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Last Updated: 10/23/2023

### ID# 461857

CO155

## THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MARCH 02, 1987

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. KOMPHA SETH

SUBJECT: URGES, ON BEHALF OF THE CAMBODIAN COMMUNITY

IN CHICAGO, INTERVENTION FOR THEIR FELLOW

CAMBODIAN REFUGEES IN THAILAND

	ACTION	DISPOSITIO	N
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACT DATE CODE YY/MM/I	TYPE C COMPL DD RESP D YY/MM	
LINAS KOJELIS  REFERRAL NOTE:  REFERRAL NOTE:	ORG 87/03/0	2 <u>C8413</u> A8103	13TR
REFERRAL NOTE:			7 <u> </u>
COMMENTS:			
ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MED	IA:L INDIVIDUAL	CODES:	
PL MAIL USER CODES: (A)	(B)	(C)	
******************************  *ACTION CODES: *DISPOSITION  *A-APPROPRIATE ACTION *A-ANSWERED  *C-COMMENT/RECOM *B-NON-SPEC-D  *D-DRAFT RESPONSE *C-COMPLETED  *F-FURNISH FACT SHEET *S-SUSPENDED  *I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*	*OUTC *CORI *TYPI REFERRAL * *	GOING RESPONDENCE: E RESP=INITIALS OF SIGNER	* * * * *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *  *S-FOR-SIGNATURE *  *X-INTERIM REPLY *  **********************************	*	*****	*

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE (ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT-2590 KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT.

### UNCLASSIFIED CLASSIFICATION

S/S # 8705879

	Date March 20, 1987
	DEPARTMENT OF STATE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT TRANSMITTAL FORM
FOR:	Mr. Frank C. Carlucci National Security Council The White House
REFERENCE:	TO: The President FROM: Kompha Seth et al
	DATE: February 20, 1987 SUBJECT: Concern About Refugees in Khao-I-Dang Camp
	REFERRAL DATED: 3/5/87 ID#: 461875
	THE ATTACHED ITEM WAS SENT DIRECTLY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ACTION TAKEN:	A draft reply is attached.
	A draft reply will be forwarded.
	A translation is attached.
	An information copy of a direct reply is attached.
	We believe no response is necessary for the reason cited below.
	The Department of State has no objection to the proposed travel.
	Other (see remarks).
REMARKS:	
	Mellyn Levitsky Executive Secretary UNCLASSIFIED
	UNCLASSIFIED

## United States Department of State



Washington, D.C. 20520

Mr. Kompha Seth Cambodian Association of Illinois 1105 W. Lawrence Suite 201 Chicago, Illinois 60640

Dear Mr. Seth:

Thank you for your letters to the President and Secretary Shultz regarding your concern over the Thai Government decision to close the Khao-I-Dang Khmer holding center in Thailand. We too are concerned regarding the implications of this closure. At the same time, we recognize the sovereign right of the Thai Government to determine where within its borders to locate refugees and displaced persons.

This issue has been a primary topic in a number of our bilateral discussions with the Thai. In discussing the future of Khao-I-Dang with the Thai Government, we sought to ensure that the following basic objectives were met: 1) that the Khao-I-Dang residents not be deprived of their status; 2) that the safety of this population be assured; 3) that the UNHCR be permitted to continue its indispensable role in the protection of these Khmer; and 4) that resettlement countries be given sufficient opportunity to process those Khmer refugees eligible for third-country resettlement.

Thai authorities have stated that any action taken on Khao-I-Dang will not affect international protection presently extended to the Khao-I-Dang population. The UN Secretary General, responding to a Thai request, has designated UNHCR as the protection agency for those transferred to the border. The Thai and the UNHCR are holding discussions on how the UNHCR can best continue this mandate for Khao-I-Dang residents transferred to the border.

The Thai plan eventually to transfer the entire population of Khao-I-Dang to sites along the Thai-Cambodian border in a step-by-step process that could take many months. We have stressed to the Thai Government how essential it is that people moved from Khao-I-Dang be transferred safely and without violence.

An initial group of some 214 illegals was relocated to Site B, also know as Green Hill, on March 1. The transfer occured without incident. According to the Thai plan for transfers,

most of the Khao-I-Dang residents living there without authorization (i.e., the so-called "illegals") will be required to go to Site B. Other Khao-I-Dang residents will be allowed a choice as to which site they wish to be sent. It is expected that many Khao-I-Dang residents will choose to be relocated to Site B where security is relatively good. The Thai have assured us that no Khao-I-Dang resident will be required to go to a site affiliated with the Khmer Rouge. The Thai have also stated quite firmly that it has no intention to force these Khmer back into Cambodia.

Several refugee advocacy groups, like your organization, have expressed concern that a number of Khao-I-Dang residents will be forced to relocate to unsafe border areas. We too are concerned regarding the safety of the civilian border encampments where there is still a danger of attack by Vietnamese/Heng Samrin forces. The U.S. government has followed the question of security at the border encampments with considerable attention and concern.

We have and will continue to support strongly those organizations (i.e. the UNHCR, UNBRO and the ICRC) involved in protection of persons transferred to the border, as well as for those displaced Khmer already living in border encampments. We have supported efforts by these organizations and the Thai Government to ensure the civilian nature of these encampments and thereby lessen the pretext for Vietnamese military attack. We believe the separation of civilian and military elements has served to lessen the number and severity of military attacks since 1985.

