement of 50 refugees who have indicated that they have "come for freedom" to Australia. The complement is made up of a Captain and three crew, all male, 14 adult males, 13 adult females and 19 children. They left Vung Tau on 17 September, thence via Singapore, Djakarta, Bali and Koepang, leaving Koepang on 5 November and arriving in Darwin this morning. The Captain and Master of the vessel is the owner - Huynh Ngoc, formerly of the Vietnamese Navy.

Customs report that they virtually have no possessions, no prohibitive imports but there is an amount of gold on board, not yet assessed in value and a small amount of US dollars.

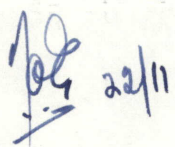
They were disembarked at 12.30 at Stokes Hill Wharf and were taken by bus to the quarantine reserve at East Arm. The Health authorities indicate there has been some evidence of scabies and further quarantine, Immigration and Customs formalities will be completed this afternoon at East Arm.

The Red Cross are assisting with clothing and the Emergency Services group are available to assist with any particular further accommodation needs.



(V.T. O'BRIEN)
A/Deputy Secretary

10 November 1976



10 November, 1976

REFUGEES -

50 persons arrived in Darwin on board a vessel "No. 1071" registered in Vungtau, Vietnam. The 50 comprised the captain and 3 crew (all male) plus 14 adult male, 13 adult female and 19 children.

All persons on board are Vietnamese Nationals.

Customs and Immigration have established that the vessel left Vungtau on 17 September and travelled to Darwin via Singapore, Djakarta, Bali and Koopang, leaving Koopang on 5 November and arriving in Darwin today.

The vessel is ⁵⁰~~15~~ foot long.

The captain/master/owner is Huynh Ngoc who is formerly of the Vietnamese Navy.

Customs report that there are virtually no possessions on the ship and no prohibited imports. There is an unassessed amount of gold and a small amount of \$US. Customs are looking at the gold question.

The objective of those on board seems to be political asylum and they state "they've come for freedom".

This seems to make the matter solidly one for Foreign Affairs.

Quarantine and Customs are handling the matter at the moment and it is assumed that Foreign Affairs do not have a man here now, but will get one here soon.

Mr. O'Brien will be advising the Minister for the Northern Territory shortly.

Other information is that the boat's complement disembarked at 12.30 and arrived at the Quarantine Reserve East Arm at approx. 1.15 p.m. where they are still stationed.

The health report is that some of the complement appear to have scabies, but that is only an initial report.

Red Cross have been asked to assist as necessary with clothing and tent accommodation, etc. and the Emergency Services Organisation have been asked to stand by for additional requirements.

Approval to land was given under section 36 of the Immigration Act by Mr. Liveris who is the Officer in Charge of Immigration in Darwin.

Regarding surveillance of the vessel, it is understood that J.I.O. had the vessel under surveillance, it was sighted off Point Blaze near the mouth of the Daly River by a R.A.A.F. aircraft and was lost until it entered Darwin Harbour.

I understand that the vessel entered Darwin Harbour flying a white flag from the stern and it was presumed from this before verification that the complement were seeking political assylum.

The above information comes from 2 telephone conversations with Mrs. Vener O'Brien

25/1

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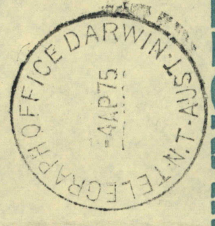
TELEGRAM SENT 7.4.75 10.45 A.M.

THE HONOURABLE E. G. WHITLAM
PRIME MINISTER
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

I ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF YOUR TELEGRAMS OF 3 AND 4
APRIL REGARDING ADOPTION OF VIETNAMESE CHILDREN AND
ADVISE THAT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED ARE PROCESSING
REQUESTS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE

J. NELSON
ADMINISTRATOR

815766 / 815246
PHONED
REFUSED BY TELEPHONE
counter to call
INITIALS



AUSTRALIAN POST OFFICE
TELEGRAM

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URGENT ... TELEPHONE IF POSSIBLE
THE ADMINISTRATOR
NORTHERN TERRITORY
x 497
GOVERNMENT HOUSE DARWIN NT

FURTHER TO MY MESSAGE TO ALL PREMIERS YESTERDAY ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR A QANTAS 747 AIRCRAFT TO PROCEED TO BANGKOK TO RENDEVOUS WITH RAAF AIRCRAFT BRINGING FROM SAIGON TO BANGKOK VIETNAMESE CHILDREN FOR ADOPTION IN AUSTRALIA BY APPROVED AUSTRALIA FAMILIES STOP AS ENVISAGED IN MY PREVIOUS MESSAGE I AM INFORMED THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR AND IMMIGRATION IS IN LIAISON WITH AUTHORITIES IN THE STATES RESPONSIBLE FOR ADOPTION MATTERS STOP IT IS INTENDED THAT THE FLIGHT TO AUSTRALIA WILL TERMINATE AT SYDNEY WITH MELBOURNE AS AN EMERGENCY DESTINATION STOP AS WE FORESEE EVENTS AT PRESENT THE AIRCRAFT IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN VICINITY OF 12-20 PM AEST 5 APRIL STOP PREPARATIONS ARE IN HAND TO HOLD THE CHILDREN AT THE QUARANTINE STATION AT NORTH HEAD FOR RECEPTION AND CARE PENDING ALLOCATION TO INDIVIDUAL STATES STOP I AM INFORMED THAT OFFICIALS OF LABOUR AND IMMIGRATION ARE IN TOUCH WITH THE ADOPTION AUTHORITIES IN THE STATES ON THE DETAILS OF THE ABOVE ARRANGEMENTS INCLUDING DETAILS OF WHERE THE ASSISTANCE OF VARIOUS STATE AUTHORITIES MIGHT BE REQUIRED STOP I THANK YOU IN ANTICIPATION OF THE COOPERATION WHICH I FEEL SURE WILL BE EXTENDED BY STATE OFFICIALS OF YOUR BEHALF STOP

E G WHITLAM

(747 12/20 PM AEST 5) 9.33P

9/769

Acknowledge advise dealing with request

4 April, 1975

Dr. G. A. Letts, M.L.A.,
Majority Leader,
Legislative Assembly for the Northern Territory,
P.O. Box 3721,
DARWIN. N.T. 5794.

