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THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary

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FOR RELEASE AT THE CONCLUSION  
OF THE SIGNING CEREMONY AT 2:30 PM (EDT)

October 22, 1982

The Amerasian Immigration Act of 1982  
(S. 1698)

FACT SHEET

SUMMARY

The President today signed into law the Amerasian Immigration Act of 1982. This bill is an important humanitarian action on behalf of the thousands of children of Americans who served in Asia since 1950. By giving these children preferential status for admission to the United States, this legislation provides them with an alternative to the discrimination and inhumanity they are shown in their native countries because of their mixed race. The bill is the result of strong concern and support from the Executive Branch, the Congress, churches and voluntary agencies to help these children.

BACKGROUND

The bill provides that a child fathered by a United States citizen and born in Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Kampuchea or Thailand between January 1, 1950 and the date of enactment of the bill, may enter the United States as a permanent resident. To ensure that only eligible children receive special treatment, the bill establishes the following requirements:

- o A petition for admission as a permanent resident alien must be filed by or on behalf of the alien child and approved by the Attorney General.
- o A guarantee of legal custody and financial responsibility for the alien child must be signed in the presence of an immigration or consular officer by an individual who is 21 years of age or older, is of good moral character and is a citizen or permanent resident alien of the United States.
- o The sponsor must agree to furnish financial support to the applicant for five years after admission or until the child is 21 years of age. Financial support must be at a level equal to at least 125 percent of the official poverty line.
- o For children under the age of 18, sponsorship of the child must be arranged by a child welfare agency licensed in the United States and actively involved in international placement of children; and the child's mother or guardian must in writing irrevocably release the child for emigration.

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