Internal security at the encampments is also an ongoing concern, particularly at Site Two. We should note that, according to official Thai government statements, it appears that no Khao-I-Dang resident will be required to relocate to Site Two. Many may choose to go to that site, however, for personal reasons. The Thai have indicated that a new site will be established near Site B to accommodate new arrivals from Khao-I-Dang. In contrast to Site Two, Site B has an excellent security record.

The Thai Government has given assurances that it will endeavor to improve internal security conditions at the encampments. Progress in the security situation is already evident as result of more systematic exchanges of information between international organizations and Thai government authorities on protection issues, increased pressure on the Khmer leadership to reduce involvement of Khmer resistance forces in criminal extortion and efforts by Thai authorities to improve discipline of its security personnel.

Additional work clearly remains to be done. For example, a large proportion of the violence reported at Site Two is related to black market activity. Unlike the other non-communist camps at Site B or Site E, Site Two does not yet have a legal market. The Thai Government has agreed in principle to establishing markets at Site Two, and we believe this step will create a more positive environment at the camp.

Regarding future resettlement processing of those transferred to the border, we have also been assured that, once moved to the border, former Khao-I-Dang residents will continue to be available for resettlement. Procedures for gaining access to former Khao-I-Dang illegals and ration card holders who may qualify for immigrant visas or humanitarian parole consideration will be the same for other displaced Khmer at the border.

I hope this information helps address your concerns. We will continue to work with the Thai and with the international community to meet the humanitarian needs of Khmer who have sought refuge in Thailand.

Sincerely,

Frances D. Cook

Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Assistance and Relief Bureau for Refugee Programs

#### THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

#### REFERRAL

MARCH 5, 1987

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID:

461857

MEDIA:

LETTER, DATED FEBRUARY 20, 1987

TO:

PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM:

MR. KOMPHA SETH

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CAMBODIAN ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

SUITE 201

1105 WEST LAWRENCE CHICAGO IL 60640

SUBJECT: URGES, ON BEHALF OF THE CAMBODIAN COMMUNITY IN CHICAGO, INTERVENTION FOR THEIR FELLOW

CAMBODIAN REFUGEES IN THAILAND

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT) TO:

AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500

SALLY KELLEY DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE



## CAMBODIAN ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

A NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION

1105 W. Lawrence, Suite #201, Chicago, II. 60640 Tel. (312) 878-7090 • 769-3106

3705879

February 20, 1987

President Ronald Reagan. The White House Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We are writing to urge you to intervene on behalf of tens of thousands of our fellow Cambodian refugees in Thailand. The Royal Thai Government has begun the process of closing its khao-I-Dang refugee camp, which provides protection to some 18,000 refugees. In the process, the Thai officals are planning to send residents to Site II and Site B, camps located at the Thai-Cambodian border. Site II and Site B are within immediate striking distance of both Vietnamese and Khmer Rouge forces, and are considerered extremely unsafe by the refugees and international observers. Site II already has 175,000 residents, and Site B has 43,500. Severe sanitation problems, lack of potable water, and lack of internal security plague these camps as well. Probably most devastating is the lack of hope among residents of these two border camps, as residents are not being interviewed for possible resettlement. These retugees justifiably fear the possibility that they will eventually be forced back into Cambodia where many will doubtless face death.

On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of vulnerable Cambodian refugees in Thailand, we beg you to strenuously utilize your position and influence to intervene on their behalf. We specifically ask you to urge the United States Department of State, and the United States Ambassador for Refugee Affairs, Mr. Jonathan Moore to intervene with the Thai government to discontinue their plan to close Khao-I-Dang, and instead to develop a more humane and secure plan for the protection of Cambodians in Thailand. We are certain that the leadership the United States can exert in this compelling situation could make the critical difference in so many peoples' lives. We deeply thank you for your concern and strong support.

Sincerely,

Executive Director

Noren Vann

Client Services Coordinator

Nozenvann Zun/

And

The Cambodian Community in Chicago as represented by the undersigned:

hos

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Maly yong	4738 N. ASHLANDAIR	275-4970
NEM PHUY	5063 N Kenmore #2A	728-0775
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SOKHMHAS	1008 W Argyle	(
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# THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

CO155

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MARCH 23, 1987

MANAGEMENT.

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE RUDY BOSCHWITZ

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES CONCERN ON REPORTS CONCERNING THE FORCED REPATRIATION OF 135 HMONG REFUGEES

FROM THAILAND AGAINST THEIR WILL

	ACTION	DISPOSITION
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACT DATE CODE YY/MM/DD	TYPE C COMPLETED RESP D YY/MM/DD
WILLIAM BALL  995777  REFERRAL NOTE:  REFERRAL NOTE:  REFERRAL NOTE:		
REFERRAL NOTE:  COMMENTS:	//	
ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L MAIL USER CODES: (A)(B		
**************************************	*OUTGO *CORRE *TYPE RRAL * *COMPL * *	ING * SPONDENCE: * RESP=INITIALS * OF SIGNER * CODE = A * ETED = DATE OF * OUTGOING * *

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE (ROOM 75,0EOB) EXT-2590 KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS

#### UNCLASSIFIED CLASSIFICATION

S/S	#_	87095	543	
Date	. A	pril	24,	1987

DEPARTMENT OF STATE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT TRANSMITTAL FORM