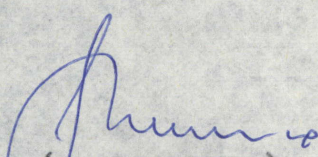
Dear Dr. Letts,

...

Attached is a copy of a telegram received by His Honour the Administrator this morning from the Prime Minister which is referred for your information.

The telegram has been referred to the Secretary, Department of the Northern Territory for his attention.

Yours sincerely,


(G. L. MUNRO)
Executive Assistant

4 April, 1975

His Worship the Mayor,
Alderman H. Brennan,
Corporation of the City of Darwin,
Civic Centre,
DARWIN. N.T. 5790.

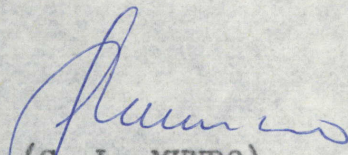
Your Worship,

...

Attached is a copy of a telegram received by His Honour the Administrator this morning from the Prime Minister which is referred for your information.

The telegram has been referred to the Secretary, Department of the Northern Territory for his attention.

Yours sincerely,



(G. L. MUNRO)
Executive Assistant

4 April, 1975

Secretary,
Department of the Northern Territory,
P.O. Box 231,
DARWIN. N.T. 5794.

Dear Sir,

PRIME MINISTER'S TELEGRAM - VIETNAMESE ORPHANS

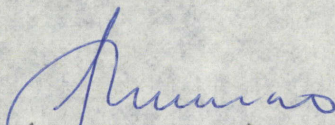
...

Attached is a copy of a telegram received by His Honour the Administrator this morning from the Prime Minister.

The Administrator has asked me to refer the telegram to you for your attention.

The text of the telegram has been released to the news media by way of an Administrator's Press Release.

Yours faithfully,



(G. L. MUNRO)
Executive Assistant

AUSTRALIAN POST OFFICE
TELEGRAM

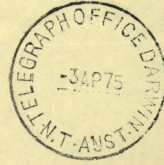
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CANBERRA ACT 387 10.17P 3RD

THE ADMINISTRATOR THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
GOVERNMENT HOUSE
DARWIN NT

I REFER TO MY MESSAGE YESTERDAY IN WHICH I SOUGHT YOUR COOPERATION IN ASKING YOUR REGULARITY AUTHORITIES TO MAKE SPECIAL EFFORTS TO FINALISE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE DECISIONS ON APPLICATIONS BY RESIDENTS OF YOUR STATE FOR PERMISSION TO ADOPT VIETNAMESE CHILDREN STOP PARAGRAPH THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IS IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM THROUGH THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY STOP THAT GOVERNMENT HAS NOW ADVISED MY GOVERNMENT THAT IT IS PREPARED TO FACILITATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE EXIT OF ORPHAN CHILDREN STOP THERE IS HOWEVER AS YET NO PRECISE FIGURE ON THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN VIETNAM FOR WHOM AUSTRALIA IS INTENDED AS DESTINATION STOP WE ALSO HAVE ADVICE THAT IN SOME CASES CHILDREN WILL NOT BE ACCOMPANIED BY DOCUMENTATION NORMALLY REQUIRED FOR ADOPTION PURPOSES STOP I AM COMMA HOWEVER COMMA IN THE PRESENT CRITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES PREPARED TO ACCEPT THIS SITUATION STOP THERE REMAINS ONE FURTHER PROBLEM - WE HAVE NO WAY OF GUARANTEEING PRIOR TO THE ORPHANS DEPARTURE THAT THEIR PHYSICAL AND MEDICAL CONDITION WILL BE SUCH THAT THEY WILL NECESSARILY BE ACCEPTED BY ADOPTIVE FAMILIES STOP IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES COMMA THEREFORE COMMA I NEED YOUR ASSURANCE THAT IN THE EVENT THAT CHILDREN DESTINED FOR YOUR STATE ARE NOT CHOSEN FOR ADOPTION BY APPROVED FAMILIES YOUR STATE WILL NEVER THE LESS RECEIVE THOSE CHILDREN AND GUARANTEE THEIR ACCOMMODATION AND CARE STOP PARAGRAPH I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL THEREFORE FOR YOUR AGREEMENT THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN FOR WHOM THERE ARE APPROVED FAMILIES WHATEVER THEIR CONDITION AND THAT YOU CONCUR IN MY GOVERNMENTS ACTION IN WAIVING THE NORMAL MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS STOP I WOULD ALSO BE GRATEFUL IF YOUR STATE AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE FOR ADOPTION COULD MAINTAIN CLOSE LIAISON WITH THE AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR AND IMMIGRATION IN YOUR STATE IN THE NORMAL WAY FOR OVERSEAS ADOPTION CASES STOP LABOUR AND IMMIGRATION WILL FOR ITS PART PROCEED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM THROUGH OUR DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS STOP PARAGRAPH COULD YOU ALSO PLEASE ARRANGE FOR YOUR AUTHORITIES TO SUPPLY TO ME THROUGH THE OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR AND IMMIGRATION INFORMATION ABOUT PROCEDURES FOR THE RECEPTION COMMA PLACEMENT AND ONGOING CARE COMMA AND IMPLEMENTED BY YOUR STATE