FOR:

Mr. Frank C. Carlucci National Security Council
The White House

	The white House				
REFERENCE:	TO:The President FROM: Rudy Boschwitz				
	DATE: March 20, 1987 SUBJECT: Hmong Refugees				
	REFERRAL DATED: 3/30/87				
	THE ATTACHED ITEM WAS SENT DIRECTLY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE				
ACTION TAKEN:	A draft reply is attached.				
	A draft reply will be forwarded.				
	A translation is attached.				
	XX An information copy of a direct reply is attached.				
	We believe no response is necessary for the reason cited below.				
	The Department of State has no objection to the proposed travel.				
	Other (see remarks).				
DIIMA DIZC -					

REMARKS:

Executive Secretary

UNCLASSIFIED

## United States Department of State



Washington, D.C. 20520

## APR 2 | 1987

Dear Senator Boschwitz:

Thank you for your March 20 correspondence expressing concern regarding the Thai repatriation of Hmong refugees from Ban Vinai Camp in Thailand.

The US deplores the action of Thai officials who on March 15 forcibly repatriated 38 Hmong hilltribesmen to Laos. By all accounts these Hmong were actually turned over to Lao soldiers. Subsequently, it was confirmed that on March 17 another group of 97 Hmong, who had just arrived in Thailand, were also repatriated without having been granted access to the UNHCR-monitored screening system for refugee claimants. We understand up to 90 additional Hmong arrested during the March 15 arrest of Hmong at Ban Vinai remain in jail, but that for now Thai authorities have not attempted to repatriate this group.

We have expressed our serious concern regarding these incidents in strong representations to Thai officials both here and in Bangkok. We have emphasized the importance we place in allowing all refugee claimants access to the screening process which is monitored by officers of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugess (UNHCR). Although Thai Government officials initially were unclear as to precisely what transpired at Ban Vinai, they have since stated the Hmong arrested and repatriated from Ban Vinai were in the camp illegally. Thai officials also claim the Hmong were returned to Laos "voluntarily".

We believe the repatriation of the Hmong is contrary to past Thai government policy and are urging the Thai to continue a policy of generous first asylum for persons fleeing Laos. In our representations to the Thai we have stated our view that, because of past Lao Government human rights abuses, the Thai must permit involvement of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in any repatriation schemes to ensure against political persecution of those returned.

The Honorable
Rudy Boschwitz,
United States Senate.

The UNHCR is attempting to verify the status of the Hmong who were repatriated. It has been determined that the group of 38 are alive and are in Vientiane province. UNHCR is attempting to verify their condition as well as Lao Government intentions toward the group. There is no information on the status of the March 17 group of 97.

We value the attention you and other members of Congress have devoted to this matter and have made clear to the Thai the degree of Congressional concern regarding treatment of Hmong refugees in Thailand. You can be assured that we will continue to follow this matter closely.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

4115

Louise R. Hoppe
Acting Assistant Secretary
Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

8709543

100'd-H-3/3"

March 30, 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR:

CATHY THIBODEAU

Congressional Correspondence

Department of State

FROM:

KATHY RATTE JAFFKE Director, Congressional Correspondence

SUBJECT:

Hmong Refugees

We have received four letters concerning reports of the forced repatriation of 135 Hmong refugees from Thailand.

Walker Roberts in my office spoke with Cheryl Martin and learned that State had received copies of two of the letters: the one from Senator Mikulski et al and Chet Atkins et al. Cheryl advised that a final response could be ready as soon as Monday. Therefore, I am referring these four letters to you so that State can provide a DIRECT response)

Although Senator Boschwitz was a cosigner on Senator Mikulski's letter, I have included his separate letter for your reference.

Thanks very much for your help.

need to redborders

cc: Records Management - FYI (ID# 465738, 484791, 472907, 472912)

#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 30, 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR:

CATHY THIBODEAU

Congressional Correspondence

Department of State

FROM:

KATHY RATTE JAFFKE Director, Congressional

Correspondence

SUBJECT:

Hmong Refugees

We have received four letters concerning reports of the forced repatriation of 135 Hmong refugees from Thailand.

Walker Roberts in my office spoke with Cheryl Martin and learned that State had received copies of two of the letters: the one from Senator Mikulski et al and Chet Atkins et al. Cheryl advised that a final response could be ready as soon as Monday. Therefore, I am referring these four letters to you so that State can provide a DIRECT response.

Although Senator Boschwitz was a cosigner on Senator Mikulski's letter, I have included his separate letter for your reference.

Thanks very much for your help.

cc: Records Management - FYI (ID# 465738 4729121

484791, 472907,

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 20, 1987

With

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. President:

I write you today on a matter of some urgency.

I have heard disturbing reports concerning the forced repatriation of 135 Hmong refugees from Thailand against their will. Reportedly, 38 of these people were forcibly taken from a refugee camp under the protection of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Frankly, I am very fearful for these peoples' lives. In previous similar incidents, repatriated Hmongs were dealt with severely - some were imprisoned, others put to death.

I am especially worried about the safety of those refugees remaining in the Ban Vinai area of Thailand. I would certainly hope that we would do everything possible to urge the appropriate UN or Thai authorities to ensure the safety of these people.

I know that you share my concerns for the Hmong people and will look into this matter immediately. I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Sincerely

Rudy Boschwitz

RB:1b1

3

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C0155

#### THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MARCH 27, 1987

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE JOHN H. CHAFEE

SUBJECT: REQUESTS INTERVENTION IN THE CRISIS FACING

SOUTHEAST ASIAN REFUGEES IN THAILAND

***************************************								
				AC	CTION	DI	SPOSITION	ſ
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGEN	NCY (STA	AFF NAME)		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD			
WILLIAM BAI	REFERRAL NO			ORG	87/03/27 8 <u>7</u> / <u>03</u> / <u>30</u>		A 871031	27
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*ACTION COI		*DISPOSIT	TION	****	*OUTGOI	NG PONDEN	ICE:	* * * * *
*C-COMMENT, *D-DRAFT RI *F-FURNISH *I-INFO COI	ESPONSE FACT SHEET PY/NO ACT NEO REPLY W/COPY NATURE REPLY	*B-NON-SI *C-COMPLE *S-SUSPEN	PEC-REFER	RAL		OF ODE =	SIGNER	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE (ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT-2590 KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING

LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS

MANAGEMENT.

# UNCLASSIFIED CLASSIFICATION

	S/S #8709544
	Date _23 April 1987
	DEPARTMENT OF STATE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT TRANSMITTAL FORM
FOR:	Mr. Frank C. Carlucci National Security Council The White House
REFERENCE:	TO: The President FROM: John H. Chafee  DATE: March 26, 1987 SUBJECT: Khao-I-Dang Refugees
	REFERRAL DATED: 3/30/87 ID#: 472907  THE ATTACHED ITEM WAS SENT DIRECTLY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ACTION TAKEN:	A draft reply is attached.  A draft reply will be forwarded.  A translation is attached.  XX An information copy of a direct reply is attached.  We believe no response is necessary for the reason cited below.  The Department of State has no objection to the proposed travel.  Other (see remarks).
REMARKS:	

Meldyn Levitsky Executive Secretary WHITE HOUSE

87 /PR 23 PIO: 54

SITUATION ROOM

## United States Department of State



Washington, D.C. 20520

## APR 2 | 1987

Dear Senator Chafee:

The President has asked me to respond to your March 26 letter expressing concerns regarding the Thai Government's decision to close the Khao-I-Dang holding center and to transfer its residents to the Thai-Cambodian border.

The U.S. Government has officially expressed its regret to the government of Thailand regarding the closure of Khao-I-Dang camp. We have made known, through a number of channels, the seriousness of our concern. We view Khao-I-Dang as an important symbol for hundreds of thousands of Khmer refugees forced into Thailand as result of the Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia. At the same time we recognize that Thailand has assumed an enormous burden in permitting temporary safehaven for these refugees and displaced persons. The international community must continue to do its utmost in assuring the Thai of adequate support until such time that permanent solutions can be found for Khmer refugees and displaced persons located in Thailand.

The majority of Khao-I-Dang's population is officially recognized as refugees by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). In discussing the future of Khao-I-Dang with the Thai Government, we have stressed our concern that the refugees at Khao-I-Dang not be deprived of their status; that the safety of this population be assured; that the UNHCR be permitted to continue its indispensable role in the protection of Khmer refugees; and that resettlement countries be given sufficient opportunity to process those Khmer refugees eligible for third-country resettlement.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other resettlement countries have raised similar concerns with the Thai Government.

The Honorable

John H. Chafee,

United States Senate.

The Thai government has given assurances that resettlement countries would be given sufficient time to complete processing of eligible refugees. Thai authorities have also stated that any action taken on Khao-I-Dang will not affect international protection presently extended to the Khao-I-Dang population. UNHCR, the Thai government and other interested governments, including the United States, are engaged in discussions of how best to ensure international protection for those who are returned to the border. The Thai government has given several recent indications of its interest in improving security conditions along the border.

We have been advised that the only persons likely to be moved immediately are those who have entered Khao-I-Dang illegally since 1985. The Thai government estimates that this group numbers between 300 and 1000 persons. To date the Thai have moved 214 illegal residents to the border encampment designated as Site B. The transfer occurred without incident March 1 and was witnessed by international organization personnel.

The United States and other refugee resettlement Western nations continue to interview refugees in Khao-I-Dang eligible for consideration by third country resettlement programs. A limited number of others have been approved for immigrant visas. Still, a substantial number of those remaining at Khao-I-Dang do not meet existing criteria for any third country resettlement program at this time. The majority have been interviewed and found ineligible for U.S. resettlement. Although they are unlikely to gain admission to the United States, we will continue our efforts to ensure that the international protection currently extended to Khao-I-Dang residents remains intact for this residual population.

Considerable concern has been voiced regarding the safety of border areas to which Khao-I-Dang residents may return. We are working to encourage improved protection for the more than 250,000 displaced Khmer already located at the Thai-Cambodian border. Vietnamese military forces still pose the primary threat to the Khmer border encampments. We support efforts by the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC), the United Nations Border Relief Operation (UNBRO), and the Thai Government to reduce the risk of Vietnamese attack by separating Khmer combatants from the civilian Khmer border population.

We have also sought improvements in the unsatisfactory internal security conditions presently existing in the Khmer border encampments, particularly the one designated as Site Two. The U.S. funded several projects through UNBRO designed to improve security conditions within the border encampments. The Thai Government has also indicated its intentions to respond constructively to resolving security problems at these encampments.

We recognize that officials of the Thai Government and international organizations face an extraordinarily complex and demanding situation with regard to displaced Khmer at the Thai-Cambodian border. We will continue our close consultations with them on this important humanitarian matter.

I hope that this information will be helpful in answering the concerns raised in your correspondence.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Lings 5 Louise R. Hoppe

Acting Assistant Secretary Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs

#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 30, .1987

MEMORANDUM FOR:

CATHY THIBODEAU

Congressional Correspondence

Department of State

FROM:

KATHY RATTE JAFFKE TUNDITECTOR, Congressional

Correspondence

SUBJECT:

Hmong Refugees

We have received four letters concerning reports of the forced repatriation of 135 Hmong refugees from Thailand.

Walker Roberts in my office spoke with Cheryl Martin and learned that State had received copies of two of the letters: the one from Senator Mikulski et al and Chet Atkins et al. Cheryl advised that a final response could be ready as soon as Monday. Therefore, I am referring these four letters to you so that State can provide a DIRECT response.

Although Senator Boschwitz was a cosigner on Senator Mikulski's letter, I have included his separate letter for your reference.

Thanks very much for your help.

cc: Records Management - FYI (ID# 465738, 484791 472912)



#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

3709544

rec'd-H-3/30

March 30, 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR:

CATHY THIBODEAU

Congressional Correspondence

Department of State

FROM:

KATHY RATTE JAFFKE TO Director, Congressional

Correspondence

SUBJECT:

Hmong Refugees

We have received four letters concerning reports of the forced repatriation of 135 Hmong refugees from Thailand.

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Although Senator Boschwitz was a cosigner on Senator Mikulski's letter, I have included his separate letter for your reference.

Thanks very much for your help.

need a redborders

cc: Records Management - FYI (ID# 465738, 484791, 472907, 472912)

JOHN H. CHAFEE RHODE ISLAND

CHAIRMAN, REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

COMMITTEE ON BANKING HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

WASHINGTON, DC 20510 (202) 224-2921

PROVIDENCE OFFICE:

301 JOHN O. PASTORE FEDERAL BUILDING KENNEDY PLAZA PROVIDENCE, RI 02903

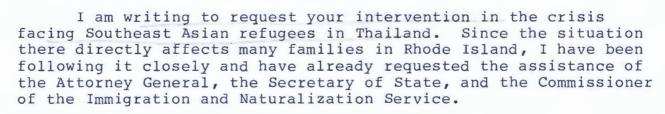
(401) 528-5294

TOLL FREE NUMBER IN RHODE ISLAND 1-800-662-5188

March 26, 1987

The President The White House Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:



The recent closing of the Khao I Dang refugee camp, the last refugee resettlement center for Cambodians run by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), has exacerbated tensions along the Thai-Laotian border and left many refugees in a desperate situation. Thousands of innocent civilians are being forced to return closer to the border, to areas controlled by political factions unable or unwilling to protect them. Many are also threatened with repatriation, which could endanger their lives.

The United States can help ameliorate this urgent situation by working to ensure that all civilians seeking refugee status along the border are accorded the protection of the UNHCR. urge a U.S. commitment to carefully reexamine the applications of all refugee candidates, to expeditiously resettle all those with families in the United States, and to work for the eventual, humane resettlement of all Indochinese refugees. U.S. leadership on this issue is needed to ensure that the Thai government protects the refugees and does not inhibit their opportunity to seek asylum.



The President March 26, 1987 Page 2

Sixty-five Rhode Island families currently await the resettlement of relatives from the Khao I Dang camp. In behalf of these families, I urge you to renew the U.S. commitment to the safety and the fair treatment of Indochinese refugees.

Thank you very much for your attention to this extremely important matter.

Respectfully yours,

John H. Chafee

United States Senator

JHC/wkb

-

# THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

CO155

DATE RECEIVED: MARCH 27, 1987

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE BARBARA A. MIKULSKI

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES SERIOUS CONCERN FOR THE INHABITANTS

OF THE KHAO I DANG REFUGEE CAMP IN THAILAND

AND MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS

	ACTION	DISPOSITION
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACT DATE CODE YY/MM/DD	
WILLIAM BALL  G9STAT  REFERRAL NOTE:  REFERRAL NOTE:  REFERRAL NOTE:  REFERRAL NOTE:	ORG 87/03/27	
ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: 23 MEDIA MAIL USER CODES: (A)	A:L INDIVIDUAL CO	DES: 1210 1220
*************************  *ACTION CODES: *DISPOSITION  * *A-APPROPRIATE ACTION *A-ANSWERED  *C-COMMENT/RECOM *B-NON-SPEC-RE  *D-DRAFT RESPONSE *C-COMPLETED  *F-FURNISH FACT SHEET *S-SUSPENDED  *I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*  *R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *	**************************************	************  NG
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE	* * *******	* ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** *

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE (ROOM 75,0EOB) EXT-2590 KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT.

# UNCLASSIFIED CLASSIFICATION

	Date <u>April 30, 1987</u>		
	DEPARTMENT OF STATE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT TRANSMITTAL FORM		
FOR:	Mr. Frank C. Carlucci National Security Council The White House		
REFERENCE:	TO: The President FROM: Barbara Mikulski et al		
	DATE: March 23, 1987 SUBJECT: Khao-I-Dang Refugees		
	REFERRAL DATED: 3/30/87 ID#: 472912		
	THE ATTACHED ITEM WAS SENT DIRECTLY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE		
ACTION TAKEN:	A draft reply is attached.		
	A draft reply will be forwarded.		
	A translation is attached.		
	An information copy of a direct reply is attached.		
	We believe no response is necessary for the reason cited below.		
	The Department of State has no objection to the proposed travel.		

REMARKS:

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misus A. Engon for

Melvyn Levitsky Executive Secretary

S/S # 8709545

UNCLASSIFIED

Other (see remarks).

87 APR 30 A 9: 40

## United States Department of State



Washington, D.C. 20520

## APR 28

Dear Senator Mikulski:

I have been asked by the President to respond to your letter of March 23 concerning the plight of Cambodians in Thailand. As expressed in our response to your letter of February 5 to Secretary Shultz, we too are concerned for the safety and welfare of this population.

Your letter addresses three major areas of concern in reference to the closing of Khao-I-Dang: the implications for refugee processing; the actual implementation of the closing; and security along the border where Khao-I-Dang residents may be relocated.

#### Refugee Processing of Khao-I-Dang Residents

The current population of Khao-I-Dang actually comprises four groups. The first group is made up of the remainder of the original Khao-I-Dang population of 165,000. Of this population, the U.S. has accepted over 130,000. Others have been resettled in other countries, leaving roughly 14,000 in the camp. All of these have been rejected by the U.S. with most of the denials based on Section 101(a)(42) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, which defines a refugee. Many of the 14,000 remaining have also been considered and rejected by other resettlement countries.

In an extraordinary action, we have conducted two formal reviews of the cases denied by the U.S. among the UNHCR-registered Khmer in Khao-I-Dang. The final result was that less than ten percent of the cases had their original refusals overturned. At present the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) will consider reviewing a denied UNHCR-registered Khmer case if new evidence is presented which warrants a review. U.S. Coordinator for Refugee Affairs Jonathan Moore is also studying the advisability of another, broader review for this population.

The Honorable
Barbara A. Mikulski,
United States Senate.

The second group in Khao-I-Dang is known as family card holders. They are people who originally entered the camp illegally but whose presence was regularized by a census in August 1984. This population was estimated at 4,350. In 1986 the Thai Government authorized resettlement countries to process this group for refugee resettlement. In accordance with existing policy, we have been interviewing from this group all cases which fall into our Priorities 1 through 5. In addition we are interviewing priority 6 refugees who fall into special categories of concern, e.g. Sino-Khmer.

The third group is known as ration card holders. The ration card holders are 7,170 Khmer who entered the camp illegally after August 1984 and who were later issued food ration cards but were not legalized as refugees. The "illegals," the fourth group, are those who have entered the camp since October 1985 and have no official status there. (According to the Thai they number several hundred to 1,000). Because the status of these two groups has been generally considered (by Thailand, and by the international community at least in the latter instance) to be equivalent to that of the displaced Khmer at the border, these groups have not been considered for U.S. refugee processing.

Those in Khao-I-Dang who are not eligible to apply for refugee status or whose application has been rejected can, if eligible, be considered for a limited program of immigrant visa and humanitarian parole processing which the Department of State and INS have undertaken for Khmer on the border. Our Embassy in Bangkok has over 300 case files on Khao-I-Dang residents who may be eligible for this program.

Obviously, a critical element in the success of this immigration/humanitarian parole program - for both those in Khao-I-Dang and the people on the border - is obtaining from the Thai Government access to the applicant, first to interview them and then to move them once they are approved. Thus far, access has been slow in coming but our Embassy is giving special attention to this problem, and we have some indications that the Thai will adopt more forthcoming procedures. We are encouraged by recent Thai willingness to allow us increased access - 25 people per week - for interviews among the ration card holders.

Regarding third country resettlement, the U.S. refers to other countries cases among the UNHCR-registered Cambodians who have close relatives in those countries. The U.S. also maintains a close working relationship with other resettlement countries accepting Cambodians from Khao-I-Dang, especially with Canada and Australia.

Canada has identified for possible resettlement over 700 people among the ration card holders who have relatives in Canada. France has recently accepted 109 of the Khmer denied for U.S. refugee resettlement. Australia is considering around 40 to 50 people from Khao-I-Dang. Together with other resettlement countries, the U.S. expects to continue taking more people from Khao-I-Dang.

#### Implementation of the Decision to Close Khao-I-Dang

Historically, the Royal Thai Government has shown generosity and flexibility in dealing with the Khao-I-Dang population. We acknowledge Thailand's sovereign rights with regard to refugees and displaced persons within its borders. We believe it is in this context that one must view the RTG's effort to stop unauthorized arrivals into Khao-I-Dang.

The majority of Khao-I-Dang's population are officially recognized as refugees by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). In discussing the future of Khao-I-Dang with the Thai Government, we have stressed our concern that the refugees at Khao-I-Dang not be deprived of their status; that the safety of this population be assured; that the UNHCR be permitted to continue its indispensable role in the protection of Khmer refugees; and that resettlement countries be given sufficient opportunity to process those Khmer refugees eligible for third-country resettlement.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other resettlement countries have raised similar concerns with the Thai government. The Thai have listened carefully to our concerns and are making an effort to accommodate them.

In formally announcing the closure of Khao-I-Dang, the Thai government invited the UN Secretary General to designate an appropriate UN agency to be responsible for the protection of Khao-I-Dang residents transferred to the border. The Secretary General has designated UNHCR as that agency.

We have been advised that the only persons likely to be moved immediately are those who have entered Khao-I-Dang illegally since 1985. The Thai government estimates that this group numbers between 300 and 1,000 persons. To date the Thai have moved 214 illegal residents to Site B border encampment which has an excellent security record. The transfer occurred without incident March 1 and was witnessed by international organization personnel.

The Thai government has also given assurances that resettlement countries would be given sufficient time to complete processing of eligible refugees. Thai authorities have also stated that any action taken on Khao-I-Dang will not affect international protection presently extended to the Khao-I-Dang population. UNHCR, the Thai government and other interested governments, including the United States, are engaged in discussions of how best to ensure international protection for those who are returned to the border. The Thai government has given several recent indications of its interest in improving security conditions along the border.

#### Security on the Thai-Cambodia Border

Considerable concern has been voiced regarding the safety of border areas to which Khao-I-Dang residents may return. We are working to encourage improved protection for the 260,000 displaced Khmer already located at the Thai-Cambodian border. We support efforts by the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC), the United Nations Border Relief Operation (UNBRO), and the Thai Government to reduce the risk of Vietnamese attack by separating Khmer combatants from the civilian Khmer border population.

The January 27 shelling incident referred to in your letter was the first direct shelling of Site Two. Fortunately, a sparsely populated section of the camp sustained the shelling and there were few casualties - none killed, eight wounded. The United Nations Border Relief Operation (UNBRO) advised us that the incident was not serious enough to prompt an evacuation of affected areas of the camp.

While the potential threat of Vietnamese attacks on civilian encampments remains a serious concern, we continue to support efforts to maintain separation of Khmer civilians and Khmer resistance forces to reduce the pretext for a Vietnamese military attack on the encampments. With the exception of the January 27 incident, this strategy has worked reasonably well.

We have also sought improvements in the unsatisfactory internal security conditions presently existing in the Khmer border encampments, particularly the one designated as Site Two. The U.S. has funded several projects through UNBRO designed to improve security conditions within the border encampments. The Thai Government has also indicated its intention to respond constructively to resolving security problems at these encampments.

We recognize that officials of the Thai Government and international organizations face an extraordinarily complex and demanding situation with regard to displaced Khmer at the Thai-Cambodian border. We will continue our close consultations with them on this important humanitarian matter.

I hope that this letter addresses the concerns raised in your correspondence. Thank you for your continuing interest on behalf of those Cambodians forced to seek refuge in Thailand.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Assistant Secretary

Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs

#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 30, .1987

MEMORANDUM FOR:

CATHY THIBODEAU

Congressional Correspondence

Department of State

FROM:

KATHY RATTE JAFFKE TO Director, Congressional

Correspondence

SUBJECT:

Hmong Refugees

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Thanks very much for your help.



#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

3709545

nec'd-H-3/30

March 30, 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR:

CATHY THIBODEAU

Congressional Correspondence

Department of State

FROM:

KATHY RATTE JAFFKE TO Director, Congressional

Correspondence

SUBJECT:

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Thanks very much for your help.

need a redborders

cc: Records Management - FYI (ID# 465738, 484791, 472907, 472912)

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2003

March 23, 1987

President Ronald W. Reagan The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write today to express our serious concern for the inhabitants of the Khao I Dang refugee camp in Thailand. In light of the Thai Government's decision to close the camp, we believe it is incumbent upon the United States to play a larger and more active role in protecting the lives of the 24,000 refugees at Khao I Dang.

Thai authorities plan to move the inhabitants of Khao I Dang to evacuation sites along the Cambodian border during the next year. As you may know, these "displaced persons" camps along the border are extremely vulnerable to the fighting between Cambodian resistance troops and the Vietnamese occupation forces in Cambodia. In January, major shelling of one of the evacuation sites resulted in nine persons wounded and four deaths.

Because of the dangers inherent in this situation, we believe the United States must act on her sense of responsibility and humanitarianism in this matter. To that end, the U.S. should:

- o Undertake a new, more flexible approach toward those refugees previously rejected as candidates for resettlement in the United States. Many experts believe that the process which led to these rejections was flawed and not representative of our Nation's benevolent traditions.
- o Use our diplomatic leadership and influence on our allies and friends to maximize third country resettlement of the refugees.
- o Expedite refugee processing of compelling humanitarian cases and immigrant processing for the estimated 4,000 who have family in the U.S.
- o Clarify and emphasize our strong concern that UNHCR continue to have responsibility for protecting these refugees regardless of any relocation.



- o Work with Thai authorities and the U.N. High Commissioner to assure that any relocation to the border that does occur is carried out safely and humanely, with monitoring by UNHCR and other appropriate international agencies.
- o Communicate to the Thai authorities our intention to resettle as many of the Khao I Dang inhabitants as possible. It has become clear that Thai authorities will not move the inhabitants expeditiously if the U.S. makes a good faith effort to resettle the refugees.
- O Use its influence and leadership to convince UNHCR and the Thai Government that UNHCR jurisdiction should be extended to the displaced people along the Thai-Cambodian border. We do not believe such a change need imply in any way that these border Cambodians are to be resettled in the West. In fact, the great majority are not seeking such resettlement.

The Cambodian people have suffered much under a succession of violent regimes. Since 1979, the U.S. and its friends have resettled more than 200,000 Cambodian refugees, providing them with security and a new chance to build a future. It has been a magnanimous effort of which Americans can be very proud.

Those who continue to seek freedom for themselves and safety for their families deserve our fullest commitment. In 1985, you said, "the drive of our people to assist refugees in need overseas and to resettle those who need it is an integral part of the American ethic."

As Senators, we urge you to take a personal interest in this matter. Only with your timely intervention can the United States live up to its responsibility and long-standing commitment to humanitarian ideals.

Sen Carl M. Levin

Sen. John F. Kerry

Sincerely,

Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski

Den. Dave Durenberger

Sen. Nancy Landon Kassebaum
Sen. Lowell P. Weicker Jr.
Sen. Daniel Patrick Hoynihan
Sen. Quentin N. Burdick  Allent Agre L.
Sen. Albert Gore, Jr.
Sen. Bill Bradley
Jeff Blingaman

Grage Mitchell Sen. George J. Mitchell
Sen. Paul S. Sarbanes
Sen. Claiborne Pell
Sen. Timothy E. Wirth
Sen. Spark M. Matsunaga
Sen. Warren B. Rudman
Sen. Tom Harkin
7

Sen. Mark O. Hatfield

The President
March 23, 1987
Page 4

Sen. Rudy Boschwitz

Sen. Daniel K. Inouye

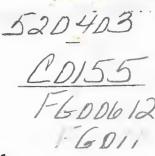
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Sen. Dennis DeConcini

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# DEPARTMENT OF STATE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT TRANSMITTAL FORM



S/S	87	1851	1	
DATE.	July	6,	1987	V

FOR:

MR. GRANT GREEN EXECUTIVE SECRETARY NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL THE WHITE HOUSE

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REFERENCE:			
To: Presid	lent Reagan	FROM:Eugene F	R. Long
DATE: June	8, 1987	SUBJECT: Comme	emorating the
King of Th	ailand's 60th Birth	nday	
REFERRAL DA	TED: June 29, 1987	ID#	8704942
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## United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

July 2, 1987

Mr. Eugene R. Long P.O. Box 24 Phrae 54000 Thailand

Dear Mr. Long:

Thank you for your letter of June 8 to President Reagan regarding the sixtieth birthday celebration of Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej. While we are still in the preliminary stages, we are planning a special commemoration of His Majesty's birthday.

In addition to the actions the U.S. Government takes, we are encouraging others connected to Thailand and the King's birth here to participate in the celebrations. Thus far, Auburn Hospital, Harvard University and the State of Massachussetts are planning to mark the occasion in some fashion. We expect others to join.

Thank you again for your interest and support of strong U.S.-Thai relations.

Sincerely,

Victor L. Tomseth

Director, Office of Thailand

and Burmese Affairs

#### NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

8718555 ID 8704942

REFERRAL DATE: 29 JUN 87

MEMORANDUM FOR: EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: TO: PRESIDENT

SOURCE: LONG, EUGENE R

DATE: 08 JUN 87

KEYWORDS: THAILAND

BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ

SUBJ: LTR TO PRES RE 60TH DAY OF KING OF THAILAND

REQUIRED ACTION: DRAFT RESPONSE

DUEDATE: 06 JUL 87

COMMENTS:

FOR GRANT S. GREEN, JR.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



P.O. Box 24 Phrae 54000 THAILAND

8 June | 987

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President,

December 5, 1987 marks the 60th birthday of His Majesty, the King of Thailand. A person's sixtieth birthday, the completion of 5 twelve-year cycles, is of particular significance to a Thai person. When it is the birthday of the beloved Monarch, it becomes important the entire country of over 50 million people.

This event is of note to Americans as well, because His Majesty, the King of Thailand, is the only American-born monarch in the world. The United States, therefore, has a unique opportunity at this time to denonstrate its friendship with Thailand.

I am sure that the Department of State does some appropriate and every year, in Bangkok if not elsewhere, to mark the event of a Majesty, the King of Thailand's birth. However, because this year of such importance in the thinking of the Thai people, I think we usual be squandering a golden opportunity by not making a special effort to honor His Majesty, the King of Thailand. We could, at the same time, reaffirm our solidarity with the people of this great country and pledge ourselves to work to resolve any outstanding issues of mutual concern.

You, Sir, are the ideal person to represent the United States. You are highly thought of by the people of Thailand, and your active recognition of an event of such magnitude would have a lasting impact on Thai-American relations. A speech stressing the important role of His Majesty, the King of Thailand in maintaining unity and peace in Thailand, and thereby allowing His country to prosper, would be very much appreciated by the Royal Thai Government and by the people of Thailand.

I hope ou will carefully consider doing something special for this very special occasion. The only American-born monarch in the world is only going to celebrate His 60th birthday one time!

Wishing you the very best of everything, I beg to remain,

Very respectfully yours,

(Eugene R. Long)

RECEIVED 26 JUN 87 20

TO PRESIDENT FROM LONG, EUGENE R DOCDATE 08 JUN 87

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KEYWORDS: THAILAND

BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ

SUBJECT: LTR TO PRES RE 60TH DAY OF KING OF THAILAND

ACTION: APPROPRIATE ACTION DUE: STATUS C FILES WH